PLANTED MINISTRIES
DISCOVER | GROW | SERVE

GROW · SESSION 1 OF 4

What Is the Church?

Called Out & Gathered In — a study of Acts 2

The New Testament word for church, ***ekklesia***, means a people **called out** and **called together** — never a building. Before we read Acts 2, we unlearn what the English word has come to mean.

OPEN When you hear the word "church," what is the first picture that comes to mind?

READ Matthew 16:13–18 · 1 Peter 2:9–10 · Ephesians 2:19–22

THE WORD BEHIND THE WORD

ekklesia — GREEK

ek (out) + *kaleo* (to call): an assembly summoned together. The church is people God has called.

qahal — HEBREW

Israel gathered before God (Deut. 9:10). The church continues God's gathered people.

kuriakon — GREEK

"Belonging to the Lord," root of the English "church." The church is owned by Jesus, not by us.

Discover

1. Jesus says "*my* church" (Matt. 16:18). What changes when you know the church belongs to Him?
2. 1 Peter 2:9 calls us "out of darkness into his marvellous light." What are we called *out of*, and *into*?
3. Ephesians 2:19–22 uses family and building pictures. What does each teach about how believers relate?

Grow

1. Do you talk about church as a place you *go* or a people you *belong to*? What shapes that habit?
2. If the church is a called-out assembly, what may God be calling you out of right now?
3. Who in this group do you know least? How could you change that this week?

MEMORY VERSE

"Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."
Matthew 16:18 (KJV)

PRAY Thank God that He calls and gathers. Ask Him to turn a building-centered view of church into a people-centered one.

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