

# The Way

## Introduction

### Preparing for The Way (Part 1)

*\*We are indebted to [Ethnos360](#) for providing the basis of these lessons\**

#### BIG Idea

Our purpose in meeting for the next year on *The Way* is to study the Bible.

It's a BIG book and it's easy to get lost. But why is it important?

The Bible is God's message to ALL people.

*The Way* is how we'll be getting to know and understand God and His plan for the church - speaking and living out the gospel.

- There will be **41 Teaching Lessons**
- There will be **4 Stops Along The Way** (Birth of the Church, Growth of the Church, Maturity of the Church, and Fruit of the Church)
- One Focus (obeying God's command to speak and live out the gospel)
- **Four Actions Steps** (with a central message to SEND)...



#### Information (What We Need to Know)

##### Four Action Steps of the Early Church...

- Devotion to the Apostles' Teaching

**Acts 2:42 (ESV)** And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

- ✓ **Sunday Sermons** (corporate gathering of the church)
  - Breaking of Bread (Lord's Supper)
  - Prayers (public)
  - Teaching of the Apostles

**"The early church was devoted to the apostles' teaching, which would have included Jesus' earthly teaching plus what he taught the apostles in his 40 days of resurrection appearances." – ESV Study Bible**

## ✓ Spiritual Habits

**2 Timothy 3:14 (ESV)** But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it **15** and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. **16** All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, **17** that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

- Direct Teaching from Paul (Apostles)
- Old Testament Writings (salvation)
- All Scripture (what is right, what is wrong, how to get it right, how to keep it right)
- Result – capable of living our lives to honor God

**Romans 12:2 (ESV)** Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

### *Application:*

- Sermon Series (trekking through Acts, Romans, and Ephesians)
- Spiritual Habits (reading through the New Testament and learning to meditate on the Scriptures)

## ▪ Being Together (Small Groups)

**Acts 2:46 (ESV)** And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, **47** praising God and having favor with all the people.

- ✓ Daily connection (temple and in homes) – being invested in each other’s lives
- ✓ Sharing fellowship in homes (meals) with glad and generous hearts
- ✓ Expressing collective praise to God for relationships
- ✓ Maintaining right relationships with people (inside and outside the church)

### *Application:*

- Offering groups (sermon series, reading, d-group, book study, focused groups)
- Create your own (everyone needs to be connected with others)

**Ecclesiastes 4:9 (ESV)** Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. **10** For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!

- **Serving Others (Participation, Partnership, Sharing)**

**Acts 2:42 (ESV)** And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship...**44** And all who believed were together and had all things in common. **45** And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.

- ✓ Participation and Partnership

**1 Corinthians 12:12 (ESV)** For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

- ✓ Sharing - Hold money and possessions open-handedly to help meet the needs of others when possible

**Application:**

We have an expectation that every single person in the church would be involved in serving at least one Sunday a month.

- **Send**

**Acts 2:47 (ESV)** ...And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

- ✓ **The Commission** (What we are commanded to do)

**Matthew 28:18 (ESV)** And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19** Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

- ✓ **The Empowerment** (How we are empowered to do it)

**Acts 1:8 (ESV)** "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

- ✓ **The Results** (Who gives the fruit of speaking the gospel)

**1 Corinthians 3:6 (ESV)** "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth."

**Application:**

These action steps are meant to be repeated.

**2 Timothy 2:2 (ESV)** ...and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.

**Titus 2:3 (ESV)** Older women...are to teach what is good, **4** and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, **5** to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.