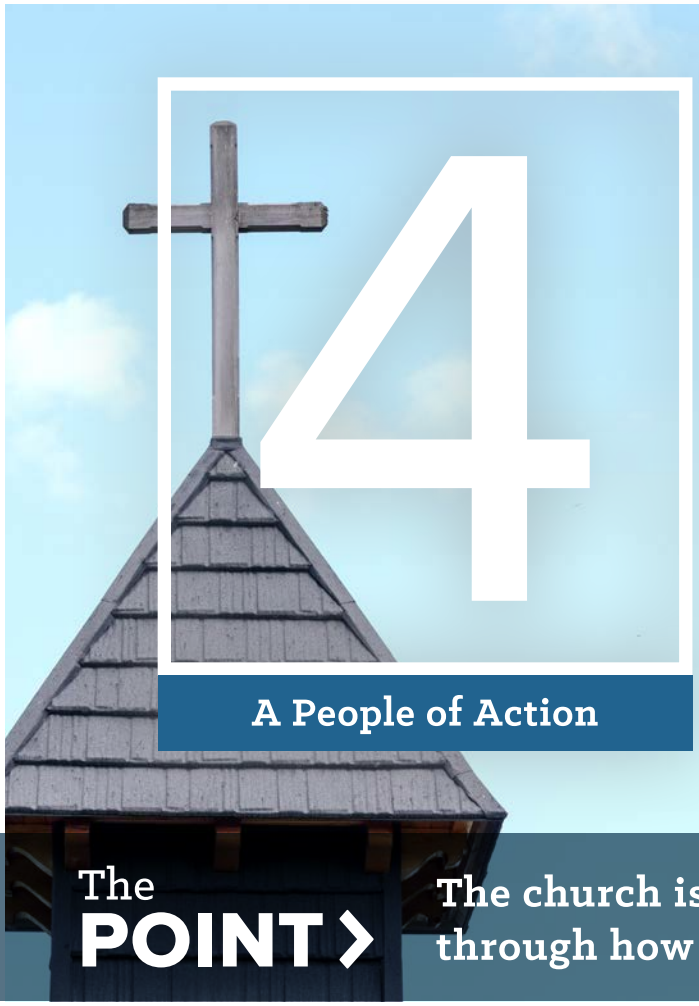


4

A People of Action

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR THE CHURCH TO BE LIKE JESUS?

?

The POINT › The church is called to show God's love through how we live our everyday lives.

› ACTS 11:19-30

19 Now those who had been scattered as a result of the
persecution that started because of Stephen made
their way as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch,
speaking the word to no one except Jews. 20 But there
were some of them, men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who
came to Antioch and began speaking to the Greeks
also, proclaiming the good news about the Lord Jesus.
21 The Lord's hand was with them, and a large number
who believed turned to the Lord. 22 News about them
reached the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out
Barnabas to travel as far as Antioch. 23 When he arrived
and saw the grace of God, he was glad and encouraged
all of them to remain true to the Lord with devoted
hearts, 24 for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit
and of faith. And large numbers of people were added
to the Lord.

25 Then he went to Tarsus to search for Saul, 26 and
when he found him he brought him to Antioch. For a
whole year they met with the church and taught large
numbers. The disciples were first called Christians
at Antioch.

27 In those days some prophets came down from
Jerusalem to Antioch. 28 One of them, named Agabus,
stood up and predicted by the Spirit that there would
be a severe famine throughout the Roman world. This
took place during the reign of Claudius. 29 Each of the
disciples, according to his ability, determined to send
relief to the brothers and sisters who lived in Judea.
30 They did this, sending it to the elders by means of
Barnabas and Saul.

THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

FACT:
According to the American Customer Satisfaction Index, Publix and Trader Joe's are tied for the spot of America's favorite grocery store.[1]

The calling of the church goes way beyond Sunday mornings and special services; it reaches into the heart of our everyday lives. As followers of Jesus, we are the hands and feet of Christ in a watching world, called to reflect God's love in every conversation, every decision, and every relationship. The greatest commandment found in Matthew 22 reminds us to love God with all our hearts and to love our neighbors as ourselves. This love is not meant to be hidden or reserved just for fellow believers but to be poured out in practical ways wherever we go.

Whether we are at home, at work, in the grocery store, or interacting with strangers, our actions and attitudes should show people the God we serve. The early church showed us this as they cared for one another, served their communities, and lived out their faith boldly and compassionately. Jesus told His disciples, "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:35, CSB). The world sees God's love most clearly not through our words alone but through the everyday moments when we choose kindness, forgiveness, generosity, and grace. That truly is our calling as the church.



LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // CHURCH
The church is responsible for equipping its members for the work of ministry, and we are called to give our time, resources, and talents for God's kingdom.

ACTS 11:19-21

1 **What practical steps can you take to reach out to someone different from you for the sake of Christ?**

2 **How can you or your church depend more on the Lord rather than your own strength as you pursue Jesus's mission?**

THE POINT // TTHE CHURCH IS CALLED TO SHOW GOD'S LOVE THROUGH HOW WE LIVE OUR EVERYDAY LIVES.



ACTS 11:22-25

3 Who do you know who needs more than just words of encouragement?

4 Are you actively looking for signs of God's grace in others, or are you more focused on their shortcomings? Explain.

5 How could you practice celebrating God's work in someone else?

ACTS 11:26-30

6 Are you living a solo Christian life or pursuing spiritual growth with others? Explain.

7 How is God prompting you to respond to a need in your church or beyond?

8 Where can you put feet to your faith and translate compassion into action?

True love in the church multiplies, invites others to participate, and desires shared joy in serving Christ. #BSFLStudentsMoreThan aBuilding

LIVE IT OUT



LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // CHURCH

The church is responsible for equipping its members for the work of ministry, and we are called to give our time, resources, and talents for God's kingdom.

The world is watching and asking questions. Students need to be aware that something as simple as a Bible verse on a T-shirt can lead to a conversation. Our lives must match our words, though, or we will confuse an already confused world. We must be like Jesus in all we say and do.

CHRIST

9 **Jesus's example of sacrificial love should challenge you to go beyond offering just words of comfort. How can you seek out ways to serve others in practical, selfless ways this week?**

10 **In what area of your life can you step out in faith and obedience, trusting that Christ's presence is enough to guide, empower, and bring fruit—no matter how unexpected or uncomfortable it may seem?**

GOD
JESUS
HOLY SPIRIT
BIBLE
SALVATION
CREATION
CHURCH
PEOPLE
FAMILY
COMMUNITY & WORLD

THE POINT // THE CHURCH IS CALLED TO SHOW GOD'S LOVE THROUGH HOW WE LIVE OUR EVERYDAY LIVES.



COMMUNITY

11 How can you join with others in your church or community to meet a pressing need, just as the early believers in Antioch gave to help those in Judea?

12 Our identity as Christians should shape our daily life in our communities. How can you intentionally build relationships and grow spiritually alongside others, as Barnabas and Saul did in Antioch?

CULTURE

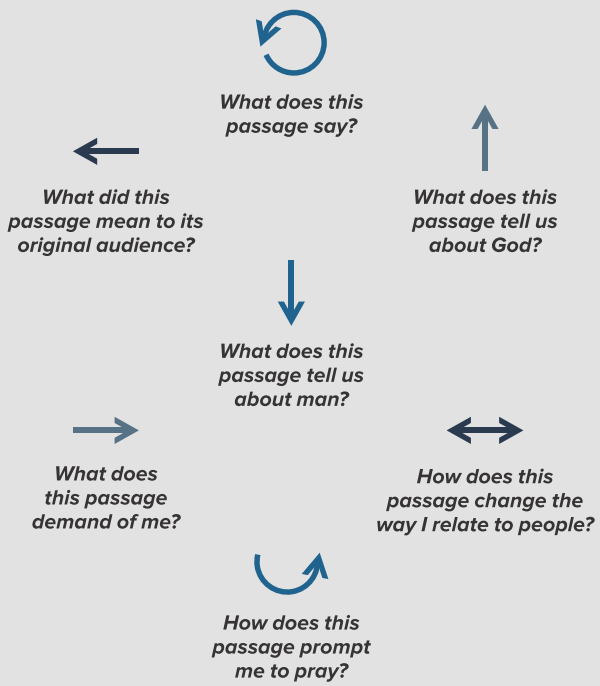
13 Reflect on a current local or global need and prayerfully discuss it with your church group. What is one practical action you can take as a group to show the love and truth of Jesus in this situation?

14 Challenge yourself to initiate a conversation or an act of kindness with someone outside your usual circle this week, demonstrating the inclusive heart of the gospel.

DAILY DEVOTIONS



The 7 Arrows of **Bible Reading**



Day One
MATTHEW 18:20

When we gather together in Jesus's name, whether in a sanctuary, a living room, or a quiet park, He promises to be with us. This assurance transforms every gathering, big or small, into sacred moments where God's presence is real. Christian community isn't defined by a building but by the united hearts of believers seeking Jesus together. In prayer, worship, study, and encouragement, we become more aware of God at work in our lives through the fellowship we share with one another.

Too often, we think we need a perfect place or a crowd to truly experience God, but He assures us that even two or three believers praying or seeking Him together can encounter His power and grace. When we prioritize being with His people, we not only grow in faith but also become channels of God's love and encouragement to others. Every gathering is an opportunity to witness God's presence among us.

- **How has God made His presence known to you in small gatherings or unexpected places?**

- **What can you do this week to intentionally pursue community and invite Jesus into those moments?**

Day Two
JAMES 1:22



James challenges us to move beyond simply listening to God's Word and calls us to be doers as well. It's easy to nod our heads in agreement during a sermon or Bible study, but real transformation happens when we put what we learn into practice. Obedience is the bridge between hearing and growing; it's through our actions that our faith becomes real and visible. Genuine faith is seen in the way we speak, serve, forgive, and reach out to others.

Living as doers of the Word requires living with purpose and courage. There will be times when putting God's teachings into action stretches us out of our comfort zones or challenges our routines. But as we choose to obey, our lives become living testimonies of God's truth at work. When people see our love, generosity, and integrity, they see Christ reflected in us, and this can draw them closer to Him.

- **What is one truth from God's Word you've heard recently that you need to put into action?**

- **How can you hold yourself accountable to live out your faith in practical ways this week?**

Day Three
1 PETER 2:5

God calls us more than just members of a crowd; He names us "living stones," actively being built together into a spiritual house. Each believer has a unique role in the community of faith. We join with others to create a place where we experience God's presence and offer Him praise. We are not isolated bricks left on our own but carefully placed and supported by Christ, the cornerstone, who holds the building together. Our lives together form the true temple—a community devoted to worship and service.

This truth turns church from a destination into a daily calling. Wherever we go, we bring the presence of God and have the privilege to offer spiritual sacrifices—acts of love, kindness, prayer, and obedience. When we live this way, we affirm that the church is not just a building but a living, breathing testimony of God's grace at work in us and through us as His people.

- **In what ways can you embrace your unique role as a "living stone" in God's spiritual house this week?**

- **How can you partner with others in your Bible study group to offer spiritual sacrifices that honor God?**

Day Four
MATTHEW 5:16

Jesus tells us to let our light shine before others so they may see our good works and give glory to our Father in heaven. Our faith is not meant to be hidden or private; instead, it should transform the way we live and influence our words, choices, and attitudes. When we serve, encourage, forgive, and show kindness, we reflect God's character to those around us. Our good works don't earn us salvation, but they do point others to the One who saves and loves them.

Living as a light means being intentional in our everyday actions—at home, at school, and in our community—so that people encounter God's love in real and practical ways. Sometimes it's the smallest acts of compassion, patience, or generosity that speak the loudest. As you go about your week, remember that your life can be a testimony that draws others closer to God and invites them to glorify Him alongside you.

- **What is one practical way you can let your light shine in your community this week?**

- **How can your actions point those around you toward God's love and goodness?**

Day Five
JOSHUA 1:9



God commanded Joshua, "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go" (v. 9, NIV). These words weren't just for Joshua as he faced the tough task of leading Israel into the promised land; they're for us today, too. Fear and discouragement can get ahold of our hearts when we face new challenges, unknowns, or responsibilities that seem too big for us. But God reminds us that His presence is the source of our courage and strength. He promises to never leave us, no matter where the path leads.

Embracing God's promise means taking faithful steps, even when we feel uncertain. Our courage doesn't come from our own abilities but from trusting that God goes ahead of us and stands beside us. Each time we choose faith over fear, we experience more of God's faithfulness and set an example for others to find their strength in Him also.

- **What situation are you facing right now that requires God's strength and courage?**

- **How can you remind yourself of God's presence as you move forward in faith this week?**