



Discipleship Course

2. Introducing your new family

Being God's people today

The Big idea

What does this 'new family' Christians have been rescued into look like? How should we be getting involved? Today, we'll see an exciting snapshot of what 'church' is really all about, and how we as God's people can be best involved.

Intro: Your new family!

1. What should our church family look like? (Acts 2:42-47, p. 1094)

- a. Learning God's ways together
- b. Remembering Christ's death together
- c. Praying to our Father together
- d. Sharing our lives together
- e. Witnessing to the world together

Small Groups

1. What has been your experience of church?

2. Look through the table of 'ideas about church' we considered in the talk.
 - Which does church feel most like to you?
 - What differences would seeing church as a family make to your own approach to church?

3. **In Hebrews 10:24, God says** *'Let us not give up meeting together as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another- and all the more as you see the day approaching'*
 - Are there any things that stop you from coming to church each Sunday?
 - Why is being irregular at church such a problem?

Read Ephesians 4:11-16

NB: 'he' in v11 refers to the risen and ascended Jesus

4. What has Jesus given to his church? (v11)

5. What role do these people have? (v12)

6. At St Mary's, who might you identify as filling such roles?

7. We are all God's people, 'being prepared for works of service'-
 - What do you think these works are?
 - According to v12-13, what impact should these 'works of service' have?

8. Why is 'becoming mature' as a Christian so important? (v14-16)

9. How do these verses help us to understand why Bible teaching must be so central in our church family?

10. Sometimes people get the idea that the church staff do all the important 'ministry', and we should just come along. But what important role do all of us have in God's family?

Taking it further in the week

Reflect

- How has your own experience of church compared with the picture we saw in Acts 2?
- Are there any changes to your schedule that would help church to become a more important part of your life?

Read

We considered **Hebrews 10:24-25** in the talk this week. Read it again now.

- Why is church attendance so important?
- But if we simply turn up, and then leave straight away,, how are we missing the point?
- Jot down some practical ways you could grow in 'spurring others on' and 'encouraging one another' at St Mary's.

Respond

- Thanks God for the opportunity to belong to a new family, and for some of the encouragements you've received from this family.
- Pray that you would keep thinking of church as a family, and get fully involved in family life!

Prayer points