

Choosing a Home Church

You're in a new season of life, and you're looking for a new church. It is quite an important decision, and sometimes this process can be quite difficult, leaving you overwhelmed. These are a few ideas to help you think through choosing your new church. Until you have spent adequate time attending, praying, and learning about the church, it may be wise to hold off making commitments to serve or lead as a lay person.

Scripture shows us the **three main purposes of the church**: the worship of God, the encouragement of believers, and the evangelization of the world (e.g. Mt 28:19).

Five Purposes for your life (adapted from *Purpose Driven Life*):

1. **Worship – You were planned for God's pleasure**
 - Find a church that will allow you to grow as a worshipper of God.
 - Will you grow in living a life of worship (not just through song)?
 - Are they open to the Holy Spirit in worship?
 - Are you comfortable and do you connect with their style?
2. **Fellowship – You were formed for God's family**
 - Does the church have structures in place to facilitate true fellowship? (e.g. small groups, Sunday school, women's/men's community)
 - Are you able to connect with the people of the church? (e.g. age, stage in life)
3. **Discipleship – You were created to be formed into the image of Christ**
 - Will this church help you grow in understanding and application of scripture?
 - Is the teaching Biblical? Is it the whole counsel of God?
 - Do you agree with the theology?
 - Is the church earnestly pursuing God?
 - Will the church meet the needs of you and your family through many seasons of life?
4. **Ministry – You were shaped for God's service**
 - Are there opportunities for you to serve and use your gifts in the church?
 - Is it located close enough in proximity for you to truly get plugged in?
5. **Evangelism – You were made for a mission**
 - Would you feel comfortable bringing a non-Christian friend to church with you?
 - Does the church have a heart for the community?
 - Does the church have a heart for the world?

There are **four P's** to keep in mind through the process of choosing a church:

1. **Pursuit** - It is completely up to you to make the effort to find a church.
2. **Patience** - It will take lots of time to build friendships to a significant depth.
3. **Participate** - You must choose to take initiative and engage in the life of the church.
4. **Partner** - Find someone to go on the church hunt with.