

WE HAVE AN AMAZING GOD

God sent His only Son into the world because of His love for us and to show us His love.

1 John 4:9–10 9 God showed how much He loved us by sending His one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through Him. 10 This is real love—not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.

- Since Jesus did this for us and for all, He gives us all an opportunity to respond.
- He has called us to follow Him, be changed by Him, and be on mission with Him.
- He raised up His disciples to send them out to make disciples.

Matthew 28:18–20 18 Jesus came and told His disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. 19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Matthew 16:18 18 Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means 'rock'), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.

- Jesus said the gates of hell will not prevail against His church.
- Jesus said the gates of hell will not prevail against His church. Not every church is His.
- God wants us to be His church, to be one, and to live out His design for it.

John 17:20–23 20 "I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in me through their message. 21 I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one—as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me. 22 "I have given them the glory you gave me, so they may be one as we are one. 23 I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me."

- We are called to be one, aligned with one mind and purpose. (1 Corinthians 1:10)

ALIGNMENT AROUND

- Alignment around Jesus and what He says His church is and how it is to look.
- Alignment around His definition of discipleship.
- Alignment around His process of growth. The gates of hell won't prevail.
- Alignment around His mission.
- Alignment around biblical truth.

IT'S EASY TO DRIFT: BACK TO THE BASICS

"Every church drifts. People come from different backgrounds. New people join us. Those who've been here a long time can forget why we do what we do. Over time, the same words can even begin to mean different things to different people. So every once in a while, it's healthy to go back to the basics—not to introduce something new, but to remind ourselves who Jesus has called us to be."

SO WHAT IS JESUS' CHURCH?

The church isn't something we attend; it's a spiritual family we belong to and a mission we participate in.

Acts gives us a picture of what that looks like. (Acts 2:42–47)

ACTS 2 PICTURE

- Devoted to God's Word
- Devoted to one another
- Worshiping and praying together
- Generous and serving
- Living life together
- Praising God
- Reaching people far from God

THE VISION, THE MISSION, THE PROCESS

Vision = Where are we going?

Mission = What are we doing to get there?

Process = How do we actually do it?

WHY DO WE DO THIS?

Romans 12:1–2 & Ephesians 3:16–20

1. When you hear the word “**church**,” what do you naturally think of first? How does that compare with the biblical picture of church as a family we belong to and a mission we participate in?
2. Read **Acts 2:42–47**. What stands out to you most about the way the early church lived, and why?
3. Acts 2 describes believers as devoted to God's Word, one another, prayer, worship, generosity, serving, and reaching people. **Which of these is strongest in your life right now, and which needs the most growth?**
4. Why do you think **living life together in relationships** is so important to becoming a disciple of Jesus? What can happen when we try to follow Jesus on our own?
5. Jesus calls His church to be **united around Him and His mission**. What are some things that can cause Christians or churches to drift away from that mission?
6. Our vision is to **reach the world for Jesus Christ one person at a time**. Who is one person God has placed in your life that you could intentionally love, serve, or share Jesus with?
7. Read **Romans 12:1–2**. What would it practically look like this week to offer your everyday life to God and allow Him to transform the way you think and live?
8. Read **Ephesians 3:16–20**. Where do you need to trust God to work in or through you beyond what you could accomplish on your own?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:



Group Questions



Overtime Podcast