

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV) "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let's encourage one another- and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

2. Hear _____ with my church family

Acts 2:42 "All the believers devoted themselves to the Apostles' TEACHING..."

Isaiah 55:9-11 (NIV) "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, SO IS MY WORD THAT GOES OUT FROM MY MOUTH: IT WILL NOT RETURN TO ME EMPTY BUT WILL ACCOMPLISH WHAT I DESIRE AND ACHIEVE THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH I SENT IT."

3. _____ with my church family

Acts 2:42 "All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to **FELLOWSHIP**, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper)..."

4. _____ with my church family

Acts 2:42 "All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to **PRAYER**."

5. _____ in my church family

WEEK 2: COMMITMENT & PRAYER CHALLENGE

- 1) **This week make a commitment to be devoted to God and to your church family.** Repent of any failures and make a commitment to worship, get into Biblical teaching, fellowship with other believers, pray with other believers and serve with other believers at the Glory Center.
- 2) **This week pray for the Glory Center's** outreach to more people and for members to get plugged in and know how to serve God.



WK 2: WHY I NEED MY CHURCH FAMILY

4 GOALS FOR THIS SERIES:

- To ignite hearts to _____ the Church that Christ _____
- To stir hearts to be faithful to _____ & _____ together again.
- To motivate hearts to love those who are _____, _____ & _____
- To see _____ of members of the Glory Center _____

EPHESIANS 5:25 (NIV)

"...**CHRIST LOVED THE CHURCH** and gave himself up for her."

EPHESIANS 2:19-22 (NLT)

"...You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of **GOD'S FAMILY**. Together, we are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets. And the cornerstone is Christ himself. We are carefully joined together in him, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. Through him you Gentiles are also being made part of this dwelling where God lives by His Spirit."

The New Testament uses various words to describe the Church (Ecclesia):

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

But, perhaps the most powerful descriptive word for the Church is _____

KEY PRINCIPLE: I love my Church because it is the _____ of the world and God's chosen _____ of blessing. The Church is a _____ made up of _____ who are becoming more and more like Jesus every day.

WHY I NEED A SPIRITUAL FAMILY:

New York Times article by Stanford Professor of Anthropology, T. M. Luhrmann entitled, *The Benefits of Church*:

"One of the most striking scientific discoveries about religion in recent years is that going to church weekly is good for you. Religious attendance boosts the immune system and decreases blood pressure. It may add as much as two to three years to your life... A study conducted at the University of North Carolina found that frequent churchgoers had larger social networks, with more contact with, more affection for, and more kinds of social support from people than their unchurched counterparts. We know that social support is directly tied to better health."

In other words, you may _____ if you attend Church. And, studies show that attending Church makes you a _____ & _____ person.

1. I NEED A LOVING FAMILY TO _____

Ephesians 2:19 "You are members of **GOD'S FAMILY**."

Ephesians 1:5 (NLT) "God decided in advance to **ADOPT** us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ..."

Every believer is _____ into God's family because of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:15-16 (NIV) "For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption. And by him we cry, 'Abba, Father.' The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children."

We are adopted into God's family through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit confirms to your heart that you _____ It is not God's will that any believer live as a _____

Hebrews 2:11 (CEV) "Jesus and the people he makes holy all belong to the **SAME FAMILY**. That is why he isn't ashamed to call them his brothers and sisters."

In the family of God, your sins and your past do not determine your identity. Your _____ is found In Christ Jesus and in the family of God as a blood-washed child of the king, living in freedom and under grace.

2. I NEED A SPIRITUAL FAMILY WHERE I CAN _____

1 Corinthians 13:11 (NLT) "When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things."

Acts 2:42, 46-47 (NLT) "All the believers **DEVOTED** themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer... They worshiped together at the temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity- all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved."

"DEVOTED" (Strong's #4342, proskartereo) _____

5 THINGS I AM CALLED TO DO SO I CAN GROW:

1. _____ together with my church family

Acts 2:46 "They **WORSHIPED** together at the temple each day, met in homes..."

Deuteronomy 5:12-13 (NLT) "Observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy, as the Lord your God has commanded you. You have six days each week for your ordinary work."