

Why Church? | Part 3 - Why Should The Church Gather?

Message Big Idea

God created the church for us to experience his transforming presence.

Scripture

Genesis 2:1-3, Exodus 25:8, Exodus 40:33-35, John 1:1-3, 14; John 14:15-17, 23; 1 Corinthians 3:16, Hebrews 10:23-25, Revelation 21:3-5

Points to Keep In Mind

1. Take the time to read through all of the passages listed in the guide. “God with us” is a significant theme throughout the Scripture, and people will catch it well if they look up the passages themselves.
2. See John Walton’s work for more information about Genesis 1 as a Cosmic Temple where God dwells. Search Youtube for “John Walton on Understanding Genesis” from the BioLogos channel.
3. There are some great ways we can be more open to the Spirit as a community. Those ways can range from the expectation we bring on a Sunday morning as well as to our small group. We can gather in expectant prayer in smaller groups. We also can be at work in the world in radical ways. Jesus tells us in Matthew 25:31-45 that he is with us when we serve the sick, the poor, or the prisoner; we are doing it to him. Jesus meets us there in the moments we show love to the forgotten.
4. There has been much discussion about Asbury Seminary in the last few months. Their story can remind us that we need God to interrupt our lives and make us more aware of his presence. Pete Greig, the leader of 24/7 Prayer, had this to say about his experience at Asbury. “We need this. What’s happening at Asbury is not everything, but it is something, and right now, we need something to shock the system so that this generation can experience for themselves the life-changing power of God.” What kind of shock to the system could we use today in our small group and individual lives?

Additional Questions and Resources

1. Where do you see God at work in your life right now?
2. What next steps do you feel called to take in your faith journey?
3. Have you considered getting baptized? communitychristian.org/baptism/
4. What have you been learning from the Community Daily? communitychristian.org/daily
5. If someone is seeking professional counseling, you can always refer them to our resource page: communitychristian.org/mentalhealth/
6. Find out more about YOU+ by visiting: communitychristian.org/you/