



— The Church Exists to Worship Christ Together and Witness to the World —



### SESSION AIM

Help teachers and group leaders understand the biblical nature of the gathered church—its identity, purpose, and mission under the reign of Christ.



### BIG IDEA

The church is not an event, a program, or a building. It is the gathered people of God, called out by Christ, united in Him, empowered by His Spirit, and sent to bear witness to His glory in the world.



### WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

The church is the people of God redeemed by Christ, gathered by the Spirit, and commissioned for the Kingdom of God.

- Christ called us out of darkness
- Christ gathers us into one body
- Christ equips us for His mission
- Christ sends us into the world
- Christ reigns over His church



### HOW THIS TOPIC CONNECTS



#### FOUNDATION OF RC2

Everything in this cluster builds on the nature and mission of the church.



#### KEY FOR ALL OF LIFE

The church is central to worship, discipleship, service, Kingdom witness, and spiritual growth.



#### SHAPES EVERY SESSION

A clear vision of the church helps believers live faithfully under Christ's reign.



### PRINCIPLE

The church is Christ's people brought together to glorify Him and advance His Kingdom.

**One Lord. One Kingdom.  
One People.**

### TEACHING FLOW: HOW TO USE THIS SHEET

1



#### INTRODUCE THE TOPIC

- Read the Big Idea and Key Scriptures.
- Ask: "What comes to mind when you think of the church?"
- State the session aim.

USE THIS:

Workbook  
Key Passages  
Prayer Focus

2



#### TEACH THE BIBLICAL FOUNDATION

- Present the nature of the church.
- Explain: who the church is, what it does, and why it exists.
- Use the Key Scriptures.

USE THIS:

Articles  
Notes  
Study Tools

3



#### CLARIFY THE MISSION

- Explain the church's mission: worship, discipleship, fellowship, service, and Kingdom witness.
- Emphasize Christ's reign over all.

USE THIS:

RC2 Visual  
Theology  
Graphics

4



#### EXPLORE THE IMPLICATIONS

- What this means for our lives.
- What this means for our church.
- What this means for the world.

USE THIS:

Leader Sheet  
Teaching Flow  
Key Emphases

5



#### ENGAGE IN DISCUSSION

- Use the Discussion Questions.
- Encourage everyone to participate.
- Keep the focus on Scripture and application.

USE THIS:

Handouts  
Discussion  
Questions

6



#### APPLY AND RESPOND

- Guide the group to apply truth to life and ministry.
- Make it personal and practical.
- Encourage next steps.

USE THIS:

Handouts  
Application  
Section

7



#### CLOSE IN PRAYER

- Pray together for understanding, unity, and faithfulness.
- Pray for the church and the mission Christ has given us.

USE THIS:

Prayer Prompts  
Next Steps  
Accountability



### KEY EMPHASES



#### CHRIST REIGNS OVER HIS CHURCH

The church exists under the authority of Jesus Christ.



#### THE CHURCH IS HIS PEOPLE

We belong to one another under His lordship.



#### THE CHURCH HAS A MISSION

Worship, discipleship, fellowship, service, and Kingdom witness.



#### THE CHURCH IS GATHERED

God's people are called to be together, not isolated.



#### THE CHURCH REPRESENTS HIS KINGDOM

We are Christ's Ambassadors to the world.



### COMMON CONFUSIONS



#### CHURCH IS A BUILDING

The building is a tool. The church is the people.



#### CHURCH IS A PROGRAM

Programs may help. The church is a covenant community.



#### CHURCH IS AN EVENT

Events may occur. The church is a people on mission.



#### CHURCH IS OPTIONAL

Scripture calls believers into the body of Christ.



#### CHURCH IS ONLY FOR MY BENEFIT

The church exists to glorify God and bless the world.



### KEY SCRIPTURES

Matthew 16:18 – Christ builds His church  
Acts 2:41–47 – The early church gathered  
1 Corinthians 12:12–27 – The body of Christ  
Ephesians 1:22–23 – The church is His body  
Ephesians 4:11–16 – Equipping the church  
1 Peter 2:9 – A chosen people  
Matthew 28:18–20 – The Great Commission



### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1 What is the biblical definition of the church?
- 2 Why does the church exist?
- 3 What does it mean that Christ reigns over His church?
- 4 How does the early church in Acts challenge us?
- 5 What are some ways the church represents Christ to the world?
- 6 How can we better live as the gathered church together?



### APPLICATION FOCUS

- ✓ Rejoice in being part of Christ's church.
- ✓ Participate actively in gathered life.
- ✓ Serve others with your gifts.
- ✓ Share the Gospel with boldness and love.
- ✓ Live as a witness of Christ's Kingdom.

### RECOMMENDED VISUALS FOR THIS SHEET



The Gathered Church



Body of Christ



Christ Reigns Over His Church



Sent to the World



The Church: His People



### NEXT STEPS

- Continue with RC2 Leader Sheet 2: Christianity Cannot Be Lived Alone.
- Explore the recommended articles and graphics.
- Pray for your church and for the Kingdom mission.
- Teach faithfully. Lead humbly. Keep Christ central.

