

March 24, 2020

Life Group Study Guide

The Church

Let's start out by examining your own thoughts about church. You may be tempted to skip this part, but it is important that we know what we value and why we value it. So, What is church to you? What draws you and keeps you coming back each week?

Our 2 part podcasts this week covered several verses as it looked at what the church is and what their response in times of trouble should be. Let's look at these verses and see the many facets of the church that when combined together, make it a showcase of God and His glory.

PART 1: THE CHURCH

Acts 2:42-47, follows the account of Peter's bold proclamation of the Gospel. We see in verse 41, that thousands were saved. As you read this passage observe characteristics of the early church.

Vs. 42-43

Vs. 44

Vs. 45

Vs. 46

Vs. 47

How did what you observed speak to the priority of togetherness?

The church lived deeply connected and sacrificially so, was this the means by which they came to God or the result of their relationship with Him? Do you think people can confuse the two?

This glimpse of the church is not just given to appreciate. It serves as an example to imitate. Translate your observations to 2020. (Consider them generally and to our current situation.) What could this look like in our church today?

According to verse 47, what else occurred at this time?

Do you think the way the early church functioned played a part in the above? Explain.

In verse 47, who is the one responsible for “adding to their number”? What does that mean? (Also see Matthew 16:18)

If it is the Lord adding to the church, what part do we have? (Also see Ephesians 2:1-9)

PAUSE AND CONSIDER: What can the church wrongly rely on to built itself and why can this be detrimental?

Hebrews 10:23-25, further gives us another glimpse of the church. List what you observe in the passage and the calls to action.

Observations	Calls To Action

How does this translate to today?

If the church purposed to live this out, do you think it would make a difference? How?

In the Believers lives...

In the Communities lives...

PART 2: THE CHURCH'S RESPONSE IN TIMES OF TROUBLE

What does Acts 8: 1-3, tell us about the situation the church is facing?

What response do we see from the church? Read Acts 11: 19-30 and 2 Corinthians 8:1-5 and observe what you see the church doing in response to their hardship.

Anyone can be a generous or encouraging person. We all know people outside of the church that do great things. What do you see in the above passages that differentiates the church from just another kind soul or philanthropic organization?

PAUSE AND CONSIDER: What are the conditions hardship creates that grow our faith? How?

Ultimately the church was formed and is privileged to showcase God and His glory. How does Ephesians 3:10 express this thought?

How do you think the church "makes known the manifold wisdom of God"?

Does this give you a deeper sense of responsibility? Explain.

We find ourselves in a very unique time. However, we are still the church and our purpose has not changed. We are called to live connected lives that work together to glorify God, care for one another and those around us. The church is to be vital, thriving, and a force in the world for Christ!