



# CHUCK KNOWS CHURCH

## The Committee: Committees that Work

*This group study is designed for a 45-60 minute discussion after viewing the film.*

*All Chuck Knows Church videos can be viewed and downloaded at:*

**[www.ChuckKnowsChurch.com](http://www.ChuckKnowsChurch.com)**

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### Introduction:

*The Committee* is a humorous and poignant online series that examines the struggles congregation's face as they look toward a preferred future. Using real world topics, *The Committee* is sure to open discussion in your congregation.

The series follows Park Grove Community Church, a make-believe urban U.S. congregation, which has lost its pastor and is closing its doors, unless it reinvents itself. Park Grove is faced with a difficult decision. They seemingly have tried everything humanly possible. Should it close? Things are so bad that a retired pastor didn't show up to help them decide the congregation's future – so it's up to the last remaining members to discover it for themselves.

Although some of the characters and situations are simplified to accommodate the format, they may feel familiar. Your congregation may not be facing closure, may have a wonderful pastor, and be a vital and growing church. However, all congregations face the issues addressed in *The Committee* at some point.

Have an open conversation about the issues covered in the series.

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### Chuck Knows Church Resources

**Website:** [www.ChuckKnowsChurch.com](http://www.ChuckKnowsChurch.com)

**Discipleship Ministries Website:** [www.UMCdiscipleship.org](http://www.UMCdiscipleship.org)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/ChuckKnowsChurch](http://www.facebook.com/ChuckKnowsChurch)

**Twitter:** @ChuckKnows

**Instagram:** ChuckKnowsChurch

Suggest ways on Twitter to save Park Grove. Use this Hashtag **#SaveParkGrove**

## > Watch *The Committee: Committees that Work*

(15 minutes)

### > Starters (15 minutes)

In this episode Chuck is in crisis over his involvement in the committee. He is ready to give it all up. Using Patrick Lencioni's list below from his book, *Five Dysfunctions of a Team*, discuss moments in this episode where these dysfunctional attitudes were seen.

Dysfunctional Attitudes	Where in this episode did you see these?
1. Absence of trust	
2. Fear of conflict	
3. Lack of commitment	
4. Avoidance of accountability	
5. Inattention to results	

#### Discuss with one or two people:

- Share your own experience of wanting to quit the church or helping lead a committee.
- Which of these dysfunctional attitudes have you experienced in your church meetings?
- What gives meaning to what you are doing?

### > Overcoming the Dysfunctions (15 minutes)

In this episode Chuck says, *"I think Churches really have to evaluate all of their committees. All of them. Ask the tough questions. Would this committee serve better, let's say, as a task force, or short-term team that only exists for a particular moment in time – a particular purpose. Don't we all want to ensure that what we work on is effective?"*

Lencioni turns the dysfunctions into positive attributes with the following ideas:

#### 1. TRUST

*Admit weakness and mistakes.*

#### 2. HEALTHY CONFLICT

*Welcome and listen to new ideas.*

#### 3. COMMITMENT

*Have clear priorities and goals.*

#### 4. ACCOUNTABILITY

*Hold each other to high standards.*

#### 5. RESULTS

*Focus on team goals, not individual pursuits.*

## **Discuss with one or two people, and then share with the whole group:**

- How can you turn dysfunctions into positive ways of working together?
- What committees are essential to the ongoing support of your ministries?
- What yearly events (VBS, Advent, Lent) are better served by short-term teams?
- What projects lend themselves to a task force?
- How do you turn your committees into teams?

## > Reflection on the Bible (20 minutes)

**Ask a member to read aloud the following passage from Ephesians 4:11-16.**

**Ask another person to read the Background.**

*The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knitted together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.*

### **Background:**

In this passage the idea of giftedness is highlighted. Each Christian is gifted for ministry and has specific ways he or she can contribute to the overall life of the faith community. Our working together should result in the growth of the whole body of Christ. Sometimes we can become distracted by unhealthy conflict that diverts us from the overall goal of ministry – following Christ who calls us to build one another up with love.

### **Questions for Discussion:**

If your group has more than seven members, divide into groups of four to discuss the Scripture passage.

- How do you help people live out of their giftedness?
- What are the distractions that are keeping your committees and teams from working to their fullest capacities?
- In what ways do you affirm the contributions of people to the ministry of your church?

## > Making it Personal

At the end of this episode Chuck shares what is really troubling him. Is his investment of time and energy making a difference?

**CHUCK:** Do you think things are changing? Are they changing fast enough? Is this church still going to close after all our efforts?

**RILEY:** Look! I was reluctant to allow you to be a member of this committee. But, you're here. Things ARE starting to change for the better. There is life in the church again.

**GLEENDA:** *(to Chuck)* You've been so helpful to us.

**CHUCK:** No, you've been helpful to me. Look at you all. You are all excellent leaders in this church. This isn't about me.

**RILEY:** No, it isn't. It's about God. So sit down (let's get to work).

- What does this say about the ministry of your church?
- In what ways is God speaking to you this day?