**SGA English Message Study Questions – Be The Church God Intended**

October 16, 2016 – Matt Gaw

**Warmup Questions**

1. What misperceptions of church did you have throughout your life?
2. What misperceptions of church do your unbelieving friends have?
3. What do you think God intended the church to be like (give scripture for your answer!)?
4. How do you think the modern church is meeting what God intended for us to be?
5. **Be focused on God’s power, not yours**
	1. In Acts, evangelism wasn’t about convincing someone, but about God’s power moving in people’s lives and then the disciple sharing Christ.

**Acts 4:29-31 -** *Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.****30****Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.”*

***31****After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.*

Here we see the disciples praying after being persecuted. They prayed for boldness to preach and for God to heal and perform signs and wonders through Jesus.

* 1. What would happen if your friends who don’t know Christ actually had an undeniable interaction with God (healing, sign, dream). How do you think they would respond? What steps would you take to see them know Jesus?
	2. How can you pray for yourself and your unbelieving friends to that they would see God and then you sharing Christ?
1. **Be Jesus’ hands your world**

***Acts 5:12-16 - 12****The apostles performed many signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon’s Colonnade.****13****No one else dared join them, even though they were highly regarded by the people.****14****Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number.****15****As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter’s shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by.****16****Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by impure spirits, and all of them were healed.*

**John 14:12 -** Jesus said, *Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.*

1. Do you believe you can do the works that Jesus was doing or even greater things than these? Why or why not? Have you seen it in yourself or others?
2. What could happen in your world (your faith, your friends, your church) if you were able to do these types of things?
3. How can we pray for each other that these things can happen? How can we live differently so we can take steps of faith to see these things happen?
4. **Be Christ centered in character and ministry**

***Acts 6:1-7***

*In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews[*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=acts+6&version=NIV#fen-NIV-27103a)*] among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.****2****So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, “It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables.****3****Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them****4****and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word.”*

***5****This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism.****6****They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.*

***7****So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.*

1. What characteristics did they look for in the seven people to serve? Why would they choose these characteristics?
2. Who do you know have these characteristics? What ministries are filled with these kinds of people?
3. How can we grow our church to be a people who are full of faith, Spirit and wisdom? How can you participate in this?