

The Church

KEY VERSES

Acts 1:6-8
Acts 5:12-16

KEY THEMES

God has a plan to build His Church
God uses people of faith

TEACHING NOTES

 Matthew 16:17-19

Being the Church Jesus dreamed of

 Acts 1:6-8

 Acts 2:1-13

 Matthew 28:16-20

 Acts 2:29-36

 Acts 2:38-41

INTRODUCTION INNOCECE CONSCIENCE HUMAN GOVT. PROMISE LAW GRACE

Equipped and led by the Holy Spirit to reach our world for Christ

Ephesians 4:11-16

**“I will build My Church”**

Acts 4:18-31



Acts 5:12-16

Let's be the Church

Acts 5:17-20



Acts 28:25-31

Lesson Objective:

To understand that the vehicle of communicating God's message is now the body of believers, the Church

PERSONAL STUDY**Study 1****Prepare your heart and mind**

Ask God to prepare your heart and mind to receive the truth that He has for you.

**Read Luke 3:21-22 & Luke 4:14-15**

When did Jesus' earthly ministry begin?

Just as the earthly ministry of Jesus began when the Holy Spirit came upon Him, Pentecost was the beginning of the disciples' ministry. The same power through the Holy Spirit that was given to Jesus and the first century Christians is available to empower and enable believers today.

**Read Acts 2:1-13**

How would you identify the significance of Pentecost?

Up until the Day of Pentecost, God worked through His covenant promises using the people of Israel. In Acts 2, we see a new beginning in God's way of interacting with people.

The significance of Pentecost is God equipping His church with the power of the Holy Spirit. Being empowered by the Holy Spirit, God has provided His people the capability to be a witness to all the nations as they build His Church. As you think about this significance, ask yourself these questions:

Do I live my life with the understanding that as a Christ follower, through the power of the Holy Spirit, I am a part of God's plan to build His Church?

Am I *living* as if I have been empowered with the Holy Spirit to help fulfill the Great Commission to reach my world for Christ?

Do I have an eternal perspective on life?

Who is someone you know that boldly lives their life as a witness for Christ to those who are lost and perishing? What are specific ways they are living that made you think of them? What can you glean from their life?



God does what He says, He has a plan to build His Church, and He uses people of faith.

How does it make you feel to be part of God's plan? Are you surrendering to the Spirit and not to your sinful nature so that you can participate fully in His plan?

Key verse

Put to memory Matthew 16:18b *"I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it."*

Prayer time

Begin today's prayer time thanking God for allowing you to be a part of His plan to build His Church. Quiet your heart and mind as you seek wisdom and discernment from God on where He desires you to take more of a step of faith in reaching those who do not know Him. Ask God to give you the ability to see the world more as He sees it and the faith to act on His behalf.

Study 2

Prepare your heart and mind

Ask the Lord to quiet your heart and mind as you focus on His Word and what He wants to teach you during this time together.



God has a plan to build His Church & He uses people of faith

Keep these themes in mind as you read Acts 1-4. When you see these themes in the text, circle them. Also as you read, look for any place God is mentioned (watch for "Jesus", the "Holy Spirit", and "he/him/his") and underline these occurrences.

Prayer time

Thank God for His Word that teaches, guides and directs us. Thank Him for the examples of faith you read about today. Ask the Lord for the boldness to begin to respond to Him in faith as well.

Key verse

Continue memorizing Matthew 16:18b. See if you can write it out from memory below.

PARENT GUIDE

“Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means ‘rock’), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it.” (Matthew 16:18)

Use these Table Talk questions to start a conversation about “being the Church.” You can ask these questions around the table, driving down the road, or wherever you have a bit of extra time with your kids. It only takes minutes to share what you are learning with your children. By doing so, you help build a firm foundation in your child’s faith.

Table Talk

What is the Church? (*It’s not a building. A building is where we meet to worship together and learn more about God. Actually we are “the Church.”*)

As the Church, God gave us a very special job to do. Do you know what that is? (*Telling others about Jesus.*) Read Matthew 28:18-20 together.

Can you think of friends or people in our family whom you can share Jesus with?

Together with your children, make a list of these people who need to hear about Jesus. Take time to pray together asking God to provide opportunities to share your faith. You can put this list up on the refrigerator to serve as a reminder to pray for them.

OPTIONAL STUDY

Long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets. And now in these final days, He has spoken to us through His Son. God promised everything to the Son as an inheritance, and through the Son He created the universe. Hebrews 1:1-2

Throughout history God has consistently communicated His will and plan to mankind. The Lord has used many different ways to speak the truth of His character and power among the nations. In the Old Testament, God used the nation of Israel as a witness to the surrounding nations and the world that there indeed was one true God. In the New Testament, Jesus came bringing the message of the New Covenant of faith to the Jewish people. Before Jesus ascended to heaven, He told His new Church, those who believed in Him, to “go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone.” (Mark 16:15) Jesus gave His new Church the responsibility and authority to take the Good News to the world.



Read Matthew 25:14-30

Have you ever thought of the Gospel as the money entrusted to the servants?

Have you considered that the master, Jesus, will return and ask for an accounting from you as to what you did with the Gospel?

What was the reason the unfaithful servant gave for burying his money? (vs 25)

God has chosen the Church in these latter days to be a witness to all people with the message of hope in Jesus Christ. Jesus has given all of us who believe a great treasure in the knowledge of the gospel and the Kingdom. This message **is the only hope** for the masses of people who wander around deceived by sin and gripped by the chains of death. Are you taking the Good News about Jesus to the people in need around you or have you buried what has been entrusted to you because of fear? We can be sure, as Matthew 24:14 says, “the Good News of the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it.” Will you be a faithful servant and join God in His great end time plan?