

The background features several flowing, wavy bands of color. At the top, a thick band of red and orange flows from left to right. At the bottom, there are more complex, layered waves in shades of red, orange, and yellow, creating a sense of movement and depth. The central text is set against a plain white background.

**WHY DO I NEED  
A CHURCH?**

# WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH?

- Ephesian 4:11-12 – The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, **to equip the saints for the work of ministry**, for building up the body of Christ.
- The church is intended to equip Disciples to do the work of ministry.
- Worship is a key function for the community of Disciples to glorify our God for everything. However, the church has become the place where people go to watch and listen to others.
- The message of the church does not encourage or focus on being or making Disciples. The message has become focused on human desires and motivations. Yeshua made Disciples and commissioned His Disciples to make Disciples. The church must refocus and recommit to being and making Disciples.

# HOW DO I IDENTIFY A CHURCH?

- You must be very prayerful. The Holy Spirit must lead you to a community of Disciples who will invest in you and benefit from you.
- If the church is not investing in making Disciples you must be prayerful to see if God wants you to help them to reclaim a Discipleship Focus.
- As you are growing and learning you need a community that can assist you in learning the teachings of Yeshua and growing to live these teachings. You should not attempt to share these teachings until you have spent time being prepared. You must also learn to be accountable to spiritual leadership.
- Many churches are focused on growing numerically at the expense of Discipleship. The church cannot abandon the commission of Yeshua just to attract people. The church grows as Disciples make other Disciples.
- Seek for a church community that will invest in your Discipleship so that you can make Disciples.

# BE COMMITTED AND CONSISTENT

- As a Disciple of Yeshua you must be committed and consistent. You must be available to receive training in Discipleship and to support the mission and vision of the church community that you have joined.
- It is important to be trustworthy and honest. If you have questions or do not understand something you must be able to ask someone. It is important for your relationship with the church to be nurturing and informative.
- You should always know who you can talk to. The community of Disciples needs to inform you of how it operates. You should have a point of contact that you can get information from and ask questions to.
- Remember, you are part of the community to be invested in and make investment in some in the community who can benefit from what you have to offer. It may take time to determine what you can offer, but the investment of the community to help you grow should be continual.

# CHURCH HURT AND MISTAKES

- The community of Disciples is made up of people who are pursuing God just like you. Regardless to the role they have, everyone is human. You may have been hurt or turn off because of a failure or mistake in the church community.
- People in the church community will make mistakes and at times we will be hurt, misled or misinformed. Don't judge a community of Disciples by how perfect it is. The determining factor of a healthy community is how it responds to its mistakes and failures.
- The leadership must exemplify integrity and honor. This must be the standard and expectation at every level. This standard may be violated at times. It is important to see how the community responds to mistakes and failures.
- Even the first community of Disciples had an issue with the distribution of food in Acts 6. This did not mean that the community was not following God. The Apostles did not justify that issue. They addressed it. Responsible leadership will not cover mistakes. They will acknowledge them and address them according to the teachings of Yeshua.

# THERE ARE DISCIPLESHIP FOCUSED CHURCHES

- Investigate and ask questions. Use church websites and other information to evaluate the mission and vision of a church community. Visit multiple times.
- If you do not have a church community or you need a community to help you get started consider our digital community [www.BlessedHarvest.org/BlessedHarvestConnect](http://www.BlessedHarvest.org/BlessedHarvestConnect).
- You may also contact us at [ChurchTransformed@BlessedHarvest.org](mailto:ChurchTransformed@BlessedHarvest.org). We will help in any way we can.