

ARE WE THE CHURCH?

“Why Do We Teach?”

Acts 2:42-47 – July 12, 2026

Our Sermon Series

ARE WE THE CHURCH?		
Date	Message Title	Bible Text
July 5	Devoted	Acts 2:42-47
July 12	Why Do We Teach?	Acts 2:42-47
July 19	What Is Community?	Acts 2:42-47
July 26	Why Are We on Mission?	Acts 2:42-47

Bottom Line: God's WORD does God's WORK

Matthew 28:19 “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.** And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

- Make Disciples
- Baptize them (I believe this is primarily by the Spirit through profession of faith, while water, immersion baptism, is a symbol of what God has already done spiritually)
- Teach them
- I am with you

How does what was happening in Acts 1 & 2 inform what we should do today?

1. Know God's Word

What were they teaching?

- The “Apostle's teaching” (v. 42) This was likely stories and testimonies of salvation in Jesus associated with the formation of the four gospels we now know as Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. They emphasized Jesus as the anointed King of Heaven all the prophets spoke about (v. 22-33)

Why were they teaching?

- Nehemiah 8:8 “They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.”

¹ Blaise Pascal, *Pensées: X: The Sovereign God* (428) (London: England, Penguin Books, 1995), 43.

- Acts 2:40 “And with many other words, he bore witness and continued to exhort them saying, ‘save yourselves from this crooked generation.’”

Do you know what you believe?

Application #1: Read the whole bible before another book

Application #1a: Disconnect and Reconnect

- Check your screen time when you leave today.
- Put a real curfew on your phone
- Ditch the smart watch
- Form an uninterrupted discipline that becomes your daily delight

Illustration: Wrong Source

- Angler Fish / Alligator Snapping Turtle

“What else does this craving, and this helplessness, proclaim but that there was once in man a true happiness, of which all that now remains is the empty print and trace? This he tries in vain to fill with everything around him, seeking in things that are not there the help he cannot find in those that are, though none can help, since this infinite abyss can be filled only with an infinite and immutable object; in other words, by God himself.”¹

“There is a God sized hole in every human's heart” – Attributed to Blaise Pascal

Story: Larry Sanger – Co-Founder of Wikipedia

2. Believe God's Word

“And God said...”

It is at God's word creation finds its existence. It is at God's word; humanity finds our identity. I love how C.S. Lewis depicts the picture of creation in *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Magicians Nephew*

“The earth was of many colors; they were fresh, hot, and vivid. They made you feel excited; until you saw the Singer himself, and then you forgot everything else.”²

Creation and New Creation

- Genesis 1 – John 1 – John 20:30-31 – Acts 1-2

So many people will say, “I don't believe in miracles. I don't believe in the resurrection or deity of Christ.” Yet – those same people believe that in some unexplainable and unprovable way – creation began.

² C.S. Lewis, *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Magicians Nephew* (New York: NY: HarperCollins Publishers, 1983), 119.

Song: Two Twins –

“One twin says to the skeptic other

“But brother, but brother, but brother, but brother

Don’t you think there might be such a thing as mom?

When I am quiet I can almost hear her

And all around me, I can feel her nearer

As if we’ve been together all along”

And the twin said, “No, brother

There ain’t no other life outside this womb

When you and I get born and they cut the cord

That’s the end of me and you

Ain’t nobody ever come back from the other side of womb”

He said, “No, brother

Your birth’s gonna be your tomb”

The believing twin said, “I’m not convinced

I see the shadows on the wall

My heart is called towards life after delivery”

But the skeptic twin just rolled his eyes

Said “God and fairytales and lies

Our birth will be the end of you and me

You’ll see!”³

Application #2 – Believe the saving story of God’s salvation in Christ.

3. Do what God’s word says

The early church caught what was taught and did what Jesus did. This is what it looked like: Acts 2:42-47

- 42 - Devotion
- 42 - Family like fellowship
- 43 – Communion
- 44 - Unified
- 45 - Met Needs
- 46 - Church
- 46 - They were not strangers
- 46 – Food

- 46 – They Worshiped

On the Sermon on the Mount, “It is a perfect picture of the life of the kingdom of God...The kingdom is primarily something ‘within you’...In other words, we are not told in the Sermon on the Mount, ‘Live like this and you will become Christian’; rather we are told, ‘Because you are Christian live like this.’”⁴

5th Gospel - “There are five Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John and the Christian, but most people *never read* the first four.”⁵

1 Peter 3:15 “but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,”

Application #3: Do what it says! Your witness matters.

“B.I.B.L.E.” – Basic – Instructions – Before – Leaving – Earth

Story: Nathanael’s and the 5th commandment

³ Jon Foreman, “Two Twins,” Track 11 on *Forever Now* (BMG Rights Management (US) LLC, 2026), Two Twins - Spotify.

⁴ Martin Loyd Jones, *Studies in the Sermon on the Mount* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1976), 11,12.

⁵ Gypsy Smith