

WE NEED EACH OTHER

We have been learning about some of the important tools needed for growing in our relationship with God. There may be times, however, when we feel as though we are all alone as a Christian. God has provided another tool, the Church, to help us with our loneliness. The Church is our new family and support system for spiritual growth. That is the focus of this lesson.

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THERE IS STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

ECCLESIASTES 4:9-12

What do the verses say are the four benefits of having another person around?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

How could having someone to help us in our relationship with God make growing easier?

How could someone “fall” in their relationship with God?

How could someone else help him up?

How could someone’s relationship with God get cold?

How could someone else help keep another’s relationship with God warm?

What could overpower someone in their relationship with God?

How could someone help another person not be overpowered?

Put in your own words the last sentence of these verses: “A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.”

Think of some people who have helped you in your relationship with God and thank God for them. Also, thank these people for the help they have given you.

ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER

Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

HEBREWS 10:25

What does the verse say we are not to give up?

Where do Christians meet?

What does it say we should be doing for each other?

What does it mean to “encourage” someone?

How can meeting with others encourage someone?

How does encouragement help us?

From the verse, what can you see is the value of meeting together?

WE ARE PARTS OF THE SAME BODY

Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

ROMANS 12:4,5

Who does “we” refer to in these verses?

What are Christians compared to in these verses?

What are some different parts of our body?

How, for example, do our arms and legs differ?

What do you think it means when the verses says “each member belongs to all the others?”

If each Christian has a function in the one body, what does that say about our importance in the body?

What do you think the verses say about the importance of other Christians in our life?

Who is the head of the body? (Colossians 1:18)

Why is it important that Christ be the head of the body?

CHURCH IS NECESSARY FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.
ACTS 2:42

What does it mean to devote oneself?

What does the verse say are the four things to which they devoted themselves?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

What is the “apostles’ teaching?”

How can we be devoted to the teaching of the Bible?

What is “the fellowship?”

How can we be devoted to “the fellowship?”

What is “prayer?”

How can we be devoted to prayer?

The “breaking of bread” is an act of worship in which we remember what God has done, praising and thanking him for it. It refers, symbolically, to the body and blood of Jesus that was given for us when he died on the cross. Many churches call this activity communion.

Where does the teaching of the Bible, fellowship, prayer, and communion take place on a regular basis?

Read the last three Bible references we just studied and tell why we need to be a part of a church.

ASSIGNMENT

This week you are to look for Jesus in a Church service. See if you can see him in the singing, in the message, or in some of the people there. Three things that will help you do this are:

1. Pray and ask God to meet you at Church and help you learn something.
2. Write down any questions you might have about the Church service.
3. Try to attend Church with a friend who is an encouragement to your relationship with Christ.

TERMS USED AT CHURCH

There are some words and phrases used at Church that you may not understand. If you hear or see anything that you are not sure of, write it down and ask someone. Here is a list of some of the more common words.

Worship: Praising and thanking God for who he is and what he has done. This is usually done through prayer and singing.

Tithe and Offering: A form of worship in which, recognizing that everything we have is a gift from God, we return to God a portion of what he has given to us. (Read II Corinthians 9:10-11)

Message: Teaching from the Bible done by a pastor.

Communion: A special service used to remember the death of Christ. The bread represents his body which was given when he was killed, and the cup of juice or wine represents his blood that was shed. This is done as an act of worship and honor to God.

Hymnal: A book of songs sung at Church