

# Seeking a New Church Community

## Do I need to find a new church?

As Ezra Church comes to a close, you may be wondering what to do next. Finding a new church may feel overwhelming or like something you just don't want to do. It's okay to take time to grieve the change and to pause. But pausing is different than getting stuck. There's really no such thing as an individual follower of Jesus - we're all part of His body of believers and we need one another. So - yes - finding a new body of believers to share your journey with will be an important next step to help you grieve, heal, grow and participate in God's work.

## How do I find a new church?

Finding a new church community is a process, and will likely take some time. Be patient, and remember these considerations as you begin to seek a new church home.

### 1. Prayer leads the way.

God is at work in this change. Ask him to lead you through this season to find a new church home. Seek him first. Spiritual practices can also help keep you connected with him while your disconnected from a church for a time.

### 2. A Jesus-focused church that loves people.

What should you look for in a church? Start with these 2 main things. Is Jesus at the center of all they do - not just in words, but in actions and values and spirit? Does their love for Jesus compel them to love the world around us - or just one another? How is this love modeled and displayed? It's possible to love Jesus and not people. It's possible to love people and not Jesus. It's a beautiful and powerful thing to do both. It's the way of Jesus.

### 3. Growing people change.

This is a season of change for you. Change can be hard, and change can help us grow. A new church will be a new experience for you, your family, your kids. As you explore new churches, you'll see a broader perspective of God's kingdom, a bigger picture of how He is working in the world. Do they rely on the scriptures to tell the full story of God's work? Where do you see yourself in this story? As you're walking through this season of change, take time to share your story with others in a new church. Let them know where you're coming from, what you celebrate from the past season, what you're hoping for in the next season.

#### **4. Be a contributor, not a consumer.**

You're a follower of Jesus. That means you're part of the body of Christ. You don't just need the church, the church also needs you, and you have a part to play in what God is doing in the world. So - when you're considering a church - don't just consider what they have to give to you, what you can get from them, if they check all your boxes. Also, consider how you might be able to contribute to what God is doing through this church. How might your gifts, hopes, and story humbly add to what's happening? It's okay to take a season to rest and renew, but also ask God to lead you to a church where you will be able to contribute.

#### **5. Move at the pace of grace.**

Don't rush it. Maybe you're ready to find a new place right away. Maybe you can't bear that thought. Either way, give yourself some grace in the process. You've walked through a challenging season with Ezra Church. Maybe you need to rest and renew. Maybe you're ready to pour into something new. Either way, trust God's timing, knowing He has a place for you.

### **Let's get practical.**

If you're wondering where to start looking for a church, or for a list of churches to consider, we'll suggest 2 ideas. First, talk to friends and family nearby and see what they have experienced with other churches. Second, Google can help. Search for churches and check out their website. See what they celebrate. See what they value. What story are they telling about life with Jesus and other people? When you find one that resonates with God's work in your life, make a plan to visit. It may be tempting to sneak in and out and hide in the back. But it can also be really valuable to talk to some people about their church. What do they love about it? What happens besides Sunday worship? Ask God to lead you to a place of peace and connection in a new place.

Super practical thought: If you're near or willing to travel to Edgerton, you may wish to check out [Emmaus Community Church](#). Ezra partnered with other Converge churches to help plant Emmaus. Tell Pastor Luke that Pastor Jeff sent you.

### **A final thought.**

You already know this, but remember there is no such thing as a perfect church. Rather, each is a unique facet of God's beautifully diverse kingdom. Find a place where his kingdom is on display, where your love for Jesus and his people can flourish, and where you can play a part in what God is doing in the world.