

FURTHER STUDY GUIDE

BE THE CHURCH: WHAT WE DO | Various Texts

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The New Testament never presents the church as merely a place Christians go. The church is the people of God—the body of Christ—called to live out the mission of Jesus together.

When Jesus called His disciples, He didn't simply ask them to believe certain truths. He called them to follow Him, serve others, use what God entrusted to them, proclaim the gospel, and make disciples.

Throughout the New Testament, we see that our identity in Christ leads to action. We don't serve, give, steward, and make disciples in order to become the church. We do these things because we already are the church.

This study explores five practical ways the people of God live as Christ's body in the world.

ICEBREAKER QUESTION

Think about someone who has had a significant impact on your life. What did that person do that made a difference in you?

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

SERVE FAITHFULLY — 1 Peter 4:10–11

1. According to 1 Peter 4:10, why has God given believers spiritual gifts?

2. What is the difference between attending church and participating in the life of the church?

3. Why do you think some Christians are hesitant to serve?

4. What gifts, abilities, experiences, or resources has God given you that could benefit others?

5. What would happen if every person in a church actively looked for ways to serve rather than asking what the church could do for them?

STEWARD WISELY — Matthew 25:14–30

6. What does the parable teach about our responsibility for what God gives us?

7. Why is stewardship different from simply managing money?

8. What are some things God has entrusted to you besides finances?

9. Where are you most tempted to treat God's resources as though they belong entirely to you?

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GIVE GENEROUSLY — 2 Corinthians 9:6–8

11. According to 2 Corinthians 9, what attitudes should characterize Christian giving?

12. Why do you think generosity is a spiritual issue rather than simply a financial one?

13. What competes with generosity in our culture?

14. How can we become more generous with our time, attention, possessions, abilities, and money?

15. What does our willingness—or unwillingness—to give reveal about what we value?

LIVE ON MISSION — 1 Peter 2:9

16. What four descriptions does Peter use to describe God's people? What do these descriptions tell us about our identity?

17. Why do you think Peter connects our **identity** (“you are...”) with our **mission** (“that you may proclaim...”)?

18. What does it mean to “proclaim the excellencies” of God? How can we do that through both our words and our actions?

19. Peter says God “called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.” How should remembering what Christ has rescued us from motivate us to share Him with others?

20. Who are the people God has placed around you who need to see and hear the good news of Jesus?

21. What would it look like for you to live this week as a person who has been sent to proclaim the excellencies of Christ?

MAKE DISCIPLES — Acts 2:46–47

22. What is the difference between making a **convert** and making a **disciple**?

23. According to Matthew 28:19–20, what does disciple-making involve?

24. Who has helped you become more like Jesus?

25. Who are you currently helping grow in their relationship with Christ?

26. What would it look like for every believer in our church to intentionally invest in at least one other person's spiritual growth?

PERSONAL DEVOTION

Take a few moments to prayerfully complete these statements:

I need to serve by:

I need to steward more faithfully:

I need to become more generous with:

God is sending me to:

I can help disciple:

QUESTIONS | REFLECTIONS | OBSERVATIONS
