

WHO ARE WE?

Name:

PARTICIPANT GUIDE

WINTER 2024



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LETTER FROM KURT

When people hear the word “church”, all kinds of thoughts may go through their mind... some good and some bad. Some people think of traditional settings with stained glass, dim lights, candles, and hardwood benches. Other thoughts might be tied to toxic experiences, painful memories, or shocking news headlines. Still, others might think of a “country club” scenario where everyone knows one-another and there are all kinds of activities.

I admit my first thought of “church” is often a building or a location, but then my mind quickly goes to people, ministries, and experiences. I have heard a church should be more like a battleship than a cruise ship, and I think there is a lot of truth in that statement. We are not on a pleasure-cruise; we are on a mission to accomplish the objective Jesus set out for us: go into all the world and make disciples (Matthew 28:18-20).

In the New Testament, a church was considered a gathering of people not necessarily at a certain place, building, or location. Literally, the word for church (ekklesia) means “a called-out gathering of people.” That is exactly who we are...called out to gather and then commissioned to scatter as we grow the Kingdom.

Unfortunately, many people inside and outside of the church have mistaken our true calling and identity. Many people have become consumers instead of contributors. They think of church and ask, “what’s in it for me?”

Jesus and the writers of the New Testament describe the church in many ways and often use imagery to help us understand our purpose. In this series we will discuss some of those images to help us better answer the question, “Who Are We?” This will help us get back on the right course and on mission for what Jesus wants us to accomplish.

Who are we? We are the Bride, Flock, Family, and Salt/Light of Christ to the world.

May God bless,



Kurt Charlton

Lead Minister

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE:

The purpose of this guide is to ignite a passion for the Church in your daily life. We are told that Jesus loved the Church so much that he gave his life for her. This guide will help you develop your love for the Church and lead you to ways you can be a better member of the body.

SERMON NOTES:

Bring this workbook to church each Sunday. As you listen to the sermon, make a note when you hear something that surprises you, intrigues you, bothers you, challenges you, or encourages you. Use this as a starting point for your group discussion and personal study through the week.

CONNECT QUESTIONS:

These questions will help you and your group members become more comfortable with talking and sharing with each other. Not only will you learn more about one-another, the questions will help to steer the discussion in the direction of the topic.

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION:

These questions are the “meat” of the discussion and will point back to the sermon each week. Feel free to read and answer the questions before your group meets. They will also help you dig deeper into the Scriptures during your group discussions.

CHANGE QUESTIONS:

Passion leads people to significant actions. At the end of Jesus’ most famous sermon, he says if you do not put his words into practice, then you are a fool (Matthew 7:24-27). Life transformation is the ultimate goal of a follower of Christ. This happens through personal reflection and a genuine response to what you have heard from God. Feel free to answer the questions out-loud when your leader reads them or you can quietly reflect and write a response in your workbook. This is the time to go deep and make it personal!

PRAY FOR ONE-ANOTHER:

Please focus this time on your own personal praises and requests instead of listing all of the bad things that happened to someone you know. We challenge you to get “deep” with one-another relationally, which means becoming a little bit vulnerable as you are honest with one-another.

PRAY FOR THE MISSIONS OF THE WEEK:

Macomb supports many wonderful missionaries and organizations all over the world. We are committed to supporting them with our finances, prayers, and encouragement. Ask God to work in their lives and through their ministries to ignite a passion for Jesus in others.

DAILY DEVOTION:

Be consistent, honest, and intentional with this time and you will not regret it. The whole point of this workbook is to make the sermons and scriptures stick with you in your daily walk with Christ. Digging in to God’s Word and applying it to your daily life is perhaps the best way to solidify his truth into your heart and your life.



Handwriting practice lines consisting of 15 horizontal lines.

WEEK 1 - BRIDE OF CHRIST

CONNECT

(These questions help your group members become comfortable with talking and sharing. They will also help to steer the discussion in the direction of the topic.)

- 1. What are some of the differences between how men and women view weddings?
- 2. How have weddings changed over the years?
- 3. Why is a wedding an important event? Why do we invest so much time, money, and effort into weddings?

COMMUNITY

(This is the “meat” of the discussion, points back to the message, and digs deeper into the Bible passages.)

- 1. Read Ephesians 5:21-33. According to Paul, how should a husband treat his wife in a marriage? How should a wife treat her husband?
- 2. Read vs. 25-27 again. Paul relates husbands and wives to Jesus and the church. What does Jesus do for the church?
- 3. What do you like about the picture of the church described in this passage? What do you struggle with?

- 4. You often hear of people who do not see the church as important or necessary for their faith. How does this passage in Ephesians confront this kind of thinking?
- 5. Read Revelation 19:6-9. What similarities do you see in the passage with the one from Ephesians?
- 6. Why is there rejoicing in this passage? Based on how the bride prepares herself in this passage, how should our church prepare ourselves for Jesus?
- 7. What role can you play in helping the church, as the bride, be prepared for the wedding day?

CHANGE

(This is for personal application. Allow time for silence, personal reflection, and discussion if people are willing.)

- 1. What specifically needs to happen in your personal life for you to become a more radiant part of the bride of Christ?
- 2. Are you investing an appropriate amount of time, energy, and resources in this spiritual wedding? What needs to change?
- 3. How can you encourage others in the church to be the bride of Christ?

PRAY FOR ONE-ANOTHER

(Spend some time praying with your LIFE Group. When asking for requests, try to keep the focus on personal praises/requests that relate to people in the group.)

PRAY FOR MISSIONS OF THE WEEK

Home of Blessings - Chiang Kham, Thailand
Macomb is the sole supporters of the HOB. HOB provides Hmong boys from the hill tribes of northern Thailand the opportunity to hear the word of God and receive quality education from the local schools.

Abigayle Ministries
Abigayle Ministries is a interdenominational organization who assists adult pregnant women and their children by introducing them to the Gospel and equipping them to be self-sufficient through its residential housing program. abigayleministries.org

DAILY DEVOTION (DAYS 1-3)

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| <p>DAY 1:</p> <p><i>“For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her...”</i> Ephesians 5:25, NLT</p> | <p>DAY 2:</p> <p><i>“...to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God’s word.”</i> Ephesians 5:26, NLT</p> | <p>DAY 3:</p> <p><i>“He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault.”</i> Ephesians 5:27, NLT</p> |
| <p>► This is an instruction for husbands to love their wives, but what image does it give us for what Jesus did for his bride, the church?</p> | <p>► This shows what Jesus did by giving up his life for the church. What do you think it means for the church to be holy, clean, and washed by God’s Word?</p> | <p>► Jesus’ vision for the church (His people) is to be a glorious church without a spot, wrinkle, or blemish. Why does he want us to be presented to him in this way?</p> |
| <p>► How does Jesus’ love for you and his church impact your love for the church? How do you show your love for Jesus’ bride?</p> | <p>► Would you describe our church as holy, clean, and washed by the Bible? What can the church (and you) do to be cleansed by God’s Word?</p> | <p>► Picture a glorious bride walking down the aisle in her perfect dress without any wrinkle or blemish. How does this picture impact the way you treat Jesus’ bride, the church?</p> |

DAILY DEVOTION (DAYS 4-6)

DAY 4:
“As the Scriptures say, ‘A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.’ This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one.”
Ephesians 5:31-32, NLT

- ▶ How is the unity of a marriage similar to the way Jesus and the church are united?
- ▶ In what ways are you united with the church? How can you get to know Christ better by being more involved with his bride, the church?

DAY 5:
“Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.”
Revelation 19:7, NIV

- ▶ Jesus’ return is described as a wedding union with the church. What parts of a wedding are similar to the celebration and preparation we should have for Jesus’ return?
- ▶ What does it mean that the bride has made herself ready? In what ways can the church (including you) be made ready for Jesus’ return?

DAY 6:
“Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.” (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God’s holy people.)”
Revelation 19:8, NIV

- ▶ The bride is given bright and clean clothing to wear. What does this verse say the clothing of the church represents?
- ▶ Could your life and our church be described as a “holy people” with “righteous acts”? What can you do to present a righteous and holy garment to Jesus, our groom?



Lined area for notes.

WEEK 2 - FLOCK

CONNECT

(These icebreakers help to get people talking and steers the discussion toward the topic.)

- 1. What type of exposure have you had with livestock? Do you have any interesting stories?
- 2. As a child, or now, what was your favorite pet? How would it respond when it heard your voice?
- 3. When have you or someone you know blindly followed a person or a group and been led astray?

COMMUNITY

(This is the “meat” of the discussion, points back to the message, and digs deeper into the Bible passages.)

- 1. Why do you think Jesus chose to refer to his followers as sheep? How is a flock a good word-picture for the Church?
- 2. Read John 10:1-6. How do sheep respond to a stranger compared to their own shepherd? How do Jesus’ words relate to his hope for the Church?
- 3. Read John 10:7-10. Who are the thieves and robbers who come to “steal and to kill and to destroy”? How does Jesus want us to respond to the voices speaking into our lives?

- 4. Read John 10:11-15. Why do you think it is important that Jesus says he is, “The Good Shepherd” instead of just any shepherd?
- 5. Who are examples of “hired hands” that people follow today instead of the Good Shepherd? How can this be dangerous?
- 6. Read Psalm 23:1-4. How is the rod and staff of a shepherd used? How does this relate to the way Jesus leads and loves us as a church?
- 7. The job of a shepherd is to lead, feed, and protect his flock. What can happen to a church that goes astray and does not follow the Good Shepherd?
- 8. **OPTIONAL EXERCISE: Read Ezekiel 34.**
 - a. Write down every single action the bad shepherds did.
 - b. Write down the punishments they received.
 - c. Write down everything God provides as the Good Shepherd.

CHANGE QUESTIONS

(This is for personal application. Allow time for silence, personal reflection, and discussion if people are willing.)

- 1. What sort of false shepherds and voices have led you astray in your life?
- 2. How can we (as a church and as individuals) learn to hear and know the voice of the Good Shepherd?
- 3. What needs to happen for you to be led and fed by the Good Shepherd this week?

PRAY FOR ONE-ANOTHER

(Spend some time praying with your LIFE Group. When asking for requests, try to keep the focus on personal praises/requests that relate to people in the group.)

PRAY FOR MISSIONS OF THE WEEK

Austin Ganyo - Training Tomorrow’s Leaders

TTL exists to plant new churches in western Africa by financially supporting and training indigenous church planters that enable new churches to be planted. trainingtomorrowleaders.org

Great Lakes Christian College

GLCC is an institution of higher education affiliated with Christian Churches/Churches of Christ. They seek to glorify God by preparing students to be servant- leaders in the church and the world. glcc.edu

DAILY DEVOTION (DAYS 1-3)

DAY 1:

“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me.”
John 10:14, NIV

- ▶ When someone is called a sheep in our culture, is it usually positive or negative? What is meant by the comparison?

- ▶ Sheep are not known as being smart, but they are extremely loyal and obedient to the shepherd. How is it a good thing that the church is referred to as Jesus’ flock?

DAY 2:

“They won’t follow a stranger; they will run from him because they don’t know his voice.”
John 10:5, NLT

- ▶ How does your pet respond when they hear your voice or see you? How is this like our relationship with Jesus?

- ▶ What are some examples of a “stranger” who could lead a church astray? What can the church (and you) do to keep this from happening?

DAY 3:

“Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding.”
Jeremiah 3:15, NIV

- ▶ God has appointed shepherds and pastors to lead local congregations. Why would he use a structure with local leaders instead of everyone just following Jesus directly?

- ▶ God blesses churches with local leaders who have knowledge and understanding. How does this help churches to follow the good shepherd better?

DAILY DEVOTION (DAYS 4-6)

DAY 4:

***"I am the good shepherd.
The good shepherd lays
down his life for the sheep."
John 10:11, NIV***

- ▶ What makes Jesus “the good shepherd” instead of just any shepherd?

- ▶ How should Jesus' sacrifice for the sheep impact your view and involvement with the flock/church?

DAY 5:

“So they were scattered because there was no shepherd, and when they were scattered they became food for all the wild animals.”
Ezekiel 34:5, NIV

- ▶ What can happen if there is no shepherd for the church to follow? What can happen to a church that follows the wrong shepherd?

► Have you ever been disconnected from a church or flock? How is it different now that you are a part of a church and a small group of believers?

DAY 6:

***“I have other sheep, too,
that are not in this
sheepfold. I must bring them
also. They will listen to my
voice, and there will be one
flock with one shepherd.”***
John 10:16, NLT

- ▶ Jesus's goal is to bring in all of his sheep into one flock who all listen to one shepherd. Does this sound like the current landscape of churches today?

► Those who listen to the shepherd's voice are a part of his flock. How do you listen to the shepherd's voice? What distractions get in your way?

WHO are WE?

Week 3 - Family

WEEK 3 - FAMILY

CONNECT

(These questions help your group members become comfortable with talking and sharing. They will also help to steer the discussion in the direction of the topic.)

- 1. As you grew up, was there a friend who became like part of your family? Or did you become like part of someone else’s family?
- 2. What one word would you use to describe your family growing up? Why?
- 3. What are some good and bad ways that a church is like a family?

COMMUNITY

(This is the “meat” of the discussion, points back to the message, and digs deeper into the Bible passages.)

- 1. Read Ephesians 2:11-13. What were the groups that were separated? What brought them together? How would this be like a “blended family” today?
- 2. Read Ephesians 2:19-22. What symbols and imagery does Paul use to describe how we are now members of God’s family? What are some ways we become part of a family?
- 3. How does the fact that all different kinds of people come together in the family of God highlight the power of Jesus?

- 4. The family of God bridges all kinds of cultural and religious barriers that kept people apart before. What are some barriers that may keep this from happening in the Church?
- 5. Read Galatians 3:26-29. What do these verses teach you about the nature of God’s family?
- 6. What kinds of things make the family of God different from any other family?
- 7. What is our responsibility as members of God’s family? What makes it difficult to contribute to the family at times?
- 8. Read Hebrews 10:24-25. What are we to do and what are we not to do? How would practicing this help us as a family of God?

(This is for personal application. Allow time for silence, personal reflection, and discussion if people are willing.)

- (Spend some time praying with your LIFE Group. When asking for requests, try to keep the focus on personal praises/requests that relate to people in the group.)*

His House is on twelve Michigan campuses. They exist to bring the gospel to colleges and campuses and send students back out as world changers for Christ. hhcf.org

- ▶ Christians are citizens and members of God's household. How does this impact the way you think of your church family?

- ▶ Gentiles had no hope and were excluded from salvation. Through Jesus, we are now accepted into the true family of God. How does this change the way you see fellow Christians?

► Why would Paul want us to especially do good to those who are part of the family of believers? How can you show kindness and goodness to your church family?

DAILY DEVOTION (DAYS 4-6)

DAY 4:

“Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister.”

Romans 14:13, NIV

- ▶ Paul does not mean we should stop calling out clear sin when we see it. So what kind of judgment is Paul talking about? How can we avoid this in the church?

► When have you been guilty of being a stumbling block for another Christian instead of helping them to be more like Jesus?

DAY 5:

“Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters.”

Romans 14:1, NIV

- ▶ Paul encourages the church family to get along and accept one another. Why is this so important for a family? Church?

- ▶ What are some disputable matters that divide churches today? How can you seek acceptance and support instead of quarreling and disputing with others?

DAY 6:

“There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

Galatians 3:28, NIV

- ▶ What does this diversity teach us about God's love for ALL humanity? How can diversity be a good thing for a church family?

- What are some groups or types of people that you find it difficult to call a part of your church family? How can you be more inviting and inclusive to all followers of God?



Week 4 - Body of Christ

WEEK 4 - BODY OF CHRIST

CONNECT QUESTIONS

(These questions help your group members become comfortable with talking and sharing. They will also help to steer the discussion in the direction of the topic.)

- 1. What is the worst injury or sickness you have gone through? How did it affect the rest of your body?
- 2. Please share a story of a group effort you were a part of which would not have been possible without the help of a team.
- 3. What is one talent or skill you wish you had? Why?

COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

(This is the “meat” of the discussion, points back to the message, and digs deeper into the Bible passages.)

- 1. Why do you think people tend to think about what talent or skills we can NOT do instead of what we can do?
- 2. Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-6. How have you seen other people use their gifts to serve God and his Church? When have you seen God at work through someone else?
- 3. Read 1 Corinthians 12:7. Read it again and emphasize the words “each”, “Spirit”, and “common”. Discuss how each of these words give encouragement and instruction for those in the Church.

- 4. Read Romans 12:4-8. List the different spiritual gifts from this passage. How would you describe the way each of these can be used in the church?
- 5. In the passages read earlier, the purpose of Paul’s teaching is to have unity in the body of Christ. How can the misuse of spiritual gifts cause disunity in a church?
- 6. What are some ways our church body could avoid jealousy or disunity in regard to spiritual gifts and contributing to the health of the body? (See Romans 12:3-5)
- 7. OPTIONAL EXERCISE: Take the spiritual gifts test at [giftstest.com](https://www.giftstest.com). Share your results with your group and discuss ways you can help each other use their gifts to build up the body of Christ.

(This is for personal application. Allow time for silence, personal reflection, and discussion if people are willing.)

- ## PRAY FOR ONE-ANOTHER

(Spend some time praying with your LIFE Group. When asking for requests, try to keep the focus on personal praises/requests that relate to people in the group.)

Master Provisions - Florence, Kentucky

Master Provisions serves God by connecting resources to needs while uplifting one soul at a time for all generations. They have partnerships with other missions to provide clothing and food to those in need each year. They continue to aid people through God's mission. masterprovisions.org

DAY 1:

- ▶ What are some of the different spiritual gifts you have read about or heard about? Why does Paul want the church to know that everyone has different gifts?

- ▶ In what ways have you served God before? How does it affect your service to know the Holy Spirit distributes different gifts and ways to serve.

DAY 2:

- ▶ Paul says “each one” has been given a spiritual gift. Have you sought to discover or grow your spiritual gift?

► How can you use your skills, gifts, and experiences for the common good of your church family?

DAY 3:

- ▶ Are there parts of your body you wish were different? Why do you think it is so easy to compare our physical bodies to other people?

- ▶ God made you exactly how he wanted you to be, and not like someone else. How does this change your perception of your body and your value to his church?

DAILY DEVOTION DAYS 4-6

DAY 4:

"But God has put the body together...so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other."

1 Corinthians 12:24-25, NIV

- God assembles all of the pieces needed for the body of His Church. How do you see this take place at Macomb through our staff and servants?

► What would it look like for a church to have no division and everyone have equal concern for each other?

DAY 5:

"If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it."

1 Corinthians 12:26, NIV

- When have you suffered and someone came alongside of you to help? When have you rejoiced with someone else because of a blessing?

► How can you be more connected with your church body to share in one-another's sufferings? How can you rejoice with others this week?

DAY 6:

“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.”

1 Corinthians 13:4, NIV

- ▶ Chapter 13 is known as the “love” chapter. Why do you think this comes right after Paul talks about unity in the body through chapter 12?

- ▶ Though this is often read at weddings, the context is talking about the church body. How can you show this kind of love for your church family?

WHO are WE?

Week 5 - Salt and Light

WEEK 5 - SALT AND LIGHT

CONNECT

(These questions help your group members become comfortable with talking and sharing. They will also help to steer the discussion in the direction of the topic.)

- 1. What is your favorite salty snack food?
- 2. What is something that you have lying around your house that has lost its usefulness? (Don't say your spouse!)
- 3. When a household item breaks, do you try to fix it or just buy something new?

COMMUNITY

(This is the "meat" of the discussion, points back to the message, and digs deeper into the Bible passages.)

- 1. Read Matthew 5:13. What was the historical importance of salt in that culture? How does it relate to the church?
- 2. We typically think of salt as a seasoning, but the primary use of salt at the time was as a purifying agent. Why do you think Jesus talked about salt just after he gave everyone the beatitudes in vs. 1-12?
- 3. Read Luke 14:34-35. What happens when salt loses its saltiness? What do you think a Christian looks like when he/she loses their saltiness?

- 4. Read Matthew 5:14. What was the historical importance of light in that culture? How does it relate to the church?
- 5. Read Matthew 5:15-16. How can we find the balance of letting our light shine, but not become a blinding spotlight in someone's face?
- 6. According to vs. 16, what is the purpose of letting others see our good deeds? How can letting others see our good deeds become a negative thing? Positive?
- 7. Salt and light are similar in that too much or too little can be bad. How does this relate to how the church is supposed to be salt and light in our community?
- 8. What are some examples of how Macomb is being salt and light to our community? What are some ways that you can be salt and light to others?

CHANGE QUESTIONS

(This is for personal application. Allow time for silence, personal reflection, and discussion if people are willing.)

1. What can you do to not lose your saltiness as a Christian and keep your influence with others?
2. What are some good deeds you can do to let your light shine before men so they may glorify God?
3. How can you help Macomb be a better light to our community?

PRAY FOR ONE-ANOTHER

(Spend some time praying with your LIFE Group. When asking for requests, try to keep the focus on personal praises/requests that relate to people in the group.)

PRAY FOR MISSIONS OF THE WEEK

Wolverine Christian Service Camp - Columbiaville, MI

Wolverine’s mission is to minister and disciple campers through their many different weeks of camp. Their summer programming provides a place for youth to hear about Jesus in an atmosphere of fun and encouragement.

[Wolverine Christian Service Camp](#)

DAILY DEVOTION (DAYS 1-3)

DAY 1:

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again?”
Matthew 5:13, NIV

- ▶ The primary use of salt was to preserve food from spoiling. What are the dangers of spoiled meat? What are the dangers of spoiled righteousness in a community?

- ▶ What can you do to keep from losing your saltiness as a follower of Jesus? How can you remain an effective agent of protection and purity to those around you?

DAY 2:

“Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out.”
Luke 14:34-35, NIV

- ▶ What is something you have lying around your house that has lost its usefulness? Why do you still have it?

- ▶ Jesus wants us to be useful and effective. What are some ways you can be more useful to Macomb and his Kingdom?

DAY 3:

“Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.”
Colossians 4:6, NIV

- ▶ If you were to sum up all of the conversations you had in the past week, what words would you use to describe them?

- ▶ Our interactions with those around us should be seasoned like salt, and positive like light. How will you do this when you speak with people this week?

DAILY DEVOTION (DAYS 4-6)

DAY 4:
“Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.”
Psalm 119:105, NIV

▶ Before we can light the way for others, we need to have it illuminated for us. How do you use God’s Word to light your path?

▶ A lamp for one’s feet keeps them from stumbling. How does God’s Word keep you from stumbling?

DAY 5:
“In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”
Matthew 5:16, NIV

▶ Does it feel weird to let others see your good deeds? Why or why not?

▶ What is the purpose of letting others see our good deeds? What can you do this week that will lead others to glorify God this week?

DAY 6:
“Conduct yourselves with such honor among the Gentiles that, though they slander you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day He visits us.”
1 Peter 2:12, NIV

▶ When has someone spoken bad about you because you did the right thing? When has doing the right thing led to a positive conversation with a non-believer?

▶ How can you conduct yourself with honor this week? How will you lead others to glorify God by your actions?

KEY SCRIPTURES:

EPHESIANS 5:25-26 NLT
“For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God’s word.”

EPHESIANS 5:31-32 NLT
“As the Scriptures say, ‘A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.’ This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one.”

JOHN 10:11 NIV
“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep.”

JOHN 10:16 NLT
“I have other sheep, too, that are not in this sheepfold. I must bring them also. They will listen to my voice, and there will be one flock with one shepherd.”

EPHESIANS 2:19 NIV
“Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household.”

GALATIANS 6:10 NIV
“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.”

1 CORINTHIANS 12:7 NIV
“Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.”

1 CORINTHIANS 12:24-25 NIV
“But God has put the body together...so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.”

MATTHEW 5:16 NIV
“In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

1 PETER 2:12 NIV
“Conduct yourselves with such honor among the Gentiles that, though they slander you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day He visits us.”

FOR FURTHER STUDY:

1 | BRIDE OF CHRIST

Ephesians 5:21-33 | Paul correlates a marriage relationship with Jesus and the Church.
Revelation 19:6-9 | John describes the perfect bride that is presented to Jesus.

2 | FLOCK

John 10:1-15 | Jesus teaches that he is the Good Shepherd and we are his flock.
Ezekiel 34 | Prophecy of what it will be like when Jesus becomes our Shepherd.

3 | FAMILY

Ephesians 2:11-22 | We become citizens and members of God's household through Jesus.
Galatians 3:26-29 | We become children of God through faith, and all are equal.

4 | BODY OF CHRIST

1 Corinthians 12 | There is unity and diversity in the body, and all have a part to play.
Romans 12:3-8 | All have been given different gifts; use them with humility and diligence.

5 | SALT AND LIGHT

Matthew 5:13-16 | Jesus says we are the salt of the earth and light of the world.
1 Peter 2:11-25 | Live such good lives that others glorify God and ignorant talk is silenced.

RESOURCES:

- *Letters to the Church* by Francis Chan
- *I Am A Church Member* by Thom Rainer
- *Creature of the Word: The Jesus Centered Church* by Chandler, Patterson, Geiger