

# DISCUSSION GUIDE

**ICEBREAKER:** What new law is needed to make the world a better place to live?

**OVERVIEW:** We all know that the church isn't perfect — no church is. It is filled with imperfect people who get on our nerves, hurt our feelings, and let us down. Along with that, church involvement takes up time, energy, and money. So is the church really worth it? Do we really need the church?

1. **Read Ephesians 4:16.** 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. The Bible describes the church in a number of different ways: It is the bride of Christ (Eph 5:25-27); the family / household of God (Gal 6:10; 1 Tim 3:15); the temple of God (Eph 2:19-22); the pillar and foundation of the truth (1 Tim 3:15); and the church of the living God (1 Tim 3:15). How does each metaphor help us to better understand the church, and how we should relate to the church?
3. Read Ephesians 1:22-23. What does this verse say about the church?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 12:27. What does this verse say about you? As a member of the body of Christ, how should you relate to the church?
5. In a body, all of the parts work together so that the body can function at the highest level. Each body part has an important role to play. Do you see yourself as playing an important role in the body of Christ? Explain.

6. In a body, every part exists for something bigger than itself. What does that say about the way you should live?
7. Read Romans 12:5. In a body, all of the members belong to each other because they need each other and impact each other. What does this say about how you should live?
8. Read Ephesians 4:11-13. What is the job of church leaders? What is the job of the church members (the saints)? According to this passage, what should you be doing?
9. Ephesians 4:16 says that the whole church (every member) is called to promote the growth of the church. What are some ways that you can promote the growth of the church?
10. How does it benefit you when you join in building the church?
11. Why is it so important for every Christian to join in building the church?

**The Last Word:** The church will either benefit because of your involvement, or suffer because of your indifference.