

Asking for a Friend

The Tool of Community — Can I Believe in God but Not Go to Church?

Scripture Focus: *"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."* — 1 Corinthians 12:27 (NIV)

Growing up, it was my grandparents who took me to church. My mom wasn't really into it, and she often said, "You don't have to go to church to believe in God." She never explained why she felt that way, just that she didn't think church was necessary.

Years passed, and one day a friend of hers simply invited her to church. She went—with my dad—and something changed. Not overnight, but little by little. They kept going. They started serving. Eventually, they gave their lives fully to Jesus and were baptized together.

We drove home to witness their baptism, and I'll never forget it.

All of that happened because of **one Christian woman who planted a seed.**

So... **asking for a friend:**

Can I believe in God but not go to church?

Sure. You *can*. Faith starts with a personal relationship with Jesus. But if you stop there, you're missing one of the greatest gifts God offers: **community**. Church isn't about rules or religion. It's not about a perfect building or perfect people (spoiler alert: there aren't any). It's about coming together as the **body of Christ**—growing, worshiping, serving, and doing life *together*. God didn't design us to follow Him in isolation. He designed us to sharpen each other, encourage each other, carry each other's burdens, and build one another up. Even Jesus, the Son of God, surrounded Himself with community.

And here's the thing: **people need people**. Sometimes your faith gets strengthened by hearing someone else's story. Sometimes someone else needs to see yours in action. Maybe church hurt you before. Maybe you're unsure where to even start. But don't give up. Maybe—like my mom—it just takes one invitation and one willing heart to step back in. You never know what God might do with a simple yes.

Prayer:

Jesus, thank You for creating us to live in community. Help us move past fear, hurt, or hesitation and trust that You have a place for us. Lead us to a church where we can grow, serve, and belong. And help us be the kind of people who invite others in. Amen.

Discussion Questions:

- Have you ever believed you could “do faith” alone? What changed that?
- What has your experience with church been like—good, bad, or in between?
- Who planted a seed of faith in your life? Who could you be that person for?