

# Rediscover CHURCH

WHAT IS CHURCH AND WHY DO WE GO?



Leaders Say and Ask the following:

Write down and think about the following questions. Our hope is that over the coming months we will be able to answer these questions in confidence through biblical evidence.

- What qualities are necessary for a gathering to "qualify" as a church?
- What do the words we use to describe the church say about our view of the church?
- How has your personal view of the church developed over the years?

## CHAPTER 1

Leaders READ: If we continue to mindlessly treat our churches as little more than clubs, buildings, or performances, we'll miss the truckload of support and blessing that God means to park in our driveways (pg. 23-24).

Leaders ASK: **REMEMBER TO NOT BE SCARED OF AWKWARD SILENCE**

- What did you think the church was initially, and why did you start attending?
- Give me a brief definition of church.
- Why is it important that as believers we have a specific definition of what the church is?
- What do we say to people that say 'membership' isn't necessary? or there is nothing wrong with my LifeGroup leader baptizing my kids in the creek behind my house?
- In this chapter, Johnathan Leeman describes the church as an embassy of heaven. What does this mean? What is an embassy?
  - the official residence or offices of an ambassador

- a deputation or mission sent by one ruler or state to another

Leaders READ: More than anything else, your non-Christian friends need not just your gospel words but also a gospel community that testifies to the truth of those gospel words. You want them to watch the life of your church and say, "God really does change people. And he really is building a just and righteous city - here in the church." (see 1 Cor. 14:25; Heb. 11:10)

Does our church accomplish this? What are areas we are strong in representing heaven as an embassy? What areas can we improve?

A church is a group of Christians (Chapter 2)



who assemble as an earthly embassy of Christ's heavenly kingdom (Chapter 3)



to proclaim the good news and commands of Christ the King (Chapter 4)



to affirm one another as his citizens through the ordinances (Chapter 5)



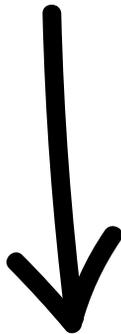
and to display God's own holiness and love (Chapter 6)



through a unified and diverse people (Chapter 7)



in all the world (Chapter 8)



following the teaching and example of elders (Chapter 9)