

THIS IS THE CHURCH



JOSHUA DIGGS

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WELCOME TO THIS IS THE CHURCH

I'm so glad you're here. Whether you've been walking with Jesus for years or you're just getting started, this series is going to build your faith and remind you what it really means to be the Church.

Over the next few weeks, we're going to discover that the Church isn't a place you go, it's a people you become. We'll see that God doesn't just move in the Church. He moves through it. And when you realize that you are part of His plan, everything changes.

Inside these pages, you'll find sermon notes to capture what God is teaching you, group discussion guides to grow deeper in community, and a 36-day devotional and Bible reading plan to keep your heart burning between Sundays.

Lean in. Take notes. Expect God to move.

Because when the Church comes alive, cities change, families heal, and Jesus' name is praised.

I'm thrilled to be on this journey with you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joshua Diggs". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joshua" being more prominent than the last name "Diggs".

Joshua Diggs
Teaching Minister

HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF “THIS IS THE CHURCH”

SUNDAY TEACHING

Commit to attend worship every Sunday at 9AM or 11:15AM during the series. Bring this eBook with you to fill in your blanks.

SMALL GROUP

Join your small group each week (or start a new one) to discuss what God is showing you and how to put it into practice.

BIBLE JOURNAL DAILY

Take 10-minutes every Monday-Saturday to read through the 36-day (6 days per week) Bible reading plan. Use the S.O.A.P. Method to get the most out of it.

6 BIBLE STUDY TIPS

01. Schedule your reading. Pick a time and distraction-free place to be with God every day.

02. Pray before you read. Ask God to reveal his truths as you read.

03. Read with a Bible concordance. A Bible concordance is a list of Biblical words sorted alphabetically, with scriptures that include that word.

We recommend “The New Strong’s Expanded Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible”

04. Read with a Bible commentary. Commentary Bibles allow us to gain a Bible scholar’s perspective on the scripture you are reading.

We recommend the “New Bible Commentary, 21st Century Edition” Edited By: Gordon J. Wenham, J.A. Motyer, D.A. Carson, R.T. France

05. Read with a friend. Read with someone that will hold you accountable to your daily reading.

06. Share what you are learning. Don’t just read it! Share how God’s word is speaking to you!

HOW TO S.O.A.P.

Items needed for each day:

1. Bible
2. Pencil
3. Journal

Which verse stood out to you?

S - SCRIPTURE

Open your Bible to your reading for the day. Take time reading and allow God to speak to you. When you are done, look for a verse that particularly spoke to you that day, and write it in your journal.

What is God saying to you?

O - OBSERVATION

What do you feel God is saying to you in this scripture? Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and reveal Jesus to you.

How can you apply it today?

A - APPLICATION

Personalize what you have read, by asking yourself how it applies to your life right now. Perhaps it is instruction, encouragement, a new promise, or corrections for a particular area of your life. Write how this scripture can apply to you today.

Ask God to help you use what you've learned.

P - PRAYER

This can be as simple as asking God to help you use this scripture, or even a prayer for a greater insight on what He may be revealing to you. Remember, prayer is a two-way conversation, so be sure to listen to what God has to say! Now, write it out.

**THE CHURCH IS THE
ASSEMBLY OF ALL
BELIEVERS AMONG
WHOM THE WORD
OF GOD IS PURELY
PREACHED AND THE
SACRAMENTS RIGHTLY
ADMINISTERED.**

JOHN CALVIN

**French Reformer and Theologian
1509–1564 AD**

WEEK 01

A BLUEPRINT



PT. 1: A BLUEPRINT

SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 16:13-18, When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴ They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵ “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷ Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

- The church is not a _____. The church is a _____.
- Ekklesia = “called-out assembly.”
- The church is the community of all true believers for all time.

THE 3 PURPOSES OF THE CHURCH

1. Minister to _____
 - Psalm 34:3 and John 4:23–24
2. Minister to _____
 - Acts 2:42; Ephesians 4:11–13; Hebrews 4:12
3. Missionize the _____
 - Matthew 28:18–20; 2 Corinthians 5:20; Matthew 5:14–16

THE BLUEPRINT: 5 TAKEAWAYS FROM MATTHEW 16:15–18

1. The church is built on _____ Jesus as Lord.
 - “*You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.*” (v.16)
 - The foundation of the church is a personal confession of Christ.
 - Observations: _____

2. The church _____ to Jesus.
 - “*...my church.*” (v.18)
 - The church is not the pastor’s, preacher’s or the people’s. It’s His.
 - Observations: _____

3. The church is _____ by Jesus.
 - “*I will build...*” (v.18)
 - Programs don’t build the church. Jesus does.
 - Observations: _____

4. The church will _____.
 - “*...will build...*” (v.18)
 - He is both the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. (Heb. 12:2)
 - Observations: _____

5. The church is an _____ force.
 - “*The gates of hell will not prevail.*” (v.18)
 - Gates are defensive. Hell is on the run when the church advances.
 - Observations: _____

PT. 1: A BLUEPRINT

THEME:

The church is not a place; it's a people living out God's mission. Wherever believers go, whether in the home, workplace, school, or community, the church is present and active.

SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 16:13–18



ICE-BREAKER

1. What's the most challenging set of instructions or "assembly required" project you've tried to follow? Did you stick to the blueprint or improvise?
2. Imagine you're starting a brand-new sports team or organization. What's the very first "foundational principle" you would include in the blueprint?



REFLECT (Read Matthew 16:13–18 together)

3. Jesus said, "I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it." (Matthew 16:18) What does this reveal about who builds the church and what its foundation is?
4. In Matthew 16, Jesus first asks, "Who do people say I am?" then, "Who do you say I am?" Why do you think Jesus ties Peter's confession of faith directly to the foundation of the church? (Matthew 16:13–17)
5. Why is it important to see the church as people, not just a place we go? How does this truth change the way you view everyday areas of life like work, family, school, and even politics? (1 Cor. 3:16–17; Eph. 2:19–22)

6. Jesus, not us, is the builder of the church. How does this truth give you confidence when you see the flaws, failures, or pressures facing the church today? (Matthew 16:18; 1 Corinthians 3:11)



TAKE ACTION

7. If the “blueprint” of the church begins with confessing Jesus as Lord, how are you personally deepening that confession in your daily life right now? (Romans 10:9; Philippians 2:11; Matthew 16:16)
8. Since you are the church, what area of your life, whether marriage, work, parenting, friendships, hobbies, or civic life, needs to better reflect Jesus this week? (Colossians 3:17; Matthew 5:14–16)
9. One purpose of the church is ministry to God through worship. How does prioritizing worship personally and corporately keep the church aligned with Jesus’ blueprint? (Psalm 95:6; John 4:23–24)
10. The other purposes are ministry to believers and ministry to the world. What’s one way you can encourage another believer this week, and one way you can show Jesus to someone far from God? (Hebrews 10:24–25; Matthew 28:19–20)



CLOSING CHALLENGES

- **Practice:** Each day this week, pray Matthew 16:18 over your life and church: “Jesus, build Your church here, and let hell’s gates not prevail.”
- **Prayer:** Pray for unity and boldness in your group and church family, that you would not just do church but be the church Jesus designed, everywhere you live, work, and go.

DAY 01

ACTS 1:1-26

Acts begins with expectation and preparation.

The risen Jesus gathers His disciples and tells them to wait in Jerusalem until they are clothed with power from on high. He reminds them that the Holy Spirit will come, and when He does, they will become His witnesses to the ends of the earth. This is not simply a mission strategy, but a spiritual reality. The power of the Spirit is the fuel of the Church.

Before Jesus ascends, He anchors their purpose in His promise. Waiting is hard for people who want to do something for God, yet Jesus makes it clear that they cannot do anything apart from Him. The disciples spend the days between His ascension and Pentecost in unified prayer, seeking God together.

This passage reminds us that every great move of God begins with waiting on God. Strength and strategy will fail without His Spirit. Take time today to pray and wait before the Lord. Ask Him to fill you with His Spirit again so that your witness flows from His power, not your effort.

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

DAY 02

ACTS 2:1-41

On the day of Pentecost, the waiting ends and the fire begins. The Holy Spirit fills the believers, empowering them to speak the languages of the nations gathered in Jerusalem. Peter, the same man who once denied Jesus, now preaches with courage and clarity that Jesus is both Lord and Messiah. Three thousand people believe and are baptized that day.

The Spirit's coming fulfills the promise of Joel: God pouring out His Spirit on all people. The Church is born not by human design but by divine breath. This is the beginning of a new era in salvation history. The same Spirit who filled the upper room still fills believers today, transforming fear into boldness.

Invite the Spirit to work afresh in your life. Ask Him to give you courage to speak of Jesus, compassion to reach the lost, and conviction to live holy. The same power that raised Christ now dwells in you.

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

DAY 03

ACTS 2:42-47; ACTS 3:1-26

The first believers live in a rhythm of devotion, fellowship, generosity, and worship. They meet daily, share what they have, and rejoice in God's presence. This new community embodies the gospel. When Peter and John heal a lame man at the temple gate, the miracle opens a door for the gospel to be proclaimed again.

Peter declares that the healing points to Jesus, the Author of life whom God raised from the dead. The early Church's power did not come from programs or personalities but from the presence of God. Their love for one another gave credibility to their message.

The world still needs to see that kind of community. Ask God to make your life a place where His presence dwells and His power is displayed. Look for opportunities to bless, to serve, and to pray for those in need.

A Spirit-filled church is not only a believing community but also a healing community.

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

DAY 04

ACTS 4:1-37

Opposition arises quickly. Peter and John are arrested for proclaiming Jesus after the healing of the lame man. Yet when they stand before the Sanhedrin, they speak with confidence, declaring that there is salvation in no other name but Jesus. The same men who once hid in fear now stand fearless before the most powerful authorities in their nation.

After their release, the believers gather to pray. They do not ask God to remove the persecution but to grant them boldness. As they pray, the place is shaken, and they are filled again with the Holy Spirit. The Church becomes even more united and generous. No one claims possessions as their own; they share freely, and God's grace is powerfully at work among them.

This chapter shows that courage and generosity flow from the same Spirit. When we stop clinging to fear and possessions, we become vessels through which God moves. Ask God for a renewed heart that chooses bold obedience over comfort and unity over control.

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

DAY 05

ACTS 5:1-42

The story of Ananias and Sapphira is sobering. They lie about their offering and fall dead in the presence of the apostles. The fear of God fills the whole church. This moment reveals that the Holy Spirit is not a feeling to be manipulated but a Person to be revered. Holiness matters to God.

Even as reverent fear grips the church, miracles and growth continue. The apostles are arrested and beaten but rejoice that they are counted worthy to suffer for the name of Jesus. Opposition cannot silence them. They keep preaching Christ both publicly and in homes, and the gospel spreads with unstoppable force.

This passage holds two truths in tension: the fear of God and the joy of obedience. The Spirit who empowers also purifies. Pray for a heart that trembles at His holiness and rejoices in His grace. Ask God to give you joy in suffering, knowing that every trial for Christ is an honor before heaven.

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

DAY 06

ACTS 6:1-15

As the church grows, practical problems appear. Widows are being overlooked in daily food distribution. The apostles respond by appointing seven men full of the Spirit and wisdom to serve. Among them is Stephen, whose character and faith stand out. The Word of God continues to spread because the work is shared.

Stephen's life models what it means to be both a servant and a witness. He does not seek a platform; he seeks faithfulness. His ministry draws attention, and soon opposition arises. Yet those who argue with him cannot stand against the wisdom and Spirit by which he speaks. His face shines with the radiance of heaven.

God delights to fill ordinary servants with extraordinary grace. Whatever your role, do it with excellence and humility. True greatness in God's kingdom is not about being seen but about being Spirit-filled. Ask Him to make you faithful where you serve and fearless when you speak.

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

WE ARE COMMANDED TO
HAVE ONLY ONE ENEMY,
THE DEVIL. WITH HIM
NEVER BE RECONCILED!
BUT WITH A BROTHER,
NEVER BE AT ENMITY
IN YOUR HEART.”

JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

Patriarch of Constantinople

347–407 AD

WEEK 02

A BRIDE



PT. 2: A BRIDE

SCRIPTURE:

Ephesians 5:25–33, ²⁵ *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her* ²⁶ *to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word,* ²⁷ *and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.* ²⁸ *In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.* ²⁹ *After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church—* ³⁰ *for we are members of his body.* ³¹ *“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”* ³² *This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.* ³³ *However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.*

WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

- The church is not a _____. It is the _____ of Christ.
- You can’t love _____ and not love His _____.

WHY THE BIBLE CALLS THE CHURCH A BRIDE

1. _____ (Ephesians 5:31-32)

- Out of all the metaphors, God chose a marriage picture.
- Intimacy = “_____”
- Observations: _____

2. _____

- *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church...* (Ephesians 5:25)
- Observations: _____

3.

- *Just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.* (Ephesians 5:25)

- Observations: _____

4.

- *To make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church...* (Ephesians 5:26-27)

- *The bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.* (Revelation 19:7-8)

- Observations: _____

5.

- *The two will become one flesh.* (Ephesians 5:31)

- Marriage is a picture of Christ's union with His bride, the Church.

- Observations: _____

OTHER NOTES

PT. 2: A BRIDE

THEME:

The church isn't a place; it's a people deeply loved by Jesus. As His bride, the church is called to live in intimacy with Christ, to be made holy by Him, and to reflect His love in every part of life.

SCRIPTURE:

Ephesians 5:25–33



ICE-BREAKER

1. Weddings are full of memorable moments. What's one funny or touching moment you've seen at a wedding that you'll never forget?
2. If you had to describe the church as a "bride" in one word (adjective), what would it be and why?



REFLECT (Read Ephesians 5:25–33 together)

3. Paul compares the love of Christ for His church to a husband's sacrificial love for his wife. What does this reveal about the depth of Jesus' commitment to His people? (Ephesians 5:25)
4. Paul says Christ washes and presents the church as radiant, without blemish. What does this teach us about God's role in making us holy versus our role in pursuing holiness? (Eph. 5:26–27; Phil. 1:6)
5. How does understanding the church as Christ's bride—not a building—shape the way you think about your personal relationship with Jesus and your place in His family? (Ephesians 5:29–30; 2 Corinthians 11:2)

6. Intimacy in marriage is built on trust. What does it look like for Christians to live in intimate trust with Christ? How does this challenge the way we often “do church”? (Ephesians 5:31–32; John 15:4–5)



TAKE ACTION

7. Christ’s love for His bride is sacrificial. What’s one area of your life where you sense God calling you to lay something down so you can love Him more fully? (Ephesians 5:25; Luke 9:23)
8. Since you are part of Christ’s bride, how should your identity as His beloved shape the way you approach everyday life—marriage, family, work, friendships, and beyond? (Colossians 3:17; 1 Peter 2:9–10)
9. A bride’s devotion is meant to be undivided. What competes for your loyalty to Jesus, and how can you guard your heart against spiritual unfaithfulness? (James 4:4; 2 Corinthians 11:2–3)
10. Paul says husbands should love their wives as Christ loves the church. How can the church, as Christ’s bride, reflect His love in a world that often misunderstands or rejects Him? (Eph. 5:28–29; John 13:34–35)



CLOSING CHALLENGES

- **Practice:** Each day this week, spend time in prayer reflecting on Christ’s sacrificial love for His bride. Ask Him to show you one way you can reflect that love to others.
- **Prayer:** Pray that the church would live as Christ’s radiant bride—holy, unified, and bold in showing His love to the world.

DAY 07

ACTS 7:1-60

Stephen recounts Israel's long history of resisting God's messengers, from Abraham to Moses and finally to Jesus Himself. His words pierce the hearts of his accusers, and in their rage they stone him to death. Yet as he dies, Stephen sees heaven opened and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. Even in death, he prays for his killers to be forgiven.

Stephen's martyrdom marks the first shedding of blood for Christ, but it is not the end of the story. His courage becomes the seed of a missionary movement. Saul, who watches approvingly, will soon become the Church's greatest missionary.

Faithfulness to Jesus will cost you, but the Spirit's presence will sustain you. Pray that Jesus would become so real to you that, like Stephen, your life would be marked by courage and grace. Ask God to help you live so filled with His Spirit that even your suffering points others to the Savior who stands ready to receive you.

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

DAY 08

ACTS 8:1-40

Persecution scatters the believers, but the gospel goes further than ever. Philip preaches Christ in Samaria, and joy fills the city as people are healed and delivered. Later, the Spirit leads him to a desert road where he meets an Ethiopian official reading Isaiah. Philip explains the Scriptures, and the man believes and is baptized.

God's Spirit is never limited by geography. From the bustling streets of Samaria to the quiet desert road, He directs His people to those ready to hear. Philip's obedience shows that every believer can be a missionary when they listen to the Spirit's promptings.

Pray today for sensitivity to God's leading. Ask Him to open your eyes to the people around you who are searching for truth. The same Spirit who guided Philip still guides His church today.

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

DAY 09

ACTS 9:1-43

Saul, breathing threats and violence, sets out to destroy the followers of Jesus. On the road to Damascus, he encounters the risen Lord. The light blinds him, but grace opens his eyes.

Paul becomes a new man with a new mission.

Ananias, though fearful, obeys God's command to go and pray for Saul. His obedience helps birth one of the most powerful ministries in history. Meanwhile, Peter continues preaching, healing the sick, and raising the dead. The gospel spreads with unstoppable momentum.

This chapter reminds us that no one is beyond the reach of grace. Pray for those who seem far from God, and ask Him to remind you that your own story is also one of undeserved mercy.

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

DAY 10

ACTS 10:1-48

Cornelius, a Roman centurion, is devout and generous, yet still needs the gospel. God sends an angel to him and a vision to Peter, revealing that salvation is for every nation. When Peter preaches Jesus, the Holy Spirit falls on all who hear.

This moment changes everything. The gospel crosses the boundary between Jew and Gentile, showing that God does not show favoritism. The Spirit confirms that all who believe are welcomed into His family.

Pray that your heart would reflect God's heart for all people. Ask Him to destroy prejudice, pride, or comfort that keeps you from reaching others. The gospel is for everyone, everywhere.

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

DAY 11

ACTS 11:1-30

Peter returns to Jerusalem and explains how God's Spirit fell on Gentiles. The church rejoices, realizing that God is building one new family through faith in Jesus. Meanwhile, in Antioch, the gospel spreads rapidly. Believers are first called Christians there, known for their faith and generosity.

The church in Antioch becomes a model of mission and unity. Jews and Gentiles worship together, learn together, and give sacrificially to others in need. Their example shows that healthy churches are generous churches.

Ask God to make your life and your church a reflection of Antioch. Pray for open hearts, generous hands, and a reputation for Christlike love.

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

DAY 12

ACTS 12:1-25

Herod arrests Peter and kills James, hoping to stop the movement. But the church prays earnestly, and God sends an angel to deliver Peter from prison. Even as guards sleep and chains fall off, the believers can hardly believe the miracle when he arrives at their door.

Herod's pride ends in judgment, but God's word continues to increase. This story reminds us that prayer moves heaven and heaven moves earth. God listens when His people pray with faith.

Today, bring your impossible situation before God. Ask Him to move in ways that only He can, and then give Him glory for the outcome.

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

IF WE HAVE BEEN
BORN AGAIN INTO
GOD'S FAMILY...
EVERY OTHER
CHRISTIAN...
IN THE WORLD...
HAS BECOME OUR
BROTHER OR SISTER
IN CHRIST.

JOHN SCOTT

Scottish Theologian & Minister
1807–1892 AD

WEEK 03

A BODY



PT. 3: A BODY

SCRIPTURE:

Ephesians 1:22-23, *And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church,²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.*

WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

- The _____ is a body.
- _____ is the head.
- _____ are part of His body.

THE CHURCH IS A BODY BECAUSE... (1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-27)

1. Every part has a _____. (1 Cor. 12:12-20)
 - Greek: Doulos “slave / servant” & Diakonos “table-server”
 - How to discover your purpose: _____.
 - Observations: _____
2. Every part is _____. (1 Cor. 12:21-26)
 - We honor the unknown.
 - If one part suffers, all suffer; if one part is honored, all rejoice.
 - Observations: _____

3. Every part is _____. (1 Cor. 12:26)
- Offense and unforgiveness divide; forgive is essential in the Body.
 - Observations: _____

4. Every part _____ to Jesus. (1 Cor. 12:27)
- *You are the body of Christ... and each one of you is a part of it. (1 Corinthians 12:27)*
 - *¹⁵ The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. (Colossians 1:15-18)*
 - Observations: _____

IN CHRIST...

- We receive grace in Christ. (1 Corinthians 1:4)
- Our redemption is in Christ. (Romans 3:24)
- We are justified in Christ. (Galatians 2:17)
- We have forgiveness of sins in Christ. (Ephesians 4:32)
- There is no condemnation in Christ. (Romans 8:1)
- We are a new creation in Christ. (2 Corinthians 5:17)
- We have eternal life in Christ. (Romans 6:23)
- God supplies all our needs in Christ. (Philippians 4:19)
- We have every spiritual blessing of heaven in Christ. (Ephesians 1:3)
- We will be presented to God, perfect in Christ. (Colossians 1:28)
- We cannot be separated from the love of God in Christ. (Romans 8:38-39)

PT. 3: A BODY

THEME:

The church isn't a place; it's a people joined together as the body of Christ. Every member has a role to play, and when each part is healthy and active, the body grows strong and reflects Jesus to the world.

SCRIPTURE:

1 Corinthians 12:12-27



ICE-BREAKER

1. What's a time you injured a part of your body and realized how much you relied on it?
2. If you could pick a body part to symbolize your role in church, what would it be and why?



REFLECT (Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-17 together)

3. Paul says, "Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ." (1 Corinthians 12:12) What does this reveal about the way God designed His church?
4. Why do you think Paul compares the church to a body rather than another structure or group? What does this teach us about interdependence and unity? (1 Corinthians 12:14-20; Romans 12:4-5)
5. What changes when you see the church not as a Sunday gathering, but as people working together as Christ's body every day? (Ephesians 4:15-16; Colossians 1:18)

6. Paul reminds us that “God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.” How does this truth encourage you about your place and purpose in the church? (1 Corinthians 12:18; Psalm 139:13–16)



TAKE ACTION

7. What role or gift has God given you in His body, and how are you using it to serve others? (1 Peter 4:10–11; 1 Corinthians 12:7)
8. How can you carry your role as part of Christ’s body into your everyday life such as work, family, school, friendships, or community involvement? (Colossians 3:17; Matthew 5:16)
9. What challenges can arise when people with different gifts, personalities, or backgrounds work together in the body? How can we overcome those challenges? (1 Corinthians 12:21–26; Ephesians 4:2–3)
10. If your group or church fully embraced the picture of being Christ’s body, how would that impact your community’s experience of Jesus? (John 13:34–35; Ephesians 4:11–13)



CLOSING CHALLENGES

- **Practice:** Identify one person in your church body you can intentionally encourage or support this week.
- **Prayer:** Pray for unity in diversity within the church. Ask God to help each person use their gifts so that the whole body grows strong and reflects Christ.

DAY 13

ACTS 13:1-52

It starts in a room filled with worship. The believers in Antioch are fasting, praying, and waiting on God when the Holy Spirit speaks: “Set apart Barnabas and Saul for the work I have called them to.” Before there is a mission, there is a moment. Before there is a movement, there is a meeting with God.

Paul and Barnabas step out with nothing but faith and the fire of the Spirit. They preach Jesus as the promised Messiah, and the city shakes with salvation and opposition. Some believe. Others resist. Yet rejection cannot stop the mission because God keeps sending those who keep saying yes.

God still calls ordinary people in ordinary rooms to do extraordinary things. If you want to see God move, start where they did - in worship, in fasting, in surrender. Do not wait until you feel ready. Obedience is what opens the door for power. When you say yes to God, heaven starts moving through you.

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

DAY 14

ACTS 14:1-28

Paul and Barnabas travel from city to city, preaching with boldness, performing miracles, and stirring up both faith and fury. Crowds try to worship them one moment and stone them the next. The same crowd that praises you can turn on you, but God remains constant.

After surviving a brutal stoning, Paul gets up and keeps going. He and Barnabas strengthen new believers and remind them, “We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God.” They don’t sugarcoat the gospel. They show that following Jesus is costly but worth it.

This story reminds us that faith isn’t fragile. You can’t stop someone who’s already surrendered. Pain isn’t proof that you are off course. It may be proof that you are exactly where God wants you. Ask God to remind you not to give up. The same Spirit that raised Jesus gives you strength to keep going when others quit.

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

DAY 15

ACTS 15:1–35

The early church faces its first big test. Some insist that Gentile believers must follow Jewish law to be saved. The apostles meet in Jerusalem to settle the matter through prayer, debate and unity. They confirm on the truth: salvation is by grace through faith alone. The gospel is not about earning — it's about receiving.

The decision at the Jerusalem Council preserves the purity of the message and the unity of the church. Grace wins. The believers rejoice because they realize again that the cross was enough.

This moment matters because legalism always tries to creep back in. It whispers, “Do more.” Grace declares, “Jesus already did it.” Freedom comes when you rest in what Jesus finished. Live today in the confidence of His grace. You are not working for God's approval; you are working from it.

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

DAY 16

ACTS 15: 36-41; ACTS 16:1-15

Even godly people disagree. Paul and Barnabas part ways over Barnabas' cousin (or possibly nephew), John Mark. Barnabas takes John Mark. Paul takes Silas. It looks like a setback, but God uses it to double the mission. Two teams now carry the gospel instead of one. God can turn tension into expansion.

As Paul travels, he meets Timothy, a young believer with a pure heart and a teachable spirit. Together they follow the Spirit's direction, traveling where He leads.

God's Spirit redirects their path, leading them to Macedonia. It is the first stop for the gospel in Europe. In Philippi, Lydia, a businesswoman, hears the message and opens her home and her heart.

God's plan often includes detours that feel like delays but are actually divine direction. When you plans change, trust that His plan is still in motion. The Spirit who guided Paul is still guiding you. Stay sensitive. Stay faithful. God's next move might start with your next yes.

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

DAY 17

ACTS 16:16-40

Paul and Silas are beaten, chained, and thrown into a dark prison for setting a demon-possessed slave girl free. Yet instead of complaining, they start singing. At midnight, heaven shakes the earth, and the doors fly open. Their praise does what their power could not.

Instead of running away, they stay. And the Philippian jailer runs to Jesus.

This is the power of praise. It is not a performance; it is a weapon. Paul's prison became a pulpit because praise turns pain into power.

You might not be behind bars, but you or someone you know may feel trapped by fear, disappointment, or pressure. Worship right there. Praise isn't denial; it's declaration. Your song might be the key to someone else's freedom.

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

DAY 18

PHILIPPIANS 1:1–30

Years after Paul's prison praise time in Acts 16, he writes to the Philippians from another prison, but his joy hasn't dimmed. He thanks them for standing with him and celebrates that his chains have actually advanced the gospel. You can lock up the believer, but you cannot lock up the purpose of God.

Paul tells them, "Whatever happens, live worthy of the gospel." In other words, your circumstances do not decide your calling. Joy is not about comfort; it is about confidence in Christ. Paul's life shouts that God is working, even when you cannot see it.

Whatever season you are in, God can use it. Maybe the place you feel confined is the place where He wants to display His power. Keep your eyes on Jesus. Choose joy. Praise God in your chains. The same Spirit that turned Paul's prison into a platform is working in you right now.

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

**THE MORE
WE ARE MOWN
DOWN BY YOU,
THE MORE IN
NUMBER WE GROW;
THE BLOOD OF
CHRISTIANS IS
SEED.**

TERTULLIAN

**Early Church Apologist
155–220AD**

WEEK 04

A BUILDING



PT. 4: A BUILDING

SCRIPTURE:

1 Peter 2:4–7, *As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—⁵ you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For in Scripture it says: ‘See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.’⁷ Now to you who believe, this stone is precious...*

THE CHURCH IS...

- The church is made of _____ filled with God’s _____.
- When Jesus died, the veil was torn (Matthew 27:51). God’s Spirit moved from the _____ into _____.

THE CHURCH IS A BUILDING BECAUSE...

1. Jesus is the _____.
 - *See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame. (v.6)*
 - *The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone... (Psalm 118:22)*
 - Observations: _____

2. God the Father is the _____ .

- *Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain.*
(Psalm 127:1)

- Observations: _____

3. The Holy Spirit _____ .

- *Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.*
(Galatians 5:25)

- *And we all...are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.*
(2 Corinthians 3:18)

- Observations: _____

ADDITIONAL NOTES

PT. 4: A BUILDING

THEME:

The church isn't a place; it's a people built together as God's spiritual house. Jesus is the cornerstone, and each believer is a living stone, uniquely placed by God to reflect His presence in the world.

SCRIPTURE:

1 Peter 2:4–7



ICE-BREAKER

1. Have you ever built something (a project, Lego set, or furniture) and realized later that you missed a key piece? How did it affect the whole structure?
2. If your life were a building, what kind of structure would it be right now? Would it be sturdy, under renovation, needing repairs, or something else?



REFLECT (Read 1 Peter 2:4–7 together)

3. Peter describes Jesus as the cornerstone of God's building. Why is it significant that everything in the church is built on Him? (1 Peter 2:6; 1 Corinthians 3:11)
4. What does it mean to be "living stones" built into a spiritual house? How does this picture emphasize both individuality and unity? (1 Peter 2:5; Ephesians 2:19-22)
5. How does seeing yourself as part of God's building change the way you think about church—not as a place you go, but as a structure you belong to? (Hebrews 3:6; Matthew 16:18)

6. Peter says God chooses, places, and joins the stones together. How does this truth help you trust God's plan for where you fit in His church? (1 Peter 2:4; Psalm 127:1)



TAKE ACTION

7. Where in your life do you sense God “shaping” or “chipping away” so you can better fit as a living stone in His building? (Romans 8:29; Philippians 1:6)
8. Since you are part of God's spiritual house, how can your daily decisions and relationships reflect the holiness of His temple? (1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Colossians 3:17)
9. When life feels unstable, what helps you realign your foundation with Christ the cornerstone? (Isaiah 28:16; Matthew 7:24-25)
10. How would your community view Jesus differently if the church consistently lived as a holy, unified building built on Him? (Ephesians 2:21-22; Matthew 5:14-16)



CLOSING CHALLENGES

- **Practice:** Take 5 minutes each day this week to thank God that He is building you into His spiritual house. Ask Him to show you where He is shaping your life to fit His plan.
- **Prayer:** Pray that your church would stay aligned with Christ the cornerstone and grow together in unity as a holy dwelling place for God's Spirit.

DAY 19

ACTS 17:1-34

Paul and his team arrive in new cities with one message: Jesus is alive. In Thessalonica and Berea, they face resistance, but they keep preaching. Some reject them, some study the Scriptures daily, and some believe. Then in Athens, Paul steps into the heart of culture and speaks to philosophers surrounded by idols.

He doesn't condemn them; he connects the truth to their world. He declares that the "unknown God" they worship is the Creator who raised Jesus from the dead. Some laugh, but others lean in and believe. The gospel challenges every worldview that tries to explain life without Christ.

You may not be standing on Mars Hill, but your workplace, your classroom, or your neighborhood may be your Athens. God can use your voice to declare truth in a culture of confusion. Pray for boldness to speak up and wisdom to speak right. When you carry the presence of Jesus, every conversation can become a divine moment.

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

DAY 20

1 THESSALONIANS 1:1–10; 2:13–20

Paul writes to the Thessalonians with deep affection and pride. These believers faced persecution but never gave up. They turned from idols to serve the living God and became an example to others.

Paul celebrates how they received the Word, not as human opinion but as the very truth of God. The gospel worked in them, and through them, it worked in others. Their endurance became evidence that their faith was real.

When your faith is tested, it is being proven, not punished. Your perseverance can preach louder than your words. Someone is watching you remain faithful when life hurts. That is your testimony. Keep your faith firm, your heart soft, and your eyes lifted to God. Like the Thessalonians, your story might inspire generations you will never meet.

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

DAY 21

ACTS 18:1–28

In Corinth, Paul meets Aquila and Priscilla, ordinary workers with extraordinary purpose. They make tents together by day and build the church by night. When God connects you with the right people, partnership becomes power.

Even in opposition, Paul keeps preaching. God encourages him through a vision, saying, “Do not be afraid, for I am with you.” The presence of God gives Paul confidence to stay and keep going. Many come to faith, including leaders who once opposed him. Later, Apollos arrives, passionate but needing guidance. Aquila and Priscilla take him aside, teaching him more about Jesus, and he becomes a mighty preacher.

Faith is not just what you believe; it is who you build with. The right people in your life can multiply your impact. Pray for God to send you kingdom relationships that push you forward. And when you meet someone who needs guidance, be like Aquila and Priscilla. Build others while you build the church.

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

DAY 22

1 CORINTHIANS 1:1–31

Even though it was established by Paul, the Corinthian was divided, proud, and distracted. They argued about leaders, gifts, and status, but Paul redirects their focus to the cross. He reminds them that the message of Christ crucified is foolishness to the world, yet it is the power of God to those who believe.

The cross shatters pride. It exposes how weak we are and how strong God is. The world celebrates wisdom, power, and fame, but the gospel celebrates humility, surrender, and grace. Paul reminds them that God chose the foolish things to shame the wise and the weak things to shame the strong.

If you want to see God move, stop trying to impress Him and start trusting Him. The power is not in your perfection but in your dependence. The cross levels the ground. You do not have to compete or compare. Boast in the Lord today and remember that everything you have is because of Him.

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

DAY 23

ACTS 19:1–41

Ephesus is a city filled with idols, magic, and wealth. When Paul arrives with the gospel, the atmosphere changes. Believers are filled with the Holy Spirit, miracles take place, and the name of Jesus is exalted. As people experience God's power, they turn from their old lives, burning the scrolls that once held them captive. Revival spreads like fire.

But not everyone celebrates. The gospel threatens the idol-makers' business, and a riot breaks out. Still, the Word of God continues to grow. When the presence of Jesus enters a city, false gods begin to fight and eventually fall.

This is what happens when the Spirit moves: chains break, strongholds crumble, and idols lose their influence. Ask God to bring that kind of revival in your heart, in your home, in your church, and in your Ephesus. Let Him show you what needs to be burned so His name can be lifted higher. Real transformation begins when you make room for His presence.

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

DAY 24

EPHESIANS 1:1–23

Paul writes to remind believers who they really are. He says you are chosen, adopted, redeemed, and sealed by the Holy Spirit. You are not who you used to be; you are who God says you are. Every spiritual blessing in heaven already belongs to you in Christ.

Paul prays that their eyes would be opened to see the hope of their calling and the power of the Spirit at work in them. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead now lives inside every believer. That is not a metaphor; that is your reality.

If you are a born again believer, stop living like you are powerless when God's power is already in you. The enemy's goal is to make you forget your identity. God's goal is to remind you who you are. Pray that the eyes of your heart would be opened today. You are not fighting for victory; you are living from it.

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

WE DO NOT
WANT A CHURCH
THAT WILL MOVE
WITH THE WORLD.
WE WANT A CHURCH
THAT WILL MOVE
THE WORLD.

G.K. CHESTERTON

British Writer and Apologist

1874–1936 AD

WEEK 05

A BOLD MISSION



PT. 5: A BOLD MISSION

SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 28:16-20, ¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

THE CHOICE

- Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee... (v.16)
- Judas _____
The eleven _____
- Question: Is your mission more _____
than God’s mission?

THREE WORDS ABOUT JESUS’ BOLD MISSION

1. _____
 - “All authority...Therefore go...” (v.18-19a)
 - Key: Start local before global.
 - Observations: _____

2. _____

- “...*make disciples of all nations, baptizing them...*” (v.19)
- Note: Disciple-making takes time, energy, patience and perseverance.
- Observations: _____

3. _____

- “...*teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.*” (v.20a)
- Focus on being Biblically correct not politically correct.
- Observations: _____

JESUS SENDS US WITH HIS...

1. _____

- “*All authority...*” (v.18)

2. _____

- “*...I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*” (v.20b)

ADDITIONAL NOTES

PT. 5: A BOLD MISSION

THEME:

The church isn't a place; it's a people sent on mission. Our mission comes from Jesus' - to reach the next person for Him. Jesus calls us to live boldly as His witnesses, carrying the gospel across the street and around the world through the power of the Holy Spirit.

SCRIPTURES:

Matthew 28:18–20;
Acts 1:6–8



ICE-BREAKER

1. As a kid, what was the bravest (or most reckless) thing you ever attempted?
2. If boldness weren't an issue, what's one thing you would try for God right now?



REFLECT (Read 1 Peter 2:4–7 together)

3. Jesus said, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses... to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8) What does this reveal about both the mission of the church and the source of its power?
4. Why do you think Jesus told the disciples to wait for the Spirit before beginning the mission? What does this teach us about dependence on God? (Acts 1:4–5, 8; John 15:5)
5. Since the church is people, not buildings, how does that change the way you see Jesus' command to “go and make disciples of all nations”? (Matthew 28:19–20; Romans 10:14–15)

6. Jesus promises His presence (“I am with you always”) and the Spirit’s power for the mission. How does this truth strengthen your courage to live boldly for Him? (Matthew 28:20; 2 Timothy 1:7)



TAKE ACTION

7. Where do you feel God calling you to be bolder in sharing your faith with family, friends, coworkers, or neighbors? (Acts 4:29; Colossians 4:5–6)
8. How can you integrate God’s mission into your everyday routines like work, parenting, hobbies, or community involvement? (Colossians 3:17; 1 Peter 3:15)
9. What fears or obstacles most often hold you back from living boldly for Jesus? How can prayer and community help you overcome them? (Acts 4:18–20, 31; Joshua 1:9)
10. Our church’s mission is, “We exist to reach the next person for Jesus.” What would it look like if your group and church fully embraced this mission in your city? (Acts 17:6; Matthew 5:14–16)



CLOSING CHALLENGES

- **Practice:** Each day this week, pray for boldness to live on mission, using Acts 4:29: “Enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.”
- **Prayer:** Pray for fresh empowerment from the Holy Spirit, that your group and church would live courageously as Jesus’ witnesses at home and to the ends of the earth.

DAY 25

ACTS 20:1–38

Paul is on his farewell tour, visiting churches, encouraging believers, and pouring out his heart. When he meets with the elders from Ephesus, he reminds them how he served with tears, trials, and perseverance. He says goodbye not as a celebrity but as a shepherd. He urges them to watch over the flock and warns them that false teachers will try to divide and destroy.

Paul knows this might be the last time they see him, but he is not afraid. He says, “I consider my life worth nothing to me if only I may finish the race.” That is the voice of a man completely surrendered to his purpose.

God is looking for people who will finish what they start, even when it hurts. The goal is not to live easy but to live faithful. You may not control your season, but you can control your spirit. Run your race with endurance, eyes fixed on Jesus.

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

DAY 26

ACTS 21:1-40

Everywhere Paul goes, people warn him about what waits in Jerusalem: chains, pain, and persecution. Friends cry and beg him not to go, but he says, “I am ready not only to be bound but to die for the name of the Lord.” That is conviction. That is courage.

When Paul arrives in Jerusalem, the warnings come true. He is attacked, arrested, and beaten. Yet even through violence and injustice, God’s plan is unfolding. The gospel that started in Jerusalem is now circling back with power. Paul is exactly where God wants him.

Sometimes obedience will take you straight into the storm. God never promised safety, but He did promise presence. Courage does not mean you are fearless; it means you are faithful when fear is loud. Ask God today for the strength to keep walking when the path is costly. You never know who your obedience will impact.

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

DAY 27

ACTS 22:1–30

Standing before a furious crowd, Paul begins to tell his story. He does not defend himself; he declares the grace of God. He shares how Jesus met him, blinded him, changed him, and sent him to bring the message of salvation to others.

Some listen while others rage, but Paul keeps speaking because truth demands a voice. When the world tries to silence you, tell your testimony of God's work in you. People can argue theology, but they cannot argue transformation.

Your testimony is not just your history; it is your authority. It is living proof that Jesus saves, heals, and restores. Do not be ashamed of what God has done in your life. Someone needs to hear your story so they can believe in their own. Speak up with boldness. Your scars might be the sermon someone else needs to hear.

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

DAY 28

ACTS 23:1–35

The courtroom is chaotic. Religious leaders shout, soldiers intervene, and Paul stands in the middle of the madness declaring his clear conscience before God. Suddenly, the Lord Himself appears to Paul at night and says, “Take courage. You will testify about me in Rome.”

This is God’s way of saying, “The story is not over.” Plots rise, enemies scheme, but God’s promise stands. Soldiers secretly move Paul to safety under heavy guard. Even in confusion, the hand of God is steady.

When life feels out of control, remember that God is not panicking. He already has a plan for every attack against you. What looks like danger might be divine direction. You may be surrounded by chaos, but you are also surrounded by purpose. Rest tonight knowing that God’s promise over you is stronger than any threat around you.

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

DAY 29

ACTS 24:1-27

Paul stands before Governor Felix and delivers his defense with wisdom and integrity. He speaks about righteousness, self-control, and the coming judgment. Felix trembles, but instead of repenting, he delays. He says, “That is enough for now. When I find it convenient, I will send for you.” But that moment never comes.

Felix wanted his comfort more than God’s conviction. And he wanted to respond to God on his schedule. Many still do.

Delayed obedience is still disobedience. Every time you push off what God is prompting, your heart grows harder. The most dangerous word in your vocabulary is “later.” When God speaks, the right time is always now.

If the Holy Spirit is stirring something in you, do not wait. Respond. Trust. Surrender. You may never have a more convenient moment than this one.

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

DAY 30

ACTS 25:1–27

Paul appears before Festus and King Agrippa, still in chains but still confident. He could have pleaded for his release, but instead he appeals to Caesar, knowing this is how God will take him to Rome. What seems like a legal battle is actually a spiritual one.

The enemy wanted to stop the message, but God used the system to spread it. Every delay and detour becomes part of the mission. When life feels stuck, God might be staging something greater.

Paul got it. His life and his destiny wasn't about him. It was about the glory of King Jesus. When you grasp this truth, you mistake waiting for wasting.

God is always working behind the scenes, arranging the details, moving the pieces, and preparing the way. Your prison can become a platform for God's story if you stay faithful. Keep trusting the process, even when it feels slow. God has already written the next chapter of your story, and it ends with His glory being revealed through your perseverance.

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

IN PROPORTION AS
A CHURCH IS HOLY,
IN THAT PROPORTION
WILL ITS TESTIMONY
FOR CHRIST BE
POWERFUL.

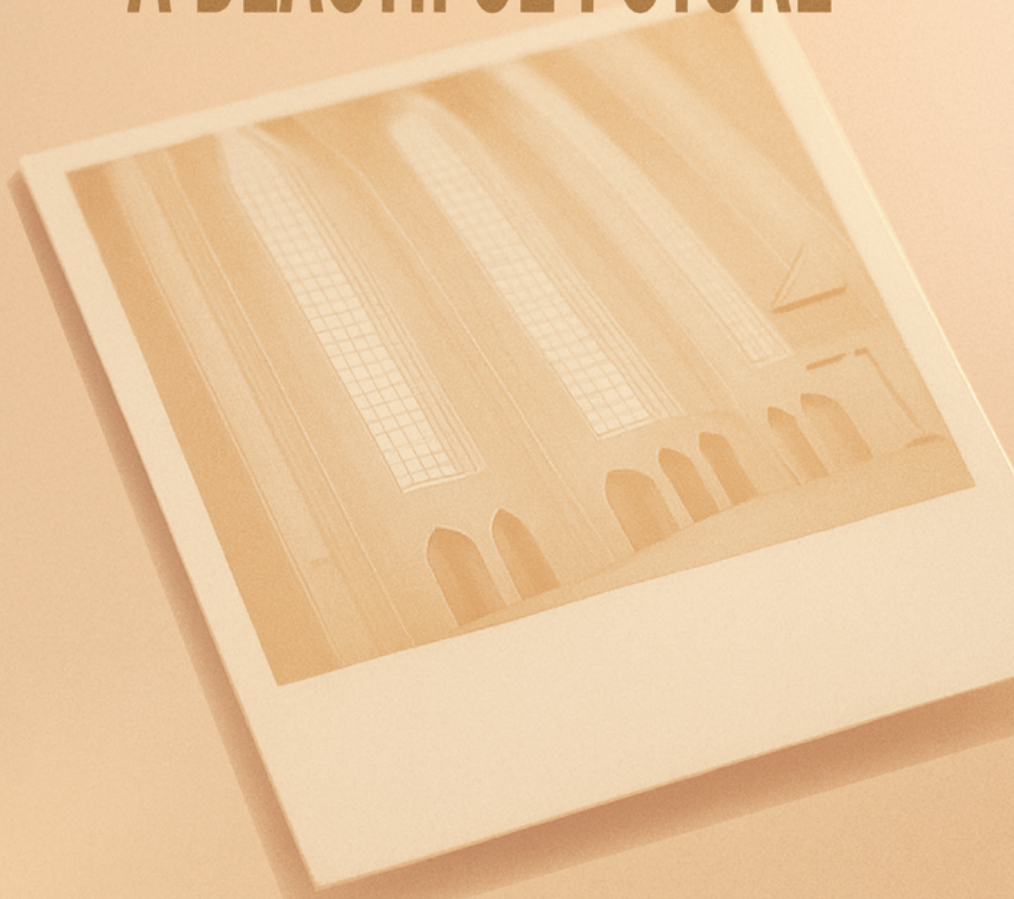
CHARLES SPURGEON

British Pastor

1834–1892AD

WEEK 06

A BEAUTIFUL FUTURE



PT. 6: A BEAUTIFUL FUTURE

SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 6:19-21, ¹⁹ “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

HOW OFTEN DO YOU THINK ABOUT HEAVEN?

- “If you read history, you will find that the Christians who did the most for the present world were precisely those who thought the most of the next. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this.” (C.S. Lewis)
- A _____ on heaven
leads to _____ on earth.
- Revelation 21:1-5 and 21:18-27

FOCUS ON HEAVEN BECAUSE HEAVEN HOLDS...

- Our _____. (Matthew 6:9)
- Our _____. (Hebrews 9:24)
- Our _____. (Luke 10:20)
- Our _____. (Philippians 3:20)
- Our glorified _____. (1 Corinthians 15:51-53)
- Our _____ of faith. (Hebrews 12:22-23)
- Our _____. (John 14:2-3)
- Our _____. (1 Peter 1:3-4)
- ...what matters most.

BE FAITHFUL ON EARTH.

- Question: Does heaven hold you _____?
- *“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”* (v.21)
- Truth: Your heart follows your treasure.
- Key: Use possessions and love people.
Don't love possessions and use people.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

PT. 6: A BEAUTIFUL FUTURE

THEME:

The church isn't a place; it's a people with a heavenly future. Our treasure is not on earth but in God's eternal kingdom. Living with this hope shapes how we live and love today.

SCRIPTURES:

Matthew 6:19–21



ICE-BREAKER

1. What's one keepsake or treasure you've held onto for years? Why does it matter to you?
2. Imagine you could fast-forward 100 years and see the eternal impact of your life. What would you hope people would remember about your faith?



REFLECT (Read 1 Peter 2:4–7 together)

3. Jesus said, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:21) What does this reveal about the connection between what we value now and our eternal future?
4. Why does Jesus command us to store up treasures in heaven instead of earth? How does this shift our priorities? (Matt. 6:19–20; Col. 3:1–2)
5. How does remembering that the church is a people with an eternal destiny (not just an earthly institution) encourage you in seasons of struggle or loss? (Philippians 3:20–21; Revelation 21:3–4)

6. Jesus promises that heaven is secure because He Himself prepares it. How does His promise of a “beautiful future” shape the way you face today’s challenges? (John 14:2-3; 1 Peter 1:3-4)



TAKE ACTION

7. What “earthly treasure” are you most tempted to cling to, and how can you loosen your grip to invest more in what is eternal? (Matthew 6:19-21; 1 Timothy 6:17-19)
8. How can setting your mind on heaven transform the way you approach everyday things like work, family, finances, or friendships? (Colossians 3:1-2; Hebrews 10:34)
9. When life gets difficult, how can the hope of eternity give you strength to endure? Share an example from your own life or from someone you admire. (Romans 8:18; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18)
10. How might your group or church better reflect the reality of heaven here and now? What would people notice if your community lived with eternity in view? (Revelation 21:1-5; Matthew 5:14-16)



CLOSING CHALLENGES

- **Practice:** Each morning this week, read Matthew 6:21 and pray, “Lord, set my heart on heaven today.”
- **Prayer:** Pray for a greater longing for eternity, that your group and church would live with hope, generosity, and joy, pointing others toward the beautiful future found in Christ.

DAY 31

ACTS 26:1-32

Paul stands before King Agrippa, surrounded by royalty, soldiers, and power. Yet the most powerful voice in the room belongs to the man in chains. He lifts his hands and tells his story. He shares how the light of Jesus blinded his eyes but opened his heart. Agrippa listens, almost persuaded but not quite willing to surrender.

Paul's courage is contagious. He is not ashamed of his scars or his story. He knows that even his chains are part of his calling. God sent Paul on a mission. So, even though his hands are bound his heart is free.

Never underestimate the power of your story. It is God's gift to others through you. Speak up about what God has done. Even if only one person hears you, God's power will move through your words. Courage grows every time you open your mouth for Jesus.

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

DAY 32

ACTS 27:1–44

Paul's ship headed to Rome faces a violent storm. The ship is breaking apart and hope seems lost. For two weeks, sailors and prisoners drift across a dark sea. Yet in the chaos, Paul stands and declares, "Take courage, none of you will be lost." He believes the promise God spoke to him in the night.

Faith does not deny the storm; it declares that God is still in control. The ship may go down, but God's promise will stand.

Sometimes God saves you through the storm instead of from it. You may feel like you are hanging onto broken pieces, but grace is strong enough to carry you to shore. Lift your eyes above the waves today. Ask God to encourage your soul in your situation. The same God who calmed the sea for Paul will bring you through what you are facing.

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

DAY 33

ACTS 28:1–31

Shipwrecked on the island of Malta, Paul shakes off a venomous snake that bites his hand. The locals wait for him to die, but instead they watch Paul heal others. When he finally reaches Rome, he preaches boldly, even while under house arrest. The book ends with victory: “The word of God went forth unhindered.”

Paul’s story closes, but the mission of Jesus continues. The gospel cannot be chained, silenced, or stopped. God’s mission to save souls will prevail.

The story of Acts does not end with Paul’s liberty; it ends with Jesus being preached. Ask God to fill you with that same boldness and faith. Pray for His Spirit to move through your words, your actions, and your influence so that the name of Jesus is lifted high regardless of your situation. Invite Him to use your life as a living testimony of His grace and power. May everything you do point people to Christ and bring glory to the God who is still writing His story through His Church today.

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

DAY 34

COLOSSIANS 1:1–29

Paul writes the letter to the Colossians to remind believers that Jesus is supreme over everything. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus reconciles everything to Himself. Paul rejoices in his suffering because it advances Christ's mission. Paul's passion is simple: to make Christ known.

This is the heartbeat of Christianity. Jesus is not a part of life; He is the point of life. Everything exists through Him and for Him. When you center your world on that truth, chaos loses its grip and peace takes its place.

Do not let culture make you think you need more than Jesus. He is enough for your past, your pain, and your purpose. Let Him take first place in everything. Pray today that His power would strengthen you, His love would steady you, and His purpose would move through you.

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

DAY 35

PHILEMON 1:1–25

Most likely during Paul's stay in Rome (post Acts 28), he encounters a runaway servant named Onesimus who belonged to Paul's friend, Philemon. Paul writes a personal letter to Philemon, asking him to forgive and receive back Onesimus. Once useless, Onesimus has now become a brother in Christ. The gospel transforms the relationship from master and servant to family. Grace changes everything it touches.

Paul does not demand forgiveness; he appeals to love. That is the power of the gospel. It turns walls into bridges and enemies into brothers. Reconciliation is not a side effect of grace; it is the evidence of it.

Think of the person you find hardest to forgive. The gospel that reconciled you to God can also restore that relationship. Forgiveness may not erase the pain, but it releases the poison. Ask God to soften your heart today. You have been forgiven freely; now live freely by extending that same grace to others.

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

DAY 36

2 TIMOTHY 4:1–22

These are Paul's final recorded words. He most likely penned this letter while awaiting his trial and eventual execution before Caesar in Rome. His body is tired, his race is nearly over, but his hope is secure. He knows his Redeemer and he knows his true home awaits.

Paul tells his protégé-turned-son, Timothy, "Preach the word, be ready in season and out of season." He looks back and declares, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

Even in the end, Paul is not defeated. He is fulfilled. He has seen God's faithfulness in every trial and now rests in the hope of glory. The same Lord who stood with him will stand with you.

Finishing well does not mean life was easy; it means your faith stayed alive. Keep your eyes on the eternal prize. One day you will see Jesus face to face, and every hardship will make sense. Until that day, fight the good fight and run your race with joy.

S - SCRIPTURE

O - OBSERVATION

A - APPLICATION

P - PRAYER

A FAITHFUL CHURCH IS THE SHADOW OF CHRIST.

THOMAS BROOKS

English Puritan preacher and author
1608–1680 AD

[Faint, illegible handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side.]