

Bible Study Guide: Get in the Game – From Sitting to Serving in the Body of Christ

 Source Transcript:

Big Idea

The Church is not a place to watch—it is a movement to join. Every believer is called to actively participate in God’s mission using their unique gifts to build His kingdom.

Theme

This study challenges believers to move from passive attendance to active engagement, rediscovering the power of community and the calling to live out their faith through the gifts given by Christ.

Core Scripture

Ephesians 4:11–13

“Christ Himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip His people for works of service...”

Introduction: The Problem with Passive Christianity

Many people view church as:

- A place to attend
- A service to consume
- An event to experience

But Scripture defines the church as:

- A body
- A community
- A mission

Key Insight:

“The church is not something you watch—it’s something you live.”

The Reality

- Many believers are “on the bench”
- Few are actively engaged
- The church often mirrors the world instead of transforming it

Illustration:

Like a sports team, many train but never get in the game

Main Point 1: The Church Is People, Not a Building

Explanation

Church is not:

- A location
- A structure

It is:

- A community of believers

“The people make up the church.”

Spiritual Truth

You don't “go” to church—you:

- Are the church

Application

- Do I view church as a place or a calling?
- How am I living as the church?

Sticky Quote:

“You are the church wherever you go.”

Main Point 2: Faith Is Meant to Be Lived in Community

Explanation

Individual faith:

- Has limits

Community faith:

- Multiplies impact

“It’s more powerful in community.”

Spiritual Truth

Growth happens when:

- Believers gather
- Support one another

Application

- Am I connected to a community?
- Who is walking with me in faith?

Sticky Quote:

“Faith grows stronger together.”

Main Point 3: Too Many Believers Are Sitting on the Bench

Explanation

Like a team:

- Some play
- Others watch

Spiritual Truth

God calls everyone:

- Into the game

“Get in the game.”

Application

- Am I actively serving?
- What step can I take today?

Sticky Quote:

“You were made to play, not watch.”

Main Point 4: The Church Has Become Comfortable

Explanation

Modern church often:

- Mirrors entertainment
- Focuses on comfort

Spiritual Truth

Comfort:

- Can replace calling

“Church has become like the world.”

Application

- Where have I become comfortable?
- What is God calling me to do?

Sticky Quote:

“Comfort can silence calling.”

Main Point 5: Every Believer Has a Role

Explanation

No one is:

- Unnecessary
- Unqualified

Spiritual Truth

Everyone is:

- Gifted
- Needed

“Everyone is on the field.”

Application

- What role has God given me?
- Am I stepping into it?

Sticky Quote:

“You have a role to play.”

Main Point 6: The Fivefold Ministry (APEST)

Christ equips His church through five roles:

1. Apostles – The Pioneers

- Focus: Where has the gospel not reached?
- Role: Expand the mission
- Truth: Apostles push beyond comfort

“Where has God not yet been seen?”

2. Prophets – The Truth Callers

- Focus: Are we aligned with God?
- Role: Call people back to truth
- Truth: Prophets guard spiritual direction

“Turn back to God.”

3. Evangelists – The Messengers

- Focus: Who needs to hear the gospel?
 - Role: Share Christ boldly
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4. Pastors (Shepherds) – The Caregivers

- Focus: Who needs care and connection?
 - Role: Build community
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5. Teachers – The Truth Builders

- Focus: Do we understand God’s Word?
 - Role: Provide clarity and growth
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Spiritual Truth

These roles:

- Equip the church
- Activate believers

“Christ gave these gifts to equip His people.”

Main Point 7: You Must Identify Your Gift

Explanation

You are already:

- Wired a certain way

Spiritual Truth

Your passion:

- Reveals your purpose

“There is joy in finding where you fit.”

Application

- What excites me spiritually?
- Where do I feel called?

Sticky Quote:

“Your passion points to your purpose.”

Main Point 8: The Church Must Be a Movement

Explanation

The early church:

- Was active
- Was growing

Spiritual Truth

Movement requires:

- Participation

“There should be momentum.”

Application

- Am I contributing to the mission?
- Or just observing?

Sticky Quote:

“Movement requires action.”

Main Point 9: Fear and Structure Can Hold You Back

Explanation

Barriers include:

- Fear of failure
- Church systems

- Lack of opportunity

Spiritual Truth

God calls you:

- Despite imperfections

“You don’t have to be perfect to be used.”

Application

- What is holding me back?
- How can I move forward?

Sticky Quote:

“Don’t let fear sideline you.”

Main Point 10: Even Small Acts Matter

Explanation

A young girl dancing:

- Impacted an entire room

Spiritual Truth

God uses:

- Willing hearts

“God can use anyone.”

Application

- What small act can I offer?
- Am I willing?

Sticky Quote:

“Willingness unlocks impact.”

Main Point 11: The Mission Extends Beyond the Church Walls

Explanation

Church is:

- Not confined to a building

Spiritual Truth

Your mission field is:

- Everyday life

“It doesn’t have to be inside the walls.”

Application

- How am I living my faith daily?
- Where can I share Christ?

Sticky Quote:

“Your mission starts outside.”

Main Point 12: The Gospel Is Meant to Be Shared**Explanation**

The gospel is:

- Good news

Spiritual Truth

Good news is:

- Meant to be shared

“We have the recipe for life.”

Application

- Am I sharing my faith?
- What is stopping me?

Sticky Quote:

“Don’t keep the good news to yourself.”

Discussion Questions

1. Are you currently “on the bench” or “in the game”?

2. What role do you think God has given you?
 3. What is holding you back from participating?
 4. How can you engage your faith outside the church?
 5. Who can you impact this week?
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Practical Application Steps

1. Identify Your Gift

- Reflect on your passions

2. Get Involved

- Take one step

3. Engage in Community

- Connect with others

4. Serve Outside the Church

- Live your faith daily

5. Stay Consistent

- Make it a lifestyle
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Closing Prayer

Father,
Thank You for calling us into Your mission.

Help us to move from watching
to participating.

Show us our gifts,
give us boldness to use them,
and lead us to impact others.

Use our lives
to build Your kingdom.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Final Takeaway

You were never meant to sit on the sidelines—God has called you to step into the game, use your gifts, and be part of His mission to change the world.