
Study 7

What is the purpose of the church?

Get Talking

1. According to author Mack Stiles, to share the gospel with others, we need to be 1) motivated, 2) equipped and 3) available. Why are each important? How do we struggle with each of these?

READ Acts 1:1-11

2. What does 1:1 tell us about Jesus' work in this world?
3. What moment brought about a new stage in God's story (1:2)?
4. How did Jesus prepare the ground for this new chapter and equip those that he left behind (1:3-5)?
5. How does all of this relate to the idea of the Kingdom of God? (See 1:3, 6) What is God's Kingdom? Why does it matter?
6. How does Jesus readjust the expectations of the disciples when it comes to his Kingdom (1:6-8)? What task does give to his people?

7. What do you think it means to be Jesus' witnesses? How would that look?

8. Read a similar account in Matthew 28:16-20. What is the basis for the commission that Jesus gives his disciples (v18)? Why is this important?

9. What is the main command in this section? What else has to happen?

10. This is a tough job to be given. What assurance does Jesus give us? What difference does this make?

11. In an average week, you probably interact with more people than you realise who aren't following Jesus. Jot down the names of those you see fairly regularly under each of the following headings.
 - a. Family

 - b. Neighbourhood

 - c. Work

 - d. Social contacts

 - e. Others (sport, hobbies, committees, shop-keepers, etc.)

12. Which of these could you a) commit to praying for, b) try to connect with (e.g. have over for a meal), c) invite to church?