



# SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 1 *September 25, 2022*  
“Opening Day”

## OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, you hope that your Church will move the mountains of injustice, and shine light into the darkest valleys. You’ve never meant “church” to be boring, stuffy, and outdated. Remind us that “we the people” ARE the church. By your Spirit, help us to live as your salt and light, your physical presence, right here in our hometown. Amen.

## SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

### Acts 1:6-8 (NIV)

*<sup>6</sup> Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?” <sup>7</sup> He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

### Matthew 16:17-18 (NIV)

*<sup>17</sup> Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup> And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.*

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## INTRODUCTION

When we think of church, why is a building the first thing that comes to mind? Is church a place full of robes and pews? Bands and banners? Or is church meant to be something different?

On opening day, the church had no buildings or rituals, no bands or robed choirs and no Bible. What it did have was a gathering of people intent on one thing: creating followers of Jesus Christ. The church was a movement that continues today: a multicultural gathering of people who believe that Jesus is the Savior and whose lives reflect his teaching.

## QUESTIONS

1. What is the first thing that comes to mind when you think of church?
2. What were your first/early experiences of attending church? Were those positive or negative experiences in your faith journey?
3. If the church began as a movement, how do you see the church moving today?
4. What is the mission of the church?
5. Last week in worship, we looked at opening day of the church in Acts chapters 1 and 2. What is the thing that sticks out to you the most about church that first day?

## FINAL APPLICATION

Church is much more than a building or a place. The church was a movement that started 2,000 years ago and continues today. If the church began as a movement, what can you do to be a part of that movement?