

BETTER TOGETHER



Sunday, May 17, 2026
Pastor Jonathan Armstrong

Big Idea: Strong biblical community gathers to be edified and scatters to reach people with the Gospel.

Text: Acts 2:47

Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

Introduction

Every healthy thing grows.

But growth creates tension and sometimes pain because growth pushes against the norm.

Gathering feels familiar, safe, comfortable, and predictable.

But Jesus never intended biblical community to become a closed circle.

We gather so we can scatter.

We gather to be strengthened and edified.

We scatter so others can meet Jesus.

But the purpose of gathering is not merely gathering.

The purpose of gathering is preparation for mission.

1. Biblical Community Gathers for Strength

Acts 2:47

The early church continually gathered for teaching, fellowship, prayer, and worship.

Gathering matters. Church is not optional.

Why is this important? When we gather, God strengthens us inwardly so that we can effectively minister outwardly.

Hebrews 10:24–25 — And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

2. Biblical Community Scatters with Purpose

Mark 2:13–15

Levi did not abandon his relationships.

He leveraged his relationships.

Healthy believers do not retreat from people; they intentionally reach people.

People who need Jesus rarely accidentally wander into spiritual conversations.

Someone usually reaches toward them.

We gather for growth so we can scatter with purpose.

Acts 1:8 — But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

3. Biblical Community Moves Beyond Comfort

Mark 2:16

The religious crowd became uncomfortable because Jesus crossed boundaries they avoided.

Reaching people often requires leaving comfortable places.

Comfortable Christianity rarely produces courageous evangelism.

Luke 19:10 — For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

4. Biblical Community Lives on Mission

Jesus had a primary mission: Seek and save the lost.

And He gave that mission to His followers.

Matthew 28:19–20 — Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

The church gathers for edification and scatters for evangelization.

Learning To Live

- Have I become more committed to gathering than going?
- Who has God already placed within my circle of influence?
- Do I naturally move toward lost people or away from them?
- What relationship could become a bridge for Gospel conversations?
- How can I intentionally invite someone into my life this week?