



# CHUCK KNOWS CHURCH

## The Committee: Embracing a Legacy

*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: Embracing a Legacy* (15 min.)

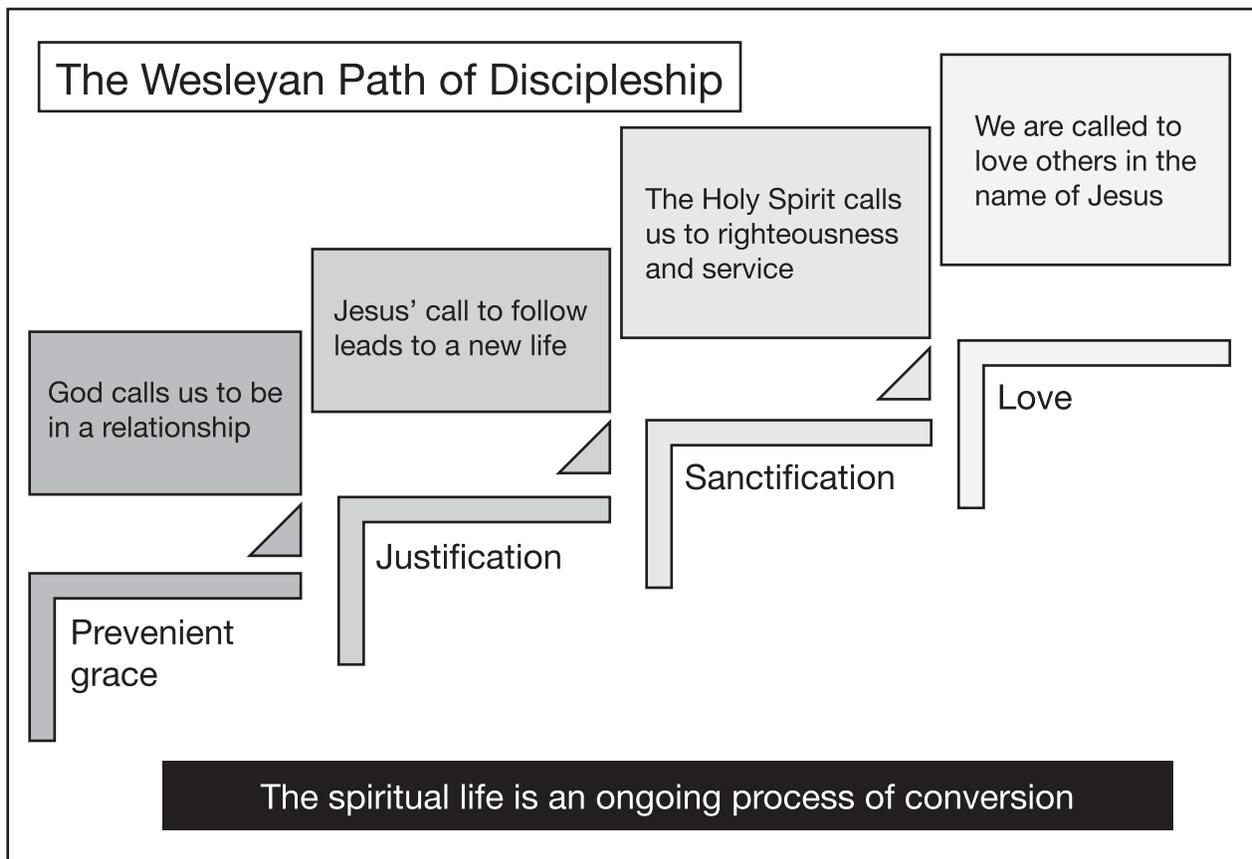
> Starters (15 minutes)

Like many churches, Park Grove struggles with connecting with young people. There are many terms that are used for those who are not showing up at church. Look at these terms and talk about what they are saying about those who are not active in a local church.

Terms	What do they say about these people?
1. Unbelievers	
2. Seekers	
3. Nones	
4. Unaffiliated	
5. Irreligious	

**Discuss with one or two people:**

- What do these terms say about those who are active in a church?
- Why do you think people do not attend church?
- Do you think people who are outside the church desire a relationship with God?



## > The Wesleyan Path of Discipleship (15 minutes)

Rather than putting people into distinct categories like “unbelievers” or “believers”, the Wesleyan understanding of faith centers on the idea that life is an ongoing process of conversion that is highlighted by responding to four calls to follow.

- Prevenient Grace: God’s call to be in a relationship
- Justification: Jesus’ call to follow leads to new life
- Sanctification: The Holy Spirit calls us to righteousness and service
- Love: We are called to love others in the name of Jesus

While those who are active in a church may be living out of the call to righteousness and service, a person who is not active may be living out of the call to love others in the name of Jesus. Rather than assuming people are not in a relationship with God, the church’s role is to help people discover God’s call in their lives and to help them live up to the potential of that call.

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

- Where are you on the Wesleyan Path of Discipleship?
- In what ways is your church open to those who are just starting out on the journey?
- What part does mentoring young people play in helping people grow in faith?
- What legacy can a person who is mature in his or her faith leave to those who follow?

## > Reflection on the Bible (20 minutes)

**Ask a member of your group to read aloud the following passages from Hebrews 12:1–2 and Romans 15:13. Ask another person to read the Background.**

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:1-2, NRSV*

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13, NRSV*

### **Background:**

Hebrews 11 details the inspiring examples of people like Abraham, Moses, and David who followed God’s call. Romans 12 serves as the finale to this line of thinking as the author says, “Therefore...” Today we are living in the therefore, in the result of what Jesus did for

us on the cross, that we could live a new life in relationship with God. We are called to share this faith, to create our own legacy, to be a cloud of witnesses, as we pass on the faith to the next generation. Romans 15:13 reminds us that believing produces joy and peace.

### **Questions for Discussion:**

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

- Who is in your cloud of witnesses?
- What is the legacy of faith you want to leave to the next generation?
- How does believing produce joy and peace?

## > Making it Personal

In this episode, Mr. Riley says the following in his confessional:

“Embrace” our legacy. That would be nice, wouldn’t it?

Not sure how that would work, though. Unless we’re in partnership with those coming after us. A shared understanding. I guess it goes both ways. If we want to be a part of the future of the church, even after we’re gone, we need to embrace—develop relationships across all generations.

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