

# ***FITFOR DUTY***

**Student Small Group Guide**



**PATHWAY CHURCH**

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## Step 5: Be Faithful to a Local Church

### A. Purpose

Have you ever heard somebody who claimed to be a Christian say something like, "I don't need to belong to a church. I can pray privately and worship God in nature. All I need is my Bible." But if that's true, why did Jesus establish the church in the first place?

The Greek word for church is "ekklesia" which means "ones who are called out"—because the church is made up of people who have been "called" to follow Jesus Christ. While the word "church" refers to all believers (what is sometimes called the "Universal Church") it is more often used to denote a local group of believers.

This lesson will discuss why we ought to be faithful to a local church fellowship.

### B. Summary

- Belonging to a local church is part of being obedient to Biblical teaching
- Through the local church you receive instruction
- Through the local church you share fellowship with other believers
- Through your local church you meet together with others to worship
- Through your local church you have opportunities for service
- Through your local church you have opportunities for giving

### C. Questions to Ponder

The church has been called "The Body of Christ." Why do you think it was called that, and what does it mean to you?

The church is a fellowship of believers bound together by Christian love. Explain what Christian love is and how it applies to the local church.

What is the purpose for the existence of the local church?

Every member of the church is important. How is this possible and true?

## Step 6: Trust Jesus to Direct Your Life (Discovering God's Will)

### A. Purpose

Jesus wants to provide daily guidance for living out the spiritual adventure that we sometimes call "Sanctification"—which means simply, getting to be more and more like Christ. Jesus is more than just a Savior; He wants to be the Lord of your life. When we say "Jesus is Lord" we mean that we will trust Him to direct our lives.

*Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. NKJV*

We have decisions to make every day. Many of them are "routine" and take no special effort—but occasionally some of them will be difficult and will involve making ethical and moral judgments.

Right decisions should be made by discerning the will of God, and God reveals His will to those who sincerely wish to find it.

### B. Summary

- Jesus is Lord and God and has earned the right to direct your life
- Jesus wants to guide you through your Christian life
  - Recognize His right to do so
  - Confess your sins consistently
  - Trust God totally and let the Bible guide your life
- Prayerful reading of Scripture is our most reliable source of wisdom for living
- The Holy Spirit was given to us as a guide to the Bible's truth and the action we need to take as a result of what we learn there.

### C. Questions to Ponder

Can we really know the mind and will of God? How can finite human minds grasp the thoughts and intentions of the infinite mind of God?

How do you think that the Holy Spirit "guides us into all truth?" Why do you suppose we can't understand and properly apply Scripture without spiritual guidance?

