



CHUCK KNOWS CHURCH

The Committee: Evangelism

This group study is designed for a 45-60 minute discussion after viewing the film.

All Chuck Knows Church videos can be viewed at:

www.ChuckKnowsChurch.com

Introduction:

The Committee is a humorous and poignant online series that examines the struggles congregation's face as they look toward a preferred future. Using real world topics, *The Committee* is sure to open discussion in your congregation.

The series follows Park Grove Community Church, a make-believe urban U.S. congregation, which has lost its pastor and is closing its doors, unless it reinvents itself. Park Grove is faced with a difficult decision. They seemingly have tried everything humanly possible. Should it close? Things are so bad that a retired pastor didn't show up to help them decide the congregation's future – so it's up to the last remaining members to discover it for themselves.

Although some of the characters and situations are simplified to accommodate the format, they may feel familiar. Your congregation may not be facing closure, may have a wonderful pastor, and be a vital and growing church. However, all congregations face the issues addressed in *The Committee* at some point.

Have an open conversation about the issues covered in the series.

Chuck Knows Church Resources

Website: www.ChuckKnowsChurch.com

Discipleship Ministries Website: www.UMCdiscipleship.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ChuckKnowsChurch

Twitter: @ChuckKnows

Instagram: ChuckKnowsChurch

Suggest ways on Twitter to save Park Grove. Use this Hashtag **#SaveParkGrove**

> Watch *The Committee: Evangelism* (15 minutes)

> Starters (15 minutes)

What are your stereotypes of evangelism?

1.

2.

3.

Discuss with one or two people, and then share with the whole group:

- What do these stereotypes have in common?
- How do they hinder you from sharing your faith story with other people?

> Evangelistic Lens (10 minutes)

In this episode Chuck says, “What if we looked at everything in church through this lens?” He asks these questions:

- Are we sharing God’s love?
- Are we providing ways for people to connect with God?
- Are we focusing on ourselves or do we care about others?
- Didn’t God create the church to be a witness?



Using newsprint, a black board, or a whiteboard, list four or five other statements that capture the idea that evangelism is an opportunity shared by everyone connected to your church.

Discuss with three or four people, and then share with the whole group:

- In what ways are you a witness to those who know you? (family, friends, co-workers)
- How does your church support or hinder your ability to share your faith?

> Reflection on the Bible (20 minutes)

Ask members of your group to read aloud the following passages from Luke and Matthew. Ask another person to read the Background.

He said therefore, 'What is the kingdom of God like? And to what should I compare it? It is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in the garden; it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air made nests in its branches.' – Luke 13: 18-19

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.' – Matthew 9:35-38

Background:

The point of the story of the mustard seed is a powerful one - from the smallest effort great things can happen. When the planter sows the seed great potential is unleashed. When we share our faith, we are in effect, sowing seeds that can lead to lives transformed through the love and grace of Jesus Christ.

Jesus was motivated by his compassion. He saw that without God people were without focus and direction, easily manipulated by the powerful and persuasive. His call for labourers to go into the harvest is one founded on giving people new hope and life.

Questions for Discussion:

If your group has more than seven members, divide into groups of four to discuss the Scripture passage.

- What do these two passages say about the motivation for evangelism?
- What do these say about the goal of sharing ones faith?

Making it Personal:

In the end of the video, Daniel, Mrs. Beasley, and Chuck share these thoughts:

There's a joy and passion in all of us here. We're sharing that with each other because we are learning to trust:

- *Sharing genuine experiences, coming from that place of caring for each other.*
- *Inviting others to experience the love of God in Jesus Christ for themselves.*
- *Because evangelism isn't something we HAVE to do, it's something we GET to do.*

1. What does this say about the way your church shares faith?
2. In what way is God speaking to you this day?