

ACTS EMPOWERED FOR JESUS'S MISSION

Sunday, October 23, 2022 | Wawasee Bible | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

Part 7 | Being Church

Acts 2:42-47

Acts 2:42-47 **DESCRIBES** the early Church

description v. prescription

church = “*ekklesia*” | *literally means: a gathering of people for a specific purpose*

and their devotion to **GOD'S WORD**

hearing it taught

obeying it

and to **ONE ANOTHER!**

fellowship (*koinonia*)

worship

> Which one of these is **YOUR** next step?



1. Gather

Show up *regularly* and gather with us for worship.



2. Grow

Don't just show up, *grow up* spiritually and connect in a growth ministry like Life Groups.



3. Go!

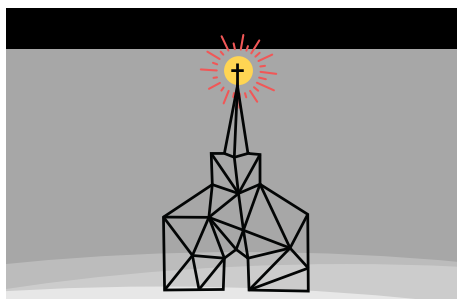
Go and serve somewhere. Contribute as much **or more than** you consume!



Text us at **833-271-8805**.

Text this number anytime for prayer. Just say, “**Pray for...**” followed by your request.

Or if you just need someone to talk to, start texting us with whatever’s going on and someone will be in touch via text.



A Few Things the Church is not...

In Acts 2:42-47 Luke gives a description of the Church in its earliest days. Over time, though, people have come to associate the Church with things it simply is not and never has been. Here’s a few common misconceptions about the Church...

1. The Church is not a building.

We often call our building a church, but the Church is not a building or a place.

2. The Church is not a single denomination.

One metaphor used to describe the Church in Scripture is “family”. So we might think of other bible-believing denominations as our extended family.

3. The Church is not a business.

While some principles of business apply to a local church in our context (like financial management, property upkeep, civic responsibility to government filings, hiring and managing staff, etc.), the Church is not a business.

4. The Church is not a country club.

There are certainly social aspects to the Church, but it is not merely a social club for select people. It’s for *all* people.

5. The Church is not from one political party.

Sadly our culture has made politics into its religion, and many Christians have wrongly wed their faith to a political point of view. But while every party likes to claim Jesus, none seem to actually want to follow him.

6. The Church is not here for your agenda.

We’re about Jesus’s agenda, not any individual’s or group’s.

7. The Church is not your ticket to heaven.

Some have wrongly equated going to church services or being a member of a certain church with salvation. But going to church no more makes you a Christian than going to Taco Bell makes you a chalupa.



Study Guide

Questions & Scripture for Further Study

What is this? – Each week people from Wawasee Bible meet in small groups in various homes to learn about Jesus, pray, eat, laugh, & live life together. **We call them Life Groups.** The questions here are based on the sermon each week (often a related part of Scripture), and guide each group’s study. If you’re interested in connecting with a Life Group, let us know on a Connect Card or at the Connect Desk!

Welcome to Life Groups!

Each week we’ll spend part of our time getting to know more about one another.

Share with the Group:

What is your earliest memory of “church”? What’s your history as it relates to church?

Looking back at your notes from this week’s teaching, *was there anything you heard for the first time, that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?*

Digging Deeper – A Bible Study

Use this guide for further personal and group study this week. For the most impact in your life and in your group, *work through it on your own before you gather with your Life Group.* If your Life Group isn’t gathering this week, use this guide for further study personally.

1. There are many metaphors and images given in Scripture to help us understand the nature of the Church, including that of a family. What are some of the metaphors in the passages below? What do they communicate about the nature of the Church and God’s design for it?

2 Corinthians 6:18

Matthew 12:49-50

Ephesians 1:22-23

Ephesians 5:25-27

John 15:5

1 Timothy 5:1-2

1 John 3:14-18

Ephesians 4:15-16

2 Corinthians 11:2

Colossians 2:19

- Can you think of any other metaphors used to describe the Church in Scripture?
2. Study **Ephesians 4:11-16** below. We looked at this same passage a couple weeks ago in a different translation when we were talking about Spiritual Gifts. This week we’re looking at it as a description of God’s purpose for the Church. **Circle or highlight** any words or phrases that catch your attention. **Underline** what you think is important to remember. **Put an X** next to anything that confuses you.

¹¹ And he himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God’s Son, growing into maturity with a stature measured by Christ’s fullness. ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ But speaking the truth in love, let us grow in every way into him who is the head—Christ.

(Study Guide continues on back panel...)

youareloved.church

Welcome to Wawasee!

OUR MISSION

We are sent to love people and invite them to follow Jesus with us.

YOUR PATHWAY

If you call Wawasee Bible "home", we challenge you to pursue three things:

1. Gather



Show up regularly and gather with us for worship.

2. Grow



Don't just show up, grow up spiritually and connect in a growth ministry like Life Groups.

3. Go!



Go and serve somewhere. Contribute as much or more than you consume!

Word Find in the Word

Find the words from a passage related to this week's message.

Word Find for Acts 2:42-47 (ESV)

Find the words **bolded** below.

⁴² And they **devoted** themselves to the **apostles' teaching** and the **fellowship**, to the **breaking of bread** and the **prayers**. ⁴³ And awe came upon **every soul**, and **many** wonders and **signs** were **being done** through the **apostles**. ⁴⁴ And all who **believed** were **together** and had all **things** in **common**. ⁴⁵ And they were **selling** their **possessions** and **belongings** and **distributing the proceeds** to all, as any had **need**.

F O O D B Y G B B R A B R W F
T D I S T R I B U T I N G F D
H C T R P O S S E S S I O N S
I A F P R A Y E R S R V B B D
N M B T S P T O G E T H E R S
G E N E R O U S T E M P L E C
S P R A I S I N G L A D O A O
O R C C L T Y B T B F T N D M
U O W H L L S E L L I N G W M
L C S I F E L L O W S H I P O
B E I N G S C I U K D O N E N
E E G G A T T E N D I N G W M
V D N E E D E V O T E D S G T
E S S F V B R E A K I N G F T
R E C E I V E D H O M E S Y E
Y H E A R T S L Y M A N Y N P

⁴⁶ And day by day, **attending the temple together** and **breaking bread** in their **homes**, they **received** their **food** with **glad** and **generous hearts**, ⁴⁷ **praising** God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were **being** saved.

life groups Study Guide (continued)

¹⁶ From him the whole body, fitted and knit together by every supporting ligament, promotes the growth of the body for building itself up in love by the proper working of each individual part.

EPHESIANS 4:11-16 (CSB)

- What's the metaphor Paul is using here to describe the Church? Why do you think he chooses this one?
 - What is one of God's purposes for the local church based on this passage?
3. Pastor Josh mentioned this week that Acts 2:42-47 is a "descriptive" passage, meaning it simply describes what happened in the earliest days of the church. When reading a narrative/historical account in the Bible like Acts 2, we must first determine if the passage is **descriptive** or **prescriptive** in its account before we can apply it to our own lives. "**Descriptive**" means the passage simply describes what happened. (*When a passage is descriptive, we look for general principles we can pull out and apply to our own lives.*) "**Prescriptive**" means the passage actually prescribes what everyone should do. (*When a passage is prescriptive we should do exactly what the people in the Biblical text do.*)
- Why is this important to understand when comparing the similarities and differences between this early church and Wawasee Bible (or any other local church)?
 - Go back and **read Acts 2:36-47**. What are some principles from Acts 2:42-47 we should apply to our own context?

Taking It Home

- Pastor Josh mentioned that our desire is to see everyone who calls Wawasee Bible "home" pursue three things: 1. **Gather**, 2. **Grow**, 3. **Go!** Look back at your notes (or the "Your Pathway" section in this handout) and review this concept...
 - Share your thoughts on those three things, discuss them briefly as a group.
 - Share *your next step* with your group. Do you need to gather more regularly? Plug into a growth ministry? Go and serve somewhere?

Prayer

As you close, take time to pray for each other. **Divide into separate groups of men and women** and pray for one another.



Wawasee Bible is part of the Evangelical Free Church of America. View our Statement of Faith online at wawaseebible.com/beliefs. Learn more about the EFCA at efca.org.

Wawasee Community Bible Church

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ACTS

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PART 7



Being Church

ACTS 2:42-47



We're Glad You're Here Today!

Please register your attendance on our **digital Connect Card** by scanning the QR code with your phone's camera, or by visiting **wawasee.today** in your web browser. Update your contact info, share prayer requests, or just let us know how we can serve you! You can also access today's bulletin using the same QR or link.