Lesson 11 - What is the Church?

Review
What were your top takeaways from Lesson #10?

7 Ongoing Elements in a Movement (7 Ways to Raise the Sails for Movement)
1. **Focus on God's Word** (palms up and hands together like a book)
2. **Multiply Extraordinary Prayer** (Cross arms like an X)
3. **Cast Vision** (like you're holding a fishing pole and casting line)
4. **Train Believers to Go Out Among the Lost** (like your curling dumbbells)
5. **Go Out Among the Lost** (point upward and to the side)
6. **See Groups Start** (hand roll)
7. **Ongoing Coaching** (baseball signals with your hands)

Group's Definition of Church
Write down the first 3 things that immediately come to mind when you hear the word "church".

Ask large group: Which of these are absolutely necessary for a church?

DBS - Acts 2:37-47
Review:

- Did you DO what you said you were going to do last week?
- Did you SHARE with the person you said you would share with?
- How is 1-1-1 going?

Have 2 people read Acts 2:37-47 (ideally in 2 different translations).
Have everyone restate it in their own words (let the group help people to get it right).

Each group will then answer the following questions based on what they discovered in Acts 2 passage.

Questions

- Who was the first church and what did they do? Make a list.
- Using this passage as a model for the church, what are some elements the church did in this passage that your church is doing well or needs to improve?
- What do you think hinders many churches today from functioning like this?
- What might prevent you from becoming an Acts 2 church?
- Spend time praying for each other and the churches you are involved

in.

Have a few volunteers share with the whole group how they answered the questions above. The first question you might want to list on a marker board as everyone shares.

Metaphors for Church

Body of Christ:
- Ephesians 1:15-23
- Romans 12:3-8
- 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

Bride of Christ:
- Ephesians 5:22-32

Temple of the Holy Spirit:
- 1 Corinthians 3:9-17

God's Priesthood on Earth:
- 1 Peter 2:4-10

Analysis

1. Which of the metaphors for church describe your church?

2. Which of the metaphors are absent in your church?

3. How is the absence of these metaphors affecting your church today?

4. How can the absence of these metaphors affect the future of your church?

5. How will their absence affect 2nd or 3rd generation churches?

6. How do the metaphors for church affect your church planting strategy?

Have individuals share some of the most impactful discoveries they personally made when reading the previous passages.

Challenge This Week
- Come up with an "I will…" obedience statement related to the verses you read.
- Share with someone this week.