

# Invitation.

Week 8 of 8 : [StartingPointGroup.org](http://StartingPointGroup.org)

## INTRODUCTION

Jesus predicted that he would start a gathering, a movement . . . what we call **church**. And that church would spread all over the earth and outlast the Roman Empire. It would change the world. His prediction must have sounded outlandish to even his closest followers. But here we are, two thousand years later, and the Roman Empire exists only in history books, while Jesus' gathering is still going strong.

*The church is the hope of the world* because the church is the vehicle by which God is bringing the solution to mankind's greatest problems: sin, sorrow, and death.

## LISTENING GUIDE

### **Faith has a Starting Point.**

- Week 1 - Who is Jesus?
- Week 2 - Mistakers vs. Sinners
- Week 3 - Gaining God's Approval
- Week 4 - The Role of Rules: Family vs. Club
- Week 5 - What can wash away my sin?
- Week 6 - Grace
- Week 7 - Don't stop Believin'

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**Jesus asked his disciples - "Who do you say I am?"**

*Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." - Matthew 16:16*

*Jesus replied, "...and on this rock I will build my church." - Matthew 16:18*

- **Church** = *ekklesia* (original greek word) means “gathering, assembly, congregation” but was mistranslated as **Church** - “House of the Lord”
- Jesus didn’t predict a **PLACE**, he predicted a **PEOPLE**.

**Matthew 28:18-20**

Then Jesus came to them and said,

*“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.*

*Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations.*

*And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

- The Church wasn’t born out of “*Truth Claims*” . . .  
It was birthed out of an event - **The RESURRECTION of Jesus.**
- God converted the religious leader **Saul** from Judaism to Christianity -  
for the sole purpose of spreading the Good News of Jesus to the  
Gentile nations.

**Matthew 16:18**

Jesus said, “I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.”

**Q: What is your NEXT STEP?**

- Salvation
- Baptism
- Local Church
- Giving
- Call to Ministry
- \_\_\_\_\_

*“The space where someone’s need and your gifts meet is the space for service, for opportunity, and perhaps a calling.” - Dr. Henry Cloud*

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How would you respond if Jesus asked you, “Who do you say I am?”
2. What do you associate with the word “church”?
3. Do you feel like the church has drifted from what Jesus intended? If so - how?
4. How can you use your gifts and talents to “Be the Church” Jesus had in mind?
5. What are some things people think make them unworthy or disqualified from being fully engaged in the mission of the church? In light of Paul’s story, how might God use those parts of their stories to draw others to him?
6. What is your next step?  
(*Salvation, Baptism, Local Church, Giving, Serving, Call to Ministry, \_\_\_\_\_*)

## MOVING FORWARD

In Matthew 28:18–20, *Jesus invites you to participate in the multi-ethnic, multi-national, unstoppable activity of God on earth.* The foundation of this movement is not a truth claim. It is an event . . . an event that resulted in a promise . . . a promise that has been kept. So, take a step. It’s the most significant thing you can do in your life.

## CHANGING YOUR MIND

*Matthew 16:15-18 - “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”*

*Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”*

*Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.”*

**HOMEWORK:** Read Chapter 8 | Answer Reflection Questions

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