

ConvoS

CHURCH IS VITAL - SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCE

Welcome to the Small Group Discussion Guide for your Engage Experience. This is the same discussion content that is provided in the CIY Convos app. As you work through this discussion guide, each subtitle directs you how to interact with the content. Some are discussions, choosing someone to read, or even playing a game!

The Motto

(Read out loud)

In this group we will respect one another, encourage one another and point each other to Jesus. Repeat after me.

"I promise.

To do my best to help each other become more like Jesus.

To create a space where everyone feels safe.

To truly take time to listen and hear what others are saying.

To be devoted to Scripture and the truths it gives us.

To commit to each other and to this group."

Rock, Paper, Scissors, Knockout!

(Play this with your group)

We're going to play rock, paper, scissors until one person is left standing. The trick is, we're not playing each other. Everyone is playing against me...kind of.

Everyone in our group will play at the same time. If you match what I throw, then you will be eliminated. We'll keep doing this until there's one person left who hasn't matched me!

We will go on Rock-Paper-Scissors-Shoot.

Define It!

(Discuss with your group)

In your own words, define what "vital" means.

What About You?

(Poll your group, have everyone answer)

When you hear the word "church," which emoji best describes how you feel?

😊 Happy emoji

😐 Flat face emoji

😡 Angry emoji

1-2-3 Scripture

(Discuss the winning answer with your group)

Happy- The Church is a good thing, and Jesus intended it to be that way.

Ultimately the Church is intended to be your rock, your place, the community Jesus has given you. In Matthew it says that even the powers of hell cannot stand against the Church. When it's in line with the will of the Father, the Church brings life to those who desperately need it.

Flat- At the end of the day, church can just seem like another place to be or thing to do.

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Angry- Broken people often end up hurting others, sometimes even in the name of the Church.

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The Church Is...

(Discuss with your group)

In Romans, Paul writes "...so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other."

In 1 Corinthians he wrote "All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it."

We are the Church. Empowered by the Spirit of the Lord and washed by the blood of Christ, we make up the body; the bride of Christ. The Church is a body of believers led by God's will to do good in our own individual and unique ways.

But, What If?

(Discuss with your group)

How would your life look different if you really believed that the Church was vital to life?

One Word Story

(Play this with your group)

We are going to tell a story. Not just any story, a one-word-at-a-time story.

Here's how it works:

We will establish an order in which our group will tell the story, but remember it can only be one word at a time. I am going to choose one person to write down every word we say so we can read it back once we've finished the story.

It starts with "Once upon a time..."

A Collection

(Read out loud)

It's crazy to think that we have the ability to read the Bible on our phones when all the early Church had was a collection of stories shared through word of mouth or read from different letters for generations.

Stories are a powerful tool in our world. The Good News of Jesus' death for our sins and resurrection was and is still told as a story; a story that the entire purpose of the Church is built on.

The Church is vital because of the vital role the Gospel plays in our world.

What Makes A Good Story?

(Poll your group, have everyone answer)

What is the best type of story?

Funny

Romantic

Action

The More You Know

(Discuss with your group)

Each of these types can make for some of the best stories or some of the worst ones.

How can stories affect our lives for better or even for worse?

The Challenge

(Read out loud)

Here is your *Church Is Vital* Challenge! You will receive a card with three questions and a blank space for a fourth on it. Your challenge is to take this card and have a conversation with someone who goes to church (it doesn't have to be your church).

Ask them the three questions and write in a question of your own in the blank space! You have from now until the next time we meet together to have a conversation and hear the story of why the Church is vital in their lives!

What's To Come

(Pray with your group)

Pray for the people you are going to have a conversation with.

Pray for the conversations that you are going to have.

Pray for each other to complete the challenge, no matter how awkward it could be.

The small group leader will pray to close.