



Part 5: Invitation

Jesus predicted that he would start a gathering, a movement . . . what we call *church*. And that church would spread all over the earth and outlast the Roman Empire. It would change the world. His prediction must have sounded outlandish to even his closest followers. But here we are, two thousand years later, and the Roman Empire exists only in history books, while Jesus' gathering is still going strong. The church is the hope of the world because the church is the vehicle by which God is bringing the solution to mankind's greatest problems: sin, sorrow, and death.

Discussion Questions

- Talk about a time when you were a member of a team or group with a shared goal. How did that experience help you grow personally?
- What do you associate with the word "church"?
- How does the desc
- Read Matthew 16:15-16. What would your response be if Jesus were to ask you, "Who do you say I am?"
 - If someone was to watch your life for 24 hours would they give a different answer to what you provided? Why/why not?
- What are some things people think make them unworthy or disqualified from being fully engaged in the mission of the church?
- What would you say your gifts and talents are? Where could you see your passions being used in the church?
- What are some things you can do to better understand how to use your strengths, weaknesses and experience to draw people toward Jesus?
- What is your best next step for engaging more fully in the mission of the church? Putting you faith in Jesus? Baptism? Serving on a team? Giving? Inviting a friend? How can this group support you as you take your next step?

Moving Forward

In Matthew 28:18–20, Jesus invites you to participate in the multi-ethnic, multi-national, unstoppable activity of God on earth. The foundation of this movement is not a truth claim. It is an event . . . an event that resulted in a promise . . . a promise that has been kept. So, take a step. It's the most significant thing you can do in your life.