



God's Grand Story, Pt. 11: The Church Grows

When the church launched, it began to grow quickly. A quick survey of the first several chapters of Acts will show that they kept track of how many people were embracing the message of the Gospel. What was the focus of the early church? What led to its rapid growth?

Bottom Line: God wants his Church to grow in numbers and in maturity.

Discussion Questions:

1. Name some characteristics of growing churches of which you have been a part.
2. **Read Luke 24:44-48; Acts 3:14-21, 5:29-31, 10:34-43, 13:26-39, 17:1-4, 26:19-23, 28:23-24; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4.** There are many other passages in the New Testament to which we could turn, but based on the above passages what was the consistent message of the early church? How was that message consistent with what Jesus instructed them in Luke 24?
3. What is it about the message of the Gospel that has resulted in the growth of the Church? How has the Church in our generation strayed from or maintained the message of the Gospel?
4. **Read Acts 6:1-7 (~30/31 A.D.) and Ephesians 4:11-16 (~62/63 A.D.).** From these two passages, what is the result of Christians serving each other? What happens when Christians don't serve in the Body of Christ? Why is important to the advancement of the Gospel for every Christian be serving? Why is it important for the growth and development of other Christians?
5. **Read 2 Corinthians 3:18 and 5:17.** When a person repents and turns to Jesus for forgiveness, an inner transformation begins. In what areas of your life have you experienced transformation? What has contributed to that transformation?
6. What was the most challenging idea/thought to you from the message?
7. What was the most helpful/encouraging thought or idea from the message this week? How did it help you?
8. How can the group encourage you this week?

For resources that will help you better understand God's Grand Story, please visit this link:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1PaziqJT1TQlpNQTL14EH2UUvzcao0vM0OAdPs2DketA/edit?usp=sharing>

*If time doesn't allow for you to discuss all of these questions, use only the ones you feel would be most helpful for your group.