

An illustration on a textured, light-colored background. Three hands of different skin tones (light, dark, and medium) are shown holding a small globe of the Earth. The globe is colored with blue oceans and green landmasses. The word "BUILDING" is written in large, bold, black, sans-serif capital letters across the center of the globe. A blue, cursive script word, possibly "hope", is written over the globe and the word "BUILDING".

**BUILDING**

Bringing the Infinite into our finite world.

# Gathering as a Family



“[God] will equip you with all you need  
for doing his will.”

**Hebrews 13:21**



”[God] has given us the privilege of being  
born again so that we are now members  
of God’s own family.”

**1 Peter 1:3**



“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 4:16**



”[I am writing these things to you so] you will know how to live in the family of God. That family is the church of the living God, the support and foundation of the truth.”

**1 Timothy 3:15**



"You belong in God's household  
with every other Christian."

**Ephesians 2:19**



YOU NEED TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE  
CHURCH IS NOT A PLACE THAT YOU GO  
TO; IT'S A FAMILY YOU BELONG TO!





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Gathering as a church provides  
tremendous opportunities:



1. It provides an opportunity to focus on what is ultimately important.



“Observe the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Work six days and do everything you need to do. But the seventh day is a Sabbath to God, your God. Don’t do any work—not you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your servant, nor your maid, nor your animals...”

**Exodus 20:8-11**



“...not even the foreign guest visiting in your town. For in six days God made Heaven, Earth, and sea, and everything in them; he rested on the seventh day. Therefore God blessed the Sabbath day; he set it apart as a holy day.”

**Exodus 20:8-11**



“Love the Lord your God with all your heart  
...and...soul and...mind. This is the first and  
greatest commandment.”

**Matthew 22:37-38**



“God requires honesty from us, and such honesty can be painful. Because God knows us better than we know ourselves, pretending will not work. God’s knowledge of us demands that we come to terms with who we really are.”

**Howard L. Rice**



2. It provides an opportunity for us to face our challenges together.



“Jesus died for us so that we can live together with Him....So encourage each other and give each other strength.”

**1 Thessalonians 5:10-11**



“You should be like one big happy family,  
full of sympathy toward each other, loving  
one another with tender hearts.”

**1 Peter 3:8**



“In Christ, we who are many form one Body and each member belongs to all the others.”

**Romans 12:5**



“Long looking with admiration produces change. From your heroes, you pick up mannerisms and phrases and tones of voice and facial expressions and habits and demeanors and convictions and beliefs.”

**W.D. Weatherall**



“The more admirable the hero is and the more intense your admiration is, the more profound will be your transformation.”

**W.D. Weatherall**



“At its most intense, admiration floods over you like a wave [and] takes you to a strange new shore that, in the end, turns out to be the one that makes all the difference.”

**W.D. Weatherall**



3. It provides an opportunity to fortify our faith.



“Let us go on and become mature in our understanding as strong Christians ought to be.”

**Hebrews 6:1**



“Scripture reassures us, ‘No one who trusts God like this—heart and soul—will ever regret it.’ It’s exactly the same no matter what a person’s religious background may be...”

**Romans 10:11-16**



“...The same God for all of us, acting the same incredibly generous way to everyone who calls out for help. ‘Everyone who calls, ‘Help, God!’ gets help.’”

**Romans 10:11-16**



“But how can people call for help if they don’t know who to trust? And how can they know who to trust if they haven’t heard of the One who can be trusted? And how can they hear if nobody tells them?”

**Romans 10:11-16”**



“And how is anyone going  
to tell them, unless someone is sent to do it?”

**Romans 10:11-16”**



“That’s why Scripture exclaims,  
A sight to take your breath away!  
Grand processions of people  
telling all the good things of God!”

**Romans 10:11-16**



4. It provides an opportunity to fulfill  
our divine destiny.



“We are God’s masterpiece. He created us anew  
in Christ Jesus so that we can do the things  
do the things He planned for us long ago.”

**Ephesians 2:10**



“There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.”

**1 Corinthians 12:5-7**



“The most important thing is that I complete my mission the work that the Lord Jesus gave me to tell people the good news about God’s grace.”

**Acts 20:24**



“We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labour prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia.”

## **1 Thessalonians 1:2-3, 7-8**



“The Lord’s message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere.”

## 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3, 7-8



Here at *the bridge*, in our gatherings, we are...

Focusing on what really matters

Facing challenges together

Fortifying our faith

Fulfilling our diving destiny





**BUILDING**  
*hope*

