

KINGDOM THINKING

(A Home Study Guide associated with Impact School of Mission)

Study Guide Four // Topic: The Church

This study examines the Church. What is it? Who is it? Do we go to Church?
Do we join a Church?

This study will help us understand what Jesus meant when He said “I will build My Church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it.”

Read and comment on the following scripture:

Matthew 16:18

“And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it.”

Let’s pause for a minute and ask, “**What is the Rock, Jesus was referring to?**”

Consider the following scriptures:

Matthew 16:16

“and Simon Peter answered and said ‘ You are the Christ , the son of the living God””

Matthew 7:24

“ Therefore, whoever hears these saying of mine and does them, I will liken him to a wise man, which build his house upon a rock:....”

Eph 2: 20

“ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone.”

Therefore , “**What is the Rock ?**” “**Who is the Foundation ?**”

Statement: Jesus is building something that will never fail. He is the builder and the foundation, and we need to be a part of it !!

We will examine **three** elements concerning the Church: **How? Who? and Why?**

1. **HOW ?** : How is Jesus going to build His Church ?

The Greek word for Church is **EKKLESIA** which means “called out ones”.

In the light of the meaning of Ekklesia, read and discuss the following scriptures:

John 1:11-12

“ and He came to His own but His own did not receive Him, but as many as received Him , to them He gave the right to become the children of God”

Matthew 11:28

“come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

Matthew 22:9

“ therefore, go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.”

Matthew 28:19

“go therefore and make disciples of all the Nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,.....”

Question:

How is God planning to build His Church ?: _____

How can I be part of His Church ?: _____

Statement: It is very clear God Has come into the World, in Jesus Christ, with an open invitation to all people to join His Church and live forever with Him. We need to accept His invitation.

2. **WHO:** Who can be in the Church ?

(a) Who is the Head of the Church ?

Read and discuss the following scriptures.

Eph 1:22-23

“And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be the head over all things to the Church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all things.”

Eph 4:15

“but speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ--”

Col 1:18

“And He is the Head of the body, the Church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have pre-eminence.”

Eph 5:26-27

“ ... that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the Word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious Church , without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.”

Questions:

Who is the Head of the Church ? _____

According to Eph.5:26-27 is Jesus doing?

The scriptures declare the Church to be the _____ of Christ ?:

Great additional reading : Col 2 :18-19, Col 3 : 1 17.

(b) Who makes up the Body of Christ (the Church) ?

Read and discuss the following scriptures:

1 Pet 2:5

“you also, as living stones , are being built up a spiritual house.....”

Eph 2:22

“.....in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place for God in the Spirit.”

1 Cor 12:12-14

“For as the Body is one and has many members,..... for by one Spirit we are all baptised into one body.....For in fact the body is not one member, but many.”

Complete the following statement:

Jesus is the _____ of the church which is His _____

The church is made up of all _____ who are disciples of Jesus.

In conclusion, read and discuss the following scriptures:

Eph 4:13-16

“..till we all come to the unity of the faith.....a perfect man.....stature of the fullness of Christ.....but speaking the truth in love , may grow in all things into Him who is the Head- Christ.....”

2Cor 3:18

“but we all with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the Glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from Glory to Glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

1 John 4:17

“ love has been perfected among us in this; that we may have boldness in the day of judgement; because as He is, so are we in the world.”

Question: As a member of the Church , the Body of Christ, what is Jesus doing in my life in preparation for His return? _____

3. WHY ? : What is the purpose of the Church in the earth?.

(a) To be a place of refuge, support and encouragement for believers

Consider the scriptures:

Hebrews 10 :25

“not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is, but exhorting one another, and so much more, as you see that Day approaching.”

Acts 2:42

“ and they continued steadfastly in the Apostles’ Doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread , and in prayers.”

Ps 91:1

“He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High, shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty...”

1 Thess 5:11

“therefore, comfort one another and edify one another, just as you also are doing.”

Question:

What is your ‘Church’ experience?-

Why is it important to have a church family ?

Do I feel a part of a Church Family ?

(b) To be a Witness to the world.

Consider the following a scriptures:

Acts 1:8

“ but you shall receive power after the Holy Ghost is come upon you, and you shall be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the end of the earth”.

John 13:35

“By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love one for another.”

1 Pet 3:15

But sanctify the Lord God in your heart, and be always ready to give an account to anyone who asks you, the reason for the hope that is in you , with meekness and fear.”

Question:

What does it mean to be a witness ?

How, and to whom, can I be a witness for God ?

How can I improve in this area of my life ?

Statement: The Church is the place of gathering for all God’s people, that they may be safe and grow strong as we prepare for Jesus return. And also to be a witness in the Earth to those who desire to be with God, to show them the way to the Father.

Final Statement:

Jesus said “He would build His church” and what a privilege we have to be a part of it.

With Christ at the Head, we are safe and secure as He prepares us for His return.

We are also the testimony of His Grace in the world and we need to demonstrate that Grace in our daily lives, that others might see and believe

We must trust Him and be Faithful.

Please Note:

All Scripture references are in *NKJV*.

This study is available in video format on the **Impact School of Mission** website:

www.impactschoolofmission.com.