

# Back to Church Reflection Sunday

## BTC 1. Reflection Sunday: The Church of God

### Bible Study Preparation and Materials Needed:

**Reflecting on:** Church and I connection. Sense of community sense of belonging.

### Verses Used in this Bible Study:

#### **Romans 14:19:**

*“Let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up.”*

#### **Acts 20:28:**

*“To keep watch over ourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made us overseers.”*

#### **Acts 2:44-47:**

*“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 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.”*

**Video:** [Be the Bee #58 | Is Church Boring?](#)

### Memory Verse:

**“Let us aim for harmony in the church  
and try to build each other up.”**

**- Romans 14:19**

# Bible Study Lesson

## Open with prayer:

Իմաստութիւն Յօր՝ Յիսուս, տո՛ւր ինձ իմաստութիւն, զբարիս խորհել եւ խօսել եւ գործել առաջի Քո՝ յամենայն ժամ. ի չար խորհրդոց, ի բանից եւ ի գործոց փրկեա՛ զիս. եւ ողորմեա՛ Քո արարածոց եւ ինձ բազմամեղիս: Ամէն

Eemasdootyoon Hor Heesoos, door eents eemasdootyoon uzparees khorel yev khosel yev kordz arachi ko hamenayn jham. Ee char khorhrtos, ee paneets yev kordzots prgya zees yev voghormya ko araradzots eents pazmameghees. Amen.

Wisdom of the Father, O Jesus, grant to me the wisdom to think, speak, and do that which is good in Your sight. Save me from all evil and distracting thoughts, words, and deeds. Have mercy upon your creatures and upon me, a great sinner. Amen.

## The Church of God

The church and the Armenian community go hand in hand. They are synonymous and inseparable. Being a member of a local Armenian Church gives one a sense of belonging and community. Sometimes, this belonging comes with a cluster of emotions both positive and negative - excitement, enthusiasm, anxiety, confusion and even disillusion about the church. Being part of any community comes with expectations and many different things we are looking for. Let's give it some thought and have a discussion.

**Q:** *What are you looking for in your church community?*

The Bible speaks about support and harmony on many accounts. **In Romans 14:19**, St. Paul writes, "Let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up."

**Q:** *How do you understand this verse?*

**Q:** *How can we obtain this harmony St. Paul is talking about?*

**In Acts 20:28** it says, "To keep watch over ourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made us overseers."

**Q:** *How do you understand this verse?*

**Q:** *As an overseer what would your responsibilities be?*

**Q:** *When you come to church, to worship or spend time with your peers during events, do you feel any sense of responsibility? If yes, what makes you feel that way?*

**Q:** *What significance does being a member of the church have for you?*

We strive to come together and become a part of a community where we have much in common with other members. Of course, we are all different, but that which unites us together in one body is our faith in Christ. Let's discuss how the following verse reminds us of the community we are a part of.

### Acts 2:44-47:

"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 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."

**Q:** *Sometimes being part of a community comes with a great deal of sacrifices and dedication. What sacrifices do you think being a dedicated church member involves?*

## Explanation

Harmony does not mean agreeing with everyone or allowing everyone to do, believe and say whatever they want. Rather, we are called to help guide and build up our brothers and sisters who may be misguided and participating in sin. The realization that we are the church is very powerful and whatever we wish to see and experience in the church starts with us. We are the ones who bring peace and harmony to the church.

This must be done with love and humility, not from a point of superiority and judgement. Watching over others and helping them also implies we too must be watched over and corrected when we go astray. Doing this allows the church to remain strong and unshaken in the face of the world around us.

We, as individuals, build the body of Christ, the body of the church. We can view us as bricks that are attached together with strong faith and Christian values. Yet sometimes life gets in the way and the current of distraction and chaos leads us away from what we believe, stand for and who we are. These are the times we must not hesitate but allow our church community to hold our hand and bring us back to our roots in Christ, as we all stand stronger together. Even though we are a community that comes together for comradery and fellowship, we join the Church not only to hear God's voice, but to unite and meet each other through His Body and Blood (Holy Communion), especially when we need physical, moral or spiritual support.

**If time permits Q & A and open discussion are highly encouraged.**

## Summary

The church is not just a building but a community of faithful individuals who come together in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Jesus Himself used the example of His body being the church on earth. As He is the head of this body, we are the other parts, and we make it whole. We are the building blocks of the church and without us, the church would not be complete or function properly. When we hurt our arm or leg, our body is not fully functional.

It is the same about the church; each Christian is a building block and when one hurts or is spiritually sick with sin, the structure and the strength of the church weakens, and becomes fragile. Just as if our hand hurts we do not cut it off and throw it away but heal and nurse it back to health, likewise, when one member of the church is in sin, we do not cut them out and reject them, but try to nurse them back to health and Christ.

There might be times when we feel hurt in the church, overwhelmed or disappointed, yet it is always a good idea to be open minded and pray about those feelings. During those times you should come to the church more often, pray for the strength of your spirit and the enlightenment of those who hurt you. If each one of us is a building block of the church, then forgiveness and compassion is the mortar that makes us stick together.

**Video:** [Be the Bee #58 | Is Church Boring?](#)

### Close with prayer:

Պահապան ամենայնի Քրիստոս, աջ Քո հովանի լիցի ի վերայ իմ, ի տուէ եւ ի գիշերի, ի նստիլ ի տան, ի գնալ ի ճանապարհ, ի ննջել եւ ի յառնել, զի մի երբեք սասանեցայց եւ ողորմեա՛ Քո արարածոց եւ ինձ բազմամեղիս: Ամէն

Bahaban amenayn Kreesdos, ach Ko hovanee leetsee ee vera eem; ee dveh yev ee keesheree, ee nsdeel ee dan, ee knal ee janabarh, ee nunchel yev ee harnel, zee mee yerpek sasanetsayts yev voghormya Ko araradzots yev eents pazmamyghees. Amen.

O Christ, guardian of all, let Your right hand guard and shelter me, by day and by night, at home and abroad, in sleeping and in waking, that I may never stumble. Have mercy upon Your creatures and upon me, a great sinner. Amen.