

# DAY ONE

## WHY CHURCH?

What do you think of when you think of church? Do you view it as optional or essential? An obligation or a joy?

Do you have a funny story about a church like the following one? I grew up in a small church. We had a nursery but no children's church, so kids attended "big church" once they had enough self-control to sit through the service. My brother got through sermons by enacting mental GI Joe versus Cobra battles on the ceiling. While I'm sure these were entertaining for him and kept him awake during the service, he was not experiencing the true purpose of church.

The church goes by different names in the Bible: the body of Christ, the People of God, and the Bride of Christ are some of them. We are called into a personal relationship with God and, at the same time, into a local community of believers. The local church exists to glorify God through worship, to build up and disciple His people, and to share the message of Christ.

Consider these words from Tony Merida's book "Love Your Church":

*It is a privilege to belong to the new-covenant people of God: to be part of those who have been saved through repentance and faith in Christ Jesus, who possess the indwelling Holy Spirit, who are joined in a local gathering, who assemble to hear the word preached, who engage in corporate worship, who are led by qualified pastors/elders, and who enjoy the wonder of baptism and the Lord's Supper. It is an awesome thing to be part of those who commit to practicing the "one anothers of Scripture, who scatter to fulfill the Great Commandment (love your neighbor) and the Great Commission (make disciples of all nations).<sup>2</sup>*

Based on today's reading and scripture (Hebrews 10:23-25), take a minute and summarize why followers of Jesus should "Choose Church."

## **HEBREWS 10:23-25**

Grab your Bible and open to today's reading. Use the PRAY and HEAR tools as you spend time in the Word.

**H**

**E**

**A**

**R**

Take a moment and use the PRAY tool to respond in prayer.