

Developing Your Spiritual Life

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Listening Guide

[1] Some people are highly extroverted and love being with other people. Some are more introverted and prefer time alone. What is your preference?

[2] How involved are you in community activities? In church activities? In social functions at school or work?

I. Why Church Involvement?

[3] How do you describe church “involvement”? How involved, in your opinion, does someone have to be in their church before they can say they are “involved”?

[4] Where do you have your most significant relationships outside of your family?

[5] Do you have any close friends in the Christian community?

II. What Do We Mean by “Church”?

[6] Does the explanation fit with the concept you’ve had of “church”? How is it similar and how is it dissimilar?

[7] Describe the “invisible church” in your own words.

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III. What are the Benefits of the Church?

A. A Place to Worship

[9] As a member of God’s invisible church how often do you worship Him by yourself?

[10] How actively do you worship God during your church’s worship service?

[11] What are some ways you could increase your personal sense of worship when you participate in corporate worship?

B. A Place to Grow

[12] What kinds of growth experiences do you participate in at your local church?

C. A Place to Fellowship

[13] What are some ways being part of a church fellowship can help you stay true to your Christian commitment?

[14] How would walking in fellowship with Jesus and other believers help us live a stronger Christian life?

[15] Having Christ in common is a great benefit for believers. What are some other things we can share as Christians living in fellowship?

D. A Place to Give Back

[16] Describe your personal attitude toward “giving back.” What are some ways this ministry of the church enhances its place in the community?

[17] There are also individual opportunities for Christians to “give back.” What are some ways you could give back some of your own resources of talent, time, money or other things?

E. A Place to Serve

[18] Would you consider yourself as someone who needs training in serving the Lord or as someone who could train others?

[19] How can you best serve God in your church and community?

[20] Do you think you have any gaps in your training that are obstacles to your best effort to serve God? If so, how could the church specifically help fill those gaps?

[21] Do you see others with gaps God could use you to help fill?

IV. The Picture of Head and Body

[22] How actively do you relate to Jesus as the “Head” of all things? Is He your Savior? Is He your Lord?

[23] Have you identified your place in Christ’s body?

[24] Do you feel as though you are an essential member of your church in the same way that you consider your head and hands essential parts of your own body?

[25] Do you see others in your church who may feel like they are not integrated? If so, what could you do to help them get plugged in?

[26] Do you sense that you are part of a Christian “body” that functions like the one Paul describes in 1 Corinthians 12:26? If not, what could you do to encourage some folks to build these kinds of relationships?

V. Spiritual Gifts

[27] Are you—or have you ever—experienced a time when you felt that God was using you in a particularly powerful way to help someone?

[28] As you read the passages on spiritual gifts (Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:8-10; Ephesians 4:11; and 1 Peter 4:10-11), ask what your gift is. Not all of us are teachers or evangelists. God utilizes a wide array of abilities and you may be gifted by God to provide a ministry that is lacking in your own church.

[29] Follow the process described in this section to know which gifts are yours. After you give it some time, write down on a piece of paper what you believe God has given you as a spiritual gift that He will use to build His church. Tell your pastor what that gift is and ask him how you can serve.

VI. A Beacon of Spiritual Light

[30] List some ways you can be a positive, contributing member of the church you attend. Pray that God will guide you to be a source of ministry and encouragement to the Christian brothers and sisters you fellowship with.

[31] Review the objectives.

Why is involvement in the local church is important?

Describe the difference between the “visible” and “invisible” church in your own words.

What are the benefits and responsibilities of church involvement?

Why is using your spiritual gift essential to serving Christ effectively?

Reflection

Record one new fact or insight you discovered in this lesson.

Application

After you have completed personalizing your Romans Road presentation, ask another Christian person to let you practice your presentation a few times until you feel comfortable talking it through. You could also have a helpful ministry to your friend by encouraging him or her to practice giving the presentation to you.