



By Design | The Church | Eric Parks
Weekly Study | 10.5.19

START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer the following question:

Where did you grow up and how did that contribute to the person you are today?

SHARE

Welcome to our ongoing series called “By Design.”

It’s by design that the local church is God’s Plan A in the redemptive purposes God has for this world. It is by design that we find our fulfillment in Jesus, there is no other love that will fill the God-shaped hole of the human heart. It is by design that each of us have a gifting from God to use for the building up of the church.

It is by design, that together, we are the body of Christ. We are a city on a hill, a great beacon in the darkness, lighting the way for a lost and broken world toward Jesus. Together, we are the body of Jesus, and the world will know we are truly his disciples by our love for each other. This is all by God’s design.

The more we understand what God desires for us individually and what God had in mind for his church, the more we will be able to live with freedom and purpose each and every day!

It is all by design.

This week, we are specifically talking about what God’s design is for the local church. As the

body of Christ, what are we called to do? What should be important to the local church and what is my part to play in the family of God?

In the intro to the message this week, Eric talked about the timeline of the church and how Jesus did just what he intended to “go into all the world” which includes our city. Jesus had you in mind when he said to the disciples “...go and make disciples of all nations.” After hearing the history of God’s church, what was your response to that and why?

G R O W

Read Matthew 28:16-20

Jesus stands on a mountainside with the disciples and something very interesting occurs. Some worshiped him and some doubted. To those who worshiped and to those who were doubting, he gave the great commission about what they are to go and do. We can only imagine that those who were worshiping were ecstatic to be commissioned to do such an important world-changing task. In the same breath, imagine how the doubters would have felt, to be included into such a great calling, that even in their doubt, Jesus was entrusting them to go and make disciples.

Why do you think Scripture includes those who doubted?

What is the difference between a convert to the faith and an actual disciple?

Do you think you have been discipled by anyone? If so, how has that changed your life?

M O V E

Read Mark 1:16-18

When Jesus approached two fishermen, Simon and his brother Andrew, one might think that the God of the universe might demonstrate a miracle first, maybe reveal to them the mysteries of the universe or how to be successful as a leader in the fishing business. Instead,

the Spirit of God moves the hearts of these two hard-working fishermen as Jesus calls them both to follow him. It begins with a relationship with Jesus and develops into an apprenticeship to become just like him. These two young men had no idea what that was going to mean for their lives, but they both got an opportunity of a lifetime, to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

Given the culture of the day, the fishing wharf wasn't the first place Rabbi's would look for apprentices, why do you think Jesus was different? What statement do you think he was making to the world?

Read Mark 16:14-15

Jesus has some strong words for the disciples for their 'stubborn unbelief' since he was once dead and now alive and walking. Jesus then reminds the disciples that they need to go and share the good news with everyone.

Unbelief can lead to stagnation, even resistance in talking about Jesus. Even when people were in disbelief, he sought them out and would show himself to them to remind them about what's important.

How does unbelief and doubt effect you sharing about Jesus to people?

What are some examples or reasons many people are afraid to share about Jesus?

Who is one person or couple that you believe God has opened the door for you to share about Jesus? What is one thing you can do in the next 3 weeks to invest in that person or couple to take a next step towards Jesus?

P R A Y

As a group, spend some time praying for each other. If you are in a co-ed group, it can be helpful to break up into two groups in order to share more easily about your prayer request.

T O G O

Zechariah 4:6

The LORD said, ‘Your strength will not get my temple rebuilt. Your power will not do it either. Only the power of my Spirit will do it,’ says the LORD who rules over all.

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