

# THE CHURCH IS DEVOTED TO GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

YEAR: UNITE / FOCUS: I AM PART OF A FAMILY  
SERIES: GOD IS FATHER - I AM PART OF THE FAMILY

## BIG TRUTH: THE CHURCH IS DEVOTED TO GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

Acts 2:1; 20:7; 1 Corinthians 5:4

### BIBLE VERSE: HEBREWS 10:24-25

*“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”*

### BIG IDEAS

- We gather with awe and wonder in God’s presence.
- We gather under God’s Word.
- We gather to worship through baptism and the Lord’s Supper.

## BIBLE PASSAGE: ACTS 2:42-47; COLOSSIANS 3:15-17

### UNITE - I AM PART OF A FAMILY

The Unite Year is an exploration of what it means to be united in Christ as the family of God (Romans 12:5). When we are saved, we are given a spirit of adoption as sons (Romans 8:15-16), are made a child of God, and we are also saved into a family- the Church. The Unite Year explores how we are to live as a part of a family, and to live in light of our calling as servants and disciples of Christ. We use our gifts to build up the church as we pursue unity, humility, and gentleness with our brothers and sisters in Christ (Ephesians 4:1-2).

### SERIES AIMS



#### Every student should know that...

- The church is a family.
- The church is given by God.
- The church exists for God.



#### Every student should feel...

- Thankful for the unique ways God has gifted them and their church.
- Appreciation for the elders and leaders that God has gifted their church.



#### Every student should strive to...

- Prioritize gathering to worship each week with their church family.
- Learn more about membership in their local church.
- Do something to intentionally serve someone in their church family each week



#### Every student should want...

- To devote themselves to pursue holiness with their church family.
- To have their lives be marked by love for the church.
- To live in a way that is sacrificial and generous for the good of others and the glory of God

### GUIDES AND WORKOUTS

The Guide provides a commentary page on each week’s Bible verse and on each Big Idea that unpacks the Big Truth. Each week also includes a Student Workout as a resource to help the student pursue spiritual disciplines on their own. Additionally, each week has a Family Workout that helps equip parents and guardians to have spiritual conversations with their student.

# THE CHURCH IS DEVOTED TO GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

## BIBLE VERSE: HEBREWS 10:24-25

*“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”*

### The church is devoted to one another.

*“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works...”*

- God’s purposes are always what is best for people. God has designed that all of His redeemed people should gather together in community. This is what is known as His church and it functions on a global and local level. Globally the church involves all people who know Christ as their Savior. Locally, it involves smaller groups of believers who gather to worship and serve God together.
- The global and local church are devoted to one another. This means that local bodies of believers should be devoted to helping one another grow in Christlikeness and the global church should be devoted to itself. As local bodies of believers devote themselves to the greater purpose of Christ, they will be devoted to the global church.

### The church gathering is necessary.

*“...not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some...”*

- Growing in Christlikeness together is part of the Christian life. God has designed life to be lived with others. It is important that all people live in community for their greater flourishing, but it is necessary that believers live in community in order to truly become Christlike.
- God’s Word is the way in which individual believers grow in their spiritual life, but in order to fully mature, believers need other believers in their lives. When we join with other believers to pursue Christ, we open ourselves up to encouragement, reproof, and challenge that results in our spiritual maturity.

### The church gathering furthers the purpose of Christ.

*“...but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”*

- Christ’s purpose for His church is that they fulfill His plan for them. He uses the church as a means to sanctify His people and prepare them for their eternal home with Him and to spread the gospel to the world.
- When the church gathers, it works to fulfill this purpose. When believers join together to worship God, they build one another up. When believers join together to glorify God, they take the gospel to the world, beginning first in their community and then branching into the whole world.

# THE CHURCH IS DEVOTED TO GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

## BIG IDEA #1: WE GATHER IN AWE AND WONDER IN GOD'S PRESENCE.<sup>1</sup>

### [ THIS ]

God is a gatherer of people. He gathers His redeemed people together into one body—His body. This body, also known as the church, is connected by His Spirit, which every believer receives at salvation. The Holy Spirit connects God's people to one another and works in them to fulfill God's mission for His church. Acts 2:42-47 gives us a picture of the early church and helps to establish the framework for the gathering of God's people together. God calls His people to Himself and has established that they gather together frequently for various purposes. They gather to edify, or build up one another. They gather to worship God. They gather together in awe of God and His presence in their lives. In the early church, believers gathered in awe and to marvel at the miracles being performed. Today the church gathers to worship God for the way He works in their lives and the world.

### [ THEREFORE ]

#### What makes the gathering of God's people unique and different from other gatherings?

When we gather together with other believers, we can testify to the mighty works that God has done. Romans 15:18-19 gives us a picture of Paul proclaiming to other believers the mighty works of God. A gathering of God's people is different because we are joined by the same Spirit and we gather to proclaim God's wondrous works.

### [ THIS ]

When God's people gather together, He is present. The collective gathering of God's people is a gathering of His presence. This produces awe and wonder in believers. When His people sing songs of worship together, they feel an awe at his power and presence in their lives. When they gather to share the many ways He has provided for them, interacted with them, and guided them, they gather in wonder at who He is and what He does. The gathering of God's people is important to their spiritual journey. Marveling at the work and power of God is necessary to a right view of God and ourselves. When the church gathers, believers are encouraged and emboldened.

### [ THEREFORE ]

#### What are some of the distractions you might face during corporate worship?

Often we may arrive at church with hearts full of the things of this world. We may be burdened by problems and cares or we may have unrepentant sin in our hearts. Luke 21:34 warns us of distracting ourselves with the things of the world and not being prepared for the return of Christ. This same truth applies to our corporate worship as we can hinder ourselves from participating fully if we are too burdened with the things of this world.

#### What effects does the gathering have on God's people?

Gathering with other believers helps us pursue Christ and live obediently to Him. Hebrews 10:24-25 helps us see the importance and significance of gathering with other believers. We are encouraged and built up when we meet with like-minded people. 1 Corinthians 14:26 also reminds us of the importance of speaking truth in one another's lives. This helps us live for Christ day to day.

1. Acts 2:43: *The early church gathered in awe of God's work in their midst.*

# THE CHURCH IS DEVOTED TO GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

## BIG IDEA #2: WE GATHER UNDER GOD'S WORD.<sup>2</sup>

### [ THIS ]

God's Word is our guide and the way we grow in our knowledge of God. We learn about ourselves as we learn about God. When His church gathers together, they do so with God's Word at the center of all they do. God's people should always be devoted to the teaching and preaching of His Word. They should study it personally and stand under its authority, not over it in authority. Individual believers should look to God's Word as their source of wisdom and understanding. As believers live this out in their personal lives, it will be true when they gather collectively. As a group, they will place a high value upon the Word of God and they will collectively seek to obey it and to bring God glory. Their decisions will be guided by the Word of God and not by man's opinion or ideas.

### [ THEREFORE ]

**Read Acts 2:42-47. How can you live out a devotion to God's Word in your personal life?**

In order to live out a devotion to God's Word, we must acknowledge it as our only source of wisdom and knowledge of God. Matthew 4:4 reminds us that we cannot live for God without it. Psalm 119:105 shows us that God's Word guides us and lights our path. We are devoted to it when we discipline ourselves to know it and to use it as our guide for living for God's glory.

### [ THIS ]

In Colossians 3:15-17, God's people are devoted to His Word. When God's people gather, the Word of God guides them and encourages them to live for Christ. The church should gather under the authority of God's Word and nothing else. God's Word should guide all that the church does and doesn't do. The order of the church service should align with God's Word. The way the church serves one another and the community should be based upon the teaching of God's Word. The faithful teaching of God's Word should be a part of the church's gathering and service. It should be the heartbeat of the church. Just as the early church devoted itself to the apostles' teachings, the church today should be devoted and known for their commitment to Scripture.

### [ THEREFORE ]

**What are some ways the church can fail to gather under the authority of God's Word?**

Romans 2:8 and John 12:48 warn us of rejecting God's Word and not submitting to its authority. When we focus on the pursuit of worldly things, we will not submit to the authority of God's Word. When we gather as a body of Christ for the purpose of fulfilling our desires and personal purposes, we will fail to gather under the authority of Scripture.

**How have you increased in your knowledge of God's Word while gathered with other believers?**

When we gather with others who also love God and want to know His Word, we will grow in our own knowledge. Just as the early church grew in their knowledge as they gathered together, we will, too, today. Hebrews 4:12 and John 17:17 show us the value of God's Word and how we will grow spiritually as we study it. When we do this with others, we grow together in our knowledge and understanding of God.

2. Acts 2:42: Believers gather under the authority of God's Word and to learn His Word.

# THE CHURCH IS DEVOTED TO GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

## BIG IDEA #3: WE GATHER TO WORSHIP THROUGH BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER.<sup>3</sup>

### [ THIS ]

Two ordinances of the church are baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism is a way the church gathers in worship because it is an outward confession of an inward possession. When a person is baptized, they are saying to the world they have followed Jesus and they are proclaiming to the church that they are choosing to join them in seeking God's glory. Baptism is a way for a new believer to make public his or her decision to become a part of God's family. It is a part of the church's gathering because the church acknowledges this new believer and commits to walk with him or her through their spiritual journey. The church worships God through baptism because it is a way to praise God for the saving work that He alone does in the heart of a sinner. The church gathers and worships God together as people walk from death to life and make a commitment to follow Jesus.

### [ THEREFORE ]

**Why does the church gather to worship through baptism? Why is this important to the church?**

Acts 16:34 and 2 John 1:4 show us the rejoicing that happens in fellow believer's hearts when a sinner is saved. When the church gathers to see a person baptized, it gathers to say that one more sinner has walked from darkness to light. This act of baptism is important to the church because it is a reminder of the salvation that we all have experienced. It helps us remember the price paid for our souls and the commitment we, too, made when we were baptized.

### [ THIS ]

The Lord's Supper is another way the church gathers to worship the Lord. The Lord's Supper, or Communion, is symbolic of the death of Jesus and His saving work on the cross. When the church partakes of the Lord's Supper, they reverently remember Christ's death on the cross. They remember that it took the blood of Christ to wash them clean. The Lord's Supper is also a time for the church to worship through repentance. As the church prepares to take the Lord's Supper, they devote time to preparing their hearts by acknowledging any unrepentant sin and turning from it. The church collectively gathers to consecrate their hearts before the Lord and to remember the saving work He has done.

### [ THEREFORE ]

**How does the Lord's Supper help the church remember the sacrifice of Christ?**

The Lord's Supper is a symbol of the death of Christ on the cross. The bread we eat during the Lord's Supper represents the body of Christ that was broken for our sakes. The juice we drink represents the blood of Christ that was shed on the cross to redeem us. 1 Corinthians 10:16 and 11:26 show us that the church participates in the Lord's Supper to remember the saving work of Christ. We need to remember the sacrifice of Christ on our behalf in order to fully live for Him. When we remind ourselves of all that Christ has done, we maintain a right view of ourselves and others.

3. Acts 2:46-47: *The early church gathered together to worship God by breaking bread together and by adding to their numbers through salvation.*