

I Am a Church Member
Weekly Reading and Reflecting Plan

Chapter 1: I Will Be a Functioning Church Member

Day 1: Read pages 9-14

Day 2: Read pages 15-20

Day 3: Reflection

- If you are not currently serving in some capacity within the church, in what areas or in what ways do you feel that you could serve others in the Body of Christ at SCCC? If you have never completed a spiritual gift assessment, this may aid you in determining where to serve (available at www.santececc.com under the “resources” tab). Consider talking with your LiF Group Leader, an elder, or one of our pastors about completing a spiritual gift assessment and finding a ministry to serve in.

Day 4: Reflection

- Being honest with yourself, have you ever asked yourself the following question: “Should I be serving in my church?” If you are currently asking yourself if you should be serving or not, attempt to do a self-evaluation of your spiritual health. For example, ask yourself questions like: “Am I consistently spending time studying the Bible?” “Do I normally pray and seek God's guidance in decision making?” “Am I regularly offering heart-felt worship to God?” Could your current spiritual health be affecting your desire to serve God through serving in His church?

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Chapter 2: I Will Be a Unifying Church Member

Day 1: Read pages 21-26

Day 2: Read pages 27-31

Day 3: Reflection

- How do you respond to gossip when you hear it? How do you respond to the gossiper when they share gossip with you? How do you respond to the person gossip is about when you experience gossip? Think about the importance of responding to all parties in the correct way. Review, if needed, 1 Corinthians 13 to help determine appropriate actions.

Day 4: Reflection

- Decide whether or not forgiveness is dependent upon feelings, actions, or circumstances. Ask God to reveal to you if there is anyone that you have failed to truly forgive. Then ask God to help you make the decision to forgive that individual regardless of how you feel, what they did, or whether or not they have asked for forgiveness.

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Chapter 3: I Will Not Let My Church Be about My Preferences and Desires

Day 1: Read pages 33-36

Day 2: Read pages 37-42

Day 3: Reflection

- Read Mark 10:28-31. Peter addresses Jesus with an unspoken, subtle, telling question. Without saying the words, Peter asks Jesus when they will get what is coming to them as a result of serving Christ. His fleshly nature was concerned with his “rights.” Paying special attention to verse 31, what was Jesus' response to Peter's unspoken question? Read this excerpt from *I Am a Church Member*:

We will never find joy in church membership when we are constantly seeking things our way. But paradoxically, we will find the greatest joy when we choose to be last. That's what Jesus meant when He said the last will be first. True joy means giving up our rights and preferences and serving everyone else” (p 36).

Day 4: Reflection

- If every member of SCCC shared your view of church membership, what would the church body look like? Would the church display the Burger King mentality of “have it your way?” Or, would the church reflect Christ's command in Matthew 6:33 to seek first the Kingdom and God's righteousness? Evaluate your own heart and spend some time in prayer asking God to help yourself and everyone else at SCCC to have a biblical understanding of church membership.

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Chapter 4: I Will Pray for My Church Leaders

Day 1: Read pages 43-47

Day 2: Read pages 48-53

Day 3: Reflection

- Consider this: Who are the primary targets in battle? The enemy's leadership. The same holds true for spiritual warfare. Church leaders are strategically targeted by our spiritual enemy—the devil and his angels. How do we fight back? Through prayer and scripture. Will you commit to pray *daily* for your church leaders? Take some time to pray for them now.

Day 4: Reflection

- Read 2 Kings 6:8-18. Remember that when you pray, you are calling out to God Almighty who is able to defend you and conquer the enemy. Prayer for your church leaders is absolutely critical in relationship to the church's health. By praying for your leaders you are giving them essential care packages to emerge victorious from the heat of battle. If you have not done so already, commit to pray *daily* for your church leaders. Now is a great time to start!

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Chapter 5: I Will Lead My Family to Be Healthy Church Members

Day 1: Read pages 55-59

Day 2: Read pages 60-65

Day 3: Reflection

- Consider the mutual benefits of worshipping and praying together with your family. It not only benefits yourself but also everyone else involved. If possible, make time with your family to pray for the specific requests mentioned on pages 59-60. Try to set aside a brief amount of time each week to pray for SCCC with your family.

Day 4: Reflection

- Read Psalm 122. How did David feel about going to the “house of the Lord?” Consider how you feel about SCCC. David had an undeniable *love* for the house of the Lord. Can you say that you love SCCC? Does it bring you joy when it's time to worship together as one body on Sunday mornings at SCCC? Do some self-evaluation and ask the Lord to show you the truth about yourself and if needed, to rekindle your love for God's church.

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Chapter 6: I Will Treasure Church Membership as a Gift

Day 1: Read pages 67-72

Day 2: Read pages 73-79

Day 3: Reflection

- Think of the most memorable gift you've received. How did you treat that gift? Did your love for that gift affect the care you gave to that gift? Relate this to church membership. Church membership is a gift. How are you treating that gift? Do you treasure your membership at SCCC? The way you treat a gift directly reflects the amount of love you have for that gift. If it is difficult to treasure your membership, perhaps it is time to fall in love with the bride of Christ all over again! Pray that God will give you an overwhelming love for His church at SCCC.

Day 4: Reflection

- Review the six commitments from *I Am a Church Member* on pages 77-79. Establish a practical plan that will help you honor these commitments. If it helps, write out each commitment in your own words. For example, the fifth commitment is about leading your family to be healthy church members. You could write: "I am a church member. I will help lead my family to be healthy church members. On each Tuesday after supper, we will make the time to pray together for SCCC. I will make sure that everyone wakes up on time on Sunday morning so we can worship together as a family at SCCC. We will seek out opportunities to serve as a family at SCCC and we will ask God to help us love the church like He does."