

The Church!

Blessed are you Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that **you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church**, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. - **Matthew 16:17-18 (ESV)**

Ekklesia: (ek-klay-see-ah) Greek

An assembly of people gathered for worship in a religious meeting.

1. The Church is _____!

2. The Church is _____ you!

Then Jesus told them, “This very night you all will fall away on account of me, for it is written: “I will strike the Shepherd, and the flock will be scattered.” But after I have risen, I will go ahead of you into Galilee.” Peter replied, “Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will.” “Truly I tell you.” Jesus answered, “this very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times.” But Peter declared. “Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.” And all the other disciples said the same. -**Matthew 26:31-35 ESV**

Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him, “You also were with Jesus of Galilee.” She said. But he denied it before them all. “I don’t what you are talking about.” He said. Then he went out to the gateway, where another servant girl saw him and said to the people there, “This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth.” He denied it again, with an oath: “I don’t know the man!” After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, “Surely you are one of them; your accent gives you away.” Then he began to call down curses, and he swore to them, I don’t know the man!” Immediately the rooster crowed. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus has spoken: “Before the rooster crows you will disown me three times.” And he went outside and wept bitterly. -**Matthew 26:69-75 ESV**

3. _____ to Church!

“And let us consider together how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 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.” -**Hebrews 10:24-25 ESV**

4. _____ the Church!

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. - **1 Corinthians 12:27 ESV**

Each one of you should use whatever gifts you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. - **1 Peter 4:10 ESV**

So Christ himself gave the Apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up. - **Ephesians 4:11-12 ESV**

DISCUSSION GUIDE

- **Have you been scared by a church in the past?**
- **Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-31. How important is your part in the body of Christ, the church?**
- **What are some ways I can prioritize church this next year?**
- **What did God say to you during this message? Discuss it.**
- **Pray about what role you can play in the body of Christ in 2022.**