



TALK IT OVER

Original Intent

BOTTOM LINE

The church is God's instrument to bring about His kingdom.

CONVERSATION STARTER

Talk about the first church you remember attending. Where? How old were you?

THINGS TO CONSIDER

What did you hear?

What do you think?

What will you do?

RESOURCES

- The Daily: newpointe.org/daily
- Andy Stanley discusses the importance of [Engaging in the Local Church](#).

KEY VERSES AND QUOTES

Jesus: *"I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."* Matthew 16:118b -19 NIV

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free. Luke 4:18 NLT

If you insist on saving your life, you will lose it. Only those who throw away their lives for my sake and for the sake of the Good News will ever know what it means to really live. Mark 8:35 TLB

"From the very beginning the church began as a movement, and it began as a movement around an amazingly simple idea, an event in history, the resurrection of Jesus. And it was the resurrection that galvanized these first-century believers around this simple idea: that Jesus was, in fact, who Jesus claimed to be." – Dwight Mason

"The church and the kingdom are not one and the same. The church is here to bring the kingdom to earth." – Dwight Mason

"We have not only been saved from something but for something. That something is the work of the kingdom." – Dwight Mason

TALK IT OVER

What does it mean that the church began as a movement? What would it mean for the church to be a movement today? The Greek word is *ekklesia*, not a place or a program but an assembly of people "called out" to serve a town or village, caring for its welfare. The *ekklesia*, church, was never intended to focus on itself. How do you see opportunity for the church to truly be *ekklesia* today? What is our role in setting people free and leading them into life? Most all that God wants us to do is outside of the church. Discuss. We have not just been saved FROM something but FOR something. Why do you believe the culture has lost interest in the church? What can you do? What must we do?

ACTION STEPS (This or one of your own)

I will live out my life as a part of kingdom of God, conducting my daily activities with that focus. I will usher the essence of heaven into my surroundings. I will daily be salt and light, pushing back the darkness.

My Action Step: _____