



CHUCK KNOWS CHURCH

The Committee: Hospitality

This group study is designed for a 45-60 minute discussion after viewing the film.

The “Pilot”, as well as all Chuck Knows Church videos, can be viewed at www.ChuckKnowsChurch.com.

Introduction:

The Committee is a humorous and poignant online series that examines the struggles congregation’s face as they look toward a preferred future. Using real world topics, The Committee is sure to open discussion in your congregation.

The series follows Park Grove Community Church, a make-believe urban U.S. congregation, which has lost its pastor and is closing its doors, unless it reinvents itself. Park Grove is faced with a difficult decision. They seemingly have tried everything humanly possible. Should it close? Things are so bad that a retired pastor didn’t show up to help them decide the congregation’s future – so it’s up to the last remaining members to discover it for themselves.

Although some of the characters and situations are simplified to accommodate the format, they may feel familiar. Your congregation may not be facing closure, may have a wonderful pastor, and be a vital and growing church. However, all congregations face the issues addressed in The Committee at some point.

Have an open conversation about the issues covered in the series.

Chuck Knows Church Resources

Website: www.ChuckKnowsChurch.com

Discipleship Ministries Website: www.UMCdiscipleship.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ChuckKnowsChurch

Twitter: @ChuckKnows

Instagram: ChuckKnowsChurch

Suggest ways on Twitter to save Park Grove. Use this Hashtag **#SaveParkGrove**

> Watch *The Committee: Hospitality* (15 minutes)

> Starters (15 minutes)

In *The Committee*, Chuck uses the analogy of a restaurant. Using the questions below, talk about going to your favorite restaurant.

(give participants 5 minutes to answer silently, then break up into groups of two or three)

What do the signs say in the parking lot? _____

Who greets you? _____

What is the decor and atmosphere? _____

Who else eats there? _____

What's on the menu? _____

Do you know the owner? _____

Discuss with one or two people, and then share with the whole group:

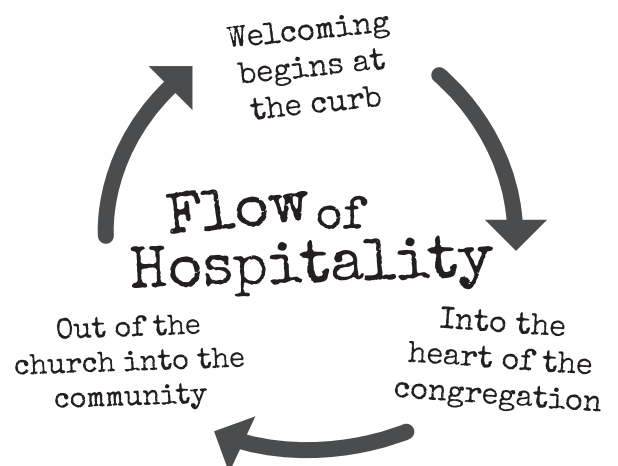
- What role does hospitality play in this experience? Why do you go back?
- What does this say about hospitality in your church?

> Hospitality Defined (10 minutes)

Hospitality is not the work of a committee, but a lifestyle. Because the church is the body of Christ, we are called by God to welcome all people, especially those living around us and those that others have forgotten. The ministry of welcoming is the responsibility of the entire church family and a way of ministering to people. This happens seven days a week wherever we are.

Discuss with three or four people, and then share with the whole group about your church:

- Have you ever been embarrassed to invite a friend?
- When was the first time you felt welcomed?



> Reflection on the Bible (20 minutes)

Ask a member to read aloud the following passage from 1 John 4:7-11, 18-21
Ask another person to read the Background.

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. - 1 John 4:7-11

There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also. - 1 John 4:18-21

Background:

Hospitality is tied to our experience of God's love. More than an emotion, love is seen in God's radical action of sending Jesus into the world so we could find true life. What stops love? Fear and hatred. Three phrases in the passage speak of why we need to conquer our suspicions and love our neighbors.

1. *"Perfect love cast out fear."*
2. *"We love because he first loved us."*
3. *"Those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also."*

Questions for Discussion:

If your group has more than seven members, divide into groups of four to discuss the Scripture passage.

- What keeps you from welcoming those who are different from you?
- How does God's love enable you to conquer fear, suspicion, and anxiety about your neighbor?
- When can "welcoming" become manipulation of a church guest?

Making it Personal:

The Committee: Hospitality draws us into a discussion of how we live out our faith in our daily living. Chuck's phrase "From soup to nuts" drives home the point that hospitality is not the job of a committee, but is seen in the personal and congregational lifestyles of those who are part of the community of faith.

The concluding prayer says it all, “God, please send us the people that nobody else wants and let us demonstrate your hospitality to all. And help us to see the people that live around our church so that our invitation will be with an open heart. Create a place of acceptance so that all feel welcomed just as Christ welcomed us. Amen.”

- What does this say about how God’s grace informs the way we welcome others?
- In what way is God speaking to you this day?