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# Study 2

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## What is Church all about?

### Get Talking

1. What are some of the views that people have when they hear the word “church” today?
2. What lasting impacts (good or bad) do you think the COVID pandemic might have had on how people think about church?

### Investigate – The Origin of the Church

3. Read Exodus 19:1-6. Describe what’s going on. Who is there? How did they get there? Why are they there?
4. Why is this such a significant moment in the story of the bible? How does it relate to God’s original design for his world?
5. The bible looks back at this moment as “the day of the assembly” (literally: “the day of the church”) e.g. Dt. 4:10; 9:10; 10:4 and 18:16 (also see Acts 7:38). If this is the birth place of the church, what we do we learn about the essence of church from this scene?
6. Read a bit further in Exodus 19:9-22. What was it like being there at that “church”? Why? (See also 20:18-19)

## Investigate – The Wonder of the Church

7. Read Hebrews 12:18-24. What is the writer talking about here? What contrast is being made?
  
8. The contrast (v22-24) with that first mountain gathering couldn't be more striking. What is this second gathering like?
  
9. When is all of this happening? Why do you say so?
  
10. Who are these people gathered around? Why are they able to be so joyful?
  
11. If this is true of God's people whenever they gather, how should it change the way we see our own church gatherings?

## Investigate – The Response of the Church

12. Read Hebrews 12:25-29. What is the right response once we understand the significance of the gathered church?
  
13. How should all of this shape our own worship (see v28-29)? How might this look in practical terms? What would it look like to worship God with a sense of his awesomeness?