



SERMON NOTES

Sunday, May 9, 2021 | Pastor Scott Boerckel

**“The First Church and Our Church:
How Will Our Stories Compare? ”**

selected in Acts

1. Focus: Seeking to be Worshipers, Maturing in Christ
2. The Pathways of Discipleship
3. Vital Sign: Rooted in Scripture
4. Vital Sign: Growing in Christ

5. Vital Sign: Making Disciples

Table Talk

- 1) What have you taken away as a “big picture” principle from our study of the first church? In what ways is East White Oak like the first church? In what ways is it different? What are the differences that we should seek to change to be more like them? What are the differences that we cannot or should not seek to be like them?
- 2) How did the local circumstances affect life in the first church? Were there times when they could gather in large groups? Were there times when they could not? How might their experiences apply to our lives through the pandemic?
- 3) Where in Acts do you see that the focus of the first church was *Seeking to be Worshipers, Maturing in Christ*?
- 4) Where in Acts do you see the pathways of discipleship that East White Oak has of large group worship, medium sized Bible Fellowships, and Small Groups? Some suggest that having a specific pathway of discipleship is imposing a legalistic standard on the local church. Why is this not the case? How can young believers grow in Christ if some pathway is not marked out for them?
- 5) Where in Acts do you see that the first church is *Rooted in Scripture*? What should we say to those who criticize the church for being interested in the details of Bible study and not caring about how to teach people how to live?
- 6) Where in Acts do you see that the first church is *Growing in Christ*? What growth do you observe in the first church in prayer, in financial giving, in care for one another, in church government, in obeying the Holy Spirit?
- 7) Where in Acts do you see that the first church is *Making Disciples*? Why MUST a church see new converts and see them grow, if it is to be faithful to her mission? What are you presently doing to make disciples? How might you engage in a greater way to East White Oak’s “Art of Neighboring” opportunities? How might you support in a greater way East White Oak’s passion to take the Gospel to the ends of the earth?