

# *The Church: Our Present and Future*

## TEACHING NOTES

**Salvation by faith through grace (Ephesians 3:3-6)**

**The Church (Ephesians 5:25-27)**

**The future (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)**

Christ is coming

### KEY VERSES

Ephesians 4:11-16

### KEY THEMES

God is at work

Our role in God's plan

INTRODUCTION

INNOCENCE

CONSCIENCE

HUMAN GOVT.

PROMISE

LAW

GRACE

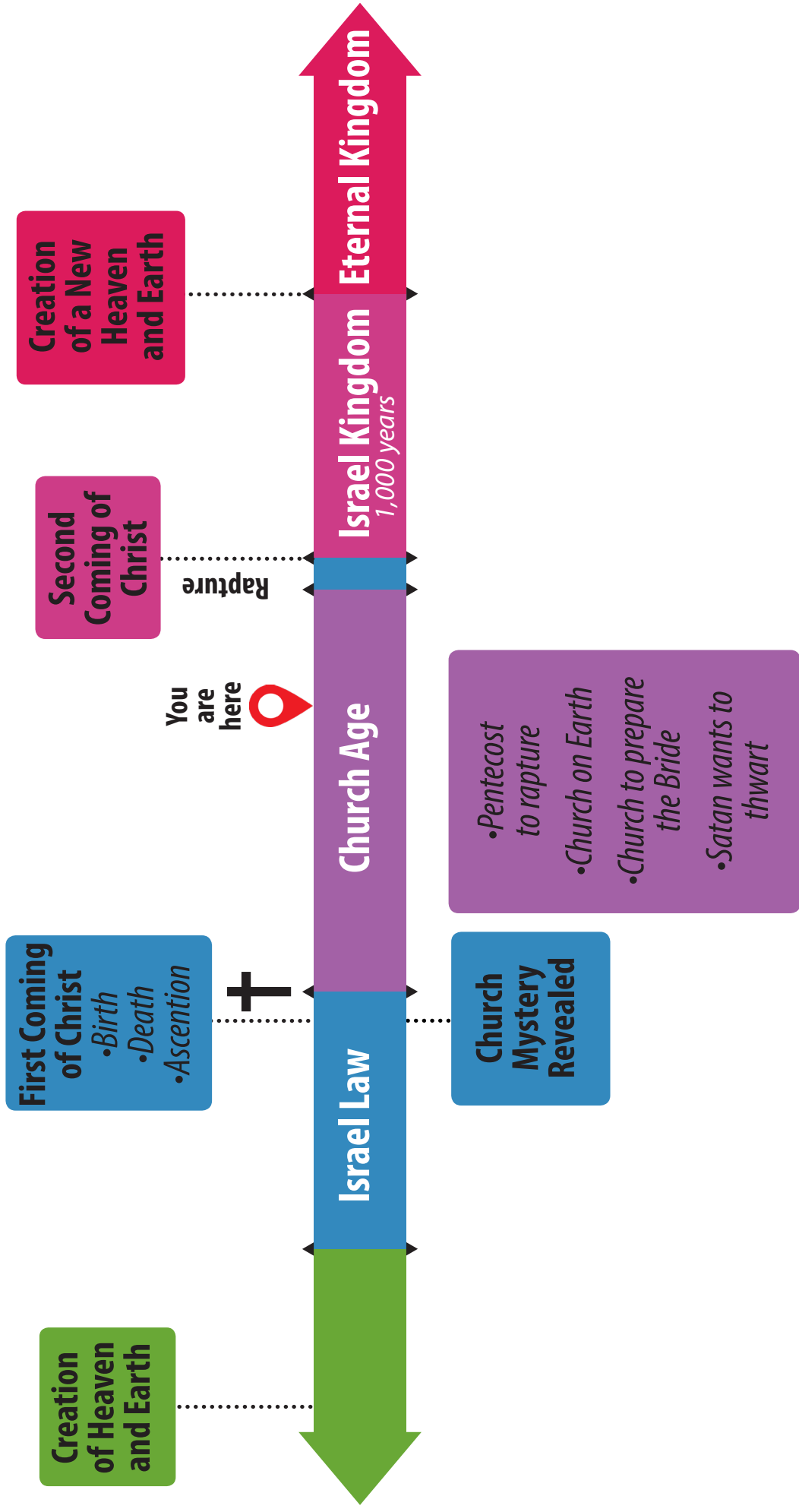
**Preparing the Church (Ephesians 4:11-16)**

Growth and maturity

Discipleship and evangelism

**Lesson objective:** *To recognize the urgency of the Church's mission and respond by joining God in His plan.*

# Big Picture Timeline of the Church



## PERSONAL STUDY

God has a plan for the Church. Part of that plan is that we mature in our faith – that we would be growing as individuals and collectively as the Church. Regularly spending time studying God's Word is a key component of our spiritual growth. Coming to *Equipping the Church* or participating in Bible study classes is a great way to do that with a community of believers. But we should also be digging into God's Word on our own.

This Personal Study will provide you with an opportunity to do just that. This simple study will allow you to take a more in-depth look at one of the passages from this session's teaching. You'll use the *Inductive Study Method*, which is an investigative approach to the Bible using three basic components: observation, interpretation, and application.

**Observation** – This is how to learn exactly what a passage of scripture says

**Interpretation** – This is how to accurately interpret scripture and understand what it means in the right context

**Application** – This is how to correctly apply the truth of the text to everyday life

This method is a tool that you can use as a guide whenever you study a passage of scripture. If you joined us for *Equipping the Church: Living Words*, this is a tool that should be familiar to you by now. If you weren't able to join us and would like to learn more about the *Inductive Study Method* and other Bible study resources, please let us know. We would love to provide you with these additional resources on studying God's Word.

Now, use the *Inductive Study Method* to unpack Ephesians 4:11-16 on your own:



### Read Ephesians 4:11-16

#### Observation

(Who? When? Where? Why? What does it say? What do I notice?)

**Interpretation**

*(What are the key themes or truths? What is the writer's intended meaning? What is the context? What questions do I have?)*

**Application**

*(How do I apply it? What does this mean for me?)*

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