
NOTES ON LESSON 3: I CAN HAVE A GREAT RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CHURCH

(Also see “I Can Have a Great Relationship With the Church” and “Answer Guide for Teachers”)

This study focuses on faithful participation in the Lord’s church. It encourages the new Christian to attend worship services regularly, follow the church leaders respectfully, and find a place to serve in the body.

Opening Questions

Acts 2:47 through *1 Timothy 3:15*. God adds to His church those who obey the gospel; it is not a club that can be joined. Participation in the church is God’s plan for the saved. *Matthew 16:18, 19* shows the church and the kingdom of God to be inseparable.

The church (*Ephesians 1:22, 23; 5:23*) is the body of Christ; He is the Savior and the head of that body. To be faithless to the church is to reject the body of Christ, the house (family) of God.

Challenge #1: Attend

Hebrews 10:24–26. The Lord’s church is commanded to assemble regularly. The fact that God commands it is sufficient, but there are other good reasons to do so. When Christians assemble, they show their commitment to Jesus. They also worship a God who is worthy of glory and praise. Taking the Lord’s Supper on the first day of every week commemorates Jesus’ death and declares faith in His return. Regular worship with the church expresses appreciation and thankfulness to God, encourages others, and sets a good example. In addition to all these, assembling presents opportunities to hear and learn the Word of God.

Challenge #2: Follow

Hebrews 13:7, 17. God has given leaders to the church to help it grow (*Ephesians 4:11–16*). (It may be helpful to review the work and qualifications of elders and deacons in *1 Timothy 3:1–13* and *Titus 1:5*.) Reading *Hebrews 13:7, 17* will encourage new Christians to seek out their elders, follow their examples, submit to their authority, and make the elders’ task of overseeing them a joy.

Growing Christians should be teachable and open to correction. Remind students to follow the example of the Bereans in *Acts 17:11*, searching the Scriptures daily to confirm the truthfulness of what

they are taught.

Challenge #3: Serve

Psalms 24:1, 2 through *Job 1:20, 21*. At this point in the study, refer to the boxed area in “I Can Have a Great Relationship With the Church” called “4 Resources Every Christian Has.” Serving involves using our resources for God and His church. This is only right, since the earth and everything in it is God’s. Christians have been bought with a terrible price, the blood of Jesus. As we mature, we should be able to embrace the teaching that every blessing comes from God and that He is to be praised in any circumstance.

Everyone is different, but all Christians have four resources: time, talents, money, and the Word of God. Anyone who is too busy to live each day for God or to serve His church is *too busy* and will have an eternity to regret his poor use of time.

Each Christian should accept responsibility and learn how to use his talents for the good of the church. Someone once said, “We have been saved to serve.” New Christians need time to grow, but spiritual growth cannot occur without spiritual service. Growing Christians should serve!

God expects Christians to be givers and to lay up treasures in heaven. A Christian cannot serve God and material possessions. The love of money is declared to be the root of all evil. All Christians are to be generous with what they have. How we view our resources reflects our view of God.

One of the greatest resources God has given us is His Word. We are ambassadors of the “ministry of reconciliation.” Those who have been blessed with receiving the Word of God have the responsibility and the privilege to seek and save the lost. One missionary I know ends his letters with these words: “Don’t ‘keep’ the faith; spread it.”

Summary & Application

As you go through the questions in the summary, help students make personal application and develop a plan of action for using what they have learned. Review the RESIST acronym with emphasis on the current lesson. ❖