

WEEK 3 (August 30 - September 5)

ORDINARY SAINTS—FOLLOWING JESUS IN EVERYDAY LIFE

Being the Church Everyday

(Acts 2:42-47; Ephesians 4:1-16; 1 Peter 2:9-12)

Starting the Conversation

When many people think about church, they think about a building, a worship service, or an hour on Sunday morning. But the New Testament paints a much bigger picture. The church is God's family—a community of people being transformed by Jesus and sent into the world together. Gathering for worship is essential, but it is only one part of our calling. God designed the local church to form mature disciples who live out their faith every day in their homes, workplaces, schools, neighborhoods, and relationships. The church is not simply a place we attend; it is a people we belong to and a mission we share.

Let's Read Acts 2:42–47

Leader: *The earliest church devoted themselves to worship, biblical teaching, prayer, generosity, fellowship, and serving one another. Their life together became a powerful witness to the surrounding world. Their strength wasn't found in programs or buildings—it was found in a community transformed by Jesus.*

- Which characteristic of the early church stands out to you most? Why?
- What do you think it means to be "devoted" rather than merely involved?
- How does genuine Christian community help us grow spiritually?
- Why do you think their life together attracted others to Christ?
- In what ways can our small group reflect the heart of the early church?

Let's Read Ephesians 4:1–16

Leader: *Paul reminds us that every believer has a role within the body of Christ. The church exists not simply to gather people but to equip them for lives of ministry. Spiritual maturity isn't something we pursue alone; God uses His people to encourage, challenge, teach, and strengthen one another.*

- According to this passage, what is the purpose of the church?
- Why is unity essential for spiritual growth?
- Paul says every member has been given gifts to build up the body. What gifts or strengths has God entrusted to you?
- How have other believers helped shape your faith?
- What keeps Christians from actively participating in the life and mission of the church?

Let's Read 1 Peter 2:9–12

Leader: *Peter reminds believers that they have been chosen and sent. We are God's people not only so we can know Him personally, but so we can make Him known publicly. Our witness extends beyond our words to the way we live, work, love, forgive, and serve every day.*

- What does it mean to "declare the praises" of God through everyday life?
- How can your workplace, school, neighborhood, or home become a place of ministry?
- Why is our daily conduct such an important part of our witness?
- Who has demonstrated everyday faithfulness in a way that has encouraged your walk with Christ?
- Where is God inviting you to be a more intentional witness this week?

Closing

- How has your understanding of the church changed through today's discussion?
- In what ways are you contributing to the spiritual growth of others?
- Where is God calling you to move from simply attending church to actively being the church?
- Who is one person God may be inviting you to encourage, serve, or invest in this week?
- What is one practical step you can take this week to live as a faithful witness where God has already placed you?

PRAYER

Lord, thank You for making us part of Your family through Jesus Christ. Thank You that the church is more than a place we attend—it is a community where we are loved, challenged, equipped, and sent into the world. Help us to grow into mature followers of Christ who reflect Your character in every part of life. Give us hearts that pursue unity, serve one another with humility, and use the gifts You have given us to build up Your church. As we go into our homes, workplaces, schools, and neighborhoods this week, help us to faithfully represent You through our words, our actions, and our love for others. May our lives point people to Jesus, and may our church be known not only for what happens on Sundays, but for the way we live every day. In Jesus' name, Amen.