

THE STORY OF GOD:

THE CHURCH

MATTHEW 16:18 — FEB. 21, 2010

What is Jesus doing now?

He's building His church (Matt 16:18).

Church is not a building, or a meeting or service. It's a group of people.

What is Jesus' church?

It's a group of people ...

Who trust Jesus as Savior, Lord, and heart-satisfying Treasure (Matt 16:18)

Who join with other believers to be a church under the authority of God's Word (Matt 18:17; Eph 2:19-21)

Who are led by a team of men called "elders" (Acts 14:23)

Who practice water-baptism (Acts 2:38) and communion (1Cor 11:24)

Who practice biblical church discipline (Matt 18:15-17)

Who gather regularly to encourage each other (Heb 3:12-14), worship (Eph 5:19), pray (Act 4:42), share spiritual gifts (1Cor 14:12), and be taught God's Word (1Ti 4:13).

Who so love each other that they devote their lives to caring for each other (1Jo 3:16)

Who are all devoted to making disciples (Matt 28:18-20)

Who regularly see people coming to know Jesus, and who regularly plant new churches (Acts)

How can we partner with Jesus in building His church?

Trust Jesus, abide in Jesus.

Choose a group of people to whom you will be devoted (home group)

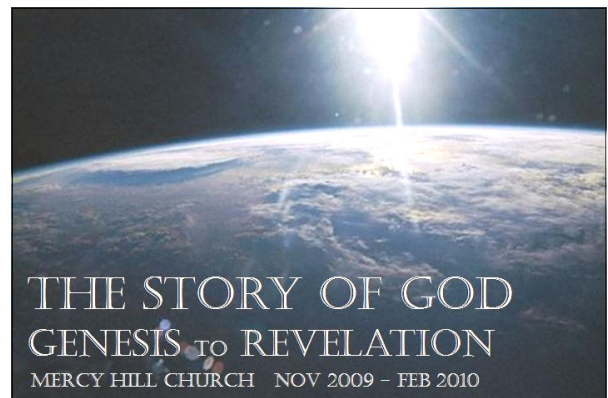
Pursue the 3 rhythms:

Faith — daily take time to nurture your faith in Jesus through the Word and prayer

Community — daily do something to strengthen someone in your home group

Mission — daily do something to help someone come to know Jesus

The result? By God's grace — home groups and churches multiplies throughout the South Bay.



HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING

What was the Holy Spirit saying to you Sunday through this passage?

What questions, ideas, objections, encouragements did you come away with?

Before Sunday's teaching what would you have said Jesus is doing? How is your answer different now?

Which of the characteristics of the New Testament church is the most troubling to you? Which do you struggle with the most? Why?

What would it look like to have a group of people to whom you are devoted? Are you this devoted to your home group?

What holds you back from being more devoted to the home group?

What holds you back from being devoted to making disciples?

How can you be more fully engaged in partnering with Jesus to build His church?

What's your take-away from this message? What are you going to do differently? When? How?

Share prayer requests that come up in the discussion, jot them down below, and pray for each other.

