



## Life Group Study Notes

### “Bethel’s Discipleship Path: Worship Services”

Ps. Jim Laffoon - July 15, 2018

#### Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

**Choose a question to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.**

- Which kind of party would you prefer to attend: wedding, graduation, or birthday?
- What do you like most about going to church: worship, teaching, or fellowship?
- How often did you attend church (religious services) when you grew up?

#### Word (10-15 minutes)

**Sermons can be heard online at [www.bethelworld.org](http://www.bethelworld.org)**

#### **Key Quote:**

Please pray for our brothers and sisters from our Every Nation churches in Vietnam, China, and Iran, which are experiencing persecution and even arrest and incarceration for attending church and making disciples.

Hebrews 10:24-25 ESV *And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

To “stir one another up” is a strong phrase in the original Greek language. It means to provoke or incite to action. It involves active, vigorous encouragement, persuasion, and exhortation. We need to meet together to stir one another up to love and good deeds. Without this, we will normally die down in our passion.

To “neglect meeting together” is also strong language in the Greek. In this context it means to abandon or desert your fellow brothers and sisters. To fail to attend church is a serious abdication of our responsibility to care for one another. Church meetings are not merely a privilege, but also a responsibility.

Meeting together is also important because the church is the body of Christ.

“In reality, at the very essence of Christian growth are two relationships—or connections: our relationship to Christ, the head of the body, and our relationship to the body of Christ (our brothers and sisters). Maintaining these vital connections is the key to spiritual growth, success, and vitality.”

1 Cor 12:12-13, 18, 27 *ESV For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit... But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose... Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.*

Meeting together is important because the church is the dwelling place of God (God's home).

John 1:38-39 *ESV And they said to [Jesus], "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and you will see." So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day..*

Where does God live? Where does he hang out? Where can we go to meet with him? The answer is the gathered church.

Ephesians 2:19-22 *ESV So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.*

We will never come to know God in increasing measures apart from meeting together with our brothers and sisters to worship God and hear his Word preached.

We are responsible to create a place where God is excited to manifest his presence.

We are responsible to invite people to come and meet with God.

### **Discussion (10-15 minutes)**

**Choose one of the points, and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.**

- How habitual are you in attending church? What keeps you from attending sometimes?
- How do you benefit from attending church?
- How do you typically spur others on to serve Jesus when you are at a church meeting?

### **Prayer (10-15 minutes)**

**Pray any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.**

- Thank God for the ways he blesses us through our church meetings.
- Ask God to show you how you can more effectively encourage others at church.
- Ask God to show you how you can take greater advantage of the spiritual riches available at our church meetings.