

SESSION 5 FAMILY GUIDE

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT THE CHURCH?

The Bible tells us what is true about the church.

Jesus values the church. He is the head and we, the believers, are the body. One of Jesus' last commands to His disciples was to go build the church by making disciples. (See Matt. 28:19-20.) Being a part of a local body of believers is vital to our growth and is a means for us to glorify God. We bring glory to God by worshiping Him, edifying His people, and sharing the gospel with those who don't trust in Jesus.

Key Verse: *Hebrews 10:23*

Key Passages: *Ephesians 2:11-22;*
Acts 2:42-47; Ephesians 4:11-16

STUDY

Who is the church?

- The church is a regenerate people who have been reconciled with God by faith in Jesus. Being a part of a church identifies us with the household of God. We live in relationship with one another and with God, recognizing that Jesus is the head of the church. The church is made up of believers gathering together in a local setting in order to carry out the purposes God has ordained.

What is the purpose of the church?

- Ultimately, the purpose of the church is to glorify God. Within the church we have many ways we can bring glory to God. We worship God and teach truth to others. We sing praises to God. We gather together to encourage and pray for one another. We use our spiritual gifts to serve and bless others. We share the gospel and help our neighbor. In all these ways and more, God is glorified through our obedience to Him.

Why go to church?

- Being a part of a local body of believers is for our good. God desires that we grow in knowledge and become more like Jesus (sanctification). The family of God is a living ministry that helps us to mature in our faith. Church shouldn't be viewed as an event we are obligated to attend. Rather, church should be a people we long to be in fellowship with, both for our good and God's glory.

DISCUSS

- Why is it important to belong to a local church?
- How should we respond if we do not agree with another believer in the church? (This could be on a doctrinal issue, moral issue, etc.) How does this affect unity in the church?
- How can you as a family and individually serve your local church?

PRAY

Ask your preteen if they have any specific prayers requests regarding church life. Maybe they are having a hard time making friends, or maybe they just don't know where they could serve. Pray over any requests they may have. Give thanks to God for the local church and the people He has brought into your life. Ask God to help you see how you can build up other believers into a mature faith and how you can be built up as well.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Have you ever wondered what spiritual gifts God has given you? Spiritual gifts are a means to serve others and glorify God. Visit lifeway.com and enter the link below to learn more about spiritual gifts, and take an assessment to find out what your spiritual gift(s) might be. Remember to pray and ask God to help you know what gifts He has given you.

<https://www.lifeway.com/en/articles/women-leadership-spiritual-gifts-growth-service>