

THE STORY
New Beginnings
Acts 1-2
Chapter 28 April 7, 2024
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When people do not know where to go they go to the church.

What is the church?

Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

⁷ He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 1:6-8 NIV

What is the church? A building? A service? Or something more.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

Acts 2:42 NIV

When Peter preaches the first sermon on Pentecost he quotes the prophet Joel:

And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Acts 2:21, Joel 2:32 NIV

Peter ends his message with this:

"Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah."

³⁷ When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

³⁸ Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."

Acts 2:36-39 NIV

They studied the bible
They spent time together
They ate together
They prayed together.

Images that may affect our understanding of church:

MOVIE THEATRE

Sub consciously when you leave a church service we rate our experience.

We are the church and we worship God who is our audience.

THE MEGA STORE

This language and mentality has become a part of our consumer based culture.

Acts 2 describes a family, brothers and sisters not because they all liked the same things but because they had Jesus in common

RESTAURANT

Spiritual growth happens more in the kitchen than at the table.

GAS STATION

We pull in once a week for a fill-up.

Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts.

Acts 2:46 NIV

FITNESS CENTER

None of us are as good as we can be. None of us have learned it all or do it all.

Jesus called us to be His witnesses

We want the power of the kingdom to pave the way for us.

Instead Jesus gave us the Holy Spirit so we could share the message with the people He loves.