

CHOOSING A CHURCH **IMPACT +**

Use the checklist below to get an idea of whether the church is a good fit for your spiritual growth in Jesus. **An ideal church to join will be one that ticks a lot of the Theology boxes, whilst also ticking lots of the Doxology boxes.**

A church that ticks lots of the Theology, but none of the Doxology suggests there could be some issues. Do they practice what they preach?

A church that ticks lots of the Doxology boxes, but none of the Theology suggests that they might just be friendly people. Their ‘warmness’ could come from something other than Jesus. Do they really understand what they believe?

Remember no church is perfect! So any decision you make will likely be tough... But keep praying, and by using all the tools God has given you - entrust yourself to Him.

THEOLOGY

(Teaching a thorough, accurate Understanding of God from the Bible)

DOXOLOGY

(Living out a life of praise and adoration to God for who he is)

Were there any Bibles on the way into church?		Did the people around you say hello?	
Did the service start with the Bible, rather than a song?		Does the church have a student worker?	
Was the sermon thorough, accurate, and helped you to understand the Bible more?		Did the sermon explain to you how Jesus makes a difference in your life?	
Did you hear about Jesus, and what he has done for sinners, through the prayers, readings & songs?		Are there clear opportunities for you to serve in the church?	
Does the church seem clear and open about what they believe on their website / in their service?		Did different types of people stay to chat with you at the end?	

Does the church want me to love Jesus through the teaching of the Bible?		Do the people love Jesus too?	
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Other Ways To Help

Visit The Church

- *Visit the church with a parent.*
- *Visit the church with a trusted friend.*
- *Visit the church before all the students get there, to see what it's like on a 'normal week'*

Research The Church

- *Ask Impact Leaders for recommendations*
- *Look on the FIEC website for churches near you.*
- *Check to see whether What They Believe is the same as Aigburth Community Church. This should be called their 'Statement of Faith'*
- *Ask the CU on Instagram which churches are popular amongst current students, and why.*
- *See if there are any services / sermons online during the time of Covid, so you can get a taste of the church. (Remember this was a weird time, so always visit just to make sure)*

Plan

- *Try to make a shortlist of churches you will visit, based on information you already know. (4 is a good number!)*
- *Plan to attend both morning & evening services when you visit to get an all round flavour of the church.*
- *Decide a date where you will make a decision on a church, and let others know so they can help you make the decision in good time.*

Pray

- *If you are struggling to make a decision, ask Parents / Friends / Impact leaders to pray specifically about the options you are considering.*
- *Read Bible passages that remind you that your heavenly Father loves you, and wants you to love Jesus more during your time at University.*
- *Pray regularly for a church which would grow you in love for Jesus, help you to fight sin, and feel like a family.*