

August 24, 2025

Small Group Guide: The Role of the Church

Opening Question:

What comes to mind when you hear the word "church"? How has your understanding of church changed over time?

Key Takeaways:

1. The church is not a building or denomination, but the people called out by God to be worshippers and world-changers.
2. The Bible presents several metaphors for the church:
 - a. A Kingdom
 - b. A Family
 - c. A Sacred Space (Temple)
 - d. The Body of Christ
 - e. The Bride of Christ
3. Covenant Church aims to be grounded in God's Word, connected with one another, and impactful in the community and world.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does understanding the church as a "kingdom" change your perspective on your role within it?
2. In what ways have you experienced the church as a "family"? How can we better embody this metaphor?
3. Discuss the imagery of the church as a "sacred space" or temple. How does this impact how we view ourselves collectively?
4. How does the metaphor of the "body of Christ" challenge our understanding of unity and diversity within the church?

5. Reflect on the church as the "bride of Christ." How does this image inspire hope and shape our mission?
6. Which of these biblical snapshots of the church resonates most with you and why?
7. How do you see Covenant Church living out its desire to be grounded, connected, and impactful?

Practical Applications:

1. Choose one area (grounded, connected, or impactful) to focus on this week. What specific action can you take to grow in this area?
2. Reflect on your gifts and how they contribute to the "body of Christ." How can you use these gifts to serve the church and community?
3. Commit to reaching out to someone in the church family this week to deepen your connection.
4. Consider signing up for a Bible study, small group, or ministry opportunity mentioned in the sermon.
5. Spend time in prayer, asking God to help you see and appreciate the church as He does.

Closing Reflection:

How has this discussion changed or reinforced your understanding of the church's role? What's one thing you want to remember or act upon from our conversation?