



# Journal

## Chapter 6: THE CHURCH

### Personal Study

Last week you read about and discussed your identity in Christ. Did you learn anything new about your place in God's kingdom? Perhaps learning about how God sees you changed how you see yourself. This week before your group meeting, read *Believe, Chapter 6: The Church*. Then spend some time allowing the Scripture to take root in your heart and considering how you can personally take part in God's plan for the world.

### Read

Read *Believe, Chapter 6: The Church* and answer the following questions.

1. What patterns do you observe in these Scriptures?

---

---

---

2. What did you read that encouraged you?

---

---

---

Spoke to you? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

Comforted you? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

Motivated you? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

3. From the moment Adam and Eve defied God in the Garden of Eden, he has been on a mission to restore the community that was broken. What role does the church play in this mission?

---

---

---

In what ways can you support the divine calling of the church? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

4. Although the message of the church is good news, many do not respond positively to it. Why do you think that is the case?

---

---

---

5. In what ways has this chapter altered your perspective on your personal identity and value?

---

---

---

6. In what ways is the current-day church representing Christ well?

---

---

---

In what ways must it improve? \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

## **Evaluate**

*Based on your reading from Believe, Chapter 6: The Church, evaluate your level of confidence in the statements below, using a 1–6 scale (1 = no confidence, 6 = complete certainty).*

\_\_\_\_\_ I believe God gives spiritual gifts to every Christian for service to the church and the community.

\_\_\_\_\_ I believe that I cannot grow as a Christian unless I am an active member of a local church.

\_\_\_\_\_ I believe the community of true believers is Christ’s body on earth.

\_\_\_\_\_ I believe the purpose of the church is to share the gospel and nurture Christians to maturity in Christ.

## **Take Action**

*Memorizing Scripture is a valuable discipline for all believers to exercise. Spend a few minutes each day committing this week’s Key Verse to memory.*

**Key Verse:** “Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held

together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.” (Ephesians 4:15–16)

*Recite this week’s Key Idea out loud. As you do, ask yourself, does my life reflect this statement?*

**Key Idea:** I believe the church is God’s primary way to accomplish his purposes on earth today.

*Answer the following questions to help you apply this week’s Key Idea to your own life.*

1. What behaviors help you recognize someone who believes the church is God’s primary way to accomplish God’s purposes on earth?

---

---

---

2. What, if anything, hinders you from fully offering your time and abilities to the mission of the church?

---

---

---

3. What is something you can do this week to demonstrate your belief in the church as God’s primary way to accomplish his purposes on earth?

---

---

---

### **Journal**

*Bring this study guide with you to church and use the following space to take notes from the pastor’s or teacher’s message.*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

