



# CHUCK KNOWS CHURCH

## The Committee: Younger Leaders

*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 congregations 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, that has lost its pastor and is closing its doors unless it reinvents itself. Park Grove is faced with a difficult decision. It seemingly has tried everything humanly possible. Should it close? Things are so bad that a retired pastor didn't show up to help 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: Young Leaders* (15 minutes)

> Starters (15 minutes)

New people can easily pick up the atmosphere of a restaurant, coffee shop, or worship space. They can sense whether things are going well, if the staff is happy, and if they are welcome. In this episode Hannah makes the comment that she doesn't want to be part of a church that survives, she wants to be part of one that thrives. In the section below list characteristics of what it is like to be surviving or thriving.

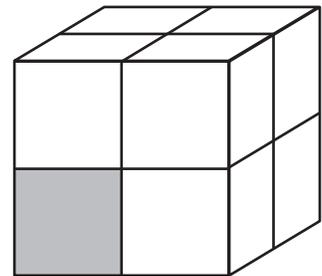
Surviving	Thriving

**Discuss with one or two people:**

- How easy is it for you to think of the future when you are in a survival mode?
- What is it like when you are thriving?
- Where do you see your church? It is surviving, thriving, or somewhere in-between?

> Cornerstone (15 minutes)

The challenge for leaders who have invested years in the life of a church is to know when to invest in the lives of new people by turning over the mantle of leadership. Ephesians 2:19-22 talks about Jesus as the cornerstone. "So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God."



Notice how the household of God and the cornerstone is built on a foundation – the apostles and the prophets. A congregation that thrives recognizes its foundation – those who have left a legacy – and builds upon what has come before.

## **Discuss with three or four people, and then share with the whole group:**

- How does your church transition its leadership from one person to the next?
- What is the role of the person who just left the position?
- What is the role of the person who is now learning a new position?
- What does this scripture tell us about the importance of the foundation?

## > Reflection on the Bible (20 minutes)

**Ask a member of your group to read aloud the following passages from 1 Corinthians 3:5-9. Ask another person to read the Background.**

*What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labour of each. For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.*

### **Background:**

When Paul wrote this letter to the church in Corinth he was responding to the issue of who was leading the congregation. The church had fallen into two factions, with one group supporting Paul, who founded the church, and others supporting Apollos, a young dynamic preacher. Paul reminds the congregation that growth comes from God and if they want this growth to continue they must have a common purpose and work together.

### **Questions for Discussion:**

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

- What is the common purpose that draws your church together?
- Do long-term members have a different view of the church's purpose than people who have started participating in the last two years?
- If so, is there an underlying value that brings everyone together?
- What does it mean when it says, "You are God's field, God's building?"

## > Making it Personal

In this episode Mrs. Beasley says the following:

Isn't the gospel about loving God so much that we are committed to our future in God, rather than our own personal futures? Sure, older adults, we want to leave a legacy, but it seems to me, best way to do that is make room for younger people, include them in every way. Make room for their leadership now. New ideas. We have to give up that power to ensure our own future, don't we?

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