



CHUCK KNOWS CHURCH

The Committee: Innovation

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

All Chuck Knows Church videos can be viewed and downloaded 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

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

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

> Starters (15 minutes)

Use the chart below to ask, “What is the difference between connecting vs. coming to church?” (use newsprint, blackboard, or whiteboard to record your thoughts)

CONNECTING	COMING TO CHURCH
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.
5.	5.

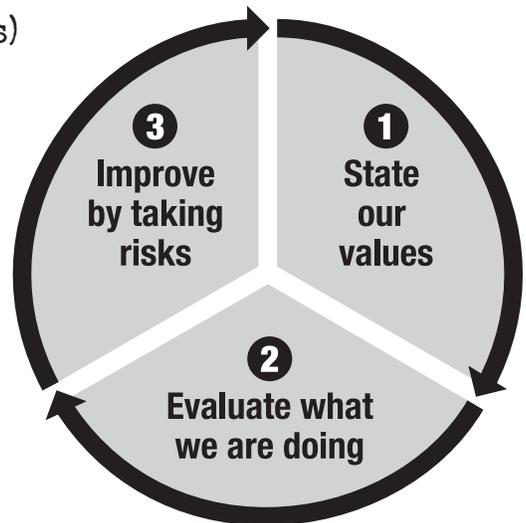
Discuss with one or two people, and then share with the whole group:

- What is the difference between these two lists?
- How does connecting to people encourage us to connect to God?
- What values develop long-term relationships and commitments?

> What is Innovation? (15 minutes)

In this episode Chuck says, “Based on our values we look at what’s working and have the courage to change what isn’t.”

Innovation is more than making a change or getting rid of the old. Innovation is a way of looking at our ministries honestly and evaluating what we can improve and planning new ideas.



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

- What primary value underlies everything you do? (Park Grove says, “Connecting people to God” is their primary value)
- How do you evaluate every ministry you do in a way that does not blame the church leaders but objectively looks at how each ministry reflects your primary value?
- How does your church take risks and then evaluate what you do so you know what worked and what needs improvement?

> Reflection on the Bible (20 minutes)

Ask a member to read aloud the following passage from John 21:4-8.

Ask another person to read the Background.

Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, ‘Children, you have no fish, have you?’ They answered him, ‘No.’ He said to them, ‘Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.’ So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, ‘It is the Lord!’ When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the lake. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off. – John 21:4-8

Background:

The disciples had just been through a traumatic series of events that led to the crucifixion of Jesus. They fled Jerusalem and went back to what was most familiar and comfortable to them – they went fishing. As they returned to shore without catching a thing, a man called out to them and told them to do something quite unusual, “Cast the net to the right side of the boat.” Galilean fishermen always cast their nets on the left side of the boat, so this person asked them to do something quite radical by asking them to cast on the other side. Two things happened as a result. First, their nets were filled with fish. Second, they recognized the resurrected Jesus.

Questions for Discussion:

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

- Why is it easier to do what is comfortable?
- What is on the right side of your congregation’s boat?
- How do you recognize Jesus in the midst of doing something new?

Making it Personal:

RILEY: “Change. It’s like trying some new-fangled, innovative whatchamagigit to explain why the church is failing. And I’m not sure if that’s the intention of church in the first place.”

HANNAH: “Of course it is. Jesus, the original ‘new-fangled, innovative change-agent.’”

- What does this say about the ministry of your church?
- In what ways is God speaking to you this day?