

Awakening the Sleeping Giant

A Guide to Living Out the New Testament Church

WORKBOOK · HIGH SCHOOL EDITION

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Contents

How to Use This Workbook ---- 4

Module 1: What Shapes Your Church? ---- 5

Module 2: What Makes a Church a Community? ---- 10

Module 3: What Fruit Is Your Church Producing? ---- 15

Module 4: What Does Community Look Like Outside the Walls? ---- 20

Module 5: Who Makes the Decisions? ---- 25

Module 6: Is the Whole Body Equipped? ---- 30

Module 7: Consumer or Producer? ---- 37

Module 8: How Did the New Testament Church Grow? ---- 44

Module 9: What Happens When the Church Gathers? ---- 50

Final Assignment: My Next Steps Plan ---- 57

Sources ---- 61

How to Use This Workbook

This workbook walks you through Awakening the Sleeping Giant in nine modules. Each module is one 90-minute session, so the whole course takes about 13.5 hours of Bible study.

Every module follows the same path: Before You Begin, Read, Reflection, Something to Think On, and Apply It. Write your answers on the lines. There are no right or wrong answers in the reflection sections; answer honestly from your own life.

This edition adds an opening activity and a hands-on Apply It step written for students. Talk through your answers with a parent, mentor, or youth leader.

Three tool pages (the Five-Fold Gift Lens, Knowledge, Application, Sharing, and Five-Fold Roles) follow Modules 6, 7, and 9. A final assignment, My Next Steps Plan, closes the course.

MODULE 1 OF 9 · BOOK READING: PREFACE, INTRODUCTION AND CHAPTER 1

Module 1: What Shapes Your Church?

Outside Influences, Hidden Agendas, and Positional Power

Every church has a structure, and every structure produces a result. In this first module you will look honestly at the outside influences, hidden agendas, and leadership patterns that shape many North American churches, and compare them with the church Jesus built.

By the end of this module you will be able to:

- Describe the structure of the church you attend today.
- Identify outside influences that shape how a church makes decisions.
- Explain the statement "the structure demands the outcome" in your own words.

Before You Begin

How would you describe the structure of the church you currently attend?

What influences does your church consider when making decisions (social, local, national, in-house, out-of-house, and so on)?

Would you consider your current church leadership to be set up like a hierarchy or like a plurality of elders and the priesthood of all believers?

Would you consider your current church structure to be consumer-minded (come and invite others to hear) or producer-minded (go and equip others to share)?

Opening Activity

Think of a club, team, or group you belong to. Who makes the decisions, and what keeps the group going (money, attendance, a leader)? How is a church like or unlike that group?

Discuss this in your small group. What are the common themes?

Read

> **Matthew 28:16-20 · Acts 2:42-47 · 1 Corinthians 3:10-15 · Psalm 18:31 · 1 Timothy 6:10 · 1 Peter 2:5 · 1 Peter 5:1-4**
> *Read these passages in the New International Version (NIV).*

Based on these verses, what does the Bible teach about the foundation, purpose, and leadership of the church?

Discuss this in your small group. What insights have you gained?

Looking at these verses, we can think of the church as:

1. Built on one foundation: Jesus Christ, not a building, a budget, or a legal status.
2. Sent to make disciples of all nations, not to gather an audience.
3. A community devoted to teaching, fellowship, the breaking of bread, and prayer.
4. A priesthood of all believers, shepherded by elders who serve as examples, not bosses.

Reflection

Which outside influences (money, media, culture, status, family) shape your own picture of what a church should look like?

Have you ever invited someone to church mainly to fill a seat? What was your motive?

Discuss this in your small group. What insights have you gained?

Something to Think On

The structure demands the outcome. A steak grilled on the same grill, with the same fuel, to the same temperature, will come out the same way every time. The same is true of a church. Most church leaders are sincere, passionate, and love Jesus, yet a structure built on budgets, buildings, staff, and attendance will push even good leaders toward a "butts in seats" agenda. The issue is not the people; it is the structure. Change the structure, change the outcome.

1. What elements might you need to change in your current church structure?
2. How do you think churches can change the "butts in seats" mentality? Why or why not?

Self-Reflection

Take some time for yourself and answer these questions. Be honest with yourself. Answer these questions from your life perspective, not from the standpoint of having right or wrong answers.

What elements might you need to change in your current church structure?

How do you think churches can change the "butts in seats" mentality? Why or why not?

Apply It

Draw a simple chart of how your church or youth group works: who leads, what it spends time and money on, and who does the ministry. Show it to a parent or mentor and talk about one thing

you noticed.

MODULE 2 OF 9 · BOOK READING: CHAPTER 2

Module 2: What Makes a Church a Community?

Community Minded, Uniqueness, Simplicity, and Shared Leadership

The New Testament church was a community, not an institution. You will study how each church can be unique to its community while staying faithful to Scripture, why simplicity matters, and why Jesus never meant one person to lead the church alone.

By the end of this module you will be able to:

- Define biblical Christian community using Acts 2:42-47.
- Compare a centralized (institutional) church with a decentralized (community) church.
- Identify the gifts of Ephesians 4:11 that are present or missing in your church.

Before You Begin

How would you define community?

Do you feel that your current church functions as a community? How or how not?

Which of the five gifts given in Ephesians 4:11 are represented and used in your current church structure?

Opening Activity

Where do you feel you truly belong (a team, a friend group, an online community)? What makes it feel like a community?

Discuss this in your small group. What are the common themes?

Read

> **Acts 2:42-47 · 1 Corinthians 12:25-27 · Hebrews 10:24-25 · Romans 12:3-8 · Ephesians 4:11-13 · Luke 9:46-48 · Romans 16:5 · 1 Corinthians 9:19-23**
> *Read these passages in the New International Version (NIV).*

Based on these verses, how do you understand what the Bible teaches about the church as a community?

Discuss this in your small group. What insights have you gained?

Looking at these verses, we can think of biblical church community as:

1. Decentralized, but not unorganized.
2. Unique to each place, yet always built on the same biblical elements (like snowflakes made of the same water).
3. Simple: believers meeting in homes and public places as part of everyday life.
4. Led by a team of elders using many gifts, where the greatest is the one who serves.

Reflection

Would most people consider your church structure simple or complicated? Why?

Who in your church has a pastoral gift but no title? How could that gift be welcomed?

Discuss this in your small group. What insights have you gained?

Something to Think On

Many churches post open pastoral positions, as if pastoring were a job title. In the New Testament, pastor was a gift, and elders shared leadership as a team. The church in Antioch was led by a rabbi, a marketplace leader, a North African, an aristocrat, and a Roman. If a church is making disciples well, it should not need to advertise for leaders; it will raise them up from within.

1. Take some time to reflect on how your local church might better produce a biblical community of believers.
2. How would your church be different if leadership was structured like the New Testament church?
3. If your church is simple, how can you teach this to others? If it is complicated, what needs to change, and are you willing to do it?

Self-Reflection

Take some time for yourself and answer these questions. Be honest with yourself. Answer these questions from your life perspective, not from the standpoint of having right or wrong answers.

Take some time to reflect on how your local church might better produce a biblical community of believers.

How would your church be different if leadership was structured like the New Testament church?

If your church is simple, how can you teach this to others? If it is complicated, what needs to change, and are you willing to do it?

Apply It

Write a short note to one person at church or school whose gift you have noticed, and tell them what you see God doing through them.

MODULE 3 OF 9 · BOOK READING: CHAPTER 3

Module 3: What Fruit Is Your Church Producing?

Fruit Check and Special Effects

Bigger is not always better. In this module you will check the fruit: where church money goes, what attraction-based "special effects" do, and why a structure that needs constant attendance and giving will be tempted to soften the truth.

By the end of this module you will be able to:

- Distinguish numerical growth from spiritual fruit.
- Analyze how attraction-based methods can lead to a compromise of truth.
- Evaluate where money drives decisions in a church.

Before You Begin

What is the main goal of your church? How is the whole body reaching that goal?

How does your church expect people to hear about Jesus?

How does your church gauge fruit?

How many times in the past decade has your church added new attraction-based elements (new worship styles, new programs, sanctuary ambiance, a building remodel)?

Opening Activity

Think about a concert, game, or video that impressed you. What special effects did it use? Did they make it more true or just more exciting?

Discuss this in your small group. What are the common themes?

Read

> **1 Corinthians 6:19-20 · 1 Timothy 6:10 · 2 Timothy 4:3-4 · John 6:60-66 · Acts 2:42-47**
> *Read these passages in the New International Version (NIV).*

Based on these verses, how does God measure the fruit of His church?

Discuss this in your small group. What insights have you gained?

Looking at these verses, we can think of true church fruit as:

1. People who are God's temple, not buildings called "God's house."
2. Truth taught plainly, even when it turns people away.
3. Generosity that meets real needs in the body before it maintains a structure.
4. Spiritual maturity and obedience, not only attendance and offerings.

Reflection

What factors can you see within the local church that have resulted in an unintentional compromise of truth?

When you choose a church, what draws you: the truth, or the experience?

Discuss this in your small group. What insights have you gained?

Something to Think On

Special effects in a movie create something that is not naturally there to make a story more thrilling. Many churches use their own special effects: lights, fog, large bands, dramatic videos, and polished buildings. These things are not evil, but a structure that depends on them must keep people happy to keep them coming and giving. Keeping people happy means giving them what they want, and giving them what they want often leads to compromise. Jesus never softened His teaching to keep a crowd (John 6:66).

1. How can your church better minister the truth of the gospel?
2. Has money become a driving force in your church? If so, what needs to change?

Self-Reflection

Take some time for yourself and answer these questions. Be honest with yourself. Answer these questions from your life perspective, not from the standpoint of having right or wrong answers.

How can your church better minister the truth of the gospel?

Has money become a driving force in your church? If so, what needs to change?

Apply It

Track how you spend your free time and money for three days. Pick one thing to give up for a week and use that time or money to help someone.

MODULE 4 OF 9 · BOOK READING: CHAPTER 4

Module 4: What Does Community Look Like Outside the Walls?

Community Life in the New Testament Church

The first church did not meet in grand buildings; it lived out the gospel in homes, markets, and streets. You will see how Christian community reaches past church members to neighbors, coworkers, and even enemies, and where you are on the path from counterfeit community to biblical community.

By the end of this module you will be able to:

- Describe everyday community life in the New Testament church.
- Apply Jesus' teaching on reconciliation and loving enemies to your relationships.
- Locate yourself on the Biblical Christian Community cycle (Figure 2).

Before You Begin

What does your church have in place to send people out into the world?

Does your church frequently ask the congregation to invite friends?

Are the church building and the Sunday gathering the primary focus of your church?

Opening Activity

Is there anyone at school or on your team you would never sit with? What would Jesus' teaching in Matthew 5:43-48 ask you to do?

Discuss this in your small group. What are the common themes?

Read

> **Acts 2:42-46 · Matthew 5:21-48 · Luke 10:25-37 · Romans 12:9-21 · Colossians 3:14-16**
> *Read these passages in the New International Version (NIV).*

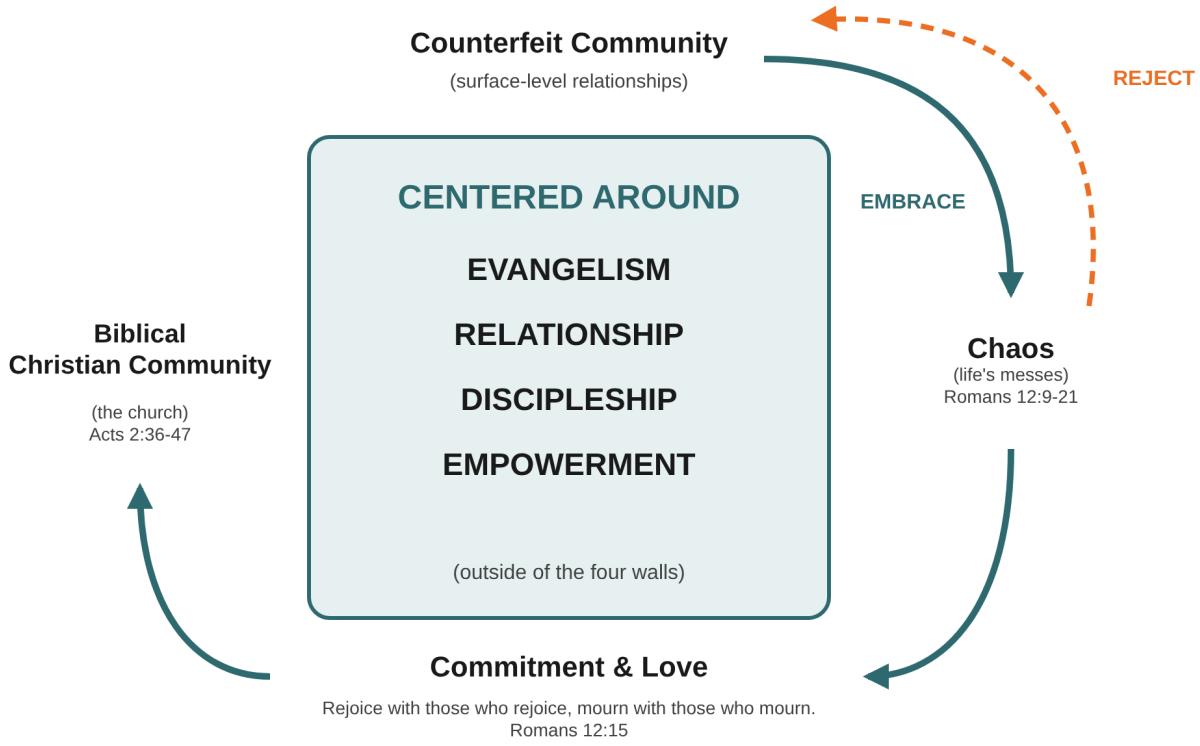
Based on these verses, how do you understand what the Bible teaches about who our community is and how we treat them?

Discuss this in your small group. What insights have you gained?

Looking at these verses, we can think of biblical Christian community as:

1. A way of life, not a weekly event.
2. Quick to reconcile and slow to judge.
3. Reaching anyone in need, like the Good Samaritan.
4. Present in our workplaces, neighborhoods, recreation, and children's schools.

Figure 2: Biblical Christian Community



Reflection

Where are you on the Biblical Christian Community cycle (Figure 2): counterfeit community, chaos, commitment and love, or biblical Christian community?

Who is your neighbor that you have passed by on the other side of the road?

Discuss this in your small group. What insights have you gained?

Something to Think On

Church leaders often speak of community, but they usually mean people inside the church. Christian community is far broader. It moves past surface-level relationships, embraces the messiness of real life (Romans 12:9-21), and commits to rejoice with those who rejoice and mourn with those who mourn (Romans 12:15). Biblical community is centered around evangelism, relationship, discipleship, and empowerment outside of the four walls.

1. How can your church better become a true Christian community?
2. How might your church better love each other, and those around you?

Self-Reflection

Take some time for yourself and answer these questions. Be honest with yourself. Answer these questions from your life perspective, not from the standpoint of having right or wrong answers.

How can your church better become a true Christian community?

How might your church better love each other, and those around you?

Apply It

Sit with or talk to someone new at school or practice this week. Pray for them by name each day.

MODULE 5 OF 9 · BOOK READING: CHAPTER 5

Module 5: Who Makes the Decisions?

Ideas, Decisions, and the Leadership Bottleneck

Churches rarely lack ideas. They lack a biblical way to process them in unity. You will chart how decisions are made in your church, see how positional power can silence the body, and look at the burden placed on pastors when they are expected to do everything.

By the end of this module you will be able to:

- Chart the decision-making structure of your church.
- Explain why not every good idea is a God idea.
- Analyze the "Plan America" leadership flow and its effect on pastors and members.

Before You Begin

Take some time to chart the leadership structure of your church.

Who makes most of the major decisions for your church (senior pastor, elders, associate pastor, board, church members)?

How much does the input of church members play a role in these decisions?

Opening Activity

In your family, school, or team, who makes the decisions? Have you ever had a good idea that no one listened to? How did it feel?

Discuss this in your small group. What are the common themes?

Read

> **1 Corinthians 12:12-27 · John 17:11 · Proverbs 15:22 · Acts 6:1-7**
> *Read these passages in the New International Version (NIV).*

Based on these verses, how should a body of believers make decisions together?

Discuss this in your small group. What insights have you gained?

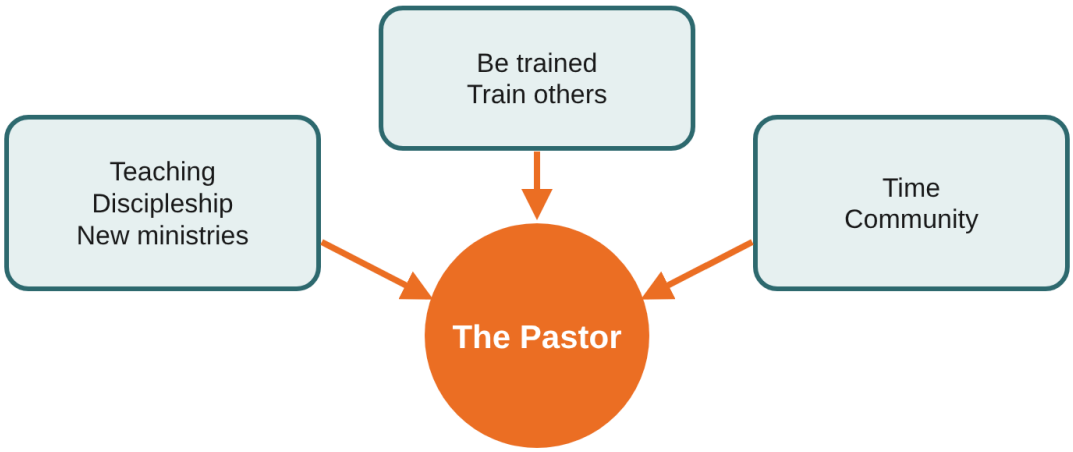
Looking at these verses, we can think of biblical decision-making as:

1. Shared by the whole body, because every part matters.

2. Pursuing unity, as Jesus prayed in John 17.
3. Wise to seek many counselors.
4. Careful to tell good ideas apart from God's ideas.

Figure 3: Church Leadership Flow

Plan America: the people's expectations



Reflection

Have you ever stayed quiet in a church meeting because you knew the decision was already made? What happened?

What load does your pastor carry that the body could share?

Discuss this in your small group. What insights have you gained?

Something to Think On

Not all good ideas are God's ideas. When ten people in a room each believe their idea came from God, a church needs a biblical way to discern together. In many churches, the answer has been positional power: an idea only moves forward if the pastor or board approves it. The people expect the pastor to be trained, preach, decide, manage crises, and care for everyone. The result is a tired pastor, a passive church, and often burnout.

1. Looking at the chart you drafted, what does your church need to change about its leadership structure?
2. How do you plan on doing this?
3. What can you change to take the load off of your pastor and leadership and better equip the whole body?

Self-Reflection

Take some time for yourself and answer these questions. Be honest with yourself. Answer these questions from your life perspective, not from the standpoint of having right or wrong answers.

Looking at the chart you drafted, what does your church need to change about its leadership structure?

How do you plan on doing this?

What can you change to take the load off of your pastor and leadership and better equip the whole body?

Apply It

Ask your youth leader or pastor how you can help with one task this week, and follow through.

MODULE 6 OF 9 · BOOK READING: CHAPTER 6

Module 6: Is the Whole Body Equipped?

A Five-Fold Structure

Jesus gave the church apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers to equip every believer for ministry. When only pastors and teachers are on the field, the team cannot win. You will look at each gift's view of the church and find where you fit.

By the end of this module you will be able to:

- Name the five gifts of Ephesians 4:11 and the purpose Paul gives for them.
- Recognize how each gift sees the church differently.
- Identify your own gift and one way to use it this month.

Before You Begin

Is your church allowing the whole body to use their gifts?

How does your church gauge maturity? How does it plan on growing in maturity?

Do you view some roles as more important than others?

Opening Activity

Think of a team or band. What happens when everyone tries to play the same position?

Discuss this in your small group. What are the common themes?

Read

> **Ephesians 4:11-16 · Romans 12:4-8 · 1 Corinthians 12:7-11 · Acts 6:1-7 · Philippians 3:10-14**
> *Read these passages in the New International Version (NIV).*

Based on these verses, why did Jesus give these gifts, and who are they meant to equip?

Discuss this in your small group. What insights have you gained?

Looking at these verses, we can think of the five-fold gifts as:

1. Given by Christ Himself, not created by the church.

2. Meant to equip the saints for works of service, not to do all the work.
3. Needed together for the church to reach unity and maturity.
4. Best used within our calling, as the apostles did in Acts 6.

Reflection

Which of the five gifts do you most relate to? How does it shape the way you see the church?

Have you judged someone for not seeing the church through your gift? What happened?

Discuss this in your small group. What insights have you gained?

Something to Think On

Each gift tends to see the church through its own lens. The apostle wonders why we build bigger churches when multiplying smaller ones works better. The prophet sees God's Word in everything. The evangelist wonders why we sit in studies while people are dying without Jesus. The pastor wonders why more people do not come. The teacher wonders why more people do not take study seriously. Like a football team, every position matters. If only pastors and teachers are on the field, the church will be unhealthy.

1. How has your local community suffered because of a lack of equipping the whole body?
2. What can your church do to better equip the whole body?

Self-Reflection

Take some time for yourself and answer these questions. Be honest with yourself. Answer these questions from your life perspective, not from the standpoint of having right or wrong answers.

How has your local community suffered because of a lack of equipping the whole body?

What can your church do to better equip the whole body?

Apply It

Ask a parent, coach, or youth leader which gift they see in you. Use it once this week to serve someone.

PRACTICE PAGE

Tool: The Five-Fold Gift Lens

Read each description. Put a check next to the one or two that sound most like you, then ask two people who know you well which one they see in you.

☐ **Apostle**

Wonders why we keep growing bigger churches when we could plant many smaller churches, because multiplication works better than addition.

☐ **Prophet**

Sees the Word of God in everything and wonders why no one else sees it, because the world is spiritual.

☐ **Evangelist**

Wonders why we spend so much time in studies and services when we could be out sharing, because people are dying without Jesus.

☐ **Pastor**

Wonders why more people do not come to gather and hear the Word, because if people do not come, how will they know?

☐ **Teacher**

Wonders why more people do not take studying the Word seriously, because people will not know if they are not taught.

Which gift sounds most like you? Why?

Which gift do the people who know you see in you?

Which gift is missing in your church or group? How could it be equipped?

MODULE 7 OF 9 · BOOK READING: CHAPTER 7

Module 7: Consumer or Producer?

The "Come and Hear" Mentality and Knowledge-Application-Sharing

We have been taught that knowledge is power, and many churches act as if believers must know enough before they can obey. Jesus said "go," not "come and hear." You will compare an immature church (high knowledge, low sharing) with a mature one (knowledge, application, and sharing in balance).

By the end of this module you will be able to:

- Contrast a consumer-minded "come and hear" church with a producer-minded "go and share" church.
- Interpret Figure 4 (Knowledge-Application-Sharing).
- Plan one way to share what you already know.

Before You Begin

How much emphasis does your church put on growing in numbers?

How important is formal education concerning your church leadership staff?

Opening Activity

Do you learn more from listening to a lesson or from doing something? Why?

Discuss this in your small group. What are the common themes?

Read

> **Matthew 28:19-20 · Mark 5:18-20 · Matthew 11:28 · Colossians 2:2-3 · 2 Peter 3:18**
> *Read these passages in the New International Version (NIV).*

Based on these verses, when did Jesus say "come" and when did He say "go"?

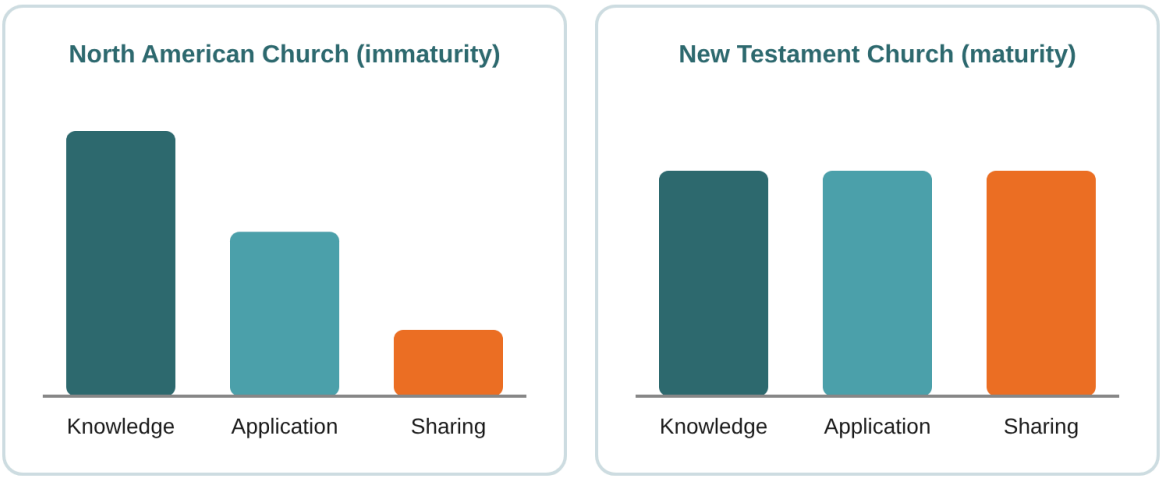
Discuss this in your small group. What insights have you gained?

Looking at these verses, we can think of a producer-minded disciple as someone who:

1. Comes to Jesus and then goes for Jesus.
2. Tells others how much the Lord has done, even without formal training.

3. Keeps growing in knowledge, but does not wait to obey.
4. Is available, not only qualified.

Figure 4: Knowledge-Application-Sharing



Reflection

Where are you on Figure 4: more knowledge than application and sharing, or in balance?

What have you been waiting to know before you obey?

Discuss this in your small group. What insights have you gained?

Something to Think On

There is never enough knowledge to be gained. If obedience waits for knowledge, it will wait forever. The man freed from demons in Mark 5 had no training and no seminary degree; Jesus simply told him to go home and tell what the Lord had done, and the whole Decapolis was amazed. God looks for available people, not only qualified ones.

1. What would your church need to change to become a producer-minded church rather than a consumer-minded church?
2. Who within your church might God want to use that you have overlooked because of a lack of formal education? How can you utilize them and their gift?

Self-Reflection

Take some time for yourself and answer these questions. Be honest with yourself. Answer these questions from your life perspective, not from the standpoint of having right or wrong answers.

What would your church need to change to become a producer-minded church rather than a consumer-minded church?

Who within your church might God want to use that you have overlooked because of a lack of formal education? How can you utilize them and their gift?

Apply It

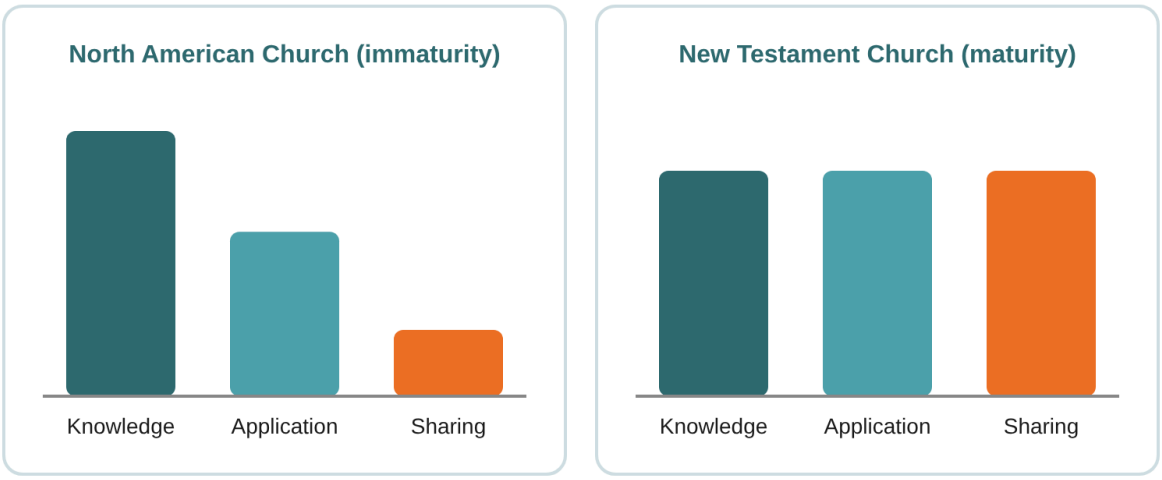
Share one thing God has done for you with a friend this week, in your own words, in under two minutes.

PRACTICE PAGE

Tool: Knowledge, Application, Sharing

Knowledge without obedience produces immature believers. Use this page with any passage you study. Knowledge is what the passage says. Application is how you will obey it. Sharing is who you will pass it on to.

Figure 4: Knowledge-Application-Sharing



Passage:

Knowledge: What does this passage say? What does it teach about God and about people?

Application: What will you do this week to obey it? Be specific.

Sharing: Who will you share this with, and when?

MODULE 8 OF 9 · BOOK READING: CHAPTER 8

Module 8: How Did the New Testament Church Grow?

Obedience, Going, and the Leadership Flow of the Bible

The New Testament church grew because believers obeyed Jesus right away and went. The gospel was preached, believers lived noticeably different lives, and God gave the increase. You will see how a whole church that is trained and training others fulfills the Great Commission together.

By the end of this module you will be able to:

- Outline the three-step pattern of New Testament church growth (Acts 2:41-47).
- Explain why delayed obedience is disobedience.
- Compare the "Plan America" and "Plan Bible" leadership flows (Figure 3).

Before You Begin

What does your church hope to produce (churchgoers, a met budget, a bigger budget, saved people, a larger staff, disciples, churches)?

How does it plan on producing those things?

Is your church producing disciples who make disciples?

Opening Activity

What is the difference between a fan and a player? Which one are you in your faith?

Discuss this in your small group. What are the common themes?

Read

> **Acts 2:41-47 · Matthew 4:19 · Luke 14:25-33 · Mark 5:18-20 · Luke 11:28 · John 14:15 · Acts 5:29 · James 1:22-25**
> *Read these passages in the New International Version (NIV).*

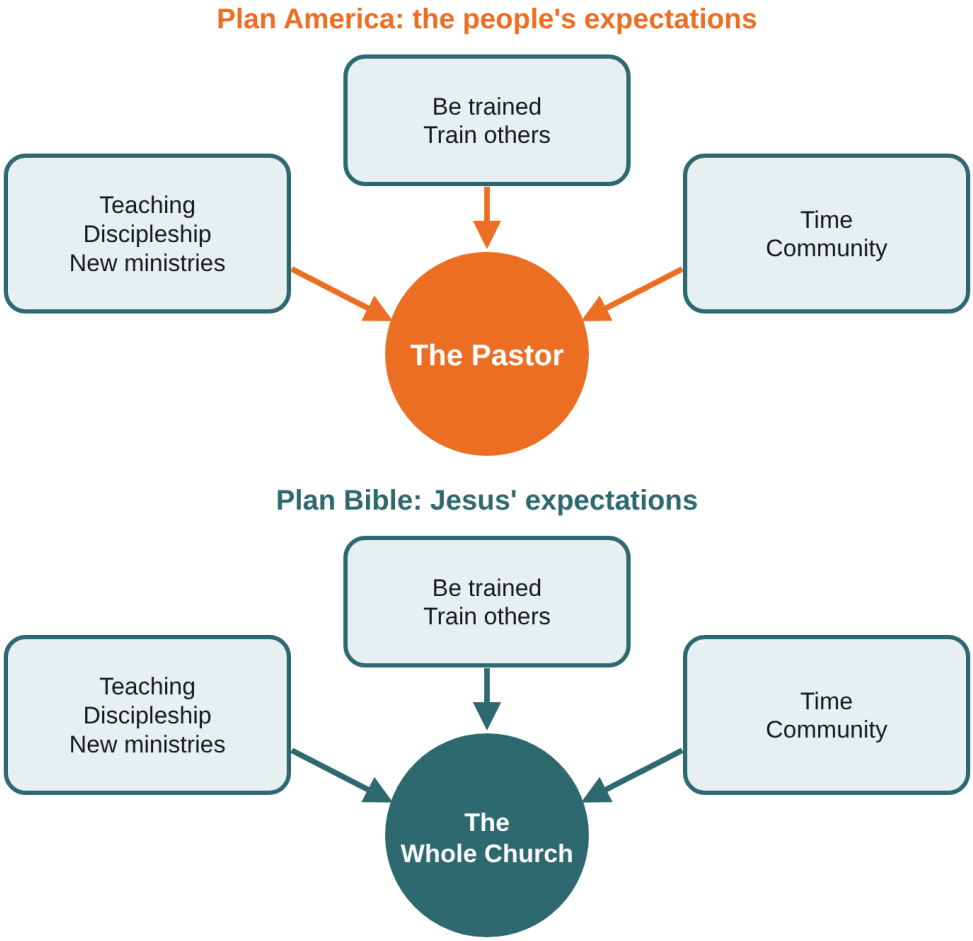
Based on these verses, how did the New Testament church grow, and what did Jesus expect of those who followed Him?

Discuss this in your small group. What insights have you gained?

Looking at Acts 2:41-47, we can think of New Testament church growth in three steps:

1. The gospel was preached, in public spaces and in homes (Acts 2:41).
2. Followers of Jesus lived a noticeably different lifestyle (Acts 2:42-46).
3. God caused the increase (Acts 2:47).

Figure 3: Church Leadership Flow



Reflection

Is there something God has asked you to do that you have delayed? What is holding you back?

How many people do you know personally in your church, other than staff, who regularly share the gospel and lead people to faith?

Discuss this in your small group. What insights have you gained?

Something to Think On

Delayed obedience is disobedience. The first disciples counted the cost and followed Jesus immediately, and the world was changed forever. In the leadership flow of the Bible, elders expect the people to get trained, train others, teach, help make decisions, and build community through relationships. The whole church, not only the pastor, is responsible for evangelism, making disciples, teaching, member care, and fulfilling the Great Commission. The result is more family time, disciples who make disciples, the lost reached, and healthy, multiplying churches.

1. What could it look like if your church stopped inviting non-believers to the church service and expected the church to reach them outside of the gathering?
2. What can your church do to decentralize and become known for followers of Jesus living every day to reflect Him and reach people for Him?

Self-Reflection

Take some time for yourself and answer these questions. Be honest with yourself. Answer these questions from your life perspective, not from the standpoint of having right or wrong answers.

What could it look like if your church stopped inviting non-believers to the church service and expected the church to reach them outside of the gathering?

What can your church do to decentralize and become known for followers of Jesus living every day to reflect Him and reach people for Him?

Apply It

Pick one thing you know God wants you to do (forgive someone, share your faith, serve) and do it before the next session.

MODULE 9 OF 9 · BOOK READING: CHAPTER 9 AND APPENDIX

Module 9: What Happens When the Church Gathers?

Simple, Regional, and Whole-Body Gatherings

The gathering is not the goal; it is the natural result of disciples multiplying. In this final module you will look at how the New Testament church gathered in homes, how simple churches multiply into regional and whole-body gatherings, how ministries, buildings, and leadership change, and what God is asking you to do next.

By the end of this module you will be able to:

- Distinguish the church (all believers) from a church (a local gathering).
- Explain the Church Gathering Flow (Figure 1): simple, regional, and whole-body church.
- Create a personal plan for your next steps.

Before You Begin

So far, what are the structural elements that have been highlighted for change within your church?

Opening Activity

If you could meet with Christian friends anywhere for church this week (not a church building), where would it be and what would you do?

Discuss this in your small group. What are the common themes?

Read

> **Matthew 18:20 · Acts 2:42-47 · Acts 5:42 · Acts 20:20 · Romans 16:5 · 1 Corinthians 14:26 · Hebrews 10:24-25 · Ephesians 2:10**
> *Read these passages in the New International Version (NIV).*

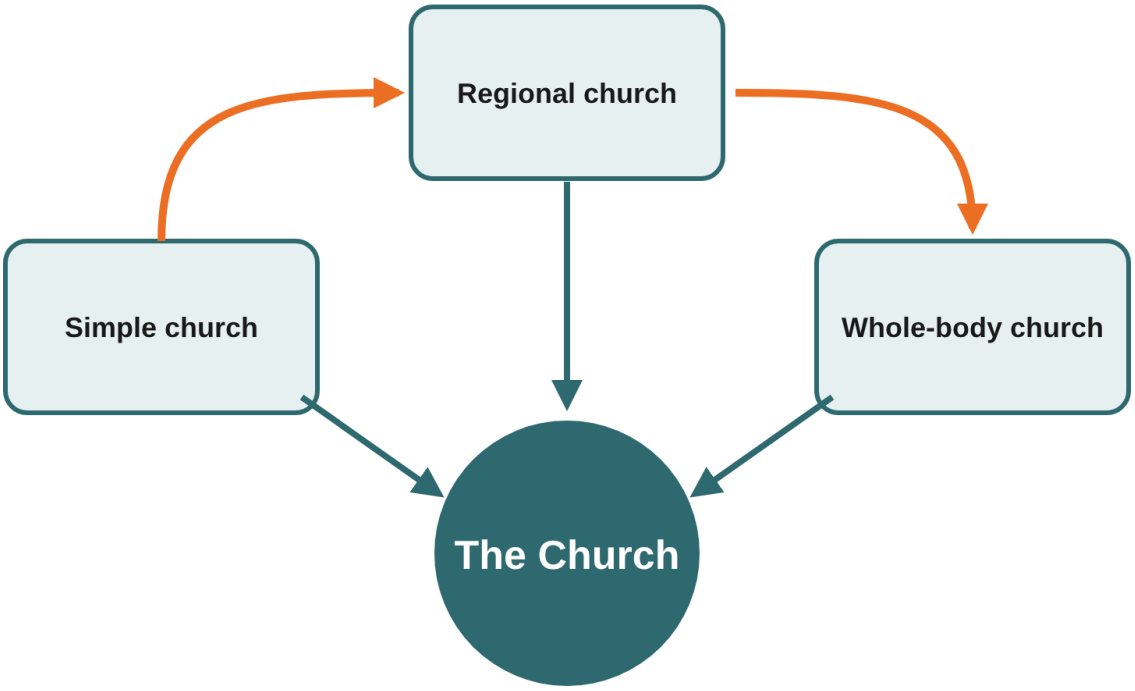
Based on these verses, why did the early church gather, and where did it meet?

Discuss this in your small group. What insights have you gained?

Looking at these verses, we can think of the church gathering as:

1. A result of believers' relationship with God and each other, not the goal.
2. Mostly simple and small: homes, public spaces, and one-on-one encounters.
3. Meant to encourage and equip believers to go out and make disciples.
4. Growing from simple churches to regional and whole-body gatherings that celebrate what God is doing.

Figure 1: Church Gathering Flow



Reflection

What has God been speaking to you through this course?

Are you prepared to change? What is the first change you will make?

Discuss this in your small group. What insights have you gained?

Something to Think On

The gathering is first for believers, to encourage and equip them to go. Unbelievers may come and meet God there (1 Corinthians 14:24-25), but the gathering is not the church's plan for reaching them. As simple gatherings multiply, they come together as a regional church, and less often as a whole-body church to celebrate what God is doing. Ministries can begin with any obedient believer, buildings become optional, and leadership rests on the five-fold gifts. Do not take the author's word for it. Dig into God's Word, seek the Holy Spirit, and ask Him to show you the truth. He will speak.

1. Are you prepared to change?
2. What has God been speaking to you?
3. How do you plan on applying it?

Self-Reflection

Take some time for yourself and answer these questions. Be honest with yourself. Answer these questions from your life perspective, not from the standpoint of having right or wrong answers.

Are you prepared to change?

What has God been speaking to you?

How do you plan on applying it?

Apply It

Plan one simple gathering with two or three friends: read a passage, pray, and share a meal or snack. Ask a parent or youth leader to help.

PRACTICE PAGE

Tool: Five-Fold Roles in a Gathering

In a New Testament gathering, every gift has a role. Read the roles below, then think about the gatherings you are part of.

Pastor

- Focus on caring for the whole-body church
- One-on-one discipleship
- Teaching, preaching, and special teachings
- Pastoral care needs

Teacher

- Teach at all gatherings as needed
- Teach Scripture, not a "lesson" or "series"
- Teach how to apply Scripture practically

Evangelist

- Regularly evangelize and hold evangelistic meetings
- Teach evangelism to the church by teaching, modeling, and assisting
- Create evangelism outlets for the simple, regional, and whole-body church

Prophet

- Speak into gatherings concerning a prophetic word
- Serve as a buffer for less mature prophets
- Teach about prophecy and what it means today

Apostle

- Begin new works (simple churches or individual ministries)
- Teach the church how to begin new works
- Help begin new regional and whole-body gatherings

Which role fits the way God has gifted you?

Which role is missing in the gatherings you attend? What could you do about it?

FINAL ASSIGNMENT

Final Assignment: My Next Steps Plan

Over nine modules you have looked honestly at the church you know and the church Jesus built. This plan brings it together into steps you will actually take. Answer from your life perspective, not from the standpoint of having right or wrong answers. Be honest with yourself.

Name:

Date:

Part 1: What I Saw · Modules 1-3

In your own words, explain "the structure demands the outcome." Give one example from your experience.

What fruit do you want your life and your church to produce?

Part 2: My Community · Modules 4-5

Where are you on the Biblical Christian Community cycle today? What is your next step toward commitment and love?

Name two or three people (first names or initials) you are praying for and reaching outside the four walls.

Part 3: My Gift · Modules 6-7

Which of the five gifts do others see in you? How will you use it in the next 30 days?

Where are you on Knowledge-Application-Sharing? What one truth will you apply and share this month?

Part 4: My Gathering · Modules 8-9

What has God asked you to obey that you have delayed? When will you do it?

Describe a simple gathering you could start or join: who, where, when, and what you will do.

Part 5: My Prayer · All modules

Write a short prayer asking the Holy Spirit to lead your next steps.

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