

## SESSION TITLES

GOD | FAITH IS A QUEST

RELIGION | SPIRITUALITY IS NOT ENOUGH

JESUS | THE REVOLUTION OF LOVE

SALVATION | ABUNDANT LIFE NOW

CROSS | WHERE GOD IS

BIBLE | A BOOK LIKE NO OTHER

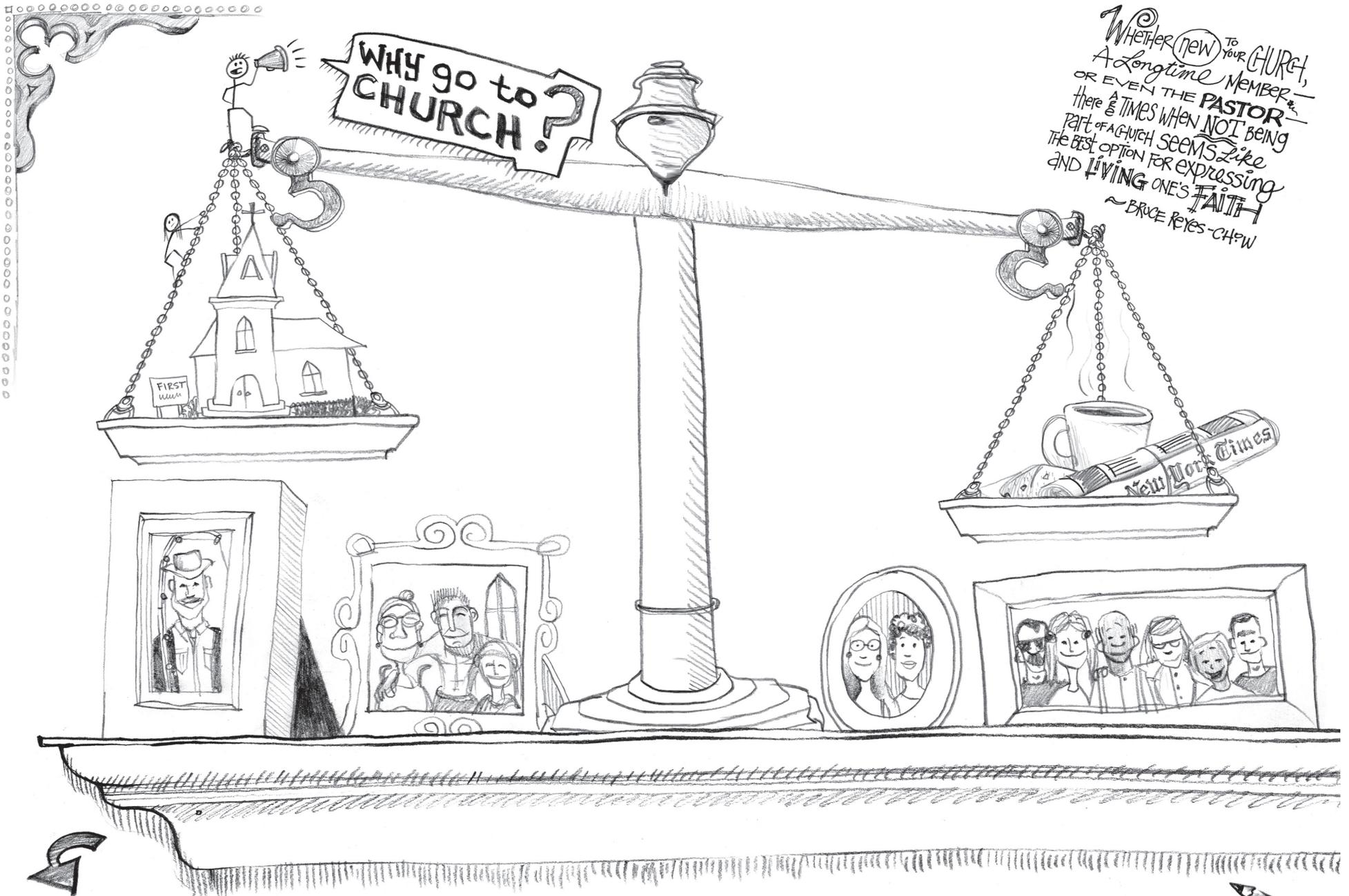
**CHURCH | AN IMPERFECT FAMILY**

## ABOUT THESE JOURNAL PAGES

Welcome to animate! This Journal is designed to accompany you on your journey through this session. Flip through the pages, jot notes, sketch ideas, and make it your own. This is your journal and you get to decide when to stop and linger and when to keep moving.

CHURCH | AN IMPERFECT FAMILY  
BRUCE REYES-CHOW





Whether (new) TO YOUR CHURCH,  
 A longtime Member,  
 OR EVEN THE PASTOR,  
 there are TIMES WHEN NOT BEING  
 PART OF A CHURCH SEEMS LIKE  
 THE BEST OPTION FOR EXPRESSING  
 AND LIVING ONE'S FAITH  
 ~ BRUCE REYES-CHOW

WHAT FACTORS WEIGH IN ON YOUR DECISION TO GO TO CHURCH—

OR NOT? ADD THEM TO THEIR RESPECTIVE SIDE OF THE SCALE.

WHO IS

# BRUCE REYES-CHOW



Just like a real family, a church family is messy. But just as the meaning & expression of "family" has changed over time, so too must the church rethink, re-define, and re-imagine what it means to be a "church family" in today's world  
— Bruce Reyes-Chow



BRUCE CONFESSES THAT THERE ARE PLENTY OF MORNINGS WHEN HE SIMPLY DOESN'T WANT TO GO TO CHURCH. AND YET, HE GOES. FOR BRUCE, THE CHURCH, LIKE ANY FAMILY, IS A PLACE TO GROW AND BECOME WHO HE WAS MEANT TO BE.

INCREASINGLY, CHRISTIANS ARE ASKING WHAT MAKES THE CHURCH RELEVANT. WE WANT TO KNOW WHY IT'S WORTH THE TIME AND EFFORT TO BE PART OF SOMETHING THAT IS OFTEN DYSFUNCTIONAL AND EVEN HARMFUL. YET BRUCE SUGGESTS THAT BY RECLAIMING THE IDEA OF CHURCH AS FAMILY, WE CAN FIND WAYS TO EMBRACE BOTH THE PAINFUL AND THE BEAUTIFUL WAYS THAT CHURCH CHANGES US.

### BRUCE TRIVIA:

- ✦ PLANTED MISSION BAY COMMUNITY CHURCH IN SAN FRANCISCO IN 2000
- ✦ STARTING AN ONLINE CHURCH IN 2012
- ✦ ELECTED AND SERVED FOR TWO YEARS AS MODERATOR OF THE 218TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH USA. IT'S KIND OF LIKE BEING THE POPE ONLY WITHOUT THE SNAZZY HAT.
- ✦ SOCIAL MEDIA GURU
- ✦ BA IN ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES, SOCIOLOGY, AND RELIGION FROM SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY
- ✦ MDiv FROM SAN FRANCISCO THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.



BRUCE SUGGESTS THAT THINKING OF CHURCH AS A FAMILY CAN HELP US MAKE CHURCH RELEVANT...  
CAN IT?



# WHAT IS CHURCH?

WHAT DO EACH OF THESE FORMS SUGGEST ABOUT THE CHURCH?



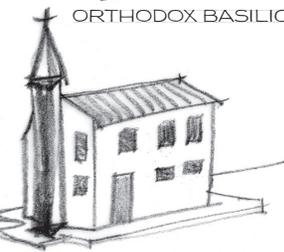
EARLY CHRISTIAN HOUSE CHURCH



ORTHODOX BASILICA



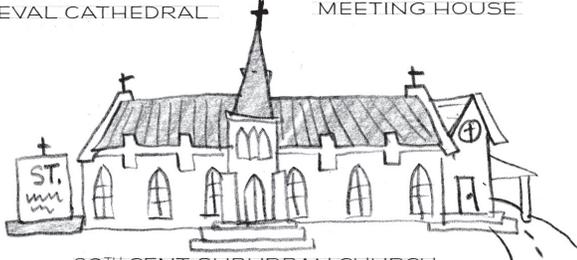
MEDIEVAL CATHEDRAL



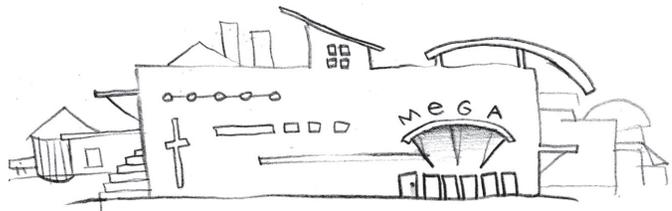
PURITAN MEETING HOUSE



ONE-ROOM COUNTRY CHURCH



20<sup>TH</sup> CENT. SUBURBAN CHURCH



MODERN MEGACHURCH



CHURCH-IN-A-PUB

THE ARCHITECTURE OF A CHURCH REFLECTS THE STYLE OF THE DAY, BUT IT ALSO REFLECTS WHAT PEOPLE THOUGHT ABOUT THE FUNCTION OF THE CHURCH—WHO HAD THE AUTHORITY, WHO WAS WELCOME, WHAT ROLE THE CHURCH PLAYED IN A COMMUNITY.

WHEN YOU THINK OF A CHURCH, WHAT DO YOU SEE? SKETCH IT HERE

What DOES YOUR PICTURE OF CHURCH SUGGEST ABOUT WHAT CHURCH MEANS TO YOU?



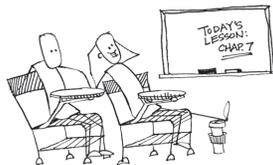
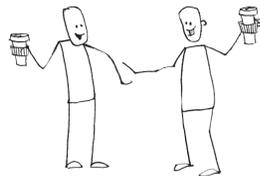
CONFIRMATION



# WHO IS CHURCH?

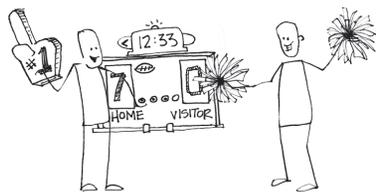
BRUCE MENTIONS A HANDFUL OF METAPHORS FOR THE CHURCH:

- + A SOCIAL CLUB
- + A CLASSROOM
- + A SPORTING EVENT
- + A THEATER
- + A HOSPITAL

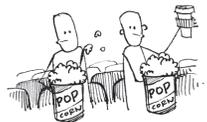


WHY DO THESE STICK AROUND?

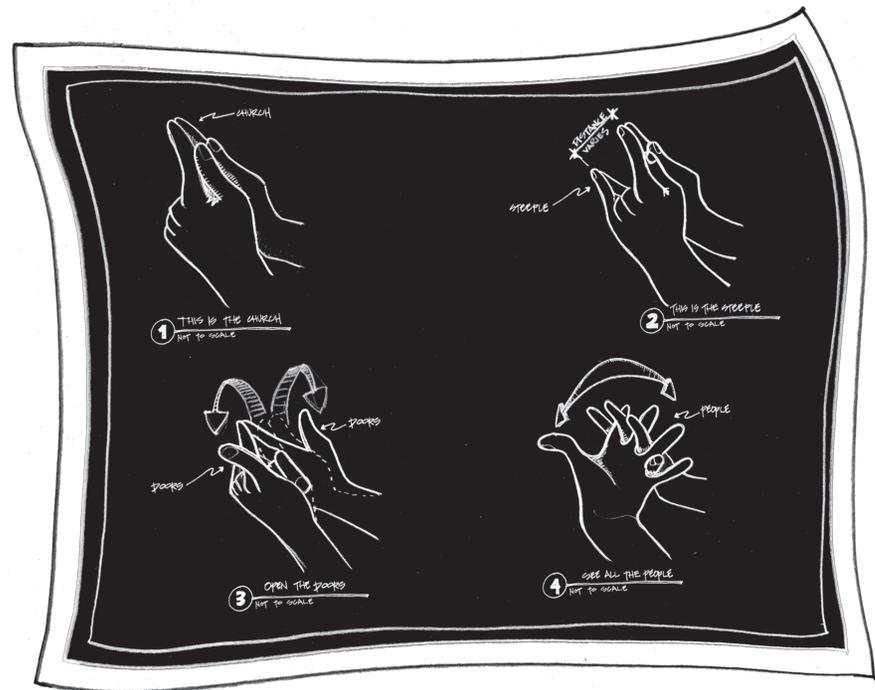
WHAT MAKES THEM WORK?



WHAT ARE THEIR LIMITS?



HOW DOES BRUCE'S METAPHOR OF CHURCH AS FAMILY WORK? IS IT TOO CLICHÉD?



THE BIBLE OFFERS SOME METAPHORS AS WELL

- + THE BODY OF CHRIST (1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-27)
- + VINE AND BRANCHES (JOHN 15:5)
- + BRIDE OF CHRIST (EPHESIANS 5:25-27)
- + WHERE TWO OR MORE ARE GATHERED (MATTHEW 18:20)
- + THE LIVING TEMPLE (EPHESIANS 2:17-22)

WHAT DO THESE TELL YOU ABOUT THE WAY EARLY CHRISTIANS THOUGHT ABOUT CHURCH?



WHAT WOULD YOUR IDEAL CHURCH

FAMILY LOOK LIKE?



A FAMILY PORTRAIT IN THE FRAME!

