



SMALL GROUP STUDY

This Is Us

*Five sessions for groups moving from hearing
the message to belonging.*

ACTS 2:42-47 · FROM THE MESSAGE WE ARE THE CHURCH

THE GOODLAND CHURCH · SUGAR LAND, TEXAS

Consumers or contributors?

The portrait of the first church

Read together: Acts 2:42-47

OPENER

Rate last Sunday out of five — worship, sermon, kids ministry, parking. Now be honest: who were you rating it for?

DISCUSSION

1. Luke lists four devotions in verse 42: teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, prayer. Which one would your calendar say you are devoted to?
2. Verse 46 says they met daily and ate together with glad and sincere hearts. What would daily even look like in Sugar Land, in your season of life?
3. Pastor Rhema said we can reduce church to a product. Where have you felt yourself shopping for a church instead of belonging to one?
4. The Lord added to their number daily. What is the difference between a church that grows by addition and one that grows by attraction?

BEFORE YOU CLOSE

Before next week, read the whole chapter of Acts 2 once. Notice how many times the word “together” shows up.



Who owns the church?

The designer defines the design

Read together: Matthew 16:13-18

OPENER

Tell a story of a time you bought something, read the manual too late, and used it wrong anyway.

DISCUSSION

1. Pastor Rhema said, whoever designed the church defines the church. What breaks when we redesign church around our preferences?
2. Jesus said "I will build MY church." What changes practically when the church belongs to Jesus and not to the pastor, the board, or the longest member?
3. The pastor said he sleeps well because the church is not his. What would it take for you to stop being anxious about "your" ministry, "your" group, "your" church?
4. The Chick-fil-A illustration: people get frustrated asking the church for what it was never designed to serve. What do people ask of church that only God can give?

BEFORE YOU CLOSE

Name one expectation you have placed on church people that belongs to God alone. Surrender it out loud before you leave.



A family we belong to

Church hurt, Mephibosheth, and knowing names

Read together: Ephesians 2:19; Romans 16:3-16; 2 Samuel 9

OPENER

Without naming anyone, describe the best family you have ever seen outside your own. What made it work?

DISCUSSION

1. Church hurt is real, and the pastor said he has experienced it too. Why is honesty about the wound the starting point of healing in a group like this?
2. Mephibosheth was dropped the first time someone carried him. What makes people say no the second time they are invited to trust?
3. Paul filled a whole chapter with names. What does it say about God that the Bible preserved a church directory?
4. The goal is not to be seen, it is to be known. Which is harder for you — letting people know you, or learning them? Why?

BEFORE YOU CLOSE

Close by praying for one person in this room by name. Then commit to one next step toward belonging — not attending — this month.



A team we contribute in

Seats, needs, and a tree that never eats its own fruit

Read together: 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

OPENER

What was your first ever job serving somewhere — church or anywhere? What did it teach you?

DISCUSSION

1. Paul says God placed each part exactly where he wanted it. Do you believe your placement in this church is intentional or accidental? What changed if it is intentional?
2. The eye cannot say to the hand, “I don’t need you.” What need in this church are you pretending is optional?
3. Pastor Rhema said the most valuable parts are usually not visible. Why do we chase the spotlight, and what does God reward instead?
4. Sam’s story: a microwave in a hard season, prayer, and a business that now employs people. What does that story teach about the long game of serving?

BEFORE YOU CLOSE

Everyone in this group picks one serving role before the next session. Share what you will try — even if it is just trying.



A hospital and an army

Bandages, battles, and found people

Read together: Mark 2:17; Galatians 6:2; Acts 12:1-17

OPENER

When was the last time someone chose compassion over correction toward you?
What did it do to you?

DISCUSSION

1. A hospital is never embarrassed by sick people. Why do churches sometimes get embarrassed by broken ones?
2. Just because you cannot see their bandages doesn't mean their wounds are not real. What changes in a room when everyone believes that sentence?
3. James died; Peter walked out. Same church, same month. How do we stay faithful praying when the outcome is not ours to control?
4. Found people find people. The five-week challenge is one invite a week. What makes an invitation feel like pressure instead of good news — and how do we avoid that?

BEFORE YOU CLOSE

End on your knees or on your feet — your choice. Pray Acts 12:5 over three names each. Then plan who is bringing who to Part 2.

