

Introduction: *Engage your group by connecting them with past experience.*

Ask your class to think about the *best* and *worst* customer service they ever received. Without going into a description of what actually happened in either case, ask them to share how it made them feel as a person and toward the organization that provided the service. Have 3-4 people share.

Part 1: *Help your group members grasp the main thrust of the lesson using “Think-Pair-Share.”*

All churches have a “DNA,” something that defines them as unique, something that makes them “them.” Since Christ has constituted the church and He is our cornerstone, we should be focused on Him and His mission.

Think-Pair-Share: Ask you group members to honestly state what their church is focused on (i.e., their mission). Then ask them if they are in line with this mission tangibly (time, effort, giving, etc.): “**Think** for 30 seconds about this question...Now I want you to discuss this in **pairs** with a person on your left or your right who is not your spouse.” (Pause for 60 seconds). Call on 3-4 pairs to **share** one idea.

Part 2: *Help your group members understand a key term in the lesson.*

The lesson states that the church has been commissioned by Christ. Many people don’t fully understand the concept of commissioning. To help your group members grasp this concept more fully, read the oath given to all members of the armed forces of the United States who are commissioned officers:

“I, [name], do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely,

without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God” (5 United States Code, Section 3331).

While Christians don’t recite a code like this—although it might not be a bad idea—many churches have church covenants that prescribe how a member ought to behave. As an exercise, have your class spend a few minutes writing a commissioning oath for members of the church to the Lord. Break them into 2-3 groups, give them about five minutes, and let them construct an oath. Then have them read them to the rest of the class.

Part 3: *Help your students understand their motives.*

Help your students focus in on 1 Peter 2:16-17. Make two columns on the white board. The first column should be titled “What God Wants Us to Do.” The second should be labeled “Practical Ways of Obeying These Commands.” Have the students help you flesh out each column so that they can understand that God’s commands require specific actions on their part. The “church” can’t do these actions; the “people” in the church (mainly them) are the ones who have to do them.

Conclusion: *Challenge your students to live the lesson.*

The lesson focused on the truth that Christians are kingdom people. Therefore, we need to understand that the church has been constituted by Christ, commissioned by Him to be His voice on earth, and called by Him to good works. Ask your class to think about their obedience to the lesson. Do they see the church as constituted and commissioned by Christ? Do their actions back this up (church attendance, faithful support of the work, giving, sacrificing of time, witnessing, etc.)? If you want, you can have them take the oath of commissioning that they wrote to the Lord to affirm this decision.

Teaching Tip of the Week

One of the easiest ways to help your students learn has to do with the classroom layout. Most classrooms I’ve observed are set up for lecture. There is a podium up

front and the chairs are placed in straight rows. Try setting up in a U shape. This is an all-purpose set up that allows flexibility in teaching. You can lecture, break into groups, have group members participate in face-to-face conversations, distribute handouts, and use visual media easily from this set up. Don't be afraid to experiment. You and your students may be surprised at the results.