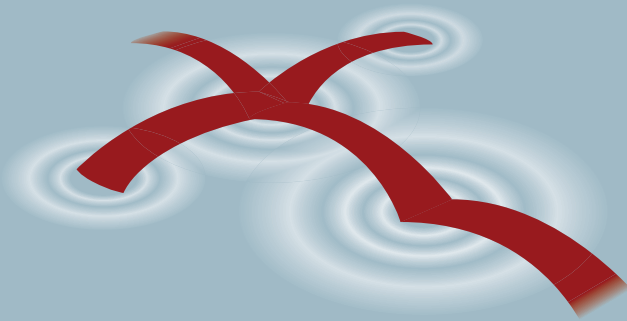


Small Group Study

CHURCH DISTRIBUTED



The **Everywhere, Every Day** Guide to
Being the Church Where You Are

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Introduction

This guide is intended as a companion to the book *Church Distributed*. The materials are appropriate for people of all ages. Even young children can participate in this project. The guide and the book are easy to read and will give you everything you need to enjoy a successful group.

What Everyone Needs to Participate

The host will need ...

- One set of materials (**Church Distributed** book and/or audiobook, *Companion Guide*)
- A notebook or journal and something to write with
- A Bible

The rest of the group will need ...

- Directions to the meeting location
- A notebook or journal and something to write with
- A set of materials (**Church Distributed** book and/or audiobook, *Companion Guide*) per participant/family

Using the Guide

One of the principles of the church distributed is that individuals grow in completeness by hearing from others. Gathering in a smaller group for personal growth, support, connection, and service is a natural progression of church. If you are hosting the group, your role is simply to create an environment in which people can hear each other's perspective. When your group meets, simply follow along using these sections:

CHURCH BY THE BOOK

This section will be based on the principles outlined in *Church Distributed*, which are garnered from the Bible. As a participant, you will want to read or listen to the chapters from *Church Distributed* for that week. Throughout the week, answer questions, a few a day, in your notebook or journal, with the idea of sharing some of your answers.

During your meeting time, you can start with the opening prayer suggestion. The bulk of your time will be discussion on two or three of the questions from this section. Included in the group time will be the chance to review a story or read an example from the book. Let those questions related to the group reading lead your discussion, then feel free to use any of the questions about the chapters from *Church Distributed*. If you are a host, it will be helpful for you to review those questions before meeting. As a group, you will want to allot at least 25 minutes to this section.

EXERCISE

This will create an opportunity to participate together during your meeting with very little preparation. Any extra tools you need to do the exercise will be included in this section as well. Plan at least 15 minutes to do the exercise together.

PARTNER WITH CHILDREN

In a distributed church, everyone's input is of value, including intergenerational leadership—that means the adults will gain something from the children's perspective. Take 15 minutes to partner with children each week.

Groups With Children

If you have a group with children, take time each week to invite the children to join you with the *Ponder, Play, and Pray* exercises under the heading **Partner With Children**.

Adult or Student Groups

You might want to use the **Partner With Children** section from a child's point of view as a fun way to get into the material or to end the evening.

YOU ARE THE CHURCH

Connecting with others for worship and service equips you to be the church everywhere, every day. This section will highlight the "Concepts in Context" suggestions from *Church Distributed*, giving participants ideas for how each of you can extend your ministry outside the church walls by being the church where you are.

Online Resources

The daily e-votional from Northland is available as an ongoing Bible study. The e-votional from the Lenten season 2008 was prepared concurrently to this *Companion Guide*. You may want to access this Bible study available at www.northlandchurch.net and www.churchdistributed.com.

Additionally, Dr. Joel C. Hunter's preaching series on the Church Distributed is concurrent to the 2008 Lenten season (check the archives from February 8, 2008, through March 14, 2008, at www.northlandchurch.net.) A good icebreaker can be opening with five minutes of discussion of the corresponding week's sermon.

If you need additional support hosting a group, there are training classes available from www.northlandchurch.net.

Week 1

Distributing

CHURCH BY THE BOOK

Church Distributed Prologue/Introduction, Chapters 1 & 2

Lord Jesus, help us to grow in our understanding of how You are at work everywhere, every day. Through our time together, help us to “do what we can, where we are, with what You’ve given us.” Amen.

Take a moment with the group to read the story from the prologue (or use the audio CD) titled “Sanity.”

- ① What are some ways people insulate from the problems of others?

- ① Have you ever isolated because of problems you were dealing with?

The introduction presented the basic idea of the distributed church as a “connecting strategy that results in spiritual maturity.”

- ① Why do you think churches need that?

❓ Do you need that? Why or why not?

A major theme throughout the book is on the bottom of page 12, ending on the top of page 13, starting “Deeply committed to God ...” Read that sentence in your group.

❓ Taking that statement as true, what difficulties can you foresee in applying it?

❓ What benefits do you imagine would come from applying this understanding?

Page 15 of the introduction says that the universe is connected. The example of the plant world is a great picture of that connection.

❓ Have you seen “cross-pollenization” strengthen things in your life, work, and family—partnerships with people or groups that you could never imagine working out because of differences that did? What were the long-term results?

❓ How does this understanding encourage you in your current relationships?

On page 23, it says, “The church is the main venue for the hope of the world.”

❓ How has the church reached into your life and helped you where you were at different times in your life?

❓ What kind of vision does this give you for being a venue of hope from God to others?

In chapter 2, Dr. Hunter describes the beginnings of the distributed church model at Northland.

- ① When has God pulled at your heart to move you to another place (either physically or spiritually?)

- ② How did God equip you and care for you during such a time?

Take a look back at page 18, where Dr. Hunter gives his reason for writing this book.

- ③ What hopes and expectations are you bringing to this study?

- ④ Are there changes you want to see in your ministry? Revisit your thoughts here at the end of week 6 to see what God has done through this group.

EXERCISE

Rummage the pantry or look online for a picture of the FDA's Food Pyramid. Using the FDA's pyramid model, everyone create their own Time Pyramid. On the base may be family and work (where you spend most of your time.) As you travel up the pyramid, in the smaller spaces may be the time you spend on sports, children's activities, relaxation, family outings, friends, going out, taking classes, volunteering, etc. More than likely, the tiny top of the pyramid may be devoted to religious activity (i.e., attending a church service, meeting in this small group ...)

Take a look at where you are physically most of the time (at home, at work, at the playground, in the car, at church...) Now, at the bottom of the page, instead of Time Pyramid, title this Ministry Pyramid. What does this picture do to your perspective of ministry? What does it do to your perspective of your time?

PARTNER WITH CHILDREN

Ponder

Read **1 Peter 2:5**. The church is not a building. It is people who believe in Jesus. We are the church. Why do you think God wants His people, us, to connect with each other everywhere, every day?

Play

Older children assist younger ones with finger play:

WE ARE THE CHURCH

"Here is the church." (Clasp own hands with fingers inside).

"Here is the steeple." (Raise and connect pointer fingers.)

"Open the doors and see all the people." (Thumbs move as opening doors.)

"Close the doors and hear us pray." (Close thumb doors and listen.)

"Open the doors, and we all walk away." (Unclasp hand, walk fingers away.)

"We are the church everywhere, every day." (Join hands with a partner.)

Repeat finger play by clasping partner's hand. Repeat with different partners. Look at the differences between everyone's fingers. How are we stronger when connected than when standing alone?

This week, show your friends this finger play. Tell them how we are the church everywhere, every day.

Pray

Hold hands in semicircle, leaving room for future partners. Pray: *"Lord Jesus, show us how we can join with others to be your Church everywhere every day."*

YOU ARE THE CHURCH

Work the "Concepts in Context" from chapter 1 into your week.

1. Move from "disturbed" to distributed: Try replacing the greeting "How are you?" with "Do you need anything today?" See what happens!
2. Hear the wake-up call: Remember the hymn "This Is My Father's World"? Start picturing every moment as His and use it for worship of Him, prayer to Him on behalf of others' needs, or communion time, when you might hear from Him.
3. Conquer "alone-together" life: Take a look at the upcoming weeks in your group, your personal calendar, and in the life of your local church. Are there any upcoming service projects that you can do as a group? Bring those ideas and times to your group's next meeting.

Week 2

Partnering

CHURCH BY THE BOOK

Church Distributed Chapters 3 & 4

Take five minutes to recap what was meaningful from last week or how you saw concepts applied during the week. Then begin with prayer.

Father, thank You that You have made all of life interrelated, an ecosystem beyond our imagination. Thank You that through Your Spirit, You are before all things, and in Christ, Your Son, all things hold together. Give us Your leadership as we talk about Your partnering nature. Amen.

In your group this week, read together the last paragraph on page 47, which contains the verse **Proverbs 27:17**, and share some of the answers to the questions below.

- ① What are those things God has already put in your life that you enjoy?

- ① How can you turn those opportunities of using your gifts into partnerships that strengthen your ministry and the ministry of those around you?

- ① Make a list of names that come to mind of people in your life that may already be partners.

Chapter 3 points us toward the church of the future.

- ① How do you react to the rapid nature of change in today's world?
- ① Look up these verses: **Matthew 28:18–20; 2 Corinthians 1:21–22; Ephesians 2:18; 4:4-6**. How do those verses help you in understanding the roles of ...

the Father as *superintending*:

the Son as *reconciling*:

the Spirit as *connecting*:

- ① How does that help you understand the nature of your life as a minister?

On page 51, Dr. Hunter shows that the distributed system is already inherent in nature and human organizations.

- ① In what other organizations or systems do you see the distributed system?
- ① Do you see that system at work in your life already? Where and how?

The last paragraph of page 58, continuing on to page 59, gives us a picture of what it means when we say worship everywhere, every day. Read this section aloud in your group (or listen to the audio CD) and talk about what a life of worship looks like to you.



How would seeing your life as ministry everywhere, every day bring people to Christ?

EXERCISE

Share any ideas for a group service project that came to you through doing **You Are the Church** last week. Schedule it with each other, and then ask one member of the group to schedule it with your local church or the organization that you wish to serve. Even if you don't have a great idea for where to serve or what to do, why not just set a date? Week 5 is titled "Serving," so pick a time that week to get out there and serve. (It may be as simple as walking through the neighborhood where you meet with a garbage bag collecting any trash you see on the street.)

PARTNER WITH CHILDREN

This week, you'll need some "found" items to create a chain.

Ponder

Read **1 Corinthians 12:4-6**. What are the special gifts God has given you? How might your gift be used with a partner to serve someone in need? For example, make a plan to encourage soldiers by creating thank you cards. Or you could make a contribution to a ministry, such as www.compassion.com, by selling hot chocolate or doing yard work together.

Play

DOING WHAT WE CAN WITH WHAT WE'VE GOT

Divide into teams with two or more players on each team. Children partner with team members to create a long chain from everyday items (paper clips, ribbons, belts, twist ties, foil, plastic bags, tape, socks, toys, etc.). This will involve creative collaboration! The team with the longest chain that does not break when lifted is the winner.

This week, check out your favorite sport or music group. Notice how many different gifts are combined to reach the goal. Get started on your plan to serve someone in need. Do it with your family or a group of friends. Use your gifts!

Pray

Father in heaven, thank You for giving us special gifts. Show us how to use those gifts with partners to help people grow closer to You. Amen.

YOU ARE THE CHURCH

Work the "Concepts in Context" from chapter 4 this week.

Is there someone you can pray with that will strengthen you to reach out to those "missing family members"?

Is there a little extra time when you can volunteer in your local church? Consider helping someone who works in the church so he or she can get “out there” this week! Go back to “Concepts in Context” on page 54 to consider your vision for the future. Take time this week to consider your life in the distributed model—your increase, your privilege, and your impact. Can you see what God has already been doing in your life?

Week 3

Clustering

CHURCH BY THE BOOK

Church Distributed Chapters 5 & 6

Was there anything from last week that had a particular effect on your life during the week?

Thank You, Lord, for how You have already arranged our lives around relationships. Where we see tasks and activities, show us people, the people You are calling to Yourself. Thank You for not leaving us alone to do Your work, but giving us each other for strength and cooperation. Amen.

Read the first paragraph of chapter 5 (page 70) together in your group.

- ① Can you recall an example of right combinations made for stability, efficiency, sustainability, and/or identity in your life?

- ① Is there an example of wrong combinations that threatened those aspects of your life?

① How have you strengthened the right combinations in your relationships, work, and family? What is/was the result?

① How have you extracted yourself from wrong combinations in your relationships, work, and family? What is/was the result?

Page 71 gives us the secret to close relationships: The other must be enough like us to be intimate, but different enough to be necessary.

① Where do you see this working in your relationships?

① How can that principle help you choose future relationships?

Read the last two paragraphs of page 76.

① What accountability structures (people or systems) help you to not cooperate with sin?

① What accountability structures may you need to put into your life that would make certain you did not link with those in outright rebellion against God?

In chapter 6, the distributed design is defined by love. Read about the Incarnation on page 81 and under the heading "God Is Love and Goes Out for the Benefit of His Creation."

① What do you fear you could lose by going out into different areas of the world?

① What do you think you might gain?

- ① What are the places that are danger zones for you, that lead to places of temptation?

- ① What are the comfort zones for you, places where you hang out and don't want to leave?

- ① What are the called zones, the near-to-them places that God has already put you in?

On page 84, Dr. Hunter says, "His Spirit in us is a way He influences the world."

- ① How can you experience this reality everywhere, every day?

EXERCISE

This week, you'll need a map or a computer.

Look at Distributed Design 5 on page 85.

To help you visualize the clusters of ministry that already exist in your life, use a map of your city (either a paper one or an online version). Have everyone in the group plot his or her house, work, school, and any places he or she attends regularly (church, a usual lunch hangout, the gym) on the map. If you have used an online map, print out the map with the plotted points. Using a soda can or glass, put the plot point in the center of the can and draw a circle around that dot. When you are done circling all the plot points of everyone in your group, you will see the places in which you are already moving.

Here are some things to think about through the week:

- ① How can you turn your regular daily activity into moments of service?

- ① How has God congregated you into groups "after your kind"?

❓ Has God connected those groups into clusters?

❓ Where else have you seen clusters of relationships be most effective in your life, work, family, and ministry?

❓ How does clustering support you in what God has given you to do?

PARTNER WITH CHILDREN

This week, you'll need a piece of poster board and children's scissors.

Ponder

Read **Isaiah 61:6**. A minister is someone who helps someone in need. That might be someone who is sick, lonely, sad, homeless, hungry, or poor. What are the different types of help that these people would need? What is your favorite way to help someone? Brainstorm what you can do for any of those people in need.

Play

PUZZLE PARTNERS

Count the children. Cut one poster board into that number of pieces.

Collect the pieces in a bag and distribute one to each child.

Look at how different each piece is, yet each one is needed to complete the puzzle.

All walk about to find a partner whose puzzle piece fits their own.

Keeping their pieces connected, those partners then walk together to find another child or pair of children to connect even more pieces.

Keeping its pieces connected, this cluster of children walks together to connect puzzle pieces with others until the puzzle is completed.

This week, say to your mirror each day, "You are a minister!" Then look for ways to serve others throughout your day. Invite someone to serve with you.

Pray

Thank You, God, for letting each of us do our part in serving others. Thank You for making me a minister. Show me what You want me to do. Amen.

YOU ARE THE CHURCH

1. Spend time this week in the “Concepts in Context” from chapter 5, focusing on complementary relationships. If you have chosen a service project with your group, perhaps there is another group that has a passion for the same type of service. Can you check with your local church to see what other groups are meeting and let them know your plans for your service project? See if you can link together for effective partnering and ministry.
2. Chapter 6 makes it clear that God is the One doing the work in and through you and that you alone are not the only resource point for those in need. Before you jump in, try this as your prayer this week when you see someone in need:

Am I the one ...

to help

Or

to connect

Or

to pray

Or

to go on this person's behalf?



What result does that prayer focus have in your life?

Week 4

Growing

CHURCH BY THE BOOK

Church Distributed Chapters 7 & 8

*Lord, equip us to worship You and serve others everywhere, every day.
Grow us into the church that is near—near to You and near to
people who need You. Amen.*

Read “A History of Walls” in chapter 7 about the early church’s development. Each church had its own personality, and each apostle had his own role. To keep God as preeminent in your life and before inviting complementary relationships to your life, you should define your values and beliefs.

- ① Write down the things that are not up for discussion by others (things you and God have decided about your life; i.e., believing in Christ, being someone’s spouse, etc.)

- ② In what areas of your life do you think God encourages input from others? Or in the distributed model, what areas of your life can be common ground for common good?

Page 97 says, "From epidemics to persecution, the Christians would survive and serve because of their relationships with each other."

① What epidemics or persecution have strengthened your relationships?

① What has divided you from groups or relationships?

Chapter 7's "Concepts in Context" gives the definitive example of the distributed church. After you read #3, think about where your regular life and your church life are divided.

① Where do you see the possibilities of regular life and church intersecting?

① What would you have defined as your "ministry" before this study?

① What areas of life do you define as ministry now?

In your group, read or listen to the opening story of chapter 8.

① When have you been on the receiving end of someone who was avoiding outside relationships? How did you respond?

① What have you used to avoid relationships in the past (i.e., overtalking, avoiding group activities)? How can you ease into connectedness?

① Is there a want or a need that you can share with these group members and ask for their support and prayer for?

From page 109, have you found worship to be a reorienting activity in your life?

- ① What's the difference between attending a worship service and worshipping along the way? Why are both important?

Take a look at the list that starts on page 111.

- ① What would equip you to "go out"? What would equip you to serve where you are right now?
- ① What partners or networks do you have that could meet those needs and support you in your ministry?

EXERCISE

Turn your partnerships or this group into a network using technology.

1. When you do a service project together, plan to take a digital video camera along. Then upload or send that video to the Northland communications team, and they'll upload it on the Youtube.com site called The Compass, a collection of videos from people who are serving together. This will create a cluster of encouragement and resources for people serving out "in the field."

Or,

2. Create a group weblog on a free blog site (i.e., blogspot.com) and invite the team to do an online journal and post pictures of your own "everywhere, every day" ministry experiences. In the links, you can add links connecting you to other ministry groups, blogs, or websites that resource you to worship and serve everywhere, every day. This could be a way to keep ongoing partnership and connection with this group, even when the six weeks of meeting has ended.

PARTNER WITH CHILDREN

Ponder

Read **Matthew 22:37-39**. Jesus sends us into the world. We are the distributed church. "Distribute" means to deliver things to or share things with people. That's what we do. We give what we can with what we've got, to help everyone grow closer to Jesus. God made you with special gifts to distribute. What are your special gifts?

Play

D.C. Rap:

1. Distribute everyday items to create percussion instruments for each child.
(*Examples:* click spoons, blow in an empty bottle, shake a bag of coins, rub paper together, clap, snap, rub hands together, make mouth noises, etc.)
2. Assign two partners to mark an outline of a circle 3 feet in diameter with floor tape.
3. Leader claps a steady beat, while children play instruments and join in the rap.
4. First child jumps in and out of the circle, while children play instruments and join in the rap below. (Leader steadily claps main beat.)

Her name is _____.

She is a minister.

She'll be a minister

For the rest of her life!

Jump in! Jump out!

Distribute all about.

This week, begin a list of things that you can distribute. (This can be anything from cookies to kind words!)

Pray

Father, thank You for letting us be the distributed church. Show us where You want us to distribute all that You have given us. Amen.

YOU ARE THE CHURCH

Using the "Concepts in Context" from both chapters 7 and 8, focus this week on worship. Can you see all of life as worship? What activities can you do to reinforce that during the week?

Try some of these suggestions:

- If there is difficulty with a coworker or neighbor, try singing the doxology or a simple praise song in your mind while you talk to this person (or rather, listen to him or her!)
- Do you see your family as your main area of ministry? Why or why not? Bring unity to your faith by considering yourself the MOD (minister on duty) to your spouse, children, siblings, parents.
- Are you gathering for worship weekly? The Bible says not to forsake this gathering (**Hebrews 10:25**). During your corporate worship this week, take time to look around you at the people you are worshiping with. Pick out an unfamiliar face, and commit to praying for him or her this week.
- If weekly worship is a habit for you, try it a new way. Visit a different church, and be a blessing to it by giving an offering.

- Try worshiping online. Gather your family or a group, and worship together corporately in a smaller setting at someone's home, or take your worship "out there" by getting online in a coffee shop or bookstore with a group of friends.

Week 5

Serving

CHURCH BY THE BOOK

Church Distributed Chapters 9 & 10

Lord, let us help Your people, not in proportion to how much we know or how much we pray, but in proportion to how much they need. Equip us for the work that You have for us so that we can worship You everywhere, every day. Amen.

- ① When have you been part of a group (family, organization, business) that wanted to take a big step?

- ① What was the response—resistance or acceptance?

- ① What is your response to big steps?

Chapter 9 focuses on mature leadership. There are places in your life where you are being led.

- ① How can you use the principles of leadership from this section to help you support and serve your leader?

There are also places where you are the leader.

- ① Make a quick list of places where your leadership is required.
- ① How does the statement “Leadership is a relationship that gives confidence to those who want to make a constructive difference” (page 123) change your perspective on leadership?
- ① How does that idea motivate you as a minister of the church?

On page 126, there are three steps to predicting the future.

- ① How does it inspire, motivate, or challenge you to understand what you can predict and what you can't predict?
- ① How can you help others connect to the truth that building relationships, in the image of God, is building for the future?
- ① After reading “Build the Right Environment” (page 129), what do you need to build an environment for you to be a successful minister everywhere, every day?
- ① What resources has God already given you?

A primary understanding of serving in the distributed church comes on page 150, "Remember that, for a Christian, serving with other Christians is a form of worship."

❓ How do the three keys to connection (theological, relational, and organizational) give you the accountability structure and the freedom you need to serve?

❓ How can you use the bullet points from "How Different People Can Work Together" (page 157) in your ministry ...

of family?

of work?

of friends?

❓ How do those steps to healthy working relationships strengthen you in your service and your leadership?

EXERCISE

Look up the verses listed under the "Great Leader" heading from the leadership chart on pages 142 and 143 of **Church Distributed**. Everyone can take turns reading a verse aloud. Then pray as a group for each of you to grow into a great leader in the life of ministry God has already given you and the opportunities He will give you in the future.

PARTNER WITH CHILDREN

Ponder

Read **1 Peter 4:10-11**. Jesus is the Leader of the church. He showed us that good leaders serve their followers and point them to God so that God is praised. Who are some of your leaders? Have you ever been a leader? How can you serve the ones you lead?

Play

FOLLOW THE LEADER ~ FOLLOW THE SERVER

First play *follow the leader*. In this game, children line up to follow the leader and do everything exactly as the leader does. As a good leader, encourage the followers along

the way! Now play *follow the server*. In this game, an older child leads the group in an act of service, such as cleaning up the yard, creating get well cards for a sick neighbor, or baking cookies for a sad friend. Watch how many different tasks are needed to serve others. For example, distributing a gift bag of cookies involves planning, stirring, baking, cleaning, wrapping, creating a card, and delivering cookies.

Pray

Thank You, Lord, for the leaders You give us. Help us all be good servant-leaders. Amen.

YOU ARE THE CHURCH

Make these three questions from the “Keys to Connection” your vision for connecting in service:

- ① Do the people I’m with in this relationship help me love God with all my heart and soul and mind?

- ① Do I enjoy the person I’m with in this relationship?

- ① Will the people I’m in this relationship with help me to help others?

Work the “Concepts in Context” from chapter 9 on page 144 this week.

- ① What are some next steps for you to take to “get moving”?

- ① How has God equipped you for ministry?

- ① Where is the prayer from 3 being answered?

Week 6

Going

CHURCH BY THE BOOK

Church Distributed Chapter 11/Epilogue

Lord, each one of us is the church that is near to someone at our work, where we play, in our neighborhood, and in our family. Help us to go beyond ourselves through the power of Your Holy Spirit and to the glory of Christ our Lord. Amen.

If you are a Christian living in a neighborhood, going to a grocery store, living with family, working at a place of employment, taking time for friends, or participating in sports, arts, or other community events, you are the church that is near.

① How does this “Someday Soon” (page 163) vision of the church apply to your everyday life right now?

② How will a church in the image of God affect you in your life, community, work, etc.?

Dr. Hunter reminds us, “Christians will be grace-filled witnesses of the God Who cares for them. We will realize that we do not convert them, the Holy Spirit does; we will do our part by living like Christ among them.”

❓ How did the Holy Spirit use other people to draw you to Christ?

❓ How have you seen the Holy Spirit use you to draw others to Himself?

On page 164, read the paragraph beginning “Together we will finally realize ...”
Look at God’s placement of your gifts and circumstances right now.

❓ Are there things you thought were mistakes?

❓ How might they be strategic from God?

To close your six weeks together as a group, read or listen to the epilogue, “A Church of Adventure.”

❓ Whom do you relate to most in this story—Joey, Herb, or Pop?

❓ How can you see your life as a life of adventure for God?

❓ Whom do you want to go with you on that trip?

EXERCISE

Talk through what resources you need to continue in your life as a MOD (minister on duty). Do you need to learn to pray for people when a coworker or friend asks you to? Do you need help having confidence offering prayer to a stranger sitting next to you at church? Could memorizing key Scripture verses make you a resource to others when they need true encouragement? Come up with a list of things individuals in your group need to equip them for ministry everywhere, every day, and commit to praying for these next steps.

PARTNER WITH CHILDREN

Ponder

Read **Matthew 28:19-20**. Being a part of the distributed church is an adventure! Describe the most amazing adventure you can imagine. How is helping others an amazing adventure? Remember, you are a minister to someone each day, whether it is at home, school, sports practice, dance lessons, or wherever you go. You can distribute God's love everywhere, every day.

Play

AMAZING ADVENTURE

Sit in a circle and create an amazing adventure story together.

Child 1 says, "Once upon a time, there was a _____."

Child 2 repeats what was said, and adds something exciting or surprising that happened next.

Child 3 repeats what was said, and adds what happened next.

Continue this pattern until each child has had a turn adding to the adventure.

For extra fun, each child adds the next part of the adventure by acting it out instead of saying it. Remaining children guess what is being described.

This week, look for the real adventures God is designing for you as you help others. Look for others to join you on these real adventures.

Pray

Thank You, God, for the adventures You give us as we serve You. Help us be ministers for the distributed church everywhere, every day. Amen.

YOU ARE THE CHURCH

Go through the definitions of distributed church on page 162 in ***Church Distributed***. Which one did you understand the best before you did this study? Which one is most meaningful to you now? Is there one definition you could adopt as a mission statement for your life in ministry? How has studying the distributed church equipped and strengthened you to serve God and love your neighbor everywhere, every day?

NOTES

NOTES

So what exactly is the “church distributed”?

We must begin to see all of life as ministry! In the distributed church model, husbands and wives see their roles in the marriage as ministry. Moms and dads see parenting as ministry. Employers and employees see work as ministry. Students are in ministry in their schools... Whether gathered together or serving apart, ministry happens everywhere, every day, when the distributed church model is practiced.

— Dr. Joel C. Hunter

Church Distributed book by
Dr. Joel C. Hunter
Companion Guide by Alice Bass

Northland, A Church Distributed
530 Dog Track Road
Longwood, FL 32750

www.northlandchurch.net

It's a way to make the most of our differences, connecting individuals and organizations together for long-term support and effectiveness without trying to blur our distinctions. It is a connecting strategy that results in spiritual growth. This *Companion Guide* is designed as a way for groups and individuals to apply the principles of the distributed church to their own lives.

If you think the church can draw near to people's everyday lives, there's great news—you're already in people's everyday lives. If you are a Christian living in a neighborhood, going to a grocery store, living with family, working at a job, taking time for friends, participating in sports, arts, or other community events, you are the church that is near.

By reading ***Church Distributed*** and working through the *Companion Guide*, you'll become more deeply connected to God and to His people. And together, you'll accomplish more because of your differences than you would on your own—without giving up your unique identities.

In this “everywhere, every day” guide to being the church where you are, you will learn how to:

- Partner effectively with Christians who are not like you, as well as with Christians who have the same vision as you.
- Build associations with Christians who want to develop lasting relationships for the work of the Gospel.
- Integrate your regular life and faith in a way that supports you as a minister on duty everywhere, every day.
- Cooperate with non-Christians for the good of everyone.

Connect. Grow. Go. Now!