



Lesson:

This week, we continued our series about relationships in talking about the Church.

We started by discussing the various reasons that we go to Church and concluding that the biggest reason is for relationships and fellowship with other Christian believers. We then asked “What is Church?”

We learned that in the New Testament, the word Church never refers to a building or a place but always refers to a group of people who come together for a purpose. We learned that the word Church, as used in the New Testament comes from the Greek term “ekklesia” which is formed from two Greek words meaning “an assembly” and “to call out” or “called out ones.” So, basically, the New Testament Church is a group of believers who have been called out from the world by God to live as his people under the authority of Jesus Christ.

God planned the Church to be people coming together to worship. Just like the last lesson, God created us to be in relationship with him and with each other and he created the Church for the same purpose. We are the Church.

We then recalled how important it is to surround ourselves with friends (our best friends) who share common values and beliefs. Friends who will support us and guide us with a positive influence. Friends who will protect us and always be there when needed. Friends who care more about us than about the friendship, who will hold us accountable and help us grow in our faith.

We concluded one of the best places to make such friends is in Church.

We then discussed the Apostle Paul’s use of the metaphor of “The Body” when describing the Church in 1 Corinthians 12:12-27. The body has many different parts, each with a different job and all working together for the benefit of the one body just as the Church has many different people each with different gifts all working together for the benefit of the Church. Like the body, the Church does not function as well without all its parts and a part that becomes disconnected can no longer perform its intended purpose just like people becoming disconnected from the Church.

We then discussed ways that we can play our part in the body of the Church such as serving in the Church and supporting each other in our faith and protecting each other when needed. We are all the body of Christ, of the Church, in relationship with God and with each other.

Bible Verse: Ephesians 1:22-23

22 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Bible Verse: 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

Read these verses in your Bible.