

# THE LOCAL CHURCH



## Leader's Guide

### Overview

The local church is more than an organization or club that we join — it's God's plan for his people; it's His idea. God calls every Christian to be part of a local church because it is not possible to live out the Christian life without it. Our membership in the church is to be an integral part of our life. In it we are to have our closest and most life changing relationships like a family, we connect with the greatest purpose to which we could give our lives like an army, and we discover the unique gifts God has given us to offer others like a body.

### Suggested Format (90 minute meeting)

- 15 minutes – Greet & Treat. Welcome people. Have sticky nametag for each person.
- 30 minutes – Intro & Video. Introduce the topic, hand out blanks and show the video.
- 35 minutes – Discussion. Lead the group through an honest discussion using questions below.
- 10 minutes – Prayer. Ask for prayer requests, and have several people pray.

### Specific Session Tips

- Think through different illustrations from your own life on the importance of FAMILY, ARMY & BODY. This may prove helpful during the discussion.
- You may have people from LOTS of different church backgrounds. One goal of this session is to try and help them make a commitment to ONE local expression of the church... The Rock, or somewhere else. Hopefully, we can gently help them make this important decision.
- Some people may think, "I go to lots of churches to get different elements from each church." We don't encourage this. Commitment to ONE church is God's plan.

### Weekly Reminders

- Pray! Pray for each person by name and ask God to speak to their hearts!
- At the end of the meeting, remind people of who is on for treats the next week and what your topic will be.
- Pray at the end. Make sure to end ON TIME (You can always tell people they can stay – but give those who need to leave the option as soon as the class time expires).

### Possible Discussion Questions

1. Have everyone share one thing they appreciate about The Rock Church.
2. Which word picture regarding what the Bible says about the local church meant the most to you (Family, Army or Body)? Why?
3. Which word picture regarding what the Bible says about the local church surprised you the most (Family, Army or Body)? Why?
4. Why do you think most Christians don't grasp or practice the concept of loyalty, family and commitment when it comes to the local church?
5. Would you be willing to take the "six-month" challenge – to be committed to the local church "all-in" for 6 months, before deciding about trying a new church? What would this look like in your life? Why might it be a good idea?