

## “The Scattered Church”

Use this guide as a tool to help you prepare to experience spiritual transformation in a practical way. It is a **flexible guide** that will help you discover, own, and apply the truths of God’s Word.

### Message Summary

Paul began his return trip to Jerusalem to close out his 3<sup>rd</sup> Missionary Journey. On the way he stopped in Miletus and called the elders of the Ephesian church to come to him so that he might exhort them one final time. He shared with them that it would be the last time they saw him face to face. He knew by the spirit that afflictions and imprisonments awaited him in Jerusalem. So beforehand he wanted to share some important principles with the church leaders.

Paul shared with the Ephesian elders the character he lived before them and all the churches. He shared with them his personal convictions regarding life, ministry, preaching, and pastoring the church. These convictions, while very important for the elders, were also important for Christians living out the Gospel in everyday life.

Last week we looked at what the church looked like when she gathers on the Lord’s Day for corporate worship. However, Paul’s exhortation to the Ephesian elders identifies some characteristics of what the church should look like when she scatters throughout the week. As you prepare to gather in your Missional Communities this week, examine these characteristics and compare them to your life and ministry. Does your Missional Community resemble these characteristics? What changes do you need to make.

This week we will watch two training videos that examine two other aspects of the scattered church. Prayerfully prepare yourself to examine yourself in light of these videos. Be prepared to interact with the group and be willing to make changes in your life as the Holy Spirit directs. As we grow through these videos and learn what God’s word says about conflict in Missional Communities and male and female leadership, ask God to use you as you gather and scatter as the church for the sake of the Gospel!

### Message Outline

Three Characteristics of a Scattered Church:

1. Gospel Lifestyle. (17-24)

- We humbly serve because Jesus said He “came to serve and give His life as a ransom for many.”
- We disciple all-of-life because Jesus said, “Follow Me.”
- We sow Gospel seeds everywhere because Jesus said, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.”
- We allow the Spirit to control our schedules because Jesus said, “Not my will but Yours be done.”

2. Biblical Shepherding. (25-32)

- We preach whole counsel of God because Jesus said, “the Scriptures testify of Me.”
- We shepherd the flock because Jesus said, “Tend my sheep.”
- We warn each other because Jesus said, “You do not know on what day your Lord is coming.”
- Stand under the word not over it because Jesus said, “I came to fulfill the Law.”

3. Unselfish Generosity. (33-35)

- We are givers and not takers because Jesus said, “It’s more blessed to give than to receive.”
- We work to give because Jesus said, “Seek first the kingdom of God.”

## “The Scattered Church”

New Day Church

William Whaley

May 24, 2015

Acts 20:13-38

### Group Discussion (video application)

Watch the video titled “Conflict and Reconciliation in a Missional Community.” Use the Listening Guide below as you watch the video and then spend some time discussing the following questions as a group.

### Conflict and Reconciliation in a Missional Community

Conflict is not necessarily \_\_\_\_\_.

Conflict is the \_\_\_\_\_ that there is still something wrong with \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and needs to be \_\_\_\_\_.

Conflict does arise because there is a lack of \_\_\_\_\_ somewhere.

Ephesians 4:15-32

Matthew 18:15-17

When someone sins:

1. Go to him/her \_\_\_\_\_.
  - The goal is not to \_\_\_\_\_ them but to have them \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Listening is the humble posture of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - We want them to respond with \_\_\_\_\_ over sin.
  - Want them to \_\_\_\_\_ it and seek \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Forgiveness means there is no \_\_\_\_\_.

If he/she will not listen...

2. Bring two or three \_\_\_\_\_.
  - The goal isn't to be \_\_\_\_\_ but to be \_\_\_\_\_.

If he/she will not listen...

3. Tell it to the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - The body of Christ you have \_\_\_\_\_ with.

If he/she will not listen...

4. Treat he/she like an \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Pray for their \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Pray they would be \_\_\_\_\_.
  - If he/she will not listen \_\_\_\_\_ them.

Questions to ask:

1. Have you gone to them?
2. I will not listen to this.
3. Did they listen?
4. I will go with you.
5. We will address this together.

Questions for reflection:

1. What do you tend to do in conflict? How do you handle conflict?
2. How should our group begin to handle conflict that we're going to experience in the next few months? What are some ground rules that we're going to lay out that we're going to commit to together that we will do, when we experience these kind of things?
3. Is there anybody presently in our group that we have this kind of situation with that we are not addressing and what are we going to do about it?

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Watch the video titled “Men and Women in Missional Community Leadership.” Use the Listening Guide below as you watch the video and then spend some time discussing the following questions as a group.

### Men and Women in Missional Community Leadership

Genesis 1:26-31

Genesis 2:5-25

Men & Women:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ nature of God.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ like God.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ needs a \_\_\_\_\_.

Man

\_\_\_\_\_ leader;

Lays down \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ leader

Woman

\_\_\_\_\_ helper;

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Questions for reflection:

1. What about this teaching is hard for you, as a woman, as a man?
2. How is your group expressing that you really believe you need men and women fully engaged in the ministry of your group and fully engaged in the ministry of your church?
3. What do you think could be done different to better honor the opposite sex, to better honor the roles God’s given us in your Missional Community?

### Weekly Prayer Focus

• **Church:**

Pray that God would give us new believers and covenant members.

• **Local:**

Pray that God would burden us with the lostness in our cities, neighborhoods, and at work.

• **Global:**

Pray that God would give us hearts for the nations.