



Week One: What about Church?

PRAY: Start with a time of prayer and worship.

REFLECT: Read and reflect together on the following quotes about the Church:

"You are citizens with everyone else who belongs to the family of God. You are like a building with the apostles and prophets as the foundation and with Christ as the most important stone. Christ is the one who holds the building together and makes it grow into a holy temple for the Lord. And you are part of that building..." - Ephesians 2:19b-22a CEV

"Church is what happens when people encounter the Risen Jesus and commit themselves to sustaining and deepening that encounter in their encounter with each other..." - Archbishop Rowan Williams

"Church is not an organization you join; it is a family where you belong, a home where you are loved and a hospital where you find healing." - Rev. Nicky Gumbel

The word 'Church' in the New Testament simply means an assembly of persons called together for a particular purpose. The term appears only twice in the Gospels, but frequently in Acts where it describes the spontaneous expression of community that grew out of the encounter with the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, which developed into the Church as a Christ-centred community.

WATCH: Click the link to watch Michelle interviewing Jude on the subject of Church

<https://bit.ly/3z4UQaF>

READ: Read Acts 2:42-47 out loud. As you listen to this passage, notice what strikes you - a word, a phrase, an image or a feeling.



DISCUSS: Acts 2 tells us that the early church engaged in some key practices that defined them as a community and have shaped the church ever since. In the last 18 months, we have not been able to gather together as church in the same way:

- What did you miss about church in that time?
- What did you learn about yourself and/or your relationship with God?
- Have there been any positives to this new way of being church?
- What would you want to leave behind about the way church used to be?
- What would you want to 'reimagine' about church moving forwards?

PRAY: Share prayer requests and close by praying for one another.