



Dawn of The Church: Study Guide

The church we see today can look very different from the church we read about in the New Testament. Today when we think of churches we most often think of buildings, services, scandal, protests, and greed. One Barna study recently showed that when Millennials and younger were asked about the church the two most common responses were anti-gay and hypocrites. Yet when we open up scripture we see something dramatically different than all the inward division, hurt, and showmanship that we see in the church today. We see something real. We see something raw. We see the movement Jesus started. Starting this week, we are going to be looking through the first few chapters of Acts. There we'll see the dawn of the church. We'll see how God started the church and the direction he originally sent it in. Hopefully this will help us, as we ourselves navigate through the church was meant to be.

Read Acts 1:1-11

Action: What major points do you see in the text about the foundation of the church?

The Church was founded by Jesus and his work in the cross. Because he founded the church through his sacrifice, he then points the church in the direction they should go. In many churches, this is called the Great Commission. It is Jesus' last words here on earth encouraging the church towards his Goal and his purpose.

Read Acts 1:8

When you read this, what does Jesus say the mission of the church should be? What are some things that often get misunderstood as part of the church's mission in our culture today?



The Mission Jesus left us with was simple, make disciples. The direction is simple, but the execution is much harder. He encourages them that this work of making disciples must be done in both their home (Jerusalem), their neighboring community (Judea and Samaria) and to the entire world (ends of the earth.)

Take some time below and look for ways that the church is involved in these things? How does our church participate in this type of discipleship making?

At home:

In our Community:

The entire world

The last question we want to ask and pray about is more personal. We've thought about the church collected church does its work in the mission of God for the church but now lets think about your own life. How are you actively doing the one thing Jesus called the church to do? Where in your life can you say you are intentionally making efforts to make disciples?
