

Christianity for the 21st Century

CHURCH SCATTERED

By Dan Greer



*Helping equip Christians to live out the gospel
in the Church Scattered at home, work and in their neighborhood.*

INTRODUCTION

This study guide was written to help both individuals and groups to better understand the major principles included in *Church Scattered: Christianity for the 21st Century*. The guide is not exhaustive in covering all of the disruptive truths in the book, but it is comprehensive enough to equip everyone with a working knowledge that can lead to application.

The book is long and in many areas even difficult to understand. The study guide along with the key quotes and the disruptive truths at the end of every chapter should help bring clarity. We created this to help you move forward in these challenging days.

Because of these challenges, the study guide has more questions than most individuals or groups will want to answer. They are in a sequential order for each chapter and the book was written to move from Disruption to Church to individual Christian applications, each major section is three chapters long.

You may want to decide to skip certain questions for time allocation reasons and identify them before your meetings. Another approach that has worked very effectively is rather than eliminating questions, make assignments to different teams or group members to answer a limited number and then report out to the entire group.

I also included a place for you to create your own questions that may help contextualize both your understanding and application. This is the ultimate pay off to me because it asks every person, team or group the great question of what's next.

That leads me to the last section of the guide on practical applications. One of the essential truths in *Church Scattered* is that you must first change what you *believe* to be true about God before you can sustain change in how you *behave* in the real world.

I am thrilled you are reading the book and seeking to understand how it can help you to become a fully devoted follower of Christ. Your calling of Knowing Him and Making Him Known is indeed Christianity for the 21st century.

STUDY GUIDE

Chapter One: Global Disruption

Essential Understandings

1. God is leveraging global disruption to dramatically change the priorities for Christians and the church to accomplish His mission of redemption and restoration in the world. *(Page 23)*

What does the Frog in the Kettle illustration have to do with the church? _____

Why is the culture not our enemy? _____

Describe the two different ways to lead change. _____

How & why is Disruption different from normal change? _____

Give illustrations of how this Disruption has impacted leadership at work. _____

What is margin and why is it so important? _____

While our text was written a year before any of us had heard the words Corona virus or Covid 19, the concept of disruption that applied then is true even more now. Take 15 minutes of group time to discuss how lives were disrupted in the past year.

2. Every Christian is called to be a disciple and to leverage his or her work as part of God's sacred mission for his or her life. *(Page 32)*

What do these changes in leadership culture have to do with the church reaching three generations for Christ?

What does work-faith integration mean and why is it so important? _____

When does the author say that personal spiritual maturity really starts? _____

What are the implications of the statement that the front lines of the gospel have moved from the churches we attend to the neighborhoods where we live and the places where we work? _____

3. Work should be seen as sacred and not secular. *(Page 37)*

Where do we first see work in the Bible and why is it important? _____

What work was the human race given to do? _____

How did work change after the Fall? _____

What did Jesus say His work was to do while He was here? _____

Jesus finished His work and then delegated it to whom? _____

How can we as Christians redeem and restore work so that it becomes sacred again? _____

Additional Questions

1. _____

2. _____

Practical Applications

In the next five days I will (identify specific changes)...

Believe _____

Practice _____

Chapter Two: Cultural Disruption

Essential Understandings

1. We are now living in a postmodern and post-Christian America that believes there is no absolute truth and many paths to God. (*Page 47*)

What are some of the reasons that the church has been ineffective in reaching lost people and making disciples?

What is contextualization and why is it important?

List some of the major changes in our culture over the last 40 years.

What does living in a postmodern culture mean and why is it important?

Can the bible be trusted as absolute truth?

Do all religious paths lead to God or is Christ the only way?

Give examples of what post-Christian means by using Barna's research.

2. We have three generations in America who are as culturally distant from God as those in the Middle East.
(Page 54)

Explain the author's term post-evangelism? _____

Does that mean that we don't care about reaching lost people anymore? _____

How would you now define missions for the American church today? _____

What does this contextual change have to do with prioritizing the church scattered? _____

What is the Engle scale and why is it important for the church today in America? _____

3. This contextual reality demands a cross-cultural relational approach to effectively reach people for Christ.
(Page 58)

How must Christians change in America to reach people in a cross-cultural way? _____

Why is it so important to be able to discern where a lost person is on their spiritual receptivity scale?

Why is prayer so important in reaching someone who is far away from Christ? _____

4. We have a leadership development crisis that must be resolved at every level of Christianity.

What is the primary training church leaders are receiving in the current seminary model? Give reasons why this is not effective.

Why do church leaders and Christians need training in reaching people with cross-cultural strategies?

Should leadership development be included in every church leaders training? _____

What responsibility do we have as Christians for this lack of training for our church leaders and ourselves?

How can we solve this problem if seminaries are unwilling to change? _____

Additional Questions

1. _____

2. _____

Practical Applications

In the next five days I will (identify specific changes)...

Believe _____

Practice _____

Chapter Three: Church Disruption

Essential Understandings

1. Churches and denominations are failing at an alarming rate. *(Page 65)*

Why is this happening and what can be done about it? _____

What are the factors that cause a church to be ripe for disruption leading to failure? _____

Is there biblical evidence of this cycle of persecution, suffering and scattering that leads to repentance and spiritual awakening?

With all this bad news, why is the author more excited than ever about the future of the church? _____

2. Church contextualization is critical in understanding what has happened in the past and how we should change to be more effective in the future. *(Page 68)*

Why did the Father create the mega-church movement? _____

What are the advantages and disadvantages of these churches with over 2000 active members?

Is there a role for the mega-church moving forward? _____

What does the author mean by creating a co-dependent culture? _____

Explain why and how the church gathered needs to be the set up instead of the pay off for Christians.

3. The author lists 5 major church movements that have occurred in the last 50 years. *(Page 71)*

What is the one major thing we must learn from each of the first four that will need to be a part of this radical transformation for Christianity in the 21st century?

Church Growth: 1970 _____

Purpose Driven Church: 1995 _____

The Emerging Church: 2003 _____

Simple Church: 2006 _____

4. Transformational Church makes several major contributions to setting up the role of Church Scattered. *(Page 77)*

Explain their thinking on the role of the church scattered? _____

What does the author mean that social justice without eternal redemption is not really justice at all?

What does changing the scorecard mean and why is this so important? _____

Why must we create a way to accurately measure spiritual growth in individual Christians?

Discuss how the church could help create a process where spiritual growth can help both the church gathered and scattered be successful.

Additional Questions

1. _____

2. _____

Practical Applications

In the next five days I will (identify specific changes)...

Believe _____

Practice _____

Chapter Four: Great Omission

Essential Understandings

1. Jesus Christ is Lord and therefore should be followed in total surrender. (Page 86)

What does the author mean there is not a second decision to be made and why is this important?

What are some of the real issues when we say we trust Christ for eternity but not for today?

How does performance based religion lead to a segmented life? _____

Why was the Christian life designed by the Father to be 100% all in? _____

2. God is conforming us into the image of Christ for our good and His glory. (Page 87)

How is it for our good? _____

What are the implications of remaining children in Galatians 4 instead of becoming sons? _____

How does being conformed into the image of Christ bring Him glory? _____

Provide simple definitions for each of these stages of grace.

Redeeming _____

Refining _____

Restraining _____

Which of the above stages is the most amazing? _____

It is important to remember that these stages are not sequential. Describe a season of life when you were being refined and protected by God's restraint at the same time.

Why is it necessary to understand God's restraining grace to embrace his lordship? _____

Why does Jesus say we love Him little instead of much? _____

Why is restraining grace so important to understand? _____

3. We are the holy place of God and We do everything together. (Page 90)

Did it make you squeamish to consider the example of beer and movies in the sanctuary? Discuss how God in us – body and mind – is a tenet of our faith that constantly challenges us to walk our talk.

Why did the Father choose to make us the Holy Place? _____

God is wherever you are because He is in you. How does this statement clarify the concept of church scattered and every area of your life as the place where your work and relationships are both service and worship, where the secular is made sacred?

What are all the implications of Christ's prayer to the Father in John 17? _____

What does the author mean We do everything together? _____

Explain the role of spiritual brokenness in becoming a disciple, then discuss why broken is such a hard word for us to deal with.

4. Why must The Great Commandment be significantly prioritized over the Great Commission? (Page 93)

What does this have to do with the current decline in making disciples? _____

What is the role of an Ambassador and how would that look in a church scattered context?

Define the “great omission” then explain why valuing the Great Commission above/more than the Great Commandment has resulted in the Great Omission for our churches.

What does the Great Omission look like in our individual lives? Think of a time when it was easier for you to “go and teach” rather than to focus on “your heart...your soul...your mind.”

What is the relationship between passion and compassion for Christians? _____

How does this define our calling and mission in life? _____

What are the most important truths in the story of the Good Samaritan? _____

In a church scattered context, who is my neighbor? _____

Additional Questions

1. _____

2. _____

Practical Applications

In the next five days I will (identify specific changes)...

Believe _____

Practice _____

Chapter Five: Church Gathered

Essential Understandings

1. Prioritizing the Church Scattered will help, not hurt, the Church Gathered. *(Page 105)*

What is the difference between the importance of message compared to methods? _____

In your own words, why will the church gathered always be important? _____

Why is virtual church alone not a biblically-based strategy? _____

Does that mean that we should not use technology to help make disciples in the church scattered?

How does prioritizing the church scattered help the church gathered? _____

2. Small churches can be healthy again by implementing church scattered priorities. *(Page 106)*

Why are so many churches small? Is that a problem? _____

What key thing must be changed about the scorecard for them to become effective again? _____

How can they use technology to help make disciples just like any other size church? _____

In trying to reach these three generations, what competitive advantage do small churches have over very large ones?

What role will getting involved in missions play in the future success of small churches everywhere?

3. Church leadership structure and culture must radically change to tear down the clergy-laity co-dependency model. *(Page 108)*

When the metric for success is attendance, why does that cause leadership alignment problems for both staff and members?

Why are there more church failures over leadership issues than theology? _____

How is leading in a church different from leading in a company? _____

Explain why having a leadership development program in place is so critical for church success.

If you elevate the role of Christians in the church scattered does that devalue the role of the ministers in the church gathered? Elaborate.

Why are ministry team leaders so critical to the success of any church? _____

4. A comprehensive discipleship process must be in place with accountability for measurable results. (Page 111)

What is the first step in this process and why is it so important? _____

Why does a one size fit all approach not work with discipleship? _____

Explain why the church scattered is so important if Christians are going to become mature in their faith. How will this shift in prioritizing the responsibility of Christians in the church scattered change the role of the church gathered?

5. Ministry platforms leaders must be highly trained to contextualize their ministry to their people while supporting overall church priorities. (Page 117)

Explain the roles of teams, groups and classes in the overall discipleship strategy? _____

Why is their leadership training so critical to their success? _____

What is the ultimate goal of leaders in all three areas? _____

6. Church missional networks must be built that make the greatest impact possible on meeting needs in Jesus name. (Page 120)

Explain the difference in shared compared to direct missions support. _____

Why should every church have some direct missions ministry? _____

How can the building of missional networks help churches be more effective in ministry? _____

Additional Questions

1. _____

2. _____

Practical Applications

In the next five days I will (identify specific changes)...

Believe _____

Practice _____

Chapter Six: Church Scattered

Essential Understandings

1. The church gathered and the church scattered are one church with the same mission. (Page 127)

Why is the church scattered not in competition with the church gathered? _____

When Christians and people in the culture hear the word church, what do we want them to think? _____

What do they think now and why? _____

For this shift to happen from prioritizing the church gathered to the church scattered, what must be changed?

Throughout Chapter 6, the author identifies 30 examples of activities / programs / services / characteristics that look/sound different in the church scattered. View the first shift in the table below, then fill in others.

SHIFT	CHURCH GATHERED	CHURCH SCATTERED
Leadership of Church	One Leader	Many Leaders

Now – note at least two ways that your personal practice will be different.

2. The number one priority of every Christian must be a growing relationship with Christ. *(Page 129)*

Why is it so critical that personal spiritual maturity is at the top of the list? _____

What major area of your life should come next and why? _____

How do you help define priorities for every area of your life and evaluate ongoing progress?

The author states, “to the degree that you learn to follow Christ, you will have the power to lead others.” What does this mean?

What does the idea of leadership development have to do with spiritual maturity? _____

3. The development of a relational network will allow you to intentionally meet the needs of others during the most difficult times in their life. *(Page 131)*

What is a relational network and why are they so important? _____

Circle or list the people and places in your network _____

Hairdresser Neighbor Gym Vet Grocery Barista Classmate

How can we engage intentionally but not manipulatively with individuals in our network? _____

How many people should you have in your network? _____

Explain spiritual receptivity and change points. What do they have to do with relational networks?

Is ministry within your relational network a major increased time commitment?

How would you have handled the neighbor who gave the wine as a gift differently and why?

4. Becoming a church planter will allow you to develop strategies that will help in your family, neighborhood, and workplace to experience Christ living through you. *(Page 134)*

Why use the concept of church planting? _____

How are these church plants different from the church gathered? _____

What are some of the major challenges facing a family church plant? _____

Why are neighborhood church plants still effective? _____

When you take your faith to work, what unique challenges come with seeing this as a church plant of church scattered?

Why is it still worth the risk to use this platform for the gospel? _____

Who is a Corporate Shepherd and what roles and responsibilities do they have at work? _____

5. The days of persecution and suffering for righteousness sake are here and we must be prepared for nothing less than warfare. (*Page 140*)

Why do we not experience spiritual warfare as immature Christians? _____

When we are spiritually mature, why does the warfare begin? _____

Why are Christians in America experiencing more persecution than before? _____

If this is the new reality for Christians, what changes should we be making in our lives to live in victory and not in fear?

Additional Questions

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Practical Applications

In the next five days I will (identify specific changes)...

Believe _____

Practice _____

Chapter Seven: Personal Leadership

Essential Understandings

1. We are all called to be Christian leaders in every area of our lives. (Page 146)

“Nothing so conclusively proves a persons ability to lead others as what he does from day to day to lead himself.” -Thomas Watson

Why is personal leadership so important? _____

What are some of the areas other than work where we are called to be leaders? _____

What is your biggest takeaway from the mountain climbing story? _____

How should the life of Helen Keller inspire you? _____

2. The Christian life was designed by God to be lived one day at a time. (Page 147)

What is margin and why is it important? _____

How do you maintain it in your day-to-day life? _____

What does a Grace Account have to do with this? _____

Explain the three critical truths for maintaining the daily grace you need. _____

3. Developing a personal Life Plan is essential for Christian leadership. (Page 148)

Why is it important to set goals for your personal life just like you do at work? _____

How do we know when to say “no” and why is that so hard to do? _____

Explain the circle of influence vs. your circle of concern. _____

What is the difference between goals and desires? _____

How does this help with setting realistic expectations? _____

The author has 3 major sections in his Life Plan. Explain the role of each area and give one example of a specific goal in each.

How can you evaluate if this is really working?

Why does merging leadership and life, work and faith, and secular and sacred parts of life help when one area blows up and demands more of your time?

4. The three Spiritual Disciplines of Prayer, Bible Study and Strongholds are a critical part of the personal leadership. (*Page 153*)

How would you explain prayer from the author's point of view? _____

What does prayer have to do with the question we all ask: "How Am I Doing?" _____

Why don't we pray about that big meeting at work or how to deal with that difficult person on our team?

What does the parable of soils and Law of Harvest have to do with bible study? _____

What causes us to leave a worship service emotionally moved but never seeing permanent change?

How is the battle for the Christian life won and lost in your mind? _____

Define a stronghold. Why is it so powerful? _____

What is the role of the Holy Spirit in this battle? _____

How do you defeat it in your life and ensure it stays away? _____

Additional Questions

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Practical Applications

In the next five days I will (identify specific changes)...

Believe _____

Practice _____

Chapter Eight: Family Ministry

Essential Understandings

1. Security and significance (Page 94)

How does the author define security and significance? (See Chapter 4) Consider these two needs apart from one another. Begin to think how each of these needs is manifest in the different areas of our lives.

2. Fully integrated life (Page 167)

Write the definition from the author, and then note your own defining thoughts. **As you reflect on this concept, note the “yes, but’s” in your self talk. We’ll come back to these.*

3. Value order for relationships (Page 167)

1. God

2. Spouse

3. Children

4. Work

5. Other

What happens if we get these out of priority order? _____

What happens if our life does not include one of these relationships? _____

What role does flexibility play in managing this “order”? _____

Where is self in this picture? _____

What does it look / sound like to hit pause in our current situation, and reorder these priorities?

Discuss the author's statement "...the degree of pain we experience is directly related to the priority we place..."

Give examples of how both security and significance can be motivation and encouragement for each of these relationships.

4. Marriage (Page 163)

What is spiritual oneness? How do we move from individuals with God as our first priority to spiritual oneness? How does the move impact expectations?

o Dangerous cycles - Stuffing / dumping

Read again about processing emotion productively. Think about your personal default – are you a stuffer or a dumper? The words are funny but the results are not. What happens if we allow this cycle to become our standard of operation?

o Dangerous cycles - Guilt / blame

"... when you catch yourself casting blame, check your guilt account balance..." Explain how the guilt/blame cycle can create lasting damage in a marriage.

Consider personal focus areas in your life plan as a spouse. Have you discussed your plan with your spouse? How similar / different would it be if they wrote your plan from the viewpoint of the person who is both receiving and giving ministry?

5. Parenting (*Page 171*)

Protection / Instruction / Correction / Encouragement / Coaching / Friendship

How do these parental roles grow and change in quality and quantity as our children mature?

Discuss security and significance in the parent / child dynamic.

What has parenting taught you about being a child of God?

Additional Questions

1.

2.

Practical Applications - *in the next five days I will (identify specific changes)...*

Believe

Practice

Chapter Nine: Career Calling

Essential Understandings

1. Corporate Shepherds are great leaders who help meet spiritual needs through work. (Page 183)

Describe all the responsibilities of a corporate shepherd. _____

Why is it biblical and important to make a profit at work? _____

How do faith and trust differ? What do they have to do with risk tolerance at work? _____

What are some of the reasons we excessively fear the loss of our jobs? _____

Why should we build and maintain relational networks with people at work?

2. The reason it was not done was not because we did not have time, but because it was not a priority. (Page 190)

Why is the use of technology alone dangerous? _____

What is the difference between prioritizing your schedule and scheduling your priorities?

How and why can going paperless help so much with personal productivity? _____

3. The Father promised us all the power we need to accomplish all the things He has called us to do. (*Page 191*)

What is the difference between wisdom and discernment? _____

How can they both be applied at work? _____

The author gives an illustration of how empowerment helped with securing an extremely large client. Was the Holy Spirit really involved or was this just human competency?

What is the relationship here between hard work and divine outcomes? _____

4. Feedback is a biblical concept that can be applied every day at work and at home to live out our faith with others. (*Page 193*)

Why are both extremes of just hoping it will all go away and losing your temper not effective Christian leadership? _____

Explain the concept of being a minority offender and why is it so powerful? _____

Why is talking about people behind their back instead of to them both unbiblical and ineffective?

Where do most of us make the biggest mistake in the area of listening well?

5. Great leaders learn how to shift their style to meet the needs of others. *(Page 195)*

Explain situational leadership and how it works.

Why is the concept of alignment so powerful between leaders and team members?

Christian leaders understand the implications of the Speed of Trust. Why is this a powerful truth and can it impact the bottom line?

Is organizational culture that important? If so, why?

The separation of tactical and strategic work is vital to the success of any team. Give examples from your work experience how this can kill the effectiveness of any meeting.

6. When the juice is gone, be sure to put the new wine in a new wineskin. *(Page 198)*

What is the juice and why is it gone?

How do you stay passionate about doing great work when your metrics are now more eternal than temporary?

Does drinking the new wine mean it's time to go to seminary?

What is the wineskin and why must you have one for all of this to work?

Additional Questions

1. _____

2. _____

Practical Applications

In the next five days I will (identify specific changes)...

Believe _____

Practice _____
