



## Asking For a Friend

### Lesson 3: "Why is Church such a Big Deal?" June 27 & 28

Why is church such a big deal?

Your life is shaped by your commitments

- You **can't buy a house** without making a commitment
- You **can't buy a car** without making a commitment
- You **can't have a job** without making a commitment
- You **can't get married** without making a commitment

"We all need something bigger than ourselves to live for, which draws us out of ourselves, which makes us bigger than ourselves, which draws greatness out of our lives" *Rick Warren*

#### God wants us 100% committed to Him

**Romans 12:1** So brothers and sisters, since God has shown us great mercy, I beg you to **offer your lives as a living sacrifice** to him. **Your offering** must be **only for God** and pleasing to him, which is the spiritual way for you to worship. *New Century Version*

#### God uses us for His purpose when we commit to Him

**Romans 6:13** ...but give yourselves completely to God - **every part of you** - for you are back from death and you want to be **tools in the hands** of God, to be **used for his good purposes**. *Living Bible*

1. To **stand strong** we must **commit to worshipping** with a church family

**Psalms 122:1** **I was glad** when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord." *New Living Translation*

We're **Energized** by Corporate Worship

**Isaiah 40:31** **But they** that **wait upon** the Lord shall **renew** their strength. They shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. *Living Bible*

We're **Inspired** by Tailor-made Messages

**2 Timothy 4:2** **Preach the word**; be prepared in season and out of season; **correct, rebuke** and **encourage** - with great patience and careful instruction. *New International Version*

2. To discover **our identity** we must **commit to fellowshiping** within a church family

**Romans 12:4** In this way we are like the various parts of a human body. Each part gets its **meaning** from the body as a whole, **not the other way around...** **5** Each of us finds **our meaning and function** as a part of His body. But as a chopped-off finger or cut-off toe we wouldn't amount to much, would we? *Message Bible*

3. To **grow spiritually** we must **commit to interacting** within a church family

**1 John 4:7** Dear friends, let us **practice loving each other**, for love comes from God and those who are loving and kind show that they are the children of God, and that they are **getting to know him better**. **8** But if a person isn't loving and kind, it shows that he doesn't know God—for God is love. *Living Bible*

- You can only learn **forgiveness** in relationships
- You can only learn **loyalty** in relationships
- You can only learn **love** in relationships
- You can only learn **kindness** in relationships
- You can only learn **faithfulness** in relationships
- You can only learn **sharing** in relationships

4. To experience **significance** we must **commit to serving** within a church family

**1 Peter 4:10** Each of you has **received a gift** to use **to serve others**. Be good servants of God's various gifts of grace. *New Century Version*

### Three Levels of Living

1. **Survival:** Just getting by
2. **Success:** I have things, status, fame, options
3. **Significance:** I've given my life away to something bigger than myself

5. To fulfill the Great Commission we must commit to a local church's vision

### **The Power of Working Together**

- When we work together we maximize our impact
- When we work together we minimize our failures
- When we work together we mobilize our resources