



CHUCK KNOWS CHURCH

The Committee: Our Purpose

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

All Chuck Knows Church videos can be viewed at:

www.ChuckKnowsChurch.com

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.

Chuck Knows Church Resources

Website: www.ChuckKnowsChurch.com

Discipleship Ministries Website: www.UMCdiscipleship.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ChuckKnowsChurch

Twitter: @ChuckKnows

Instagram: ChuckKnowsChurch

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

> Watch *The Committee: Our Purpose* (15 minutes)

> **Starters** (15 minutes)

Sometimes we mistake activity or busy-ness for purpose. Sometimes we focus so much time and energy on What we do and not enough time on Why we do it. Sometimes we are mindlessly going through the motions – doing what we do, staying busy, but we have lost our purpose – we have lost a clear understanding of Why we do what we do.

In the church – the why is the most important thing behind all that we do. If we are not clear about the why, we cannot authentically do ministry.

WRITE DOWN THE “WHY” OF CHURCH FOR YOU:	
Why did you become a part of this church?	
Why did you stay?	

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

- Share your answers to the Why of church.
- How does what others share help you think about the purpose of your church?



Park Grove listed their most important aspects of church:

- Children & Youth
- Small Groups
- Service in Community/Missions
- Empowering Laity
- Pastoral Leadership

Using newspaper, a black board, or a whiteboard, list 4-5 aspects that you all agree are the most important ministries of your church.

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

- Do we believe all of these Why's?
- If so, how will it improve What we do?

> Reflection on the Bible (20 minutes)

Ask members of your group to read aloud the following passages from Genesis and Matthew. Ask another person to read the Background.

Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'
- Genesis 12: 1-3

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. - Matthew 28: 19-20

Background:

The promise made by God to Abram in Genesis that “in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed” is now fulfilled in the resurrection of Jesus. As disciples of Jesus we now have the opportunity to invite others to live as one of the baptized who are guided by the Holy Spirit, are taught to live as doers of the word of God, and to obey God’s commands.

John Wesley, the co-founder of the Methodist movement in England wrote this in his Journal on June 11, 1739. “I look upon all the world as my parish; thus far I mean, that in whatever part of it I am, I judge it meet, right, and my bounden duty to declare unto all that are willing to hear, the glad tidings of salvation.” Wesley reminds us that wherever we are in the world we are to share the love and grace of Jesus Christ.

Questions for Discussion:

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

- What does this say about the ultimate “Why”?
- What does it mean for your church to “Go”?

Making it Personal:

During this episode Hannah makes this confessional:

“Why are we here? . . . For me it is because Jesus has become real. The more I learn, the more different I feel on the inside. This Jesus works. I really wish the church worked too.”

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