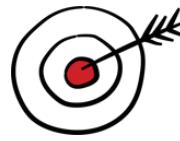


WEEK 6 | CHOOSE CHURCH



BEING CHALLENGE

FROM RED LETTER CHALLENGES

Teen

INTRODUCTION

Ice breaker: Discuss with the group your favorite fast-food burger you've had. Not fancy. Not even fast-casual. What made it the best?

Take some time to discuss the previous week's readings and challenges. Be honest about whether you did all, some, or none of the challenges. Challenges are not homework; they are opportunities. Completing them is not mandatory, but optional. You can still attend small group even if you didn't do any, but we challenge you to be honest about how you are doing with the challenges.

DISCUSSION

- ➡ Celebrate a "win" that you had in Being Challenge over the past week.
- ➡ Share a struggle.
- ➡ What did God reveal to you during the readings and challenges this past week?

WATCH BEING CHALLENGE SMALL GROUP VIDEO WEEK 6 - CHOOSE CHURCH

Can you have a solid, growing relationship with God without the church?

In the time when Jesus lived, the people assembled in either a temple or a synagogue. In all four Gospel accounts, on several different occasions, it is mentioned that Jesus was found at the temple or synagogues on a daily basis (**Matthew 26:55, Luke 19:47, Luke 21:37, Luke 22:53, John 18:20**).

Read Matthew 16:15-18

Not only did Jesus regularly assemble as the church, but He instituted the church in Matthew 16.

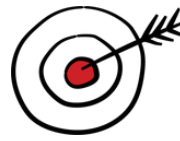
- 1 Why would Jesus put this habit into His life?
- 2 Describe your church experience in the past. How has the church helped or hurt you in your pursuit of following after Jesus?

Zach said that while churches may look different from one another, the one thing the Church, when it assembles, should always get right is the proclamation of the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Agree or disagree?



WEEK 6 | CHOOSE CHURCH



BEING CHALLENGE

teen

DISCUSSION (CONT.)

Has the good news of Jesus Christ changed or made a difference in your life? Explain.

Consider the following statistics and trends regarding choosing church in America:

- 1 Gallup shows that in 2019 only half (50%) of American adults are church members, down from 70% in 1999.
- 2 George Barna in his book *Revolution*, from 2005, claims that there were 20 million born-again Christians in the USA for whom the primary means of spiritual experience and expression is not the local church, and that by 2025 there will be 70 million such persons.
- 3 Ed Stetzer in his book *Lost and Found* discovered that 90% of 20-29-year-olds and 88% of 30+ year-olds believe they can have a good relationship with God without being involved in a church.
- 4 Can you give an example of someone that you know that has stopped attending church and has grown in their relationship with Jesus?

Carey Nieuwhof says, “Christians who attend church casually usually have a more casual commitment to their faith. Infrequent attendance is often a sign of diluted devotion. Church attendance does not equal engagement, but engagement almost always involves church attendance.” Agree or disagree?

- 1 Describe your current habits when it comes to choosing church. What is going well? What could be going better?

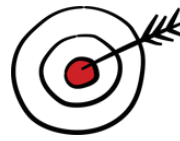
Rank yourself on a scale of 1-10 (1 is “very poor” and 10 is “excellent”) on how you feel you are doing at implementing this practice of choosing church in your life. Then, if comfortable, share that number with the group.

CHALLENGE OF THE WEEK

Attend church each of the following four Sundays and invite someone who needs to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ to come with you.



WEEK 6 | CHOOSE CHURCH



FROM RED LETTER CHALLENGE BEING CHALLENGE

teen

CLOSING THOUGHT + PRAYER

Read Hebrews 10:24-25: 24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another — and all the more as you see the day approaching.

Read the following quote out loud together as a group: “Church attendance is as vital to a disciple as a transfusion of rich, healthy blood to a sick man.” (D.L. Moody)

#BEINGCHALLENGE   

Spend time praying that more people would hear and receive the Good News of Jesus Christ and be forever changed. If you are connected to a local church, please pray for your church and its leaders.

**For deeper study and daily challenges to go alongside of the weekly small group experience, read Days 34-40 of Being Challenge: A 40-Day Challenge to Be Like Jesus.*



READY FOR THE NEXT CHALLENGE?



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