



NAC-USA
DEVELOPMENT
INSTITUTE

Church
membership
as a gift

A unifying
church
member

Family

MIDWEEK GUIDE

2018

September

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Session 1: Church membership as a gift

1. What does it mean to you to be a church member? Did the video change your perspective at all?

2. In the video, Bishop Schmidt mentions that it is good to “calibrate every once in a while.” Why is it important to calibrate and orient yourself to the purposes God has set out?

3. How are we in continual development as church members?

4. When we are given an invaluable gift, we tend to treasure it by taking the utmost care of it. How can we demonstrate that we treasure the gift of being a church member?

5. Why could church members have a sense of entitlement? What does the Bible say about that? How can you defend yourself from becoming an entitled church member?

6. Read the entire story of Jesus rebuking His disciples in Matthew 20:20-28. How could that story relate to church membership?

7. Take time in tonight's small group to pray specifically for the leaders in your congregation. From the video: *Pray for their wisdom and courage. Pray for their spiritual, physical, emotional, and mental health. Pray for their families. Pray that God strengthens them on this journey.*

References

Ephesians 2:8-9
John 3:16

Romans 3:23
1 John 4:8

CNAC 6.2

Session 2: A unifying church member

1. Why is unity critical to fulfill the mission of the church? How does unity contribute to the health of the congregation?

2. What does division within the church say to those outside the church?

3. How does the world know whether or not we are followers of Christ?

4. From the video: *Sure enough, we are different, but these differences are no longer an obstacle for us...we want to form a team...who are called by God to serve Him and to spread the gospel.* Think of someone in the congregation who is very different from you. How can you affirm the way they serve in the congregation? How do their gifts complement yours?

5. Can you remember a situation in which you had a hard time being a unifier? How did you overcome it?

6. Is it appropriate to have preferences and opinions in the church? If so, in what context?

7. How is it possible to overcome the divisive forces that were spoken about in the session – gossip, an unwillingness to forgive, refusal to look past differences, an inability to let go of personal preferences?

Bible References

Colossians 3:12-14

Mark 9:35

Philippians 2:8

Session 3: Family

1. Why do we sometimes overlook our family when we think about loving our neighbor?

2. In what ways is serving our family, those closest to us, a means of preparing ourselves to serve those who are further from us? If you cannot love those closest to you, how can you expect to love those far away from you?

3. The video states that praying together is a beautiful unifying tool. What other tools or methods could be used within families and congregations to create unity?

4. Bishop Schmidt pointed out that it is a myth to think, “My family member needs to worship God and express their faith exactly as I do; if not, they will fall behind.” Why is this a myth? What would need to be said in order to make a true statement about how families worship God?

5. Referring to the parable of the prodigal son, the video says that, the older son viewed his brother as the “one who left.” He couldn’t let go of this sin or fault of his. How can we move past the history and faults of the members in our families or in our congregations?

6. Have you ever thought about your godly purpose within your family? If not, what can you do to discover and fulfill that purpose?

7. What goals can you have as a family that will help keep you on mission for Christ? Find time to discuss this as a family in the next week. Write them down and post them where you can see them. If you are willing to share them, please email your goals to communications@nac-usa.org.

Bible Reference

Luke 15:32