



March 26, 2023
Sunday Sermon Study Guide
Pastor Lee Towns
Complicated: *The Beauty of the Broken*

“The church is broken people with rough edges, ragged edges and even sharp edges, but like a master artist God takes those rough, ragged, sharp-edged pieces and turns them into a beautiful mosaic of stained glass. It is His plan. She is His bride.”

He heals the broken hearted and binds up their wounds. Psalm 147:3 ESV

A Life Application Study Guide

James 1:22-25 tells us to put into practice what we are discovering in God’s word.

INTRODUCTION

We **recognize** that for some of us, our relationship with church has been painful. We seek **repentance** where we have either intentionally or unintentionally caused hurt or pain and we wrestle with the process of **restoration** as we seek to heal and move forward. Today we pause to **rejoice** in the beauty of the church. *We are the church.*

LESSONS TO EXPLORE

1. It is God who places us into his family and the church community
2. Church has been God’s plan from the beginning
3. The church has been misrepresented and misunderstood.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. Lee makes a bold statement: *we belong to the church*. Church is the consequence of faith.
 - a. We have been called out from the world and placed into *ekklesia*, an assembly: consider Acts 2:41 “*Those who believed what Peter said were baptized and added to the church that day, about 3,000 in all.*” Who was doing the calling and the placing? Why is this an important element in this story and in the history of the early church?

 - b. Is it possible to have faith and not belong to the Church? When and where have you observed this? What were some of the reasons behind the choice not to belong?

- a. When have you experienced forgiveness and when have you been called to forgive? How has this radical act of Jesus forgiving you, given you the courage to forgive another?

MAKING IT REAL

This week, soak in this reminder. *We are the church.* How do we live this out?

- The church, she is the people.
- The church, she is a family.
- The church, she is absolutely essential.
- The church, she is a movement (an organism).
- The church, she is a healing place.
- The church, she is participation.
- The church, she is belonging.
- The church, she is serving.
- The church, she is the leading edge of cultural change.
- The church, she has Jesus.