**Connected: Created to Belong**

**Module 2: Invitation to Here and Beyond**

**Lesson 1: You Want Me to Do What?**

**Spiritual Aim**

Students will hopefully:

* accept the invitation of Christ to open the door to him

**Learning Objectives**

Students will:

* define the community of God as an open group of people who have opened the door to Jesus
* understand that people get together each week in a church to care for one another
* be able to articulate that it doesn’t cost anything to join the community of God
* understand that they sign up by opening the door to Jesus

**Materials Needed**

* Video equipment to play clip: www.youtube.com/watch?v=IF2wcLtD7k0
* Recording paper and pen
* Post-it Notes (min. 5 per student) and pens
* Paper that is cut into squares, numbered in order (enough for each student in attendance) and placed in a bowl
* 1 copy of Appendix A for each group of 3 as necessary to accommodate the size of your group. There are 2 copies on the sheet.
* 1 blank paper and 1 pen/pencil per student

**Minds On** (approx. 15 min.)

Show the “Disney Vacation Club” video clip [teaching tip 1].

**Prompt:** Have you ever tried to join a club? Name some of the clubs you have joined. They can be sports, school, vacation, etc.

Have students spend 3 minutes listing some of the clubs they are a part of. Write their answers on your preferred recording paper.

**Action** (approx. 25 min.)

**Post-it Brainstorm:**

* 1. Each of you will be given a stack of Post-it Notes and a pen.
  2. Thinking of the clubs you are or have been a part of, take 3 minutes to write the requirements for joining them, 1 requirement per Post-it. If you knew about this requirement before you signed up, write a “D” with a circle around it in the bottom right corner of the Post-it.
  3. When I say the time is up, stick your Post-its to the list of clubs we came up with.

**Prompt:** Today we are going to spend some time talking about the church. We will work together to find answers to 3 questions:

1. Why is it that people get together each week in a church?
2. What does it cost to join?
3. How do I sign up?

**Discussion Groups:**

1. You will draw a number from the bowl.
2. Once drawn, find your cluster of 3 in order (i.e., 1 to 3 together, 4 to 6, 7 to 9, etc.).
3. Each group will answer the questions on Appendix A in the next 5 minutes.
4. After I signal that time is up, send 1 person to post your group’s answers on the wall.

**Reviewing Group Answers:**

1. As a group, move to each posting and read the responses of the other groups.
2. With your pen, circle answers on the other groups’ sheets that resonate with you individually.
3. After you’ve seen each group’s responses, return to your own sheet.
4. As a group, pick 1 common theme from each question to share with the larger group.

Write these common themes on the recording paper so students can see them throughout the rest of the session.

Next, have each group read Acts 2:42–47.

Providing the groups with paper and pens to write their answers, instruct them to identify key ways the early church functioned. What did they do? What was the result of what they did? A spokesperson from each group will share their answers with the large group after 10 minutes.

**Leader’s note:** If your group has already gone through the first module (Case Study of the Early Church), this is a good opportunity to review your previous discussion on this passage.

Take a few minutes to have the groups share their findings. To facilitate this, have each group share 1 item from their list. Continue until everything has been shared. Record answers on paper and hang them beside the first sheet describing clubs.

Have the groups compare the lists: What is the same? What is different?

**Prompt:** It is important to recognize that to be part of the early church you did not have to follow a set of rules. The requirements for membership were that you came together on a regular basis and ate together. Being in the group meant making sure everyone had what they needed. It was about worshipping God. It was about doing life together. So, what does it take to get into this club?

Read Revelation 3:20.

**Ask:** What does this verse mean?

**Suggested answer:** Jesus is already trying to get your attention — he wants to come in and be part of your life.

**Prompt:** The truth is that Jesus wants you in the club. He wants you in so bad that he’s standing in front of you knocking! He wants you to open the door. Some of you may have already done this and some of you may not have any idea what I’m talking about. But know that God wants you to be part of this awesome thing called the church. He doesn’t give you a list of things to do. He only wants to walk through life with you.

**Consolidate/Debrief** (approx. 5 min.)

**Self-Assessment:** It will be important to give the youth time to consider what this means to them. Have the students spend 5 minutes considering whether or not they have opened the door to Jesus. Provide them with paper and pens, and then read each of the following steps, allowing students time to respond before moving on to the next step:

* + - 1. Draw a line across your page.
      2. Divide the line into 10 parts as if you were making a chart.
      3. Label each part from 1 to 10.

1. Draw a picture to illustrate Jesus at the 10.
2. On a scale of 1 to 10, where do you see yourself in relation to Jesus? Are you close to him, somewhere around 8 to 10? Are you far away, 1 or 2? Somewhere in the middle? Answer the question by drawing a picture of yourself on the graph.
3. Next, think about what it would take for you to move closer to Jesus. If you are at a 1, what would it take for you to move to a 2? What is standing in the way of you moving closer? Draw an arrow on your graph from you to the next number on the chart. Over top of that arrow draw some of the things that are keeping you from moving forward.
4. Finally, what is something you can do this week to move you closer to Jesus?

At the end of this exercise, give students an opportunity to share their charts if they are comfortable doing so. Otherwise, offer to have them share with a leader.

Close your time in prayer for the students.

**Appendix A**

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| Why is it that people get together each week in a church? | What does it cost to join? | How do I sign up? |
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