

End-of-Year OCF Devotional: Plug In

“And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.” — Philippians 1:6

As you graduate and move on to new places, one of the most important decisions you'll make is where and how to get involved in a new church. Don't wait. Plug in right away and invest in your walk with Christ....and others!

1. Seek Sound Teaching — Be Discerning

Wherever you go next, do not underestimate the importance of faithful, biblical teaching.

- *Romans 16:17 — “I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them.”*

Be gracious, but also discerning. Choose a church that teaches the Bible clearly and without compromise.

2. Don't Chase a Copy of What You Had

Your next church may look very different — and that's okay.

- *John 4:23-24 — “But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”*

Worship isn't about production, songs, or styles. It's about truth and your heart. Don't let preferences blind you to what's essential.

3. Invest in the Whole Body — All Ages

Don't just look for peers. Learn from people in other life stages.

- *Titus 2:2-7 — “Older men... older women... urge the younger...”*

Ask questions. Listen to stories. Let your life be shaped by believers who have walked with God longer than you have.

4. Don't Wait to Get Plugged In

Even if you're only somewhere for a few months, your church involvement matters.

- *Hebrews 10:24-25 — “And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”*

- *1 Corinthians 12:18 — “But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose.”*

Don't shop around forever. Don't stay on the sidelines. Find a church close enough to attend regularly – in person – and start serving.

5. Where Do I Start?

Let's get super practical. Get some leads through Google Maps, your preferred denomination, various church networks, or someone you know who is already there or used to be there. Go online and read each church's statement of faith. Listen to or watch a sermon or two online. Pray for discernment and start visiting churches. Show up early and don't rush out – meet some people.

Final Encouragement:

Let this be the season where you say:

“Wherever I go, I will find a church — and I will pour into it.”

This might have seemed geared toward firsties, but it applies to all of us. Maybe you are going on a three-week AIAD this summer. Maybe your family doesn't go to church when you're on leave back home. Build rhythms now that you'll still value at 42 and 72. You need a church home, and your church home needs you.