

# Talk It Over

## Renovating the Church

Week #1: A Different Kind of Place

August 17 & 18



### Warm-up Question

What is one thing you would still like to do before the summer ends?

**Read:** Ephesians 1:1

### Discussion questions

1. Did you grow up going to church? If so, what impression did you have of why your family attended? How did you feel about going to church as a child?
2. Church attendance among those who consider themselves to be Christians is on the decline. Why do you think this is so? If you had to list three reasons why people attend church less often than they used to, what would those three reasons be?
3. What would you tell someone if they asked you, “Why do you go to church?”
4. What do you think of when you think of a “saint” or a “holy person”?
5. How is Paul’s usage of “saint” in Ephesians 1:1 different from our culture’s understanding of “saint?” What does it mean to Paul to be a saint?
6. What is the significance of the church being “in Ephesus”? Why does Paul make mention of the church’s specific location? Why is geography important to our understanding of the work of the church?
7. What are your thoughts on Eugene Peterson’s statement that the church is “A colony of heaven in a country of death”? What does he mean by this statement?

### Application

1. How would you describe to someone what it means to be “in Christ”? How do we practically experience our “in Christness”?
2. Paul calls the church “the body of Christ.” What does he practically mean by this? How do we connect to the body of Christ?
3. How does the passage raise the value of church attendance and involvement for you? What will you do differently in response to this passage?