



SMALL GROUP STUDY

Week 3: WHO IS THE CHURCH?

Consider the following people:

- **John** loves and follows Jesus, but he has no time for “organised religion.” He feels like he best worships God as he hikes in the bush on a Sunday.
- **Sarah** is a church hopper. While she is almost always at church on a Sunday, it is a different church each week.
- **Michael** has found a great youth ministry to be a part of; he’s there every Friday night. He comes to church on Sunday only when there’s a speaker or topic that he’s interested in.
- **Jess** loves the preaching at church, but leaves immediately after the service every week. She doesn’t see the point of getting to know people.

1. What do their actions reveal about what they think about church?
2. What, if anything, is wrong in their attitudes and actions?
3. What, if anything, is *right* in their attitudes and actions?
4. If you were meeting with them over a coffee or a coke, how would you respond to them to stress the importance of church? What Scriptures would you use?
5. Do *you* affirm the importance of commitment to *a* church, or do you have questions or concerns about it?
6. Read **1 Corinthians 5**. This passage illustrates how membership of a local church helps us to become more like Jesus. How do you see that? (The following questions might help.)
 - What happens in this passage?
 - Who is it who takes action?
 - What is the purpose of this action?
 - Could this happen without membership?
 - What else does this passage say about church membership?