



CHUCK KNOWS CHURCH

The Committee: Pilot

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

The “Pilot”, as well as 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: Pilot* (15 minutes)

> Starters (15 minutes)

The Characters: Match the each quote with the character who spoke it.

(give participants 5 minutes to answer silently, then work together to get the right answers)

_____ Mrs. Beasley	A. "Should we start with a prayer?"
_____ Mr. Riley	B. "Let's keep the doors wide open."
_____ Chuck	C. "What haven't we tried already?"
_____ Daniel Sanchez	D. "Why are you guys meeting in the basement?"
_____ Hannah	E. "No one ever talks about moving forward."
_____ Glenda	F. "Humanly possible?"

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

- What do these quotes reveal about each character?
- How do these quotes speak to your church's current situation?
- With which character do you most closely identify?

> Deep Change or Slow Death (10 minutes)

Robert E. Quinn, in *Deep Change: Discovering the Leader Within*, reveals a vital key to understanding life. Either we are undergoing deep change or slow death. He says:

"Each of us has to potential to change the world. Because the price of change is so high, we seldom take on the challenge. Our fears blind us to the possibilities of excellence – and yet another formidable insight. That insight concerns the price of not making deep change. That price is the choice of slow death, a meaningless and frustrating experience enmeshed in fear, anger, and helplessness, while moving surely toward what is most feared."

Quinn, *Deep Change*, p. 11

Quinn reminds us that no matter how well we are doing as individuals or as a congregation we must constantly ask if we are willing to embrace change or accept slow death.

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

- Why do you think Park Grove found itself facing a decision to close or stay open?
- In what ways does Park Grove reflect your congregation's current situation?
- If your church is doing well, what lessons do you learn from *The Committee*?

> Reflection on the Bible (20 minutes)

Ask a member to read aloud the following passage from Ezekiel 37:1-6.

Ask another person to read the Background.

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord God, you know.' Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.'

Background:

Ezekiel's vision is one of restoration. The dry bones represent an existence without hope or a future. God's desire is for the dry bones to come back to life. But it's not enough for the physical body to be put back together with muscles, organs, and skin. The body is not truly alive until its filled with the breath of life.

Questions for Discussion:

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

- What do you think the dry bones represent?
- What does it mean to be filled with the breath of life?
- What are you doing to connect to the source of life?

Making it Personal:

The Committee challenges us to ask hard questions about the current state of our souls and to take a fresh look at the spiritual life of our congregation. We can see ourselves in each of the characters. In Mrs. Beasley we find a desire for healing. In Daniel we see a willingness to move forward. In Mr. Riley we capture our tiredness when we wonder if it is still worth it. In Hannah we discover a connection to "my" church. In Miss Glenda we find a desire to serve. And in Chuck we see a desire to put our knowledge into action.

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