

Jesus Curriculum

Lesson 9

Matthew 16:15-18, 18:18-20;

1 Corinthians 12:12;

Ephesians 1:22-23, 4:1-6

March 1, 2020

What is the Church?

Introduction

The Church is the body of Christ. He is the head of the Church, but we are His arms, legs, eyes, and ears. The Holy Spirit gives each church member gifts and callings so that we can all be contributing members of the church body. When we see the church as a body, and we pray and seek to find our role in the church, we enable the church to more effectively spread the Gospel.

Memory verse: “Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.”—1 Corinthians 12:27

Pray and read Matthew 16:15-18, 18:18-20; 1 Corinthians 12:12; Ephesians 1:22-23, 4:1-6.

What questions or observations do you have about these passages?

What do the passages say?

1. Who did Simon Peter say that Jesus was when Jesus asked him? (Matthew 16:16)

2. Who did Jesus say had revealed this answer to Peter?
(Matthew 16:17)

3. On what will Jesus build His church? (Matthew 16:18)

4. What was significant about small groups of believers agreeing together in conflict issues within the church? (Matthew 18:19-20)

5. Over what did God place Jesus in leadership?
(Ephesians 1:22)

6. How did Paul describe the church in its relationship to Jesus? (Ephesians 1:22)

7. Why did Paul say that we were baptized in one Spirit?
(Ephesians 1:23)

8. What did Paul encourage the church at Ephesus to do?
(Ephesians 4:1-3)

9. What are all the “ones” listed here in this passage?
(Ephesians 4:4-6)

What do the passages mean?

1. Why do you think Jesus asked His disciples who they said he was? What did Jesus see in Peter's answer that caused Him to say, "on this rock, I will build my church?" (Matthew 16:15:18)

2. What did Paul say about Jesus' authority over the world? Since the church is Christ's body, what is the role of the church in the world? (Ephesians 1:18-23)

3. What are the most profound divisions that occur between believers? How does this fracture the unity of the church? What did Paul say are the steps for believers to keep unity in the church? (Ephesians 4:1-3)

4. Paul called for unity in the church because there is one body, one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all. Knowing that Paul lived in a multi-cultural, polytheistic society, how do you think this call for unity sounded to the early church members? How was it significant? (Ephesians 4:4-6)

Applying the passages

1. Paul called the church the body of Christ, where each person has their role based upon their gifts. If you are active in church, think about what the church would look like if every person wanted to be in the worship band, but nobody wanted to serve in the children's ministry. How would this impact the effectiveness and mission of the church body? What are the best ways for an attendee to find his or her role to help in the church? (1 Corinthians 12:4-18)

