

## Small Group Guide: “EKKLESIA: When It All Started”

**Opening Question:** If you could choose any name for a new church, what would it be and why? (Feel free to be as serious or creative as you’d like!)

**Opening Prayer:** *Dear Lord, thank you for bringing us together today as a community group. We are grateful for the opportunity to learn more about Your Word and how we can apply it in our lives. As we discuss Pastor Dan’s sermon on the meaning and mission of the church, please open our hearts and minds to Your guidance. Let our conversation be encouraging and inspiring. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.*

### Key Takeaways:

1. The Church, or “Ekklesia,” is not an institution or building but a movement of God’s people united in faith.
2. Our battle as believers is spiritual, and our strongest weapons are prayer and being a reflection of Jesus’ love to the world.
3. The Early Church was devoted to growing spiritually, building community, and serving each other with love.
4. The main message of the Church is centered on the resurrection of Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God.
5. The call to be witnesses for Christ means sharing what He has done in our lives and expanding His mission globally.

### Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean for the church to be a movement rather than just an institution? How might this change our perspective on church involvement?
2. **Read Ephesians 6:10-13.** In these verses, Paul talks about the armor of God. What does this passage teach us about responding to worldly challenges as believers? How does this apply in our lives today?
3. **Read 2 Corinthians 10:4-5.** *In this sermon, Pastor Dan defines “strongholds” as lies that someone believes that are contrary to the Word of God. He emphasizes that the battle is for the hearts and minds of people, specifically addressing the issue that strongholds are not physical addictions but rather false beliefs. The weapons used to fight these spiritual battles are not worldly, but are divine, with the most powerful weapon being prayer.*
  - With this understanding, how can we identify and demolish strongholds in our own lives?
4. **Read Matthew 16:13-18.** Why is it important for the Church to focus on the central message that Jesus is the Son of the living God?
5. The Early Church devoted themselves to the Apostles’ teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer (**Acts 2:42**). How can we practice being devoted to these same things in our community groups and personal lives?
6. Discuss the concept of “koinonia” (greek: fellowship, community) mentioned in the sermon. How can true fellowship deepen our relationships within the group?

7. **Read Acts 1:8.** Discuss the expanding mission Jesus gave His disciples (Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, ends of the earth). How can we apply this concept to our own lives and community?
8. Discuss the statement: “The Church is where imperfect people get adopted into God’s family.” How should this shape our attitudes and actions within the Church?
9. Pastor Dan mentioned that “no one cares what you know until they know that you care.” How can we better demonstrate care and love to those inside and outside the Church?

### **Practical Applications:**

1. Dedicate time each day to pray for God’s guidance in how you can be a witness in your community.
2. Look for an opportunity to serve someone in need within your church or community this week.
3. Plan a meal or activity with other believers to foster fellowship and community.
4. Invite a friend to church. Reach out to someone who might benefit from joining your group or coming to church with you to experience fellowship and growth.
5. Pray for God to give you opportunities to share your testimony of how Jesus has changed your life.
6. Practice showing Christ’s love to someone you find difficult to love or understand.

**Closing Prayer:** *Father God, thank You for the meaningful discussions we’ve had today. We ask for Your strength and wisdom to apply what we’ve learned. Help us to become more like Jesus in our actions and words, reflecting His love fully in our lives. Protect and guide us as we go our separate ways, and may we remain united in Your spirit. In Jesus’ name, Amen.*