

**Sunday, October 6, 2019**  
**Mission Possible: Bless Thailand**

**Lesson 1: What should the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Church Look Like?**

There are many ideas and opinions of what the 21<sup>st</sup>-century local church should look like. Many of these ideas and opinions are shaped by human thinking and culture. As we look at the biblical pattern for the Church, we are introduced to a concept that empowers and equips Christians to become an extension of God's power, mercy, and goodness to the World.

1. **The Church** – "a called-out assembly" – the body of Christ – universal/local – We can also refer to the Church in a collective sense and an individual sense. Matt. 16:18 / 1 Peter 2:9 / 1 Cor. 3:16.
  
2. What do you think of when you think of the Church? - do you think of an organized, corporate structure, located at a specific address?
  
3. What happens when we see the Church as the field - what do we emphasize?
  
4. What happens when we see the World as the field?

Conclusion: How we view the Church will determine all the Church does. It will affect our ministry emphasis, our ministry goals, our motivation, which will determine the end result. The emphasis is on each member becoming mature and equipped so that they can be released into the World. Then the Church becomes a force in the World and the community. The Church becomes a refuge for the community, not from the community.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does our understanding of the local Church influence our understanding of ministry?
2. Give examples of how the Church as a Force concept can impact a community.
3. What happens when we see the World as the field?

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