
Chapter 6, Lesson 1, Exercise Guide

Chapter 6, Lesson 1, Scripture References

Romans 12:5; Genesis 2:24; 1 Peter 2:9-10; Colossians 1:15-18; 1 Corinthians 12; Hebrews 12:1; 1 Corinthians 15:51-52; Galatians 3:26-27; Hebrews 6:2; Mark 1:4; Luke 3:3; Acts 2:38; Matthew 20:22-23; Luke 12:50; Mark 1:8; Acts 1:5; Revelation 3:20; John 3:6; Romans 6:4-6; 1 Peter 3:21; Matthew 19:6; Mark 10:9; Acts 11:22; Acts 13:1; Acts 20:17; Romans 16:1; 1 Corinthians 2:14; Romans 16:5; Ephesians 2:19-22.

Chapter 6, Lesson 1, Study and Prayer

1. What is the connection between “family” and “church”? How important is it to God?

2. This chapter identifies two groups of church attendees I call, “The Unsatisfied Longing for Belonging” group and “The Longing Long Gone” group. Do you relate to either of these two groups? If so, on the lines below, tell the Lord “where you are” and ask for his help. *Ask him for exactly what you would like him to do in your life through this chapter.* Don’t be afraid to ask him for a miracle in your life in this area.

3. What does the Greek word for “church” mean?

4. Reread 1 Peter 2:9-10. What does the Lord speak to you regarding belonging to the Body of Christ through this passage?

5. Jesus has only _____, only _____,
just as he is the _____.

6. We may meet in different local congregations, but the Church, meaning the entirety of the Body of Christ, is composed of _____, wherever they may be, who are _____ and who have made Jesus Christ their _____ and _____.

7. We may worship in different buildings, have different worship styles, or different doctrinal positions, but we are _____, and we _____.

8. We do not get to _____ and _____ with whom we are “one”; if we are _____ Jesus then we are _____ the Body of Christ and, therefore, _____ relationship with _____ other parts of the Body of Christ.

9. What does the Greek word for “baptism” mean?

10. Explain how we are baptized into Christ and what it means.

11. What are the reasons for water baptism?

12. Have you been baptized in water since you became a believer in Jesus? If not, will you pray about taking this important step?

13. In the section, “2. Many Parts,” we talked about “what God has joined together.” What did the Lord speak to you in this section?

14. What does the section, “How Did I Get Here” mean to you and your sense of belonging to your church? Do you know how you “got” to your church? Are you confident that God placed you in your church? If not, do you need to pursue this with him so that you can have confidence that he has placed you in your church?

Chapter 6, Lesson 2, Exercise Guide

Chapter 6, Lesson 2, Scripture References

1 Corinthians 12:18; Jeremiah 29:11; 1 Peter 2:5; Amos 3:3; Matthew 28:18-20; John 13:35; 1 John 4:19-20.

Chapter 6, Lesson 2, Study and Prayer

1. We believe in a _____ God who has a _____,
_____ for each of our lives.
2. If the above statement is true, what is the relationship between 1 Corinthians 12:18 and Jeremiah 29:11?

3. Once we have received a sure word from the Lord regarding which local church he has placed us in, he desires to _____ us, that is, help us to _____
_____ that enable us to _____ and mature in him,
in relationships with other believers, and in fruitfulness. The Lord desires to “_____”
us, but that is more _____ choice than _____.

4. What does the last sentence above mean to you? Why is it more our choice than God’s?

5. In the section, “God’s Purpose for Placing and Planting Us in a Church,” how is love defined?

6. In the same section, what are some of the misunderstandings about Godly love and some of the “hard” facts about love relationships?

7. What is God’s primary purpose for placing us in a local church?

8. Referring to question 7, why is this God’s purpose?

9. Why should we not expect being part of a church to be easy all the time?

10. Faithfulness to the church God has placed us in is merely an _____ of _____ to God. God himself is _____; it is an essential part of his character. God asks us to be faithful—that is, to live in a _____ manner that is _____, authentic, _____, trustworthy, and _____.

11. What does the phrase “loving and staying in relationship” with believers mean to you?

11. How does the phrase “loving and staying in relationship” with other believers challenge what you have believed and acted on as your purpose for attending and belonging to a church? In other words, how does this concept challenge you to change?

Chapter 6, Lesson 3, Exercise Guide

Chapter 6, Lesson 3, Scripture References

Proverbs 18:24; 1 Peter 2:4-6; Proverbs 27:17; Hebrews 10:24-25;
1 Corinthians 12:12-20.

Chapter 6, Lesson 3, Study and Prayer

1. From the first paragraph of this lesson, what connection do you think exists between your relationships in your church and your success at staying planted there?

2. Reread the section on Personal Relationships and Friendships. Do you have a good balance of friends, a balanced mix of those who are building you up and those you are building up? Take some time to think about who you spend time with on a regular basis and the impact those relationships have on you spiritually. Ask the Lord to speak to you if there are imbalances in your friendships that you should correct. Write what he tells you below.

3. Since finding our place in a new church may not be easy, _____
_____. We should have a _____
for _____ and pushing on to victory.

4. Describe the three steps we should understand and learn to do when we are coming into an established church.

5. In any of the three steps in question 4, what did the Lord speak to you that you could begin to do *now* that would help you plant yourself more deeply in your church?

6. When dealing with rejection, why is it helpful to know that Jesus himself was rejected?

7. The Bible calls us “living stones.” Why is it difficult to build the church of God out of “living stones”?

8. In your own words, explain what Proverbs 27:17 means.

9. Why must we learn to “reject rejection”? Why do we need to overcome obstacles that we encounter in the church? What is the point of pushing through to victory?

Chapter 6, Lesson 4, Exercise Guide

Chapter 6, Lesson 4, Scripture References

Matthew 18:5-7; Matthew 18:15-16; Matthew 18:21-22; Colossians 1:25-29; Luke 9:49-50; Romans 14:4; Malachi 2:16.

Chapter 6, Lesson 4, Study and Prayer

1. Define Biblical offense and its key characteristics.

2. How does “taking offense” differ from the Bible’s definition of an offense?

3. What does “a lifestyle of refusing to be offended” mean to you?

4. What does Paul, in Colossians 1:25-29, tell us about his purpose as a minister?

5. Has God instructed us to critique, judge, comment on, or rate churches, ministers, or ministries? _____

6. What does Romans 14:4 tell us about other believers, churches, and ministries?

7. If we have concerns about another ministry, we should _____.

Other than that, we should keep our _____ and
our _____.

8. What are the two primary circumstances under which we might consider leaving a church?

9. What are “precipitous actions” and what is the problem with them? Why should we endeavor not to act “precipitously”?
