

## **Adult Group Study Guide for November 8, 2020**

Series: "The Bible Doesn't Say That"

Message: "You have to go to church to be a Christian"

Goal: To explore the benefits of corporate worship and ways to build bridges to those who may not want to come to a church building, especially during the pandemic.

Key Verse: *Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.*  
1 Corinthians 12:27 (NIV)

1. When you were young what attitudes were part of your family regarding attending worship? What frequency (if any) was the “right” amount of attendance in church services? What benefits did you discover in corporate worship?
2. Read 2:42-47. This is the first account of the life and worship of the early Christian church. List the four key elements of worship found in verse 2. How frequently did the early Christians gather for worship? Where did they engage in fellowship? What difference did it make? How important is corporate worship for spiritual development?
3. Read Ephesians 2:11-22. Paul’s letter to the Ephesians provides some of the best teaching about the nature of the church. Paul was in prison for preaching the gospel and recalls the deep friendships he had developed with the Ephesians. How does Paul describe the church? What is the difference between “going to church” and “being the church”?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27. What does Paul say about the importance of being part of the body of Christ – the Church? Just as the human body is made up of many parts, so the church is made up of many people with different gifts. How would you describe your role within the church community? How can you use your gifts to build unity within the body?
5. Read Hebrews 10:19-25. How does the writer to the Hebrews describe this new and living way to worship God? What benefits of being together does the writer list in these verses? How can we worship together in spirit and in truth? (John 4:23-24)
6. How can we extend grace to each other during the pandemic when we have different perceptions of the wisdom of gathering together? What can we learn during this time that will help us to reach out to others who may not feel comfortable attending a worship service in a church building?