



Why Churches?

Why not just small groups or fellowships?

1. Church planting is the best method to fulfill the Great Commission.
2. The Church is pregnant with potential.
3. The Church is a lasting pillar of truth in a community.
4. The Church is the place where shepherds gather sheep.
5. The Church is the institution created by ordained by Jesus Christ.

I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not stand against it.
Matthew 16:18

Acts 2:42-47

Imagine churches:

- That are filled with people devoted to the teachings of Jesus.
- Where *we as disciples* are constantly in awe, at the signs & wonders & miracles of the Living God.
- That's so generous there are no needy persons among them.
- That has sincere joy and gladness, meeting in homes and praising God!.
- Where the Lord adds daily to their number those who are being saved.
- That gives birth to *more and more* churches!

Today

First, I'm going to share the story of how that first, beautiful church came to be.

Second, I'm going to show you a New Testament pattern for church planting.

Third, I'm going to invite you to join us as a church planter.

Matthew 9:35-38

³⁵ Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Pray

³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.

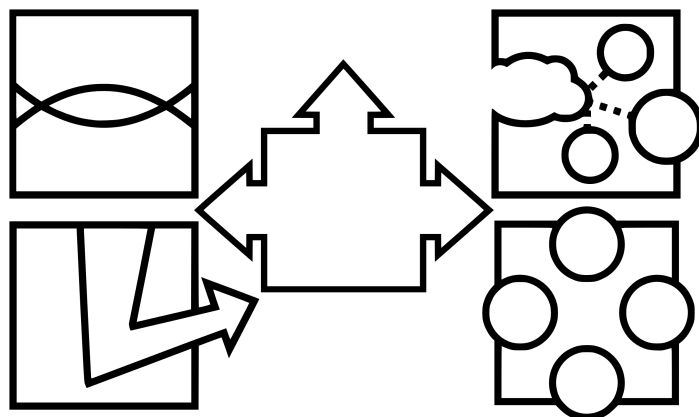
³⁸ Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Acts 1 & 2

- **The disciples prayed:** (Acts 1:14; 2:1-3)
- **Peter spoke out:** (Acts 2:4; Acts 2:14-36)
- **The church gathered:** (Acts 2:37-47)
- **The believers obeyed:** (Acts 2:42)
- **The Lord sent out workers:** (Acts 2:47ff.)

The Pathway

Pray | Speak Out | Gather | Obey | Send Out
Practice drawing the five icons



My Next Step

1. **Respond** to God's invitation.
2. **Attend** Encounter weekend.

