

Why is the Church on Earth?

Objective: For participants to carefully consider why the local church exists. A search of the scriptures will inform the discussion. Emphasis will be placed on how well both “we” and “me” are doing in the five purposes, and in particular the purpose of mission.

Understanding the Purpose of the Church

Purpose is like knowing where “True North” is on a compass. Today, we’re going to open up the Bible together to determine what the purpose of the local church is. In other words, we’re going to wrestle with the question: “Why does the local church exist?”

For this exercise we will use the five purposes that Rick Warren popularized in his book *The Purpose Driven Church* which are:

Fellowship, Worship, Discipleship, Mission, Ministry

Scripture Search Passages

Passage	Purpose of the Church
(1) Matthew 28:19-20	
(2) Acts 1:8	
(3) Acts 2:42-47	
(4) Romans 15: 6, 17-22	
(5) 2 Corinthians 4:1-6	
(6) Ephesians 2:1-9	
(7) Ephesians 4:11-16	
(8) Colossians 2:6-7	
(9) Colossians 3:12-16	
(10) Colossians 4:5,6	
(11) Hebrews 10:24-25	
(12) 1 Peter 2:1-5, 9-12	

Personal and Church Assessment

Give yourself and your church a score on each of the themes using the following scoring:

(1) practiced seldom...(3) practiced somewhat...(5) practiced often

	Me	Our church
Worship		
Discipleship		
Ministry		
Fellowship		
Mission		

Which purpose are you most inconsistent at living out and why?

Which purpose are we as a church most inconsistent at living out and why?

Homework Assignment: Interview a Friend

Here is a homework assignment that will help you to apply what we've discovered today. In the next week (or before the next session), take a few minutes to talk to a friend that doesn't currently attend church. Simply explain that you are taking a class at your church and that you have the assignment to talk to someone who does not go to church.

Questions to ask:

1. What impressions do you have of church?
2. What are some of the reasons why more people don't go to church?
3. What are some of the needs in our community that a church could try to address?

Wrap-Up

Take some time to pray for these Friend Interviews and for God to help the church to become more effective in reaching into the community.