

startingpoint

— the series —

PART 8: Invitation

INTRODUCTION

Jesus predicted that he would start a gathering, a movement . . . what we call *church*. And that church would spread all over the earth and outlast the Roman Empire. It would change the world. His prediction must have sounded outlandish to even his closest followers. But here we are, two thousand years later, and the Roman Empire exists only in history books, while Jesus' gathering is still going strong. The church is the hope of the world because the church is the vehicle by which God is bringing the solution to mankind's greatest problems: sin, sorrow, and death.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Talk about a time when you were a member of a team or group with a shared goal. How did that experience help you grow personally?
2. How does the description of the original purpose of the church differ from or affirm your personal experience?
3. For whom do you think Jesus created the church? Who should be included? Why?
4. What are some things people think make them unworthy or disqualified from being fully engaged in the mission of the church? In light of Paul's story, how might God use those parts of their stories to draw others to him?
5. What are some things you can do to better understand how to use the gifts God has given you to help draw others toward him?
6. What is your best next step for engaging more fully in the mission of the church? Putting your faith in Christ? Baptism? Serving on a team? Giving? Inviting a friend? How can this group support you as you take that next step?

MOVING FORWARD

Jesus invites you to participate in the multi-ethnic, multi-national, unstoppable activity of God on earth. The foundation of this movement is not a truth claim. It is an event . . . an event that resulted in a promise . . . a promise that has been kept. So, take a step. It's the most significant thing you can do in your life.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20