

Why is it important to attend church?

And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.

Hebrews 10:25 NLT

Reasons why some people do not attend church

- I have been hurt in church
- Church people are a bunch of hypocrites
- I feel judged
- I do not agree with the pastor
- It is my only day to spend with family
- It is my day of rest
- I work on Sunday
- I do not like church

Reasons why God tells us to attend church regularly

- To encourage each other

Encourage (parakaleo) = to come alongside someone to admonish and exhort, entreat and plead, comfort and console, teach and instruct, encourage and strengthen, etc.

- As we come together the Holy Spirit [the encourager], encourages others through us

But when the Father sends the Advocate [the encourager] as my representative--that is, the Holy Spirit--he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you. - John 14:26 NLT

- Church is not about what I can receive, but how can I encourage others
- And in the midst of encouraging others, we are encouraged