

THE CHURCH

Small Group Curriculum

INTRODUCTION

The church is God's ordained design for His children to come together and seek Him and support each other. The church is people, not a place. When someone chooses to receive God's grace through Jesus Christ, they immediately enter into the church. There is no waiting period; one does not need to prove himself or pay his dues to join, but simply be "all in" with Christ.

God has given every member of the church gifts and abilities to carry out the works of ministry and build up His church. The church is the only place where God has promised to meet His people in His glory. What the church has through Christ is what each disciple of Jesus Christ needs and what the world longs for, whether they recognize it or not! The church is to fully display God's grace and declare God's truth.

The church gathers together in various local bodies of Christ. This is where the power of uncommon community is a witness to the world of what is found in Jesus Christ alone. The church consists of many different members who function in unity as one body. It is structured based upon the instructions of God's Word. There are roles and responsibilities for everyone in the church. It is, however, not based upon the achievement of individual parts, but on complete dependence on the supernatural work of God within community. The church is God's instrument that He enables to carry out His work. Let's explore what God has planned for and provided for His children.

WHAT IS THE LOCAL CHURCH?

- The church is not a _____, but the _____ of Christ. (Romans 12:5)
- The head of the church is _____. (Colossians 1:18)
- The church _____ God's glory. (Ephesians 3:20, 21)
- The church is not filled with religious _____, but participants in uncommon _____. (Ephesians 4:11-13)
- Jesus Christ prayed for _____ in the church. (John 17:20-26)
- The _____ of the church is not to be comfortable, but to make _____. (Matthew 28:19-20)

OUR CHURCH RECOGNIZES TWO BIBLICAL ORDINANCES:

- _____ of the believer (Matthew 28:19-20)
- _____ (1 Corinthians 11:23-28)

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Membership is our way of helping you fulfill God's command to be committed to a local church. Membership says, I am committed to supporting: our convictions, our community, and our mission.

While we want everyone who calls our church home to aspire to these standards, our desire is that those aspirations would ultimately lead to a commitment to membership.

Our Convictions

- _____ doctrine (1 Timothy 4:6-10)
- Regular _____
 - Strengthens truth foundation (1 Timothy 3:14-15)
 - Invites God manifestation (Psalm 27:4, Exodus 33:15)
 - Refocuses time prioritization (Exodus 20 :8-11)

Our Community

- We are _____ in Christ. (John 17:20-26)
- We _____ the Biblical _____. (1 John 4:7-8)
- We _____ quickly and completely. (Matthew 18: 15-20), Romans 12:17-18)
- We _____ in our walk with Christ through _____ (Acts 2: 42-47).

Our Mission by being a good steward of:

- My _____ through intentional living. (Ephesians 5: 15-16)
- My _____ through regular service to the Lord. (Romans 12:3- 13)
- My _____ through generous giving of tithes and offerings. (2 Corinthians 9: 6-7, Luke 11:42)

CHURCH DISTINCTIVES

The mission of our church is:

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. What is Jesus Christ's role in the Church? What is the Pastor's role in the church? What is your role?

2. How would you describe your level of participation in the church?

3. What impact should Jesus' prayer for unity have on how we treat one another in the church? What other scriptures can you think of that deal with that subject?

BREAKOUT/ACCOUNTABILITY

1. How are you fulfilling your responsibility in the Great Commission?

2. What practical steps are you going to commit to this week to better fulfill your responsibility in the Great Commission?

If you are not currently a member of Harvest Bible Chapel Barbados, strongly consider taking a step towards church membership.