

MEMBERSHIP



Leader's Guide

Overview

Whether membership in a church is formal or informal, there is a difference between “attenders” and “members” that can be summed up in one word: commitment. At The Rock, formal membership is our way of clearly communicating who we are and what we value as a church family, and offering people a clear way to become part of that family. In this session we will explore four reasons why making a definite commitment to be part of a local church is important.

Suggested Format (90 minute meeting)

- 15 minutes – Greet & Treat. Welcome people.
- 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

- NOTE: The word “Member” or “Membership” can be particularly sensitive and “loaded” because of the LDS culture in which we live. Some may have a negative reaction to it. Keep this in mind when describing what membership means to those at The Rock... it's different than what they are thinking.
- Our goal in this session is to get EVERYONE to eventually commit to becoming an official “Member” of the Rock Church by signing and turning in the Membership Covenant. But...
- If someone chooses not to sign at this time, extend grace and give them ample space so that they give this adequate consideration and thought.
- NOTE: The **Membership Covenant** and the **TRC Statements** of faith can be found in the *Bonus Materials*.

Weekly reminders

- Pray! Before your meeting, 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. Ice Breaker: Go around the group and have everyone, “Name at least three clubs, churches, groups or organizations that you are considered an “official member.”
2. They say, “Membership has its privileges”...
 - a. What privileges or advantages did you gain from membership at these particular groups?
 - b. What privileges or advantages do you think you will gain from membership at The Rock?
3. Why do you think formal membership is important in the local church?
4. What are your concerns or hesitations regarding formal membership into a local church?

Applications & Assignments (For end of your meeting)

1. Give people in your group the opportunity to sign and turn in their Membership Covenant.
2. Consider having a party or celebration highlighting the completion of Base Camp and for the New Rock Church members!