



LifeGroup Discussion Guide

Abiding

Remember this page is designed to *begin* a discussion with your LifeGroup. It is not comprehensive. Allow the following questions to spur on deeper and further conversation, study, and discussion.

This question is one with many answers: "Why do you think people leave churches?"
What's the difference between leaving "a church" and leaving "the church?"

READ: 1 John 2:19 - As you walk through this passage, what are the characteristics that you can identify that lead to someone leaving "the church?" What is different in our world today when it comes to "churches" and "the church"? Do people have more choices today? How have modern denominations affected our commitments, and how is this good or bad?

READ: Hebrews 10:24-25 - What was happening in the early church that the writer is speaking about? As you've discussed above there are a lot of reasons to "leave a church." What is the danger from these two passages that relates the action of leaving with the subject of "love?"

READ: 1 John 2:21-23 - How does the subject of "truth" or "correct doctrine" play into John's instructions? **READ: Romans 16:17** - How dangerous is "false teaching" today, and how did John specifically identify it from **verse 22**? **READ: 1 Corinthians 11:18-19** - How do you differentiate between "false teaching" and "legitimate doctrinal differences?" What danger do our own personal favorite "traditions" play in influencing our commitments to a local church?

READ: 1 John 2:24-25 - How would you relate the ideas of "remaining" or "abiding" in the church and in the truth? How ought **the church** and **the truth** be connected? What is every true Christian's responsibility in this connection? What is your role? Go around a share a conviction that you have when it comes to maintaining the unity of the body?