

God's People

TEACHING NOTES

What is the Church? (Ephesians 1:22-23, Ephesians 4:11-16)

Our vision: People, equipped and led by the Holy Spirit, reaching their world for Jesus Christ

Our mission: Loving God. Loving Others. Together.

What makes the Church, the Church?

KEY VERSES

Ephesians 1:22-23, Ephesians 4:11-16,
Acts 1:8

KEY THEMES

The Church is the Body of Christ
The Church is a family

What is the purpose of the Body, the Church?

What was the early Church like?

How can the Church do what God calls the Church to do? (Acts 1:8)

Lesson Objective:

To understand that when we trust in Christ, He adopts us into His family and we become God's children and one another's brothers and sisters.

PERSONAL STUDY

This is your opportunity for ongoing study of the material from our recent session. God, through the Holy Spirit, is actively revealing His character and His plan as we interact with His Word.

Prepare your heart and mind

Many times when we sit down to study the Bible or pray, our minds are filled with the events of the day or things we need to do. Take a moment to ask God to help you focus on what He wants to teach you in this lesson.

In the space below write down how you would describe the Church.

“Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means ‘rock’), and upon this rock I will build my church...”
– Matthew 16:18

As it was taught in class, this is the first mention of the word church (or ekklesia). To help you understand the term church, let’s look at the Greek word ekklesia.

Strong’s Concordance of the Bible defines ekklesia as an assembly, congregation, church; the Church, the whole body of Christian believers.

Now let’s look at what the first Church looked like as described in the New Testament.



Read Acts 2:41-42

List below the key functions of the early Church.



Read Acts 2:43-47

Describe the community the first Church had.

Have you ever thought of the Church as a family, or for that matter, as your family? Through the teaching and these verses we learn that God desires for the Church to function as a healthy family. When the Church is functioning properly we should experience Biblical teaching and this should produce growth in numbers and maturity. Within the community of the Church we will also experience worship, prayer, celebrating communion, growing, and meeting each other's needs. Throughout scripture we repeatedly see that the Church is to be a family that is bound together by our faith in Christ.

As you come to the end of your time of study, look back at your description of the Church, how does what you've learned differ from your original description?

How might this change the way you engage with other believers in the Church?

Prayer time

Thank God for His Word and the Church. Ask Him to tear down the misconceptions of the Church that you have formed and give you a clear picture of the community He intends.