

Christian Church Beginning

(About the Church Series)

Tired of McDoctrine? Come learn the etiquette of a meal with Jesus.

Group Introduction & Icebreaker *(What is your name and your favorite color?)*

Start on time. Distribute the Bible study materials and Bibles. After the icebreaker, begin with prayer.

When did the Christian Church start?

Introduce the Acts 2 account. Jesus has endured the cross, risen from the dead, and spent time with His disciples after His resurrection. He instructed them to remain in Jerusalem and wait for what was to come. It is the celebration of Pentecost (Shavuot), about 50 days after Passover and shortly after Jesus' ascension. The apostles are about to begin what will become known as the **Christian movement**.

Group reading: Read Acts 2 in sections (verses 1–13, 14–36, 37–41, 42–47), pausing for discussion.

General Questions

What was the sign?	Preaching to all nations
Who was there?	God-Fearing Jews
What was said?	
How did people respond?	Cut to the heart
How did Peter say to save yourselves?	Accept the message, repent, and baptism.

Misconceptions

Can someone come to salvation in a day?	Yes, but....
Did those that were saved have a foundation?	Yes, God-Fearing Jews, cultural foundation
Does the Western believer have the same advantages as the early Eastern believer?	No
How can we bridge that gap?	We need to become God-Fearing Christians

Application

What did the first group of believers look like? How can we be devoted to the apostles' teachings? How can we form community? (*Groups*) How can we meet each other's needs? (*Discussions*)

Is God's Word the authority over my beliefs, my life, and my heart? *(Answer yes or no to each)*

Orthodoxy asks: "What is true?"	Doctrine	Proper belief
Orthopraxy asks: "How should I live?"	Obedience	Proper lifestyle
Orthopathy asks: "Am I Spirit-led?"	Transformed	Proper desires, alignment with God's will
Orthodoxy/Believe: Jesus is Lord and Christ, and His church is built on the apostles' teaching.		
Orthopraxy/Live: Followers devote themselves to Jesus teaching, fellowship, generosity, and prayer.		
Orthopathy/Desire: The Holy Spirit transforms our hearts so that we desire God and community.		

The church is a Spirit-filled community that believes the truth about Jesus, lives according to His teaching, and develops hearts devoted to God and one another.

Summary When did the church start? (*Common answer*) Acts Chapter 2, about 33AD.

Review Question: *What does it mean that the Scriptures are God-breathed?*

Closing Prayer *Lord, we thank You the universal church and our local congregation...*

Notes: Pentecost was on a Sunday. Pentecost was the end of the festival before people returned home throughout Rome, yet many new believers remained in Jerusalem.

Membership – Unity in the Body

(About the Church Series)

Tired of McDoctrine? Come learn the etiquette of a meal with Jesus.

Group Introduction & Icebreaker (*What is your name and your favorite sports team?*)

Start on time. Distribute the Bible study materials and Bibles. After the icebreaker, begin with prayer.

Southeast Christian Church - Core Belief

The Church is the body of Christ on earth. We are empowered by the Holy Spirit to be salt and light. The Church exists to spread the Good News and make disciples. Ephesians 4:1-16, Matthew 5:14

Group reading: Read Ephesians 4:1-16 in sections (verses 1–10, and 11–16), pausing for discussion.

General Questions

(v3) Eager to keep the unity

Rupertus Meldenius (1626-27)

(v4) What is the one body?

Close Fist, Open Handed, Hills to die on, or withdraw

In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity

The church is not a building, but the people. The universal church is all believers. The local congregation is your tribe.

How important is it to be a member of a congregation? And respect the organization?

(v11-12) Jesus made some to lead and mentor for the perfecting of the saints and build up the church.

(v13) The church is for unity. How can you be unified as a separate entity?

(v13) Maturity happens in the church.

(v14) Stability happens in church.

(v15) Mentorship happens in the church (discipleship)

(v16) A unified church functions as the hands and feet of Jesus.

Misconceptions

Church membership is not club membership or something you join to have your needs met (although hopefully it is a byproduct). (v1-2) A prisoner, answering to call to serve, in humility and low status.

Application

Be committed and active to members of the body (the church). Be in a group and volunteer.

Is God's Word the authority over my beliefs, my life, and my heart? (*Answer yes or no to each*)

Orthodoxy asks: "What is true?"

Doctrine

Proper belief

Orthopraxy asks: "How should I live?"

Obedience

Proper lifestyle

Orthopathy asks: "Am I Spirit-led?"

Transformed

Proper desires, alignment with God's will

Orthodoxy/Believe: Christ is the head of one united body, and every believer belongs to His church.

Orthopraxy/Live: Walk in humility, patience, and love, using your gifts to serve and build up the body.

Orthopathy/Desire: Pursue unity and maturity, valuing our belonging to one another in Christ.

The church is a Spirit-filled community that believes the truth about Jesus, lives according to His teaching, and develops hearts devoted to God and one another.

Summary One of the main purposes of the church is to serve each other, grow in faith, and be unified.

Review Question: *Is the church a building?*

Closing Prayer *Lord, we thank You for the imperfect people united in Your will...*

Community and Mission

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Acts 2:42-47 *The First Christian Church*– (*Foundations Church Lesson 01*)

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship ... to prayer ... give to anyone who had need ...[e]very day they continued to meet... (NIV)

Ephesians 4:12-13 *Membership – Unity in the Body*– (*Foundations Church Lesson 02*)

to the work of serving, to the building up of the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity (WEB)

Matthew 5:14 *Community and Unity*– (*Foundations Church Lesson 03*)

You are the light of the world. A city located on a hill can't be hidden. (WEB)

What do we see in the first group of believers (Acts 2:42-47)?

Jesus was the reason and change in their lives, as He is today. Do you think the description of the early church is attractive?

John 13:35 everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another (WEB)

Misconceptions

Evangelism is not only being able to articulate the gospel or share your testimony; evangelism is also the visible demonstration of love and unity within the local congregation.

Where are we falling short as a group? How are you working to create unity within the body?

Application

Join a group. Volunteer in a ministry or community event. Build a discipleship relationship.

Is God's Word the authority over my beliefs, my life, and my heart? (*Answer yes or no to each*)

Orthodoxy asks: "What is true?"

Doctrine

Proper belief

Orthopraxy asks: "How should I live?"

Obedience

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Transformed

Proper desires, alignment with God's will

Orthodoxy/Believe: Christ unites believers as one body, and we belong to one another.

Orthopraxy/Live: Practice unity through love, service, fellowship, and discipleship.

Orthopathy/Desire: Desire relationships that reflect Christ's love and strengthen His church.

Summary Our unity makes Christ visible to the world.

Review Question: *How are you unifying the body?*

Closing Prayer *Lord, guide me away from independence and help me live a "one another" lifestyle...*

Salt and Light

(About the Church Series)

Tired of McDoctrine? Come learn the etiquette of a meal with Jesus.

Group Introduction & Icebreaker (*What is your name, & what comes to mind when you think of community?*)

Start on time. Distribute the Bible study materials and Bibles. After the icebreaker, begin with prayer.

Southeast Christian Church - Core Belief

The Church is the body of Christ on earth. We are empowered by the Holy Spirit to be salt and light. The Church exists to spread the Good News and make disciples. Ephesians 4:1-16, Matthew 5:14

Hebrew Word: אור

Transliteration: 'or

Pronunciation: ohr

Means “light” (found in the Creation Story)

Hebrew Word: תורה

Transliteration: Torah

Pronunciation: toh-RAH

Means “instruction” or “teaching.”

The relationship is **conceptual and biblical**, not etymological. For example, Proverbs 6:23 connects them: “the commandment is a lamp, and the law [Torah] is light.”

Torah means ‘instruction,’ and Scripture describes God’s instruction as light that guides our way.

Scripture Reading Matthew 5:13–16, Isaiah 2, Isaiah 42

Biblically what is the use of salt?

It is connected to covenant, purity, flavor, preservative, being friends, and peace between people.

What is the light?

God’s instruction. (*Proverbs 6:23; Isaiah 2:3, 5*)

What is the city on a hill? (*Isaiah 2:2–5; Matthew 5:14*)

Jerusalem/Zion—a community from which God’s instruction and light go out into the world.

Application

Live as salt and light by making God’s instruction visible in your relationships and community.

Is God's Word the authority over my beliefs, my life, and my heart? (*Answer yes or no to each*)

Orthodoxy/Believe: God’s instruction is light that reveals how His people should live.

Orthopraxy/Live: Live visibly as salt and light in your community.

Orthopathy/Desire: Desire to reflect God’s light so others are drawn toward Him.

Summary God’s people are called to live as salt and light in the world.

Review Question: *How can you make God’s instruction visible in your community?*

Closing Prayer *Lord, help me live as salt and light, making Your instruction visible through the way I live.*

Further Study: Genesis 1–2, Exodus 34:29–35, Numbers 18:19, 2 Kings 2, 1 Chronicles 17, Psalm 119:105, Isaiah 2, 42, 49, 60, Matthew 4–6, Mark 9:50, 1 John 1:5, Bible Project, “Salt, Land, and Light of the World.”