



Doing Church Differently

OCEAN CHURCH

Part 1:
Church Beyond Walls:
Connecting Faith with Nature and Community

You can watch Part One Video on our [YouTube Channel Here](#)

OVERVIEW

Ocean Church is a unique outdoor Christian community that gathers in nature, particularly on beaches, to integrate faith with the natural world and foster a missional way of life.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord, open our hearts and minds to see Your presence in all places. Guide us as we explore how church can extend beyond buildings and into everyday life. Amen.

WHAT IS CHURCH?

Matthew 18:20: *"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."*

- How does Jesus define the idea of "church" in this verse?
- How does this compare to traditional views of church being a building or Sunday service?
- In what ways have you experienced God outside of a traditional church setting?

GOING DEEPER:

God in Nature: Psalm 19:1-4

- How does nature reflect God's presence?
- Have you ever felt spiritually connected to God while in nature?
- How does Ocean Church's approach—meeting outdoors and embracing creation—align with this passage?

The Call to Mission: Matthew 28:19-20

- Jesus calls us to "go" rather than "stay." How does this challenge the way we traditionally view church?
- What are ways we can bring faith outside of church buildings into our everyday lives?
- How does Ocean Church embody this mission by meeting people where they are?

Living as a Missional Community: Acts 2:42-47

- What does this passage tell us about how the early church functioned?
- How does Ocean Church's focus on gathering in community, sharing meals, and engaging in daily faith practices reflect this early church model?
- What are ways we can foster deeper Christian community in our lives?

Breaking from Tradition to Follow God's Leading: Isaiah 43:19

- What does this verse tell us about God's nature?
- How can we embrace new ways of worship and community without losing the core of our faith?
- Have you ever felt called to do something new in your faith journey? What was that like?

APPLICATION: LIVING OUT THE MISSION

- **Spend Time with God Outdoors:** This week, take a walk, sit in a park, or find a quiet space in nature to pray and reflect on God's presence.
- **Invite Others Into Your Faith Life:** Like Ocean Church encourages, invite someone into your home for a meal and spiritual conversation.
- **Rethink Church:** Identify ways you can bring church beyond the building—through service, outreach, or simple acts of faith in your community.

FIVE KEY QUESTIONS FOR THE CHURCH

What does it mean to be the church beyond a building?

- How can we shift our mindset from church being a place to church being a way of life?
- What opportunities exist in our community to meet and worship in non-traditional settings?

How can we integrate nature and our local environment into our worship and mission?

- What role does creation play in experiencing and connecting with God?
- How might meeting outdoors or in public spaces impact our ability to reach new people?

How do we create a strong sense of community and shared life among believers?

- What habits or rhythms can we encourage that go beyond Sunday gatherings?
- How can we foster deep relationships through hospitality, shared meals, and intentional discipleship?

How can we embrace a 'missional community' mindset rather than just attracting people to a service?

- How can we join in with what God is already doing in our local community?
- What practical ways can we serve and engage with those who wouldn't normally attend church?

What bold steps might God be calling us to take in order to reach people in new ways?

- Are there traditions or structures we need to rethink or let go of in order to be more effective?
- What fears or barriers hold us back from experimenting with fresh expressions of church?

CLOSING PRAYER

God of creation, thank You for meeting us wherever we are. Help us see the church not just as a place, but as a way of life. Guide us in sharing Your love with others in new and meaningful ways. Amen.

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You can find updates about Ocean Church on our [SCBA Website Here](#).

This church receives a mission grant which is made possible by the Home Mission Appeal: find out how to support [Home Mission Here](#)

