

INCLUDES
VIDEO ACCESS

✓
5 Decisions
for Every
Church Member

✓
A Six-Week
✓
Discipleship
✓
Workbook

✓
Thom S. Rainer

5 Decisions ✓
for Every
Church Member

✓
A Six-Week ✓
Discipleship ✓
Workbook

Thom S. Rainer ✓



A Tyndale nonfiction imprint

Visit Tyndale online at tyndale.com.

Visit Tyndale Christian Resources online at tyndalechristianresources.com.

Tyndale, Tyndale's quill logo, *Tyndale Momentum*, and the Tyndale Momentum logo are trademarks of Tyndale House Ministries, registered in the USA, and common law trademarks in various other jurisdictions around the world. All rights reserved. See tyndale.com for a full list of trademarks owned by Tyndale House Ministries. Tyndale Momentum is a nonfiction imprint of Tyndale House Publishers, Carol Stream, Illinois.

Five Decisions for Every Church Member: A Six-Week Discipleship Workbook

Copyright © 2026 by Thom S. Rainer. All rights reserved.

Cover design by Faceout Studio, Tim Green

Interior design by Brandi Davis

The author is represented by Alive Literary Agency, www.aliveliterary.com.

Portions of this workbook have been adapted from Thom S. Rainer, *Crucial Commitments* (Tyndale Momentum, 2026). Used by permission.

Portions of session 6 have been adapted from Thom S. Rainer, *Pray & Go* (Tyndale Momentum, 2023). Used by permission.

Scripture quotations are taken from the *Holy Bible*, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

For information about special discounts for bulk purchases, please contact Tyndale House Publishers at csresponse@tyndale.com, or call 1-855-277-9400.

ISBN 978-1-4964-4879-8

Printed in China

32 31 30 29 28 27 26
7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Contents

Introduction 1

SESSION 1

COMMITMENT CHANGES EVERYTHING 3

Ten Reasons to Be Committed to Your Church

SESSION 2

RADICAL PRAYER 19

Becoming a Prayer Warrior

SESSION 3

REGULAR ATTENDANCE 39

Gathering Together, As Intended

SESSION 4

COMMUNITY 63

Blessed to Be a Blessing

SESSION 5

SIMPLE GIVING 81

Surrendering Your Life to the Will of God

SESSION 6

OUTREACH 93

The Missing Crucial Commitment

Group Experience Overview and Leader's Guide 107

The 30 Days of Discipline Challenge 111

Prayer Journal 113

Notes 121

About the Author 122

Introduction

Your best hope for finding significance and purpose in life is by connecting with other believers in your local church. Apart from raising up the next generation to love and serve the Lord by participating in the body of Christ, no other pursuit in life can address the deep longings of your heart—to find fulfillment, leave a lasting legacy, and accomplish something that counts for eternity.

My goal in this six-week experience is to show you how to find, seize, and celebrate the transformative power of the local church in action. When the church is thriving, it has a life-changing effect on individuals, families, communities—and ultimately the world. Over the next six weeks, your group will examine together five key decisions that every church member must make in order for this to happen.

Overview

The six sessions in this video and discussion series are designed to help your small group understand and apply five key commitments: radical prayer, regular attendance, community, simple giving, and outreach. If you will make the commitment to participate—to go all in—these sessions will help you find significance, community, and your ultimate purpose in the local church. Follow the instructions at the beginning of this book to access the free videos available at tyndalechristianresources.com.

But the first part is key: *You must make the commitment.*

Sound intriguing? I hope so. I'm convinced this six-session discipleship workshop experience can utterly change your life and the life of your church.

Each session builds on a chapter in my book *Crucial Commitments: Five Simple Decisions That Members of Healthy and Growing Churches Make* (Tyndale Momentum, 2026), where I lay the groundwork for the commitments you will be discussing over the next six weeks. After an introductory session that establishes the importance of our commitment to the local church, each subsequent session is divided into three sections:

Solo Study—an opportunity for you to reflect on and respond to each of the commitments, just between you and God.

Decision Point—a place for you to formalize your commitment before moving on to the group session.

Group Study—an introductory video, Anchor Verses, discussion questions, and prayer prompts to facilitate a robust group discussion.

You will get the most out of this workbook if you do the Solo Study and prepare for the Group Study *before* you attend each session. The content of this workbook is designed to help you reflect on your commitment to the local church, and to facilitate group discussion as you work together with others to make your church better.

Are you ready?

Let's get started.

Session 1

Commitment Changes Everything

Ten Reasons to Be Committed to Your Local Church

*We are not hindered by external forces;
we are hindered by our own lack of commitment.*

Do you want to make a real difference in the world in the brief time God has given you here on earth? Do you want to discover the true purpose for your life?

Your best hope for finding significance and purpose in life is through your local church.

Members who live out that purpose will ignite a transformation in their congregation.

Imagine walking into a church and being accepted and embraced just as you are—and providing that same opportunity for others. Imagine changing your life, the lives of your family and friends, your local community—and ultimately the world—through your local church. Imagine your life's purpose being fulfilled in the context of your local church.

By the authority of God's Word, I can promise that becoming a committed church member will put you in the center of God's plan for your life and make you part of an ongoing movement that is turning the world upside down.

The local church is not just another organization. The local church is not a social club. The local church is not just a civic society. The local church is God's plan for your life to make a difference in this world. That's why I am challenging you to make five crucial commitments. For sure, there are more than five commitments you could make having to do with the local church, but the five we will focus on in these six sessions are sufficient to move you toward becoming the type of church member God intends and desires.



Group Study

Pause for Prayer

Before starting your discussion time, spend a few moments praying as a group. Ask God for wisdom, insight, and an openness to his instruction today. Pray for him to convict you of the importance of committing yourselves to the local church. Pray for the desire to actively participate in the local church. Ask God to enlighten your minds as you discuss this important topic.

God, we ask you to give us complete knowledge of your will and to give us spiritual wisdom and understanding.

Video and Discussion

Watch the session 1 video and discuss: What does it mean to you to be committed to the local church? Let's look at ten reasons for committing ourselves to the local church.

1. We should commit ourselves to the local church in obedience to Scripture.

Scripture explicitly instructs believers not to forsake assembling together.

Regular attendance and involvement in a local church are obedience to God’s clear command.

ANCHOR VERSES

Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

HEBREWS 10:24-25

QUESTIONS

a. What are some benefits of regular church attendance and participation?

b. Give some examples of “acts of love and good works.” What are some ways we can motivate each other to do these things?

c. How have you been encouraged by other Christians in your local church? How has this affected your faith?

2. We should commit ourselves to the local church for mutual encouragement and spiritual growth.

The local church is the primary place designed by God for believers to grow spiritually, build each other up, and mature together in faith and character. We were not meant to “go to church alone.” We need each other.

ANCHOR VERSES

Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. This will continue until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God’s Son that we will be mature in the Lord, measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ.

Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won’t be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

EPHESIANS 4:11-16

QUESTIONS

- a. How has the church equipped you to fulfill your life’s purpose of doing God’s work in the world?

b. How does committing yourself to a local church help to “build up” the body of Christ?

c. What does it mean to you to “speak the truth in love”?

3. We should commit ourselves to the local church to exercise our spiritual gifts.

Every believer is uniquely gifted by the Holy Spirit for service. Our commitment to a local church provides the context for these gifts to be identified, developed, and utilized effectively.

ANCHOR VERSES

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us.

A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:4-7

QUESTIONS

- a. How can we help other Christians identify, develop, and utilize their spiritual gifts?

- b. What obstacles have you encountered in identifying and using your spiritual gifts in the local church? How have you overcome those obstacles?

- c. Share some examples of how you have been able to use your spiritual gifts to serve others.

4. We should commit ourselves to the local church for community and fellowship.

God created us for community. The local church provides a place where we can experience authentic, meaningful relationships that reflect God’s love and unity.

ANCHOR VERSES

All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer.

A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved.

ACTS 2:42-47

QUESTIONS

- a. What are some memories you have of how the church was once a center for community and fellowship? What changed? How can we reestablish the priority placed on relationships in the local church?

- b. How can we use the church's facilities to better serve the surrounding community?

c. Acts 2:44 says that “all the believers met together . . . and shared everything they had.” What would that look like in today’s society?

d. How can your church create opportunities to foster community with members of Gen Z and Gen Alpha?

5. We should commit ourselves to the local church for accountability and discipleship.

Spiritual growth thrives in an environment of accountability. Committing to a local church helps believers guard against drifting spiritually and provides accountability for personal holiness.

ANCHOR VERSES

As iron sharpens iron,
so a friend sharpens a friend.

PROVERBS 27:17

Dear brothers and sisters, if another believer is overcome by some sin, you who are godly should gently and humbly help that person back onto the right path. And be careful not to fall into the same temptation yourself. Share each other’s burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ.

GALATIANS 6:1-2

QUESTIONS

- a. What can we learn from the metaphor of iron sharpening iron? How can we apply these ideas practically in our friendships—both inside and outside the church?

- b. “Accountability” often carries the connotation of *judgment*. How can we hold each other accountable humbly and gently and also effectively?

- c. What are some ways that we can share each other’s burdens? What precautions might we need to take to avoid falling into the same temptations?

6. We should commit ourselves to the local church to fulfill the Great Commission.

The local church is the vehicle through which Christ intends to accomplish the Great Commission. Through collective efforts, believers participate in reaching their local community and the world with the gospel.

ANCHOR VERSES

Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

MATTHEW 28:18-20

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

ACTS 1:8

QUESTIONS

- a. How does knowing that Jesus has been given “all authority in heaven and on earth” affect how we go about sharing the gospel with others?

- b. Describe how you have experienced the power of the Holy Spirit in your life. How has the Spirit enabled you to witness to others?

7. We should commit ourselves to the local church for support in times of need.

The local church provides practical care, support, and encouragement in times of difficulty, grief, or crisis, fulfilling the biblical command to bear one another's burdens.

ANCHOR VERSES

Whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith.

GALATIANS 6:10

Are any of you suffering hardships? You should pray. Are any of you happy? You should sing praises. Are any of you sick? You should call for the elders of the church to come and pray over you, anointing you with oil in the name of the Lord. Such a prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make you well. And if you have committed any sins, you will be forgiven.

Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.

JAMES 5:13-16

QUESTIONS

- a. Give some examples of what it means to “do good to everyone.” When do you find this difficult to do? What are some opportunities for doing good in your congregation right now?

b. What can the church do to create a safe environment for people to confess their sins to each other and pray for each other?

c. What hardships and other needs are you aware of in your local church that you can pray for today? Make a list and commit to pray for these needs over the next week.

8. We should commit ourselves to the local church to submit to spiritual leadership.

God establishes spiritual leaders within the local church who shepherd and guide believers. Committing to a local church places believers under godly leadership, ensuring doctrinal soundness and pastoral care. *Submission* is not a negative word. It is liberating to know that others are looking out for what’s best for us.

ANCHOR VERSE

Obey your spiritual leaders, and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this with joy and not with sorrow. That would certainly not be for your benefit.

HEBREWS 13:17

QUESTIONS

a. Why is it sometimes difficult to “obey” our spiritual leaders?

b. What can you do to bring your spiritual leaders joy and not sorrow?

9. We should commit ourselves to the local church for corporate worship.

Gathering regularly with fellow believers in worship aligns our hearts collectively toward God, reminding us of his sovereignty, grace, and goodness. When God’s people worship together, we get a marvelous preview of the joy we will have together in heaven.

ANCHOR VERSES

Come, let us sing to the LORD!

Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come to him with thanksgiving.

Let us sing psalms of praise to him.

For the LORD is a great God,
a great King above all gods.
He holds in his hands the depths of the earth
and the mightiest mountains.
The sea belongs to him, for he made it.
His hands formed the dry land, too.
Come, let us worship and bow down.
Let us kneel before the LORD our maker.

PSALM 95:1-6

Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts.

COLOSSIANS 3:16

QUESTIONS

- a. What does it mean to worship? Why is worshipping together with other believers important?

- b. What role does singing play in your personal worship of God? Do you prefer contemporary songs or the traditional hymns? Why?

- c. Aside from singing songs and hymns, what are some other ways we can worship God together?

10. We should commit ourselves to the local church as a visible witness to the world.

The church's unity, love, and commitment to each other serve as a visible testimony to an unbelieving world. This witness has a powerful evangelistic impact. When churches are no longer vibrant witnesses to the world, our culture feels the void.

ANCHOR VERSES

I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.

JOHN 13:34-35

QUESTIONS

- a. How does Christian love distinguish us from the surrounding culture? How does loving each other in the church "prove to the world" that we are disciples of Jesus?

b. How can we express love and unity with other Christians who don't share our theology or practices?

c. What lessons can we learn from how Jesus loves us that will help us love others?



Close in Prayer

Father, guide us in the weeks ahead as we study and discuss the five decisions that every church member must make. Open our minds to receive your truth. As we trust in you with all our heart and do not depend on our own understanding; as we seek your will in all we do, please show us which path to take, as you have promised in your Word. Amen.