



SESSION 6

**WE GO  
TOGETHER  
WITH CHRIST**

Jesus sends us out as a community  
of disciples in order to make disciples.



# WORSHIP

## READING PLAN

Conclude your reading of the Book of Acts this week. Use the space provided to record your thoughts and responses as you read.

### Day 1

Acts 24:1-27

### Day 2

Acts 25:1-27

### Day 3

Acts 26:1-23

### Day 4

Acts 26:24-32

### Day 5

Acts 27:1-44

### Day 6

Acts 28:1-16

### Day 7

Acts 28:17-31

## FIND YOUR PLACE IN THE BODY

If you've been transformed as a disciple of Jesus Christ, then you are part of His body, the church. Even more, you have a specific role and function as a member of that body—you've been uniquely designed and specially placed to advance the work of the broader church within the community of your local group and congregation.

Therefore, one of the best ways to make sure you're contributing well is to identify your role and function within your church. In what ways have you been gifted? How can you contribute to the life and ministry of your church community? These are questions you've been pondering throughout this session. Thankfully, the apostle Paul highlighted several important roles within the church during his letter to the Christians in Ephesus:

<sup>11</sup> And He personally gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> for the training of the saints in the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup> until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God's Son, growing into a mature man with a stature measured by Christ's fullness. <sup>14</sup> Then we will no longer be little children, tossed by the waves and blown around by every wind of teaching, by human cunning with cleverness in the techniques of deceit. <sup>15</sup> But speaking the truth in love, let us grow in every way into Him who is the head—Christ. <sup>16</sup> From Him the whole body, fitted and knit together by every supporting ligament, promotes the growth of the body for building up itself in love by the proper working of each individual part.

### **EPHESIANS 4:11-16**

*What are the roles and functions within the body of Christ mentioned in the above passage?*

*What are some additional roles and functions carried out by members of your church today?*

Notice Paul's emphasis in verse 16 that the body is built up and remains healthy through "the proper working of each individual part." That's you. Every disciple of Jesus has a share in maintaining the health and productivity of the church. More, we have a responsibility to do our part in helping the body of Christ fulfill its mission—a responsibility that includes consequences when we neglect our duty.

Jesus made that clear when He shared the parable of the talents with His disciples.

***Read Matthew 25:14-30. How would you summarize the primary theme of Jesus' parable?***

***What are some recent ways you've invested your talents—your gifts and abilities—in order to make disciples within the body of Christ?***

Many people feel hesitant about pouring themselves into the church's mission to make disciples, and there are many reasons for that hesitation. Some simply don't want to give up greater control of their lives. Others aren't willing to let go of cherished possessions or long-held habits. Still, others feel they don't possess the right gifts for making disciples—they don't have the gift of teaching or they don't possess a striking personal testimony.

In the end, all of these excuses boil down to the same thing: disobedience. Our Master has commanded us to work together as His body in order to make disciples for His kingdom. That is our mission.

What you do next is your choice.

***How would you describe your specific role within the body of Christ?***

***What obstacles are currently hindering you from engaging that role to a greater degree?***



## JOIN THE BODY IN MAKING DISCIPLES

Jesus came to our world with a mission to redeem our world—us included. He became one of us so that He could teach us and model what it means to follow God. He suffered on our behalf. He died as the atonement for our sins. And His glorious resurrection made it possible for all people to join with Him in a new and restored relationship with God.

That was His mission, and He accomplished it.

Jesus gave His disciples a mission as well—one that should drive us each day to expand His kingdom and bring glory to God. Having come to the conclusion of this study, take another look at the mission as He expressed it:

<sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came near and said to them, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup> Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

**MATTHEW 28:18-20**

*How has your understanding of these verses changed or deepened in recent weeks?*

*In what ways have you actively obeyed Jesus’ command to make disciples in recent months?*

“Make disciples.” That’s your mission as an individual follower of Jesus. Yet, you cannot accomplish that mission alone. You need to work as part of the body of Christ if you want to make any progress—let alone make disciples. You need to actively plug yourself into the life of your local church.

With that in mind, use the following assessments and questions to help you continue moving forward in obedience to God and to demonstrate active passion for your mission as a disciple of Christ.

