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## The Church: Defined – What is the church, anyway, and why does it matter?

Scott Merriner, April 10, 2021

*Small Group Discussion Questions*

### Getting Started

Take some time to catch up and connect as a group. Pray before discussion. Expect God to move through your time together!

### Pacing Your Group

Move quickly through “observation” leaving enough time for “reflection”, “discussion”, and “surrender.”

### Scripture Reading

Re-read the scripture passages as needed when you discuss the questions.

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### Observation: *What does this scripture passage say?*

**Take some time to look up and read Acts 2:37-47, Ephesians 1:15-23, Matthew 5:14-16**

1. Describe the fellowship of the believers in Acts Chapter 2? (Acts 2:37-47)
2. What image is used in Ephesians 1 to describe the unity of the church? (Ephesians 1:15-23)
3. What image is used in Matthew 5 to describe the mission of the church? (Matthew 5:14-16)

### Reflection and Discussion: *What are some first thoughts flowing from the scriptures?*

**Talk together about how the scriptures connect to everyday life.**

4. If someone completely new to Christianity were to ask, “What is the church, anyway, and why does it matter?” how would you answer?
5. Describe a time when your experience of church felt completely in line with God’s intended design for the Body of Christ.
6. Why is diversity (gifts, abilities, perspectives, etc.) important in a church community?
7. What hope or encouragement can the church offer and reflect to our community?
8. What is your biggest hope for the future of the church?

### Surrender: Responding to God’s voice.

9. What is one thing God is saying to you through this study and discussion?

**\*\* Take some time to pray for one another in response to what has been discussed today \*\***

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We’re here!

We would love to hear about how things are going in your small group!  
Reach out any time with questions, ideas, thoughts, or concerns.

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