



Connect with Your Faith

Leader's Guide

Week 6

Topic Week 6: How Do I Fit In?

Before Class: Study these teaching points covered in the teaching video. Notice the time for both the teaching video and testimony video and plan the use of your time accordingly to allow for good discussion.

Speaker: Beatrice Powell

Script****

God has given everyone a role and purpose

The New Testament speaks of the first Christians living in community and caring for each other. This is evident in the phrase, "One another," which is repeated forty-six times. We are told to greet, serve, love, and forgive one another.

Christ's love displayed through the believer is unlike the "love" generated by the flesh, which can be selfish, egotistical, unforgiving, and insincere. Scripture gives a wonderful description of what Christ's love will be like in and through the believer who walks in the Spirit.

People don't naturally love with the love of Christ. To love like that, there must be a change of heart. A person must come to see everything that God has done for them. He created them, protected them when they did not know it, and most importantly suffered and died for their sins. Jesus gave his life for each one of us. There is no other love like that. In Christ we know that we are genuinely loved by God. He saved our life so that we can live. The new life we receive includes a new capacity to love like Christ loves, for the believer now has living within him the unconditional, sacrificial, forgiving, eternal, and holy love of God.

[Romans 5:5](#) - "hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us."

God has given everyone time, talent and resources and he asks you to give back a portion of what he has given you to help others and the body of Christ

So, what does it mean to live for Jesus? It means to use what he has given us to help others, to do His good work, to share what we can.

Time

In Psalm 90:12, Moses says, "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." Wisdom teaches us an eternal perspective. Our time on earth is short, and the number of our days is unknown to us, therefore we must live with eternity in mind. Knowing we will give an account to God for how we spent the time we were given motivates us to, "make the most of every opportunity." Colossians 3:23 says, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord." Your time on this earth is a gift from God. What are you using it for? How do you account for your days? Would you consider giving some of each of your day to God. That can be time to be with Him and time to do His work.

Talent

As we have discussed God has given us our talents or passions. This will look wildly different from person to person, as our gifts and strengths vary widely. One person might build a house for the homeless, another may teach bible school to little kids. Or another might be part of a group of cooks making food for a community function. Ephesians 2:10 warns us against thinking we don't have anything valuable to give by reminding us that long before we were born, God created good works for each of us to do. He has given you a heart for people. Maybe we care about children, or widows or alcoholics. The people group we care about is who we can use our talents to serve. Find a few things that you can do. It does not have to be fancy. In fact, it can be done in secret as God notices all efforts for His glory.

Resources

God tells us to give what we have. It loosens the grip materialism has on us, furthers His Kingdom, and tethers our heart to His. Malachi 3:10 says, "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it." The storehouse is the church. God asks us to bring a tithe of our wealth to the church. He knows this is a tough sell, which is why He immediately follows this command with the promise of abundant blessings. The blessings He promises go beyond material blessings. God knows that our hearts follow our treasure. By moving our treasure to His kingdom, our hearts stay connected to Him.

When we use our time, talent, and resources for God's glory we feel a sense of purpose and satisfaction

When we give our time, talents, and resources to God, we love one another and become the light in this dark world. These little steps make a big difference to others. They also give us purpose and satisfaction. It may seem odd but giving back your time, talents and treasures brings connection, hope, and joy. We become part of something bigger and better than ourselves. We are part of God's Kingdom and His great works. We fit in the body of Christ loving others and bringing hope to the world.

End Script ****

Tough questions prep:

Can someone be a Christian but never go to church (or belong to a Christian community)?

Hebrews 10:24-25 tell us to, “spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another.”

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 reminds us the spiritual life is a battle, and doing life together protects and strengthens us: Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up. Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

Why does the church tell us to tithe? Shouldn't this be between us and God? The church teaches from all of the Bible; it is the job of the church to inform and explain all God's commands, even the unpopular or difficult ones. Usually when people are uncomfortable or feel resistance about conversations with money, they have not surrendered that part of their life over to God. They are still learning that all things are God's including the money we work for. Once we see it as his, our perspectives changes and we are comfortable giving generously.

Read Matthew 19:16-24 and ask that we put ourselves in the rich man's shoes.

I trust to give to God but not the Church. I do not want to give money to the Church but a charity of my choice. Is that ok? The Church is the bride of Christ. They are united in marriage. They trust each other. If you think Church leaders are unable to use the money you give wisely for the Kingdom, trust that God will deal with them ever so severely. God is the one who judges and deals with sin. We are not to judge man. We are to trust God. Also, parachurch ministries that you may give to cannot be the Church. They support a cause, but they do not always spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ and make disciples. We want to feed the poor or help the homeless but most importantly we want to save everyone for eternity through the knowledge and acceptance of Jesus, Christ. Maybe you consider giving to both?

Key Scriptures to Review Prior:

Hebrews 12:1

Psalm 90:12

Ephesians 5:16

Colossians 3:23

Ephesians 2:10

Malachi 3:10

Hebrews 10:24-25

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Acts 2:42-47

Class Timeline:

	Estimated time
1. Introductions	15 min
2. Teaching Video	Beatrice Powell, 5:36 min
3. Discussion Questions	15 min
4. Testimonial Video	Ahmad Perryman, 3:43 min
5. Takeaways	10 min
6. Prayer	1 min
7. Invitation for next week	1 min

1. Introduce the content and video for this class (in your own words):

We have learned so much the last many weeks. We have learned about PLACE in Connect to Mount Pisgah. I hope most of you have taken your assessment and met with a coach by now. They are there to help you see and how our unique wiring can help others. The last few weeks we have learned about the Church, doubt, healing, and the Bible. So, how do we fit? Is faith something you have or something you live? The New Testament's instructions for the early church are almost exclusively about living life together, not individual spiritual growth. This tells us that God's intention is for Christians to live life together and bring the light to the dark world. Once we believe and belong, our faith comes alive and is evident in how we live.

Let's watch today's video that shows these key foundations for living out our faith.

2. Play the teaching video. (Beatrice Perryman, 5:36 mins.)

3. Discussion questions:

1. We are all members of one body – do you feel connected to the rest of the Mount Pisgah body? How can we help you feel connected and vital?
2. Where have you served in the past? What interested you about this opportunity? Was it a good fit for you?
3. Is it more difficult for you to give of your time or your money?
4. How have you experienced a sense of purpose or satisfaction in serving others? Can you see your purpose in serving?

4. Play the short personal testimony video. (Ahmad Perryman 3:43 mins)

Final application (say in your own words)

Christianity means community. Everything belongs to God – all we have, all we are, even our time. Surrendering to the discomfort, inconvenience, and unknown of giving our friendship, time, talent, and resources isn't always easy, but leads us to the abundant life Jesus promises.

In Acts 2:42-47 Luke describes the community and interdependency of the early church: “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”

5. Closing / takeaways in your own words:

Key themes to understand:

1. God has given everyone a role and purpose
2. God has given everyone time, talent and resources and he asks you to give back a portion of what he has given you to help others and the body of Christ.
3. When we use our time, talent, and resources for God's glory we feel a sense of purpose and satisfaction.

6. Close in prayer Use the PRAY model as we teach them to pray:

P = praise – praise God for who he is and what he has done. Use attributes to describe Him.

R = Repent – remind them of their sin and need for a Savior

A = Ask – petition your request for this group to our Father in Heaven including your desire for them to become part of the Body of Christ using their time, talents and resources.

Y = Yield – Submit to God's will with words that remind them to trust Him

PRAISE	Matthew 6:9	"Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.'"
REPENT	Matthew 6:12	"And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors."
ASK	Matthew 6:11&13	"Give us this day our daily bread." "And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. [For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]"
YIELD	Matthew 6:10	"Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven."

7. Invite them back next week to learn about . . .

This is the last session for Connect to Your Faith, but we hope you'll sign up for the next series "Connect to the Bible: An Introduction to the Greatest Book Ever Written." Be sure to register online!