Accomplishing the Call

PART 2 - AL | STUDY SUMMARY

The church: its identity, relationships, and leadership

Central message: Jesus is building His church as a people who hear and obey God, live as a genuine spiritual family, work together across local churches, and are served by leaders with a shepherd's heart.

Use this guide alongside the approximately 64-minute recording. Timestamps are approximate. The teaching is summarized in AI's terms; reflection questions are added for study. Scripture references identify passages discussed or alluded to, with clear reference slips normalized. Read each passage in its context.

1. Let Scripture shape church life

AUDIO: 00:00-05:10

Al begins by calling the church back to Scripture. God can use any believer who hears Him and obeys, while sound biblical understanding helps people mature and gives the next generation a strong foundation. Where Scripture leaves questions open, we should remain teachable rather than turning our assumptions into rigid rules.

Study takeaway: Ask both: What does Scripture say? How should we respond to God?

2. One church expressed in many local churches

AUDIO: 05:10-15:25

The church belongs to Jesus and is His body. Al distinguishes the universal church, comprising all believers, from the local churches described in the New Testament. He explains the church as a people called out of the world and into God's kingdom. Belonging to the universal church should lead to meaningful participation in a local spiritual family.

Study takeaway: Church identity involves belonging to Christ and living in relationship with His people.

Read: Ephesians 3:10; 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18; Matthew 16:18; 1 Thessalonians 2:14.

Local responsibility and relationships

3. Local church life must remain relational

AUDIO: 15:25-21:10

Al emphasizes practical boundaries: people need to be close enough to share life, build relationships, and receive pastoral care. The important question is whether a church can function as a family. He points to elders being appointed in churches and towns, and to the mission of planting churches wherever God calls His people.

Study takeaway: Healthy growth preserves real community and effective care.

4. Autonomy means responsibility under Jesus

AUDIO: 21:10-25:45

Each local church is responsible for its affairs and for responding to God's direction. In Al's model, local elders carry responsibility for oversight; visiting apostolic ministry brings invited insight and encouragement rather than external control. No local church is superior to another. Every believer also carries responsibility to hear God and respond, rather than leaving that entirely to leaders.

Study takeaway: Take responsibility for your own obedience and for the shared life of your church.

5. Autonomous churches still need one another

AUDIO: 25:45-32:40

Al distinguishes autonomy from isolation. Churches can encourage one another, share resources, and give generously while remaining faithful to their own calling. He applies Paul's picture of the body to relationships between churches: different gifts, people, resources, and locations allow them to serve together. This does not excuse a church from growing in all aspects of Christian life.

Study takeaway: Value what God has given other churches and look for opportunities to serve together.

6. Stay teachable and authentic

AUDIO: 32:40-44:25

In the discussion, Al warns that helpful practices can become traditions maintained without fresh dependence on God. He encourages believers to seek God for themselves, hold preferences lightly, and remain honest in their relationship with Him. He also recognizes sincere love for God among believers in traditional churches.

Study takeaway: Let practices serve obedience to Jesus, and remain willing to adjust.

Read: Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5; Acts 11:22-23; 2 Corinthians 8:1-5; 1 Corinthians 12:14-20.

Believers and servant leadership

7. Every believer has a part to play

AUDIO: 44:25-48:40

Using Philippians 1:1, Al discusses saints, overseers, and deacons. Saints are believers set apart for God, with direct access to Him. Church life should make room for their gifts and contributions. As people share what they believe God is saying, leaders help discern what is for an individual and what may be for the church together.

Study takeaway: Come prepared to contribute, learn, and discern with others.

8. Recognize character and release people to serve

AUDIO: 48:40-53:00

Al cautions against defining deacon ministry more narrowly than Scripture allows. He emphasizes tested character, faithfulness, a good reputation, and releasing people to follow God's calling. For elders, he reads qualifications emphasizing integrity, self-control, hospitality, teaching ability, gentleness, freedom from greed, household care, maturity, and a good reputation.

Study takeaway: Character and faithfulness matter more than a title or visibility.

9. Elders shepherd, oversee, and lead by example

AUDIO: 53:00-64:12

Al brings together the responsibilities of eldership, oversight, and shepherding. Leaders need different gifts and shared discernment, but administration must remain rooted in care for people. The Holy Spirit appoints overseers, and the church belongs to God. Drawing on Jesus' teaching and Peter's instructions, Al emphasizes willing service, humility, and example rather than domination. Jesus is the Chief Shepherd; leaders serve His purposes and look to Him for their reward.

Study takeaway: Leadership should help people grow in Christ and respond to God.

Leadership qualities to remember

Care: know and shepherd the people entrusted to you.

Discernment: listen to God and recognize the contributions of others.

Example: practice the obedience and devotion you encourage.

Service: use responsibility to help people flourish, without controlling them.

Read: Philippians 1:1; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9; Acts 20:17, 28; Mark 10:42-45; 1 Peter 5:1-4.

Review, reflection, and application

Scripture reading plan

Focus	Passages
Christ and His church	Ephesians 1:22-23; 3:10; Colossians 1:18
Universal and local church	Matthew 16:18; 18:15-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:14
Local oversight	Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5-9
Churches serving together	Acts 11:22-23; 2 Corinthians 8:1-5
Many members, one body	1 Corinthians 12:14-20
Believers and leaders	Philippians 1:1; 1 Timothy 3:1-13
Shepherding and service	Acts 20:17, 28; Mark 10:42-45; 1 Peter 5:1-4
Jesus' authority and mission	Matthew 28:18-20

Questions for personal study or group discussion

1. How does Al distinguish the universal church from a local church? What does this mean for your participation?

2. How is autonomy different from isolation? How could our church bless another church?

3. Which habits help you follow Jesus, and which might you need to hold more lightly?

4. What does direct access to God mean for your prayer, obedience, and contribution to church life?

5. Which leadership qualities stand out in 1 Timothy 3? How do they differ from worldly measures of success?

6. What would shepherding through service and example look like in your own responsibilities?

Put the teaching into practice

Listen: Revisit one section of the audio and read its Scripture passages.
Reflect: Write one thing you learned and one area where you need to adjust.
Respond: Choose one practical step: strengthen a relationship, offer your gifts, serve someone, or encourage another church.
Pray: Ask God to help you hear Him, obey Him, and build His people up.

My next step: _____

Source: Accomplishing the Call - Part 2 - Al, 18-page transcript of the full recording. This guide summarizes the teaching and is designed to be used with the audio and an open Bible.