



CHUCK KNOWS CHURCH

The Committee: Small Groups

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

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

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

> Watch *The Committee: Small Groups* (15 minutes)

> Starters (15 minutes)

In this Episode, Glenda points out that Jesus started a small group that he called his disciples. What do you think was the purpose of this first small group?

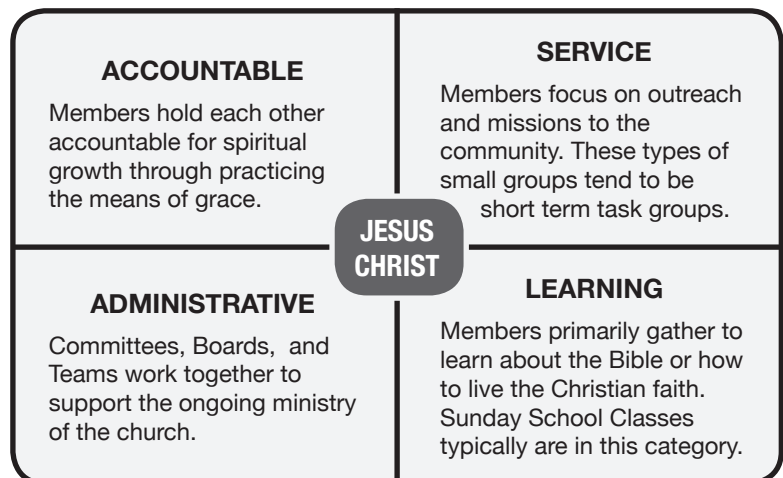
Discuss with one or two people, and then share with the whole group:

- How does being in a small group help a person grow in his or her faith?
- Share an example of how a small group helped you grow in your spiritual life.

> *Small Groups* (15 minutes)

The Wesleyan movement was based on small groups that lovingly held its members accountable for spiritual growth and Christian living. The Class Meeting system was the central place where Christians talked about their faith and were given opportunities to share their lives in community. Today, churches start small groups to increase Christian learning, and hold each other accountable to live the Christian life.

There are a number of types of small groups in churches. Each type has an important part to play in church life.



Discuss these ideas of how to use small groups in your church:

- Is prayer and scripture reading (at least 15 minutes) part of every small group in your church? (Accountable, Service, Learning, Administrative)
- Do you gather the leaders of your small groups together at least four times a year for teaching, encouragement, and spiritual formation?
- Do you see your Administrative committees, boards, and teams as Small Groups where spiritual formation is key component of what you do together?
- Are children and youth given opportunities to lead and have small group experiences?
- Do you regularly create new small groups for newcomers so they can find a connection to others? Do your current small groups have an empty chair to remember to welcome others?

> **Reflection on the Bible** (20 minutes)

Ask a member to read aloud the following passage from Acts 2:46-47

Ask another person to read the Background.

Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Background:

The narrative in Acts 2 gives us our best picture of how the first Christians lived out their faith. Two gatherings were central to their faith. First, they worshiped together. As they gathered in the temple their focus was on God, remembering the history of their faith, and celebrating their faith traditions. Second, they met in each other's homes where they broke bread together. This original version of what we call small groups enabled them to focus on each other. In the small group they learned each other's history and developed long-term relationships based on their shared experience of prayer, support, and encouragement.

Questions for Discussion:

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

- In what ways does this pattern of worship and small groups help a person's faith journey?
- How does your church create opportunities for people to gather in small groups?

Making it Personal:

When the quilt that Glenda made with her small group is turned over, Chuck says, “You know it may be difficult, messy, even downright ugly to connect people in the church. But when its done right, it’s beautiful, isn’t it? A strong fabric within the church. And we as a church are better for it.”

Daniel replies, “I can see that now. Small groups are not about making a church bigger but about its members deepening their faith in God.”

- What does this say about the importance of small groups?
- In what way is God speaking to you this day?