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# Why Church?

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## Part 5 - Your Invitation

John 10:15b-16, "...I lay down My life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them in as well, and they will listen to My voice." (NIV)

### **God's Plan: Shaken but Not Stirred**

It was a time of crisis.....

Acts 2:17-21

### **Body: Our Part to Play**

Ephesians 4:15-16

1 Corinthians 12:12-27

### **A Moment of Decision: Comfort or Calling?**

John 21: 3-12

At least two major points stand out for me:

1. Crisis re-aligns our lives towards what we most love.
2. Jesus greets us as “friends”

John 21:15-19

*“Do you love me... Feed my sheep”*

**Invitation: Follow me**

**Practical Steps: Allowing God’s Presence to re-imagine our invitation...**

1. *Re-imagine Frontline:* Become a “fisher of men” in the places where we interact with those who don’t yet know Jesus by adopting his heart for the lost.

Model: Prayer -- Care – Share

2. ***Re-imagine Church:*** Being a community of God means using our unique gifts, talents, skills and calling to glorify Him and bless each other.
  
3. ***Re-imagine Prayer:*** Pause to align our heart with God through crisis.

## **Closing Prayer**

## **Group Guide: Questions for Discussion**

1. How do you reflect God's *invitation* in how you follow Him with your gifts and abilities? What does this look like along your frontline (the places you interact with those who don't yet know Jesus each day), and what does that look like in the church?
  
2. In John 21, Jesus connects our love of Him to be reflected in our love for one another when He asked, "Do you love me? .... Feed me sheep..." Have you ever found your feeling shift towards compassion for those around you when you've been spending more time seeking God in prayer or scriptures? Can you share about an experience of how God changed your perspective on a situation that brought a loving response into a difficult situation?

3. Read 1 Corinthians 12:12–27. Do you feel you are connected into the “body of Christ” as a part of His church? Is there a part in the body you feel you best fit in supporting the wider community? If you feel disconnected, how might you take steps to make an intentional connect?
  
4. Take a moment to encourage the person next to you by talking about the gifts and abilities they naturally bring into the life of the church. Talk about how you see them helping us to grow together to reflect and celebrate God’s Presence in our lives.
  
5. Why Church? We covered a lot of material and topics through this series but what might have stood out for you? Was there anything particularly helpful or encouraging as we talked about the meaning and purpose of what it means to gather and scatter because of His invitation to follow Him in our life together?