THE CHURCH
Who’s Idea Was It?

INTRODUCTION
- Would Jesus go to church today? Have you ever thought the following:
  ____ Probably not. He is much more capable in public speaking than the pastor and teachers.
  ____ Probably not. He knows so much more about the Bible than those losers at church.
  ____ Probably not. He is above all the faults of the hypocrites who attend church.
  ____ Probably not. He can worship God better on his own. After all, he is God.
  ____ Probably not. He would never put up with all the organizational failures of the church.
  ____ Probably not. He doesn’t need the church to be on mission. After all, he leads people to faith outside of church all the time.
  ____ Probably not. Why should he go when half the people there don’t even notice he’s there?
  ____ Probably not. Fill in the blank. What’s your excuse for failing to commit yourself to a local church?

- Would you believe that Jesus actually did go to church? Notice the setting for these stories. Write down where Jesus was and what he was doing.
  o Matthew 12:9-10
  o Mark 1:21-18
  o Mark 3:1
  o Luke 4:14-21
  o John 6:59

- What do you know about the synagogue in Jesus’ time?

- Why do you think Jesus attended church (synagogue)?

- Do you think Jesus would go to church if he lived in Las Cruces? Explain.

THE BODY OF CHRIST
- Read Colossians 1:18 and Ephesians 1:22-23. What relationship does Jesus have with the church?
• Read 1 Corinthians 12:12, 18, and 27. What relationship does each believer have with the body of Christ? ____________________________

• Read Ephesians 5:25-32. Although Paul refers to Christian marriage, he is using it to illustrate something else. What is it? (Hint: see 5:32) ____________________________
  o If Christian marriage is an illustration of Christ’s relationship with the church, how should we treat the church? ____________________________

• Read Hebrews 10:23-25. What should the church expect from you? ______________
  o Are you fulfilling this responsibility in a local church? Explain. ______________

• Read Acts 2:40-47. What were the priorities of the local believers when they met together? ____________________________
  o What are the biblical priorities of the local church today? ______________
  o How are you currently engaged in those priorities through the local church? ____________________________

CONCLUSION
• Are you a member of a local church? Explain. ____________________________

• If not already, are you willing to join a local church? Explain. ____________________________

• In what ways are you currently, or do you intend to be involved in a local church? Explain. ____________________________

• Explain how your investment in the Christian Challenge ministry and the local church should complement each other. ____________________________

MEMORIZE: Hebrews 10:24-25