

DISCOVERY 101

WEEK 4: Finding Your Place

I. WE ALL HAVE A PLACE IN A LOCAL CHURCH

You Can Belong

Most people enjoy sharing life with someone else. They want to be around a group of people that they can “do life together” with – celebrating our good times together as well as supporting each other through the difficult times. We want a place where we feel like we belong.

How can someone feel like they belong? At The Life Church at Charlotte, we encourage people to get involved in a Life Group or Ministry Team.

By getting involved in ministry, we would like to see you grow as a Christian and develop as a leader. However, you do not have to participate in ministry to be considered a part of this church. We recognize that some people have demanding schedules, and we think it’s great that you set aside your time to worship God with us. We understand that some people who are coming to us need time to heal or be restored, and we want you to be able to come and rest in God’s presence. Others are ready to become involved, but whatever you do, we want you to be led by the Holy Spirit in doing it.

There are different ways that people can become involved in their local church.

Read Romans 12:3-8

What are some of the ways that people can get involved in their local church?

A local church is about teamwork – people working together to accomplish goals. Like a team, each player has a place on the team. A team can do a lot when the members are in position and working together with the other players. In a church we have greeters, ushers, youth workers, singers, musicians, outreach, small groups, and many other positions.

Read I Corinthians 12:12-18

What is Paul comparing church members to?

Is there anyone who does not have a purpose or a place in the local church?

Each person is valued equally in the church family because it takes a whole team to accomplish goals for the kingdom of God.

Read Ephesians 4:11-16

According to verse 12, why did Jesus set leaders in the church?

According to verse 16, when every part is participating, what happens to the body?

Read I Peter 4:10

Who has received a gift to minister?

II. WE ALL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY

God wants us to be blessed.

One way we can contribute to a local church is by obeying God with giving. Because giving is a Biblical principle, we ought to take a look at the truth God says about it. Even though some other ministries have gone into error with money, we don't want to throw out the pure teaching of God's Word and miss His blessings. We want you to know up front that your giving is between you and God. You do not have to give your money to attend The Life Church at Charlotte, and we do not give favoritism to anyone based on their contributions.

In a natural world, it takes finances to operate a church. God has given us instructions on our responsibility to contribute to the church we are a part of. The word tithe means "tenth." God has told each of us to give ten percent of our income to our local church. It is God's portion.

Read Malachi 3:8-11

Who does the tithe belong to?

Since the tithe belongs to God, we give it fully to Him, trusting church leadership to distribute it as the Lord directs them. God has placed pastors in churches as His delegated authority to oversee the local church. At The Life Church at Charlotte, the Lead Pastor has a Board of Advisors that go over the financial records each month for accountability and advising the Lead Pastor on financial decisions. The church also has a Board of Directors that oversee the operation of the church. The Lead Pastor also has a Board of Overseers that he is personally accountable to for his personal spiritual accountability. We see the tithe as belonging to the Lord, so we look to the Holy Spirit to help us in the distribution of it.

In verse 10, where does God say we are to give our tithe?

God says to bring the tithe into the storehouse. The storehouse is where you are being fed. God wants us to give to the local church that we have committed ourselves to.

An offering is anything that we give over and above our tithe. When we give our tithes and offerings, what does God promise He will do for us in verses 10 and 11?

Read Hebrews 7:8 Who receives our tithes today?

Your giving is an expression of your love and trust in God. God is looking at your heart, not what dollar amount you have to offer Him. ¹

III. BECOMING A PART OF THE FAMILY

If you believe that God is leading you to become a part of The Life Church at Charlotte, we welcome you here. We encourage you to be faithful and commit yourself to regularly attending church services.

If you are interested in becoming involved in a Ministry Team, we ask that you fill out a Ministry Team card. If you are interested in becoming a Life Group Leader, we encourage you fill out a LG application and come to our next LG Leadership Orientation. Return your Ministry Team card or LG application to us in class, at the Welcome Center, or mail it to the Church Office. Our Connections Pastor will contact you and set up a time to meet with you.

The next step in our Growth Track is to attend Discovery 201, a ten week class on Discipleship. We hope that you will attend. You can check our website for more information (www.thelifeonline.org) or contact the Church Office.

¹ Luke 21:1-4, II Corinthians 9:6-10