



## ONLINE CHRISTIANITY vs THE GATHERED CHURCH

— Technology May Assist the Church — It Cannot Replace Embodied Covenant Life —



### SESSION AIM

Help teachers and group leaders explain the proper role of digital ministry, why embodied gathering matters, and how covenant life under Christ requires visible participation among God's people.



### BIG IDEA

Technology can assist the church through teaching, communication, and encouragement, but Scripture presents Christianity as embodied covenant life lived together through worship, fellowship, ordinances, prayer, service, and shared discipleship under Christ.



### WHAT THIS SESSION BUILDS UPON

From Leader Sheets 1–8:

- The church is gathered by Christ.
- Christianity is covenant life together.
- Believers participate in one another ministry.
- Worship forms believers.
- Shepherds care for the flock.
- The church visibly represents Christ's Kingdom.

This Session Expands:

- Embodied gathering.
- Digital ministry and its limits.
- Participation vs spectatorship.
- Covenant life beyond content consumption.



### FOUNDATIONAL SCRIPTURES

- Hebrews 10:24–25
- Acts 2:42
- 1 Corinthians 12:12–27
- Ephesians 4:15–16
- Galatians 6:2



### PRINCIPLE

The church is not a digital experience to be watched—it is a gathered covenant people to be worshiped with, served, loved, corrected, and strengthened together under Christ.



### RECOMMENDED VISUALS

- Online Christianity vs The Gathered Church
- Christianity Cannot Be Lived Alone
- Sheep Need the Flock
- One Another Commands
- The Gathered Church



### NEXT STEPS

- Continue with RC2 Leader Sheet 10.
- Review the Online vs Gathered visual.
- Discuss practical ways to prioritize gathered participation.
- Encourage faithful attendance and involvement.

### TEACHING FLOW: HOW TO USE THIS SHEET

1

#### BEGIN WITH THE VALUE OF TECHNOLOGY



- Online teaching can help believers.
- Technology can expand access.
- Digital tools may strengthen communication and learning.
- The issue is not technology itself.

USE THIS:  
Articles  
Key Passages  
Examples



KEY EMPHASIS: Technology can support the church.

2

#### TEACH THE IMPORTANCE OF GATHERING



- Worship together.
- Fellowship and one another ministry.
- Ordinances (baptism and the Lord's Supper).
- Prayer, shepherding, accountability, and encouragement.

USE THIS:  
Online vs Gathered  
Visual



KEY EMPHASIS: Christianity is embodied covenant life.

3

#### EXPLAIN WHAT REQUIRES PRESENCE



- Baptism and the Lord's Supper.
- Prayer together and burden-bearing.
- Accountability and restoration.
- Discipleship and visible fellowship.

USE THIS:  
Christianity Cannot Be Lived Alone  
Visual



KEY EMPHASIS: Screens cannot replace covenant participation.

4

#### ADDRESS MODERN DISTORTIONS



- Passive spectatorship.
- Content-driven spirituality.
- Parasocial ministry culture.
- Detached digital faith.
- Consumer Christianity.

USE THIS:  
Discussion Starters  
Examples



KEY EMPHASIS: The church is a gathered people under Christ.

5

#### SHOW HOW EMBODIED LIFE FORMS BELIEVERS



- Accountability, correction, and encouragement.
- Service, hospitality, and mercy.
- Worship that shapes together.
- Perseverance and faithfulness in community.

USE THIS:  
One Another Commands  
Visual



KEY EMPHASIS: Christ forms His people through shared life together.

6

#### APPLY PRACTICALLY



- Gather faithfully with God's people.
- Participate actively in church life.
- Use technology wisely and carefully.
- Strengthen fellowship and accountability.
- Practice one another ministry intentionally.

USE THIS:  
Application Ideas  
Handouts



KEY EMPHASIS: Live as a gathered people under Christ's reign.



### KEY EMPHASES



#### TECHNOLOGY CAN ASSIST THE CHURCH

Digital tools may support teaching, communication, and learning.



#### THE CHURCH IS GATHERED

Scripture presents believers as an embodied covenant people.



#### CHRISTIANITY REQUIRES PARTICIPATION

The church is not merely watched—it is lived together.



#### PRESENCE MATTERS

Many aspects of church life require embodied fellowship.



#### CHRIST FORMS HIS PEOPLE TOGETHER

Believers grow through shared worship and covenant life.



### COMMON CONFUSIONS



#### "Online sermons replace church."

Teaching may be digital. Covenant life is embodied.



#### "Gathering is optional."

Hebrews 10 emphasizes assembling together.



#### "The church is mainly content."

The church is worship, fellowship, ordinances, prayer, and shared life.



#### "Digital connection equals biblical fellowship."

Biblical fellowship involves embodied participation.



#### "Technology is inherently bad."

Technology can serve the church wisely when kept in proper order.



### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1 How can technology help the church?
- 2 Why does Scripture emphasize gathering together?
- 3 What aspects of church life require embodied presence?
- 4 How can churches unintentionally encourage passive spectatorship?
- 5 What dangers arise when Christianity becomes mainly content consumption?
- 6 How can believers use technology wisely while prioritizing gathered life?



### APPLICATION FOCUS

- ✓ Prioritize gathered worship faithfully.
- ✓ Participate actively in church life.
- ✓ Use technology wisely and carefully.
- ✓ Strengthen embodied fellowship.
- ✓ Practice one another ministry intentionally.



### PRAYER FOCUS

- Pray for wisdom regarding technology and church life.
- Pray for deeper fellowship within the church.
- Pray for faithfulness in gathered worship.
- Pray for protection from isolation and passivity.
- Pray for Christ to strengthen His people together.



**CHRIST CALLS HIS PEOPLE NOT MERELY TO CONSUME CONTENT, BUT TO WORSHIP, SERVE, AND LIVE TOGETHER UNDER HIS REIGN.**

