

DISCUSSION GUIDE

WHY YOU NEED THE CHURCH
I Love Jesus But I Don't Like Church — Week 1

ICEBREAKER: If you could live anywhere on this planet and take everything that you love with you, where would you choose to live? Tell the group about your choice.

OVERVIEW: Church attendance is down in the United States. Many Christians no longer attend church at all. Those who do attend are doing so less and less. Most Christians who attend are uninvolved in the church – they just show up and then leave without building relationships or volunteering or contributing. And the majority of Christian young people today leave the church after high school, never to return. The sentiment of many Christians today is the title of this series: “I love Jesus, but I don't like church.” In this discussion we will talk about why we need the church.

1. **Read Hebrews 10:24-25.** What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. Why do you think church attendance is declining in the United States?
3. The big idea of the series is that “if church is not a priority in your life, then God cannot be a priority in your life.” Why is this the case?
4. How does pride play a role in Christians neglecting the church?
5. Read Hebrews 10:24. This verse says that we need church so that we can watch out for one another? What is the purpose of watching out for one another?

6. Read Hebrews 10:25. This verse tells us the two ways we can watch out for one another to provoke love and good works: Gathering, and Encouraging. Why is it so important to gather together for church, rather than just watch it on TV at home?
7. Is consistency important to benefit from gathering as a church? Explain.
8. Gathering for corporate worship on Sunday is great. But how can also gathering for Home Group help you to get the benefits of church life?
9. One Bible version translates Hebrews 10:25 like this: “This is not the time to pull away and neglect meeting together, as some have formed the habit of doing, because we need each other (TPT)!” Think about your current season of life. Think about the times in which we live as a nation. Why is now not a good time for you to pull away from church?
10. The second way that we watch out for one another to provoke love and good works is by encouraging one another. The Greek word for “encourage” is *parakaleo*. It can mean to encourage (to give support, confidence, or hope to someone); it can mean to admonish (warn); to exhort (strongly urge); to comfort, to teach; to help; or even to counsel. How can you grow at giving and receiving *parakaleo* in the church?

The Last Word: Only in the church can we both give and receive all the encouragement that we need to live the Christian life.