



CHUCK KNOWS CHURCH

The Committee: Letting The Who Guide Us

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: Letting the Who Guide Us*

(15 minutes)

> Starters (15 minutes)

Who's Living in Whoville?

In this episode, Chuck takes on the character of a Who, from the popular book *Horton Hears a Who* by Dr. Seuss. In the book (and the movie), the Who people are so small nobody knows they are there. Use this chart to ask who is active in your church and who is living in your community. Use U.S. Census data (see below) to record the percentages for your community.

CATEGORIES	YOUR CHURCH	YOUR COMMUNITY
Persons under 5		
Persons under 18		
Persons 65 years and over		
Female persons		
Black alone		
American Indian/Alaskan Native		
Asian alone		
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander		
Two or More Races		
Hispanic or Latino		
White alone, not Hispanic <small>(do not use "white alone," which is listed first)</small>		
Foreign Born		
Language other than English		
Below Poverty Rate		

Go to www.census.gov and type in the zip code of your church in the search box (top right) and it will take you to Quick Facts. There you will find info about your community.

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

- What does this information tell you about who is living in your community?
- What other differences do you see that is not reflected in these numbers?
- What changes have you seen since you lived in your community?
- How well does your church reflect your community?

> The Dress Code (15 minutes)

Churches have cultural norms that guide the way people live and work together. One of the easiest ways to see this is the dress code for what is acceptable in worship. More than likely no one has written down the rules, but everyone figures it out the minute they walk into your worship space. So work together to answer these questions:

1. What is the dress code for people who attend worship? (if you have more than one worship service take a look at the dress code for each one)
2. How has the dress code changed over the last 20 years?
3. How do people who are leading worship (preacher, liturgist, musicians, ushers, etc.) reflect what is acceptable?
4. What Biblical values underlie your dress code?
5. What do the answers to these say about who is welcome to worship with you?

> Reflection on the Bible (20 minutes)

Ask a member to read aloud the following passage from Mark 8:22-26.

Ask another person to read the Background.

“They came to Bethsaida. Some people brought a blind man to him and begged him to touch him. He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village; and when he had put saliva on his eyes and laid his hands on him, he asked him, “Can you see anything?” And the man looked up and said, “I can see people, but they look like trees, walking.” Then Jesus laid his hands on his eyes again; and he looked intently and his sight was restored, and he now saw everything clearly.” - Mark 8:22-26

Background:

In many ways we are like the man who sees people, but they look like trees. We see them in the grocery store, in restaurants, and walking on the street, but we really don't know who they are or what are their hopes and dreams. In fact, many of us don't even know the names of our neighbors. We are more connected to people online than we are to people who live just down the street. To truly see we need a second touch from Jesus, one that wakes us up to really see the people whom we encounter every day.

Questions for Discussion:

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

- What does this story say to you about how you are seeing the people around you?
- In what ways do you or your church need a second touch?

Making it Personal:

In this episode Chuck says, “The WHO becomes our mission, which leads us to the HOW, how we do church.”

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