

# C<sup>1</sup> onechurch

## bigIdea

Sometimes, without meaning to, the church can communicate things that sound right, but when you look in the Bible, they're just wrong. They're not found anywhere in the Bible, and these wrong beliefs hinder our spiritual growth.

Today, we're looking at the lie, "*In order to grow in your spiritual life, you just show up to church.*" That if you would just come to church, your life will be better. That to grow up, all you need to do is just show up. That you will live good because you believe good things. But that's a lie. We're going to see that it takes more than just showing up to grow spiritually. Believing is good, but some things are just too hard to work out practically unless you have some help from other people.



**BIG IDEA:** Your friends influence the direction and quality of your life.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Judging by the people you spent time with last month, what kind of company do you keep? By contrast, who did you used to hang out with 5, 10, 15 years ago?
2. Tell the group about one or two of your friends. Why did you choose them? What was the basis for your connection?
3. Parents: If you could pick friends for your kids, who would you pick and why? What would be their characteristics of these friends?
4. How have these people influenced you? What is something that you have learned from each person?
5. *Read Proverbs 13:20.* As you look back, how have you seen this principle work itself out in your life?
6. As adults, we know this principle that ***Your friend determine the direction and quality of your life.*** We talk about this to our children and teenagers all the time. The problem comes when as adults, we think we're immune. Why do we tend to ignore our own advice?

*We think that because we don't have pimples and we have our own convictions, this doesn't apply to us. We couldn't be more wrong. Marriages have ended because of this principle. People's faith has been shipwrecked because they allowed the herd—the people they hung out with and did life with—to determine their values or lack of values.*

7. Specifically, who have been some of the biggest spiritual influences in your life? How did they influence you?
8. Who have you influenced this past week? Has it been a positive influence? Negative influence?
9. *Read Proverbs 27:6.* If you were writing this verse in today's language, how would you say it? How do you know if you're around a true friend? Why is it so important to have real friends that tell us what we *need* to hear and not what we *want* to hear?
10. Who are you walking with right now? Who are you doing life with right now? Who in your life are you surrounding yourself with that is going to hold you accountable? Who in your life with is going to keep you from making bad decisions and talk to you from driving the car off the cliff, like *Thelma & Louise*?

*"True friends will go over the cliff with you." Yeah, okay. True friends stay true to you during difficult times. But true friends keep you from making stupid decisions like driving off a cliff and screwing your life up!*

11. What do you hope to gain from this group?

### THINK ABOUT IT

Do you tend to think of spirituality as private, or as something to be experienced with others?

### WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Who are the wise people in your life? How can you incorporate more of their influence and wisdom into your life?

### CHANGING YOUR MIND

*He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm.* Proverbs 13:20