



Jesus' Purpose // Jeff Brodie // September 28, 2025

What's the real purpose of the church? Too often, our preferences get in the way of the mission Jesus gave us. This week, we'll look at how the early church wrestled with putting Jesus' purpose above their own preferences and what that means for us today. Discover how the church can truly be a search party for the lost and the kind of movement our world desperately needs.

Scripture: [Luke 19:10 NLT](#); [Matthew 28:16-20 NLT](#); [Acts 1:6-8](#); [2:42-27](#); [15:6-11, 19 NLT](#)

Bottom Line: Jesus' purpose is greater than my preferences.

Digging In:

Reminder: The goal is a good discussion, not completing every question. Use these as a tool to help.

1. When you think of a church you'd like to attend, what preferences (music, teaching style, kids ministry, coffee, etc.) come to mind first? Why do you think it's easy for preferences to become confused with purpose in church life?
2. Which of the three metaphors Jeff shared (Museum Church, Fortress Church, Karaoke Church, Church of Me) stood out most? Why?
3. What do you learn about Jesus' heart from his statement in Luke 19:10: "For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost"?
4. Read Matthew 28:16-20 and Acts 1:6-8. Both accounts give examples of Jesus passing the baton to his disciples. What overlap do you see in these passages when it comes to our calling as Christ followers? How do you see these texts fitting together?
5. Read Acts 2:42-47. What do you notice about how the believers lived and treated each other? How do you think their conduct made the gospel attractive to outsiders?
6. Where do you see the *personality, posture, power, and purpose of Jesus* reflected in this passage?
7. Read Acts 15:6-11, 19. What tension was the early church wrestling with? Why was the apostle James' conclusion in verse 19 ("we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God") so important?
8. What are some unnecessary barriers churches today might accidentally put in the way of people coming to faith? How can we fight against this tendency?
9. In what ways do we naturally drift inward as Christians, and why do you think that is?
10. How does laying down preferences for the sake of others mirror Jesus' own posture?

11. What would it look like for you to put *purpose over preference* in your faith life this week to make it easier for a neighbour, coworker, or friend to encounter Jesus?
12. How can our group (or our church) be more intentional about being a *search party for the lost* instead of a *club for the found*?

Looking Forward:

As we wrap up this series, *A Church Every Community Needs*, remember that Jesus entrusted his mission to people like us. His personality, posture, power, and purpose are blueprints for how we live and lead together. When we put his purpose above our preferences, the Spirit uses us to change lives, just like in Acts.

This week, look for one concrete way to lay down a preference so that someone else can take a step toward Jesus. It might be an invite, a sacrifice of time, or simply choosing to welcome someone different. Let's be the church our community needs—a search party for the lost, filled with the Spirit, and focused on Jesus' mission.