

WEEK 10: WHY IS THE CHURCH IMPORTANT?

OBJECTIVE

Help your group understand the symbolism of baptism and communion. Lead your group to pray boldly and specifically over each person in your group, and encourage them to courageously live out their purpose. Solidify the value of belonging to the Church body and the importance of remaining in community—by establishing or joining a small group—to continue living and growing in the transformation that started in Rooted.

CHECK LIST

- Review your notes from all ten weeks for each individual and prepare a prophetic prayer of blessing for each person. Consider the gifts, strongholds, and purpose of each person in preparation.
- Reflect on the following passages while preparing to lead communion—Luke 22:14-20, Matthew 26:26-28, Mark 14:22-24, and 1 Corinthians 11:20-30
- Be sure that you have communion supplies ready
- Have cards ready to capture the words of affirmation given to each person
- Prepare the future small group leader to pray a blessing over the group

PRAYER POINTS

As you celebrate communion tonight, you would have a special time as a group to celebrate what God has done in your lives the past 10 weeks. As you remember His death and resurrection through the taking of the Lord's Supper, remember the amazing gift He provided for each of us.

Every person would leave having been prayed over, and able to embrace the truths shared about them. They would fully embrace what God has done in their 10 weeks through Rooted, and have a greater understanding of their purpose from God.

Anyone who has not been baptized would want to be baptized at the Rooted celebration.

GROUP TIME

Welcome and Introductory Questions—10 minutes

- What makes you feel connected to the church, like you belong? What does it feel like to worship in community with other believers?

TIP: There is a lot of experiences to cover this week, so be sure to keep the group on track and moving forward.

Affirmations—35 minutes

- Take turns affirming each person in the group for what you have seen God do in their lives during this 10-week journey. If you have everyone say an affirmation, keep it to one word. Or you can have two or three people affirm each person.
- Consider limiting the number of people who are affirming (maybe 3-4 affirmations for each person). Keep the affirmation to a word or short sentence.

TIP: Have someone write down these affirmations on a card to give to the person at the Celebration.

Prophetic Prayers—50 minutes

- Pray over each person in the group, affirming the journey God has brought them through the past 10 weeks. Affirm the gifts God has blessed them with, and their purpose in furthering His Kingdom. Affirm the freedom from strongholds they are experiencing. If it is a co-ed group, be sure not to reveal the stronghold specifically.

TIP: See the appendix for notes on prophetic prayer and blessings, including example prayers.

Communion and Group Prayer—15 minutes

- Take the bread and cup, and give each person a blessing as they receive it. This is another good opportunity to have your selected future Rooted leaders or small group leaders give blessings as well. An example of a blessing you can give is, "This is Christ's body and blood shed for you. He died that you may live."
- Notes about baptism: for those being baptized, remind them to wear dark clothing and bring a towel. When they are being baptized, have them bend their knees, cross their arms in front of their chest. Ask the person, "Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and that He died for you?" Let them answer. Then say, "I baptize you in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit." You will lay them down in the water, and then lift them up out of the water.

Closing—10 minutes

- If members have not shared their faith, challenge them to continue to look for those opportunities as God leads. Talk about the difference it makes when we are intentional in wanting to be used by God, and how He reveals opportunities we would not otherwise see.

WORKBOOK REVIEW

Why Is The Church Important?

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:24-25

DAY 1 – ALL IN THE FAMILY

What makes you feel like an attendee at church?

What makes you feel like someone who belongs to your church?

DAY 2 – RESPONDING TO GOD

Where in your life do you worship in spirit and truth?

What sometimes keeps you from authentic worship?

DAY 3 – CEREMONIES

What are your thoughts about the Lord's Supper?

If you have been baptized, describe your experience and the events leading up to it.

If you haven't been baptized, what are your thoughts about it?

What do these ceremonies symbolize to you?

DAY 4 – MATURING IN CHRIST

Have you decided to continue with your Rooted group as a small group? If not, where is your need for community being met?

How can your small group join in with God's mission of restoration in your surrounding community and beyond?

In what ways will your relationship with God be strengthened by committing to a small group that cares for each other and the world around them?

DAY 5 – LOOKING BACK, LOOKING AHEAD

Think about your Rooted experience. What are some highlights? What are one or two truths you want to take away from this time?

How have you heard God's voice?

What's the next step you will take toward fulfilling the purpose God has planned for you?