

WEEK 6

CHOOSE CHURCH

Take some time to discuss the previous week's readings and/or challenges. Here are some things to discuss:

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

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

Watch Red Letter Being Challenge Video 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. Why would Jesus put this habit into His life?

Describe your church experience in the past. In what ways 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 together, should always get right is the proclamation of the Good News of Jesus Christ. Agree or disagree.

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:

- **Gallup shows that in 2019 only half (50%) of American adults are church members, down from 70% in 1999.**
- **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.**
- **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.**

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.

Describe, if any, what your current habits, or rhythms look like when it comes to choosing church. What is going well? What could be going better?

Rank yourself on a scale of 1-10 (where 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. If comfortable, share that number with the Group.

CLOSING THOUGHT AND 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.

Say: “Church attendance is as vital to a disciple as a transfusion of rich, healthy blood to a sick man.” (D.L. Moody)

Challenge for the Week: Attend church each of the next four Sundays and invite someone who needs to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ to come with you.

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.

