**Why Bother with Church?**

**Leader Notes**

**HOOK**

**1. What’s your funniest church experience?**

**2. What tempts you most to skip church on Sundays?**

**3. a. Split the class into two groups. Someone from each group will try to act out the word chosen, without words. Only acting, gestures and pointing are allowed.**

Family (Gal. 6:10; 1 Pet. 4:17) Household (Eph.2:19; 1 Tim.3:15) Children (1 John 3:1)

Body (1 Cor. 12; Rom. 12:4,5)

Army (Eph.6:11,12; Rev.17:14; 2 Cor. 10:4,5)

Temple (1 Cor. 3:16; Eph.2:21,22) Building (1 Cor.3:9) Living Stones (1 Pet.2:5)

God’s field (1 Cor. 3:9)

Chosen People (1 Pet. 2:9)

Holy Nation (1 Pet.2:9)

Royal Priesthood (1 Pet.2:9)

God’s flock (John. 10:16; Acts. 20:28)

Bride (2 Cor. 11:2; Rev.19:7)

 **b. What’s your favorite image of the church? Why?**

**BOOK/LOOK**

**Read Matthew 16:18-20 and 1 John 3:8.**

**3. How would you describe the mission of Jesus on earth?**

**4. What promise does Jesus give to His followers? (**That He will build His church; that the church will prevail over the kingdom of darkness; that He will answer prayers of agreement**)**

**5. Read Luke 4:16. Did Jesus “go to church” regularly?**

**6. Can a true believer follow Jesus but not attend church?**

**7. Read Romans 12:5. What obligations do believers have to other believers?** (If God is your Father, then His people are your family, and you’re to treat your family as your Father wants you to. If we serve our brothers and sisters, who are really His brothers and sisters, we serve him. All the ‘one anothers’ of Scripture are our obligation to each other: love one another, forgive one another, pray for one another, encourage one another, etc.)

**8. Agree or disagree: “We’ll never change the world by simply going to church; we’ll only change the world by being the church.” What does it mean to “be the church?”**

**9. Read Hebrews 10:24,25. Consider how you can spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Make a list of possibilities.**

**TOOK**

**10. Make a covenant to do something off the above list of ways to spur each other on this week, maybe even right now. (i.e. Say an encouraging word and pray for each other.)**

**11. How closely is your life aligned with Jesus’ mission? What do you need to do to more closely align it?**

**12. When and where have you seen the true identity of the church expressed?**

**13. What’s one change you would like to see in our church?**

**14. If someone asked you why you go to church, what would you say?**