

Introduction

- Core question: What is the church's purpose and mission?
- Comparison to businesses like Coca-Cola having clear purposes
- Primary purpose revealed in Matthew 28:18-20: Making disciples of all nations

Point 1: Understanding Our True Purpose

- Common misconceptions about church's purpose:
 - Fellowship (important but not primary)
 - Worship (vital but not the main purpose)
 - Teaching/preaching (necessary but not the ultimate goal)
- Acts 2 example: Early church didn't stay in upper room just worshipping
- Priority must be outward-focused disciple-making

Point 2: Breaking Down the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20)

- "Go into all the world" - Moving beyond comfort zones
- "Make disciples" - More than just converts
- "Baptizing them" - Incorporating into church community & a public declaration of faith
- "Teaching them" - Passing on Christ's commands

Point 3: The Church as God's Vehicle for Transformation

- Church planting impacts whole communities
- Personal testimony from African ministry experience:
- Jonah 4:10-11 illustration - God's heart for cities and communities & His concern for all aspects of society (even livestock)

Conclusion & Practical Applications

- Keep the main mission (disciple-making) as primary focus and remember Christ's promise: "I am with you always"
- Look beyond comfortable boundaries
- Focus on relationship-building
- Participate in church and group planting

Small Group Questions

1. What are some ways we might be distracted from our main purpose as a church, and how can we stay focused on the main thing?
2. How has being discipled (or not being discipled) by others affected your spiritual growth?
3. In what ways have you seen the local church impact our own community, and what areas of need could we be more intentionally addressing?