

Small Group Discussion Guide

Perilous Waters | Navigating the Dangerous Currents Shaping the Church

Part 3: “I Don’t Need the Church”

BIG Idea: Following Jesus is personal, but never private; Jesus designed us to belong to and live out our faith within His Church.

Application: Move from attending to belonging: make gathering with a healthy local church a settled commitment, contribute to the Body, and refuse to let past hurt isolate you from Christian community.

Discussion Questions

Icebreaker: What’s a team, group, club, or community you’ve been part of where regularly showing up made a real difference in the relationships you built?

1. Read **Acts 2:41–47**. What stands out to you about the way the first Christians lived their faith together? Which of those practices comes naturally to you, and which is more challenging?
2. Read **1 Corinthians 12:12–27**. Paul says one part of the body can’t say to another, “I don’t need you.” What are some ways Christians can unintentionally live as though they don’t need other believers?
3. The sermon makes an important distinction between someone who cannot regularly gather with the church and someone who can but continually treats it as optional. Why is that distinction important?
4. Read **Hebrews 10:23–25**. According to this passage, gathering isn’t only about what we receive. What responsibilities do we have toward other believers when we gather?
5. What’s the difference between simply attending a church and truly belonging to a church family? What does belonging look like in everyday life?
6. The sermon acknowledges that church hurt can be very real and painful. How can Christians take church hurt seriously without allowing that hurt to permanently separate them from Christian community?
7. Read **Isaiah 43:2**. How might God’s promise to be with us through “deep waters” encourage someone who has experienced disappointment, conflict, or hurt within a church?
8. Think about the statement: “Don’t merely attend a church; choose to belong to it.” What’s one practical step you could take to belong more deeply—to serve, encourage, connect, forgive, participate, or simply show up for others?
9. **Hebrews 10:24–25** connects gathering together with encouraging one another toward love and good works. What are some practical ways our LifeGroup can do that for each other?
10. If someone told you, “I love Jesus, but I don’t need the Church,” how would you respond in a way that is both biblical and compassionate?

Prayer Prompt: Spend time praying for your Lifehouse church family. Ask God to help each person move beyond simply attending toward genuinely belonging, contributing, encouraging, and caring for one another. Pray especially for those who have experienced church hurt, asking God to bring healing, forgiveness, wisdom, and healthy Christian relationships. Finally, ask the Holy Spirit to show each person one practical way they can strengthen the Body of Christ this week.

Join us as we read the Bible together in 2026. <https://bit.ly/ReadwithMe26>