

What Churches Do



What Churches Do

by Robert and Evelyn Bolton

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the Global University Staff*

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First, Let's Have a Talk

A Word From Your Study Guide Authors

Have you ever wondered what churches are for and why people go to church? What does it really mean to “get baptized,” to “take communion,” and to “dedicate babies”? Or perhaps you have heard someone ask, “Do I need to go to church? Why can't I just worship God in nature or in my home?” What would you answer?

Whether you attend church services regularly or just occasionally, or even if you have not yet entered a church, this course will interest you. We will follow the experiences of Mary, a new convert, and her fiancé, Timothy. Timothy is a church member who suddenly takes a new interest in spiritual things because of Mary's questions.

The modern method of teaching yourself will help you to learn easily. As you understand more fully what is being done in the church, you can take part more meaningfully. You will then not only *gain* more blessing, but also *be* a greater blessing.

Your Study Guide

What Churches Do is a workbook that you can take with you and study whenever you have some free time. Try to set aside some time every day to study it.

You will notice that objectives are given at the beginning of each lesson. The word *objective* is used in this book to help you know what to expect from your study. An objective is something like a goal or a purpose. You will study better if you keep in mind your objectives.

Be sure to study carefully the first two pages of each lesson. This prepares your mind for what follows. Next, study the lesson section by section and follow the instructions under the title *For You to Do*. If there is not enough room to write your answers to the study questions in the study guide, write them in a notebook so you can refer back to them when you review the lesson. If you are studying this course with a group, follow the instructions of your group leader.

How to Answer Study Questions

There are different kinds of study questions in this study guide. Following are samples of several types and how to answer them.

A *MULTIPLE-CHOICE* question or item asks you to choose an answer from the ones that are given.

Example of Multiple-Choice Question

- 1 A week has a total of
- a) 10 days.
 - b) 7 days.
 - c) 5 days.

The correct answer is *b) 7 days*. In your study guide, make a circle around *b)* as shown here:

- 1 A week has a total of
- a) 10 days.
 - ⓑ) 7 days.
 - c) 5 days.

(For some multiple-choice items, more than one answer may be correct. In that case, you would circle the letter in front of each correct answer.)

A *TRUE-FALSE* question or item asks you to choose which of several statements are TRUE.

Example of True-False Question

- 2 Which statements below are TRUE?
- a The Bible has 120 books.
 - b** The Bible is a message for believers today.
 - c All of the Bible authors wrote in the Hebrew language.
 - d** The Holy Spirit inspired the writers of the Bible.

Statements **b** and **d** are true. You would make a circle around these two letters to show your choices, as you see above.

A *MATCHING* question or item asks you to match things that go together, such as names with descriptions or Bible books with their authors.

Example of Matching Question

3 Write the number for the leader's name in front of each phrase that describes something he did.

- | | | |
|--------|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| .1.. a | Received the Law at Mt. Sinai | 1) Moses |
| .2.. b | Led the Israelites across the Jordan | 2) Joshua |
| .2.. c | Marched around Jericho | |
| .1.. d | Lived in Pharaoh's court | |

Phrases **a** and **d** refer to *Moses*, and phrases **b** and **c** refer to *Joshua*. You would write **1** beside **a** and **d**, and **2** beside **b** and **c**, as you see above.

Your Student Report

If you are studying to earn a certificate, you will need to complete the Student Report. The Student Report and answer sheets are located at the end of the book.

There are two units in this course. In the Student Report there are questions for each unit. There is also an answer sheet for each of the two units. Your study guide will tell you when to answer the unit questions and to fill out the appropriate answer sheet.

Follow the instructions given in your student report for sending the answer sheets to the ICI office in your area. The address should be stamped at the top of the copyright page. When you do this, you will receive an attractive certificate. If you have already earned the certificate, you will receive a seal to affix to it, indicating that you have completed another course in this unit of study.

About the Authors

The authors of this course are Robert and Evelyn Bolton, both the children of missionary parents. The Boltons are the parents of two daughters. Robert was born in mainland China, the son of Ada and Leonard Bolton, who ministered for over 37 years by pioneering churches in China, Myanmar, Bangladesh, and Jamaica. Evelyn is the daughter of Lydia and Frederic Burke. Mr. Burke is the founder of the All Africa School of Theology, a leading correspondence school for African leaders.

Robert and Evelyn Bolton are graduates of Central Bible College, Springfield, Missouri. Robert received his M.A. in missions from the School of World Mission and Institute of Church Growth

at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California. Beginning in 1955, the couple engaged in evangelization, church planting, and Bible training among the Minnan-speaking Chinese in the large cities of Taiwan, as well as among the tribespeople in the mountains.

After 39 years serving under the Assemblies of God World Missions, the Boltons retired from missionary ministry overseas. In 1994 they were appointed by the Division of Home Missions to serve in Intercultural Ministries, specifically Chinese ministries. Currently, they are pioneering a Chinese assembly in Philadelphia. In 1996 Robert received his Doctorate in Missiology at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (Trinity International University), Deerfield, Illinois.

Additional Helps

Other materials are available for use with this study guide, including supplemental audiocassettes, an Instructor's Guide, and an Instructor's Packet (for instructor's use only). Consult the Evangelism, Discipleship, and Training Manual.

Lesson
1

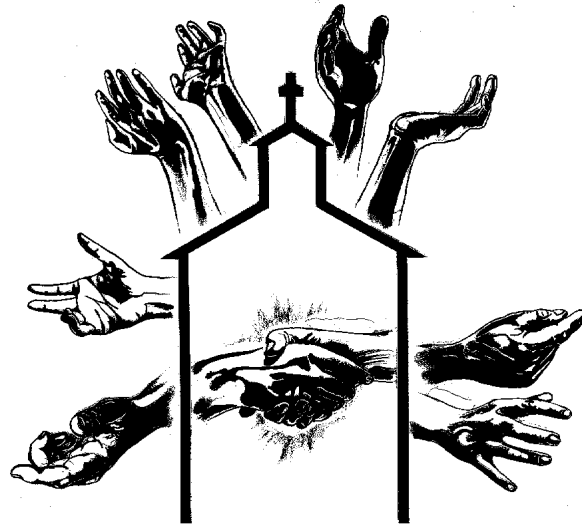
Churches Worship God

Everything the church does is aimed in at least one of three directions: *upward* toward God in worship; *inward* toward itself in growing; or *outward* toward the world in sharing the good news.

A church building is sometimes called a “house of worship.” This is appropriate because its main function is to provide a place for people to worship the Lord together.

People were made for worship. If they don’t worship God, they will worship something else: money, fame, pleasure, nature, idols—or themselves! But they will never be satisfied until they learn to worship God.

Jesus taught us that our Heavenly Father desires our worship. Though all the hosts of heaven are praising Him continually, yet He wants *our* worship because it brings us into fellowship with Him.



In this lesson you will study . . .

Worship Together
Worship With Music
Worship by Prayer
Worship in Giving
Worship Through the Holy Spirit

This lesson will help you . . .

- Describe the basis of true worship.
- Recognize and participate in different forms of worship.
- Explain the ministry of the Holy Spirit in worship.

WORSHIP TOGETHER

Objective 1. *Give reasons why people should gather together for worship.*

It is Sunday morning. Mary, a new convert, has come with her fiancé, Timothy, for the first time to a worship service in his church. Timothy is a new convert too, but he has the advantage of a Christian background. Mary's questions arouse his interest.

"But where is God?" asks Mary looking around. "How can I worship when there is no image to kneel to?"

"You don't need an image to worship God, Mary," he answers. "You used to bow before images, but with no real love. God is a Spirit. We can't see Him with our natural eyes. But when we are born again and have His Spirit in us we can worship Him in spirit and in truth (John 4:24). That is what He wants. Love Him and praise Him in your heart while we sing, and in everything else that we do."

The people are now singing joyful songs about God's greatness and His love. Sometimes they clap their hands while they sing. Mary is not used to that, but soon she finds herself smiling and clapping too! Then the song leader tells the people to greet each other. Several shake hands and welcome Mary. She no longer feels like a stranger. She feels closer to the Lord and closer to the other people.

"It's like one big happy family!" she whispers to Timothy.

It is true that a believer can and should worship God at any time and in any place. It is needful, however, for people to worship together.

People are not made to stand alone. They need each other. One coal of fire separated from the others will soon die out, but coals keep burning when they are together. Believers meeting together, sharing and helping one another, grow strong together! They help to keep each other "on fire for God."

Let us not give up the habit of meeting together, as some are doing. Instead, let us encourage one another all the more, since you see the Day of the Lord is coming nearer (Hebrews 10:25).

The Lord has commanded that we meet together and He has also promised to bless those who obey Him in this. "For where two or three come together in my name, I am there with them" (Matthew 18:20).

Believers are likened to the "body of Christ," with Jesus as its head. The Lord wants His body to be in unity, with all the parts working harmoniously together. The way to accomplish this is by meeting at a set time and place for worship so His Holy Spirit can unite us as one.



For You To Do

- 1** Circle the letter in front of each correct completion to the sentence. As believers we come together for worship because
- we cannot worship alone.
 - it helps us to grow spiritually.
 - we want to obey God's commands.
 - Jesus has promised to be with us.

Check your answers with those at the end of this lesson.

WORSHIP WITH MUSIC

Objective 2. *Select statements giving biblical principles for the use of music in worship.*

Congregational singing is good for the body of Christ because it relieves tension. It can also bring healing. It builds up faith. And more than that, it helps bring about the togetherness or *unity* needed for true worship in the body of Christ.

Another way to worship is for one or more persons, or a choir, to sing special songs. The listeners should remember to glorify God rather than the singers. God not only gives us voices to sing with, He also gives us something to sing about!

In Old Testament times the people of Israel sang the Psalms. The book of Psalms was their hymnbook. They considered singing to be a very important means of worship.

Early Christian believers also sang Scripture. Then gradually hymns and other songs were added. The apostle Paul instructed the church to “speak to one another with words of psalms, hymns, and sacred songs; sing hymns and psalms to the Lord with praise in your hearts” (Ephesians 5:19).

Our songs can be expressions of thankful praise to God, our testimonies put to music. The words should glorify God. So should the people who sing them. God’s Word says, “Giving thanks is the sacrifice that honors me” (Psalm 50:23).

Before Jesus came, people sacrificed animals; but since Christ died for us such sacrifices are not necessary. Instead, we offer the Lord the sacrifices of prayer and praise. Look up Hebrews 13:15.



The congregational singing in the church that Mary and Timothy attend is accompanied by a piano and an organ. Members of an orchestra play a number of different instruments. The music thrills Mary who exclaims, “I never knew an orchestra could be in a church!”

“They are playing and worshiping the Lord with their talents,” Timothy replies. “People of the Old Testament praised the Lord with all kinds of instruments. Read these words taken from the hymnbook of the Bible:

Praise him with trumpets.

Praise him with harps and lyres.

Praise him with drums and dancing.

Praise him with harps and flutes.

Praise him with cymbals . . .

Praise the Lord (Psalm 150:3-6).

Music brings people together in worship. It’s no wonder music has been called the universal language.



For You To Do

In these exercises, draw a circle around the letter in front of the correct sentence completions.

- 2 Our singing becomes worship when we
 - a) can sing choruses from memory.
 - b) sing praises to God from our hearts.
 - c) sing with others who are worshiping.
- 3 Songs of worship are songs about
 - a) what we purpose to do for God.
 - b) nature and the world around us.
 - c) the Lord's greatness and goodness.
- 4 Circle the letter in front of each TRUE statement.
 - a Musical instruments are used in church because they create a pleasant background for the service.
 - b God can only be worshiped with quiet, restful music.
 - c Musicians should be careful to glorify God and not themselves when they perform.

Check your answers.



WORSHIP BY PRAYER

Objective 3. *State some truths concerning prayer as a form of worship.*

Soon the people begin praying together. “Why do they close their eyes?” whispers Mary.

“To forget their surroundings while they talk to God” answers Timothy. “They are worshipping in prayer.”

Mary hears people saying, “Praise the Lord!” “Thank you, Jesus!” Some people have their hands raised in worship and the sound of voices becomes louder. It seems a bit strange to Mary.

“You will get used to it,” Timothy reassures her. “In a church like this people will often pray all together. Each person is praying individually to the Lord. In prayer we worship Him by thanking Him and praising Him.”

After a while the pastor calls on a man to lead in prayer. Mary is surprised that he does not read the prayer—yet he prays beautifully. When he finishes, many people say “Amen!”

“What does that mean?” asks Mary.

“*Amen* is a Hebrew word meaning ‘may it be so.’ We say amen when we agree with what has been said,” explained Timothy.

Worshipping the Lord in prayer was quite common in the early church. We read that “day after day they met as a group . . . praising God” (Acts 2:46-47). The Bible also says that believers “joined together in prayer to God” (Acts 4:24).

Our love for the Lord finds fulfillment in worship and fellowship with Him. We should allow worship in prayer to be meaningful, living, and dynamic even as it was in the early church. Otherwise it becomes meaningless, lifeless, and empty. The church must continue to be “a house of prayer” (Mark 11:17).



For You To Do

- 5 Circle the letter in front of each TRUE statement.
- a Fellowship with God in prayer is a joyful experience because we love Him.
 - b We say “amen” after prayers because it means that we are finished talking.
 - c We usually close our eyes in prayer to help shut out our surroundings.
 - d Jesus called the place where believers met “a house of prayer.”

WORSHIP IN GIVING

Objective 4. *Explain how giving can be a part of worship.*

Mary is puzzled when the pastor announces, “We shall worship the Lord by our gifts: His tithes and our offerings.”

“How can we worship the Lord with money?” she asks.

“When we give because we love God and are thankful, that is a way of worship,” answers Timothy. “I’ll explain more later.”

While the ushers pass the offering bags, the orchestra plays a hymn in worship to the Lord. People praise the Lord softly. Mary sees that giving to the Lord can be a joyful experience and a means of worship.

Later she learned that in some churches people walk up to the front of the church to give their gifts. But no matter what method is used, a tenth of all that we earn belongs to God (Leviticus 27: 30, 32). This is called our tithe. Whatever we give above that is our offering. It, too, should be an act of worship. Read Proverbs 3:9-10 and 1 Corinthians 16:2.



For You To Do

- 6 Tell in your own words how giving can be an act of worship.

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- 7 In the scene we just described of an offering being received in a church service, more than one form of worship was mentioned. Can you name them?

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WORSHIP THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Objective 5. Name three effects of worship through the Holy Spirit.

The congregation is singing softly and worshipfully, many with their hands raised. Mary notices some with tears rolling down their faces. Timothy explains that they are not unhappy, but moved with love for the Lord. Then Mary hears singing in words she doesn't understand. The voices seem to blend together in a different, yet beautiful, harmony.

"This is what Paul meant when he said, 'I will sing with my spirit,'" whispered Timothy (1 Corinthians 14:15). It brought a strange feeling of peace and rest into Mary's heart. It felt as if God was right there!

As the sounds fade away the pastor rises to speak. Worship and praise by the congregation prepares them for receiving God's Word.

A great church leader of the fifth century named Augustine once said, "You have made us, O God, and our hearts are restless until they find rest in you." One effect of worship through the Holy Spirit is that people feel God's presence and find *spiritual rest* and *satisfaction* in Him. It's a rest and satisfaction they can take with them as they go back into the every day world of work, play, sorrow, and gladness.

Another effect of worship in the Holy Spirit is true *freedom* or *release*. As we yield to the Holy Spirit He brings deliverance from fear, worry, resentment, selfishness, hate, and all kinds of emotional hurts. Jesus becomes more precious and real as people worship Him in the Spirit. It also helps them have a greater feeling of unity; for "where the Spirit of the Lord is present, there is freedom" (2 Corinthians 3:17).

A third wonderful effect of worship in the Spirit is *healing* for our bodies. This may be a gradual strengthening, or it could be quite dramatic. Evangelist Hattie Hammond tells of an unusual interruption in one of her meetings. A woman gasping for breath was brought in on a stretcher. A chemical container had exploded in her face, burning and blinding her, and friends had rushed her to the church for prayer. Miss Hammond was about to pray for her, but then she stopped.

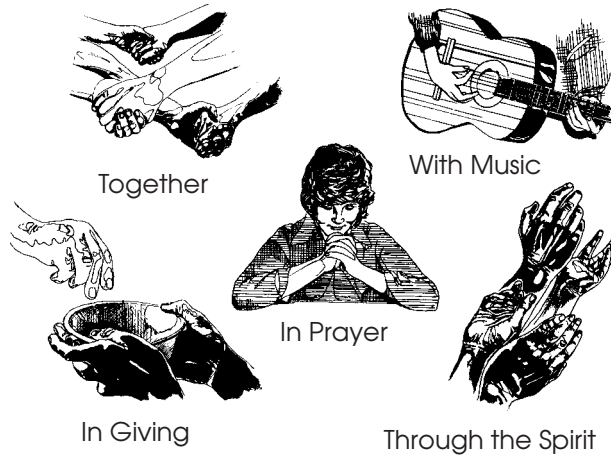
Turning to the congregation, she said, "The Lord is telling me to call on everyone to worship Him! Come on, everyone! Worship Him! Worship Jesus!"

What was she doing, telling people to worship instead of praying for the dying woman? But as people responded in praise to the Lord, a wave of worship swept over them. It was the moving of the Holy Spirit! Then suddenly, rising above the sounds of praise, came the sound of another voice—soaring in beautiful song in the Spirit. To her astonishment Miss Hammond discovered it was coming from the woman on the stretcher! God had healed her completely while people worshiped in the Spirit!

You may never have seen anything quite as dramatic as this, but there is healing quality in true worship in the Spirit. The apostle Paul summarized worship through the Holy Spirit when he said that we "worship God by means of his Spirit and rejoice in our life in union with Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:3).

As they follow this teaching, churches truly become houses of worship. The church building itself is not most important. Whether your church is like a beautiful cathedral or just a humble hall, the main purpose for its existence should be for the worship of God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit.

Churches Worship God



For You To Do

- 8 Circle the letter in front of the correct completion to the sentence. The place where Christians meet for worship should always be
- beautiful for worship.
 - humble and plain.
 - in a nice part of town.
 - where people are free to worship.
- 9 List three effects of worship in the Spirit.

.....

.....

.....



Check Your Answers

- it helps us to grow spiritually.
 - we want to obey God's commands.
 - Jesus has promised to be with us.
- Your answer. You might have said something like this: We can show our love for God and for others by giving.
- sing praises to God from our hearts.
- Music, praise, and giving.
- the Lord's greatness and goodness.
- where people are free to worship.
- Statement **c** is True.
- Spiritual rest and satisfaction, freedom, healing, unity, sense of God's presence.
- Statements **a**, **c**, and **d** are True.

Lesson
2

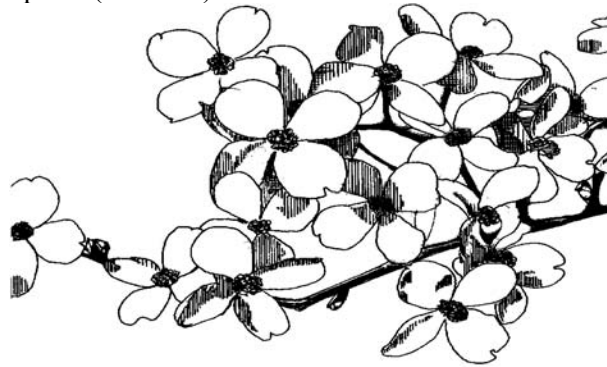
Churches Submit to the Holy Spirit

As we write this lesson it is springtime! Tree branches burst with new life in light and vivid green. Buds sprout and blossom into colors of white or pink or yellow. Bright flowers of blue, red, yellow and orange hues suddenly appear and decorate gardens. Of beautiful springtime King Solomon wrote:

The winter is over; the rains have stopped;
in the countryside the flowers are in bloom.
This is the time for singing;
the song of doves is heard in the fields.
Figs are beginning to ripen;
the air is fragrant with blossoming vines.

— Song of Songs 2:11-13

The work of the Holy Spirit in churches is like springtime beauty! As congregations of people submit to His working He revives them with new life and radiance. Unconverted people become “born spiritually of the Spirit” (John 3:6).



In this lesson you will study . . .

The Holy Spirit and the Believer
The Spirit’s Anointing
Spiritual Gifts to Build Up the Church

This lesson will help you . . .

- Explain the difference between the Holy Spirit *within* and *upon* believers.
- Describe what the anointing of the Holy Spirit means.
- Explain how the gifts of the Holy Spirit build up (edify) the church.

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE BELIEVER

Objective 1. *Distinguish between the indwelling and baptism of the Holy Spirit.*

Frederic Burke, missionary to South Africa, has given us his testimony about being baptized in the Holy Spirit:

“I was a young man in Bible school. God was pouring out His Spirit upon the students. I, too, began to seek God. I wanted to be filled with the Holy Spirit. One night as I waited quietly before Him, the Holy Spirit seemed to lead me into the garden where Jesus was praying, then to the judgment hall, and then to Calvary. I wept before God as I seemed to share the sufferings of my Savior.

“Then the Holy Spirit came upon me, breathing deeply into me until my whole being seemed filled with His power. I began to speak, first with a stammering tongue, then in a clear language. My soul was filled with the glory of God. Jesus, the great Baptizer, had come and baptized me with the Spirit. My soul was filled with His goodness.

“What a difference this Baptism made in my life. I had been timid and unable to speak in public; now I suddenly had boldness. As I stood before a large congregation the words just flowed out. I heard myself giving forth the Word of God in power—yet it was not I, but the Spirit of God speaking through me.

“While I was still in school, God called me to Africa and later made a way for me to go. Through the 60 years that He has allowed me to minister, the anointing of the Holy Spirit has been with me.”

A testimony like Frederic Burke’s caused Mary to start thinking more about the Holy Spirit. One evening on their way to the church service she suddenly asks, “Isn’t the Holy Spirit within me now that I’m saved?”

“Yes, dear, it was the Holy Spirit’s work to lead you to Christ and now He is within you,” replies Timothy.

“Then why do people talk about receiving the Holy Spirit if we already have Him?”

“Because—oh, here is Allen. I think he can explain it better than I can.”

Their friend Allen listens to their questions and then says, “Yes Mary, as a believer you do have the Holy Spirit living in you. In Galatians 4:6 we read, ‘To show that you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts.’ In 1 Corinthians 3:16 it also says that God’s Spirit lives in us. Because we are children of God, the Holy Spirit dwells within us.”

Allen continues to explain. “When you hear people talk about receiving the Holy Spirit after conversion, they mean receiving *the baptism in the Holy Spirit*. When you are converted the Holy Spirit comes to live *within* your heart. When believers receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit He comes *upon* them, filling them to overflowing. It is like an *outpouring* of God’s Spirit upon us.

“Let’s look up some Scriptures. Acts 2:17 says, ‘This is what I will do in the last days, God says: I will pour out my Spirit on everyone.’ Here Peter explains that the outpouring of the Holy Spirit was a fulfillment of a prophecy given in Joel 2:28. Peter went on to say:

God . . . raised . . . Jesus from death. He has been raised to the right side of God, his Father, and has received from him the Holy Spirit, as he had promised. What you now see and hear is his gift that he has poured out on us (Acts 2:32-33).

“Like those in the early church, believers today can receive this outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Before He ascended into heaven, Jesus said, ‘I myself will send upon you what my Father has promised’” (Luke 24:49).

“What happens when a person receives this outpouring of the Holy Spirit?” questions Mary.

“Wonderful things happen,” replies Allen. “As you worship the Lord and surrender completely to Him, the Holy Spirit comes upon you. Then He speaks through you in words you have never learned. The Holy Spirit uses your voice to glorify the Lord.

“On the Day of Pentecost about 120 believers, both men and women, were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit gave them the ability. They spoke in many different tongues—languages given them by the Holy Spirit. All were telling about the great things God had done” (Acts 1:15, 2:5-12).

Hearing this Mary asks, “How may I receive? I would like the Holy Spirit to come upon me!”

Allen smiled. “This experience is for you, Mary. Open your heart to the Lord and start praising Him. As you worship Him, yield yourself to Him and accept His gift to you. It is the Lord Jesus Himself who will fill you to overflowing with His Holy Spirit. Today God is pouring out His Spirit upon millions of believers all around the world. And no one needs to be left out of this blessing.”



For You To Do

1 We have drawn two glasses representing believers. The pitcher of water is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. Represent the person who is saved and the person who is both saved and baptized with the Holy Spirit by sketching water in, around, or over the glasses.



- 2** Circle the letter in front of each TRUE statement.
- a** On the Day of Pentecost Peter told the crowd that the Holy Spirit was only for the 120 believers.
 - b** We cannot baptize each other in the Holy Spirit.
 - c** The Holy Spirit uses our voices to glorify God.
 - d** God still pours out His Holy Spirit, but only on a few special people.



THE SPIRIT'S ANOINTING

Objective 2. *State some facts concerning the anointing of the Spirit.*

The Spirit's anointing is an important aspect of His ministry. Let's consider the meaning of the term *anointing*.

To *anoint* means to put oil on someone or on something as part of a ceremony. This was done in Old Testament times when persons or objects were set apart for service to God.

The prophet Samuel poured olive oil upon David's head when he set him apart to be king over Israel. The record says, "Immediately the Spirit of the Lord took control of David and was with him from that day on" (1 Samuel 16:13). When Moses dedicated the tent in the desert, he anointed it and the altar with sacred oil (Exodus 40:9-11). Aaron, the first high priest, was also anointed (Psalm 133:2).

Oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. The word *anointing* is used to describe the special touch of the Spirit's power that enables people to do something for God—something beyond themselves.

Under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, David composed songs which we call psalms (2 Samuel 23:1). He was also a prophet and foretold the resurrection of Jesus the Messiah from the dead (Acts 2:30-31). This same anointing, or the Spirit's power, came upon Peter when he preached to the crowds on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:14-36).

When the early church chose seven helpers called deacons for the work of handling the finances and business of the church, they chose men who were "full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom" (Acts 6:3). The Spirit's anointing was considered essential for their daily work. Such were the high spiritual standards of the early church. How necessary, therefore, is the anointing of the Holy Spirit upon every activity and ministry of the churches in our day! Our praying, preaching, teaching, evangelizing, counseling, singing, or playing instruments all should be anointed by the Holy Spirit to the glory of God. Only then can Jesus Christ be uplifted and people be edified or built up in their faith.



For You To Do

3 For the descriptions on the left write the number which represents the person or concept described (right column).

- | | | |
|--------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| a | Symbol of the Holy Spirit | 1) Peter |
| b | Means “set apart” | 2) David |
| c | First high priest | 3) Oil |
| d | Church helpers | 4) Deacons |
| e | Composed many songs | 5) Anointed |
| f | Preached at Pentecost | 6) Aaron |
| g | Anointed the tent and altar | 7) Wine |
| | | 8) Paul |
| | | 9) Moses |
| | | 10) Filled |

SPIRITUAL GIFTS TO BUILD UP THE CHURCH

Objective 3. *Describe the role of spiritual gifts in building up the church.*

The Sunday evening congregation has been singing, praying, and praising. It becomes quiet. Then a member of the congregation starts speaking in a strong, clear voice. His message exalts Jesus the Savior and encourages the people to believe and obey Him. His words ring with authority and bring comfort and hope. The pastor encourages the people to respond to the moving of the Holy Spirit. A new wave of praise goes up to the Lord.

“What is happening?” gasps Mary.

“It’s a message in prophecy,” Timothy whispers. “We will find out more about it later.”

The people are now in a hushed and receptive attitude to hear the Word of God as it is preached, especially since it relates to the utterance given through the church member by the Holy Spirit.

After the sermon the pastor invites people with special needs to come forward for prayer. Some of the church leaders gather around and lay their hands upon each one with a need. The people are encouraged to pray and believe together for God’s answer to these requests. The sound of prayer is like rushing waters, and everyone is blessed.

What happened in the earlier part of the service was a manifestation of one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit—an utterance in prophecy. Timothy and Mary later studied about this in 1 Corinthians 14. Verse three tells us that the one who proclaims God’s message (the one who prophesies) speaks to people and gives them help, encouragement, and comfort.

When the Holy Spirit moves among a group of Spirit-filled believers, love and power flow out from within them. It is like a river that flows, bringing healing and life to people in need. The flow of this power comes through believers by means of the *gifts of the Holy Spirit*. Miraculous things take place. People are healed and also delivered from sinful habits. The church begins to grow.

The gifts of the Spirit must be manifested according to the guidelines laid down in 1 Corinthians 14. Christ should receive the glory and believers should be built up spiritually. God wants our coming together to give life; our meetings should not be disorderly but harmonious and peaceful (1 Corinthians 14:33).

Nine beautiful gifts of the Holy Spirit are listed in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10. Each one is unique and supernatural—that is, each is above or beyond our natural talent or ability. Though we may not fully understand all the workings of the Spirit, we do need to be open to receive whatever the Lord has for us.

Briefly, these supernatural gifts are defined as follows. The *word of wisdom* is special wisdom for a special need—a bit of God’s wisdom spoken at the proper time. Through the *word of knowledge* the Holy Spirit causes believers to say things that they in no way could know through their own abilities. The gift of *faith* is a supernatural ability to believe, especially for a certain need.

The *gifts of healing* flow out from the Spirit, through the believer, and to the people in need of healing. Through the gift of *working of miracles* the person through whom the Spirit is moving has supernatural power to do things that would otherwise be impossible. *Prophecy* is speaking in one’s own language in the power of the Holy Spirit, either telling forth (as in preaching) or foretelling.

Through the *discerning of spirits* the Holy Spirit enables a person to look beyond what is seen and know what spirit is manifesting itself (God’s Spirit, a human spirit, or an evil spirit). The gift of *tongues* is the ability given to believers to speak a language they have never learned. It may be an earthly language, or the language of angels. The *interpretation of tongues* is giving the meaning of what is said in another language. We must remember again that the ability and direction come only through the power of the Holy Spirit.

If you have not yet done so, study *Your Helpful Friend* in this Christian Life Program series of the International Correspondence Institute. It will give you further teaching about the Holy Spirit.

“Different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them.”

— 1 Corinthians 12:4

Churches should make room for these spiritual gifts as taught in God’s Word. These gifts will enable them to extend the gracious ministry of Christ and the early church to today’s needy world. Jesus promised that we would do even greater things than He did (John 14:12). This is possible when we submit to the Holy Spirit whom Jesus has sent in His place—to flow into, and upon, and out through His church in mighty life-giving force.



For You To Do

In these exercises, draw a circle around the letter in front of the correct sentence completions.

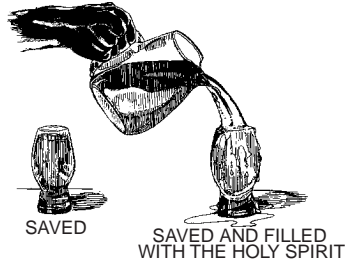
- 4 The gifts of the Holy Spirit are given to
 - a) help us grow spiritually.
 - b) make other people notice us.
 - c) make our churches different.

- 5 When gifts of the Spirit are in operation
 - a) they take the place of God’s Word.
 - b) we feel uncomfortable and confused.
 - c) they work in harmony with God’s Word.

- 6 If we do not understand all about the gifts of the Spirit we should
 - a) say, “It’s not for me!”
 - b) accept only what we really do understand.
 - c) be open to the Lord anyway because we can always trust Him to do right.

Check Your Answers

1 Your sketch may have looked something like this:



4 a) help us grow spiritually.

2 Statements **b** and **c** are True.

5 c) they work in harmony with God's Word.

3 a) 3) Oil.

b 5) Anointed.

c 6) Aaron.

d 4) Deacons.

e 2) David.

f 1) Peter.

g 6) Aaron.

6 c) be open to the Lord anyway because we can always trust Him to do right.

Lesson
3

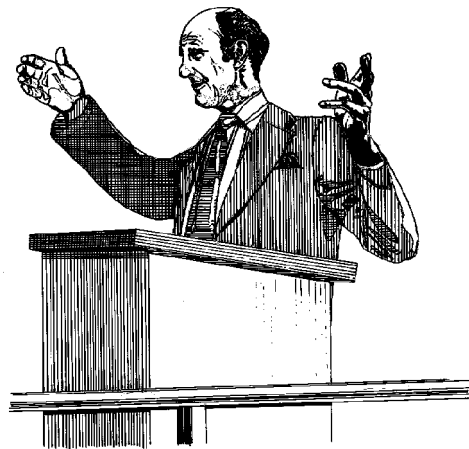
Churches Preach the Word

The Word of God is given a place of preeminence or honor in churches that recognize its authority. Pastors of these churches faithfully preach the message of God's Word to the people. Their sermons are full of its truths.

Paul, the experienced evangelist and church-planter, placed strong emphasis on preaching. He urged Timothy, his young assistant, to preach the message (2 Timothy 4:2). He also wrote about elders who work hard at preaching (1 Timothy 5:17-18).

There is no substitute for the preaching of the Word of God. Its message must be given both to believers in the church and nonbelievers outside the church. The opinions and beliefs of all people must be corrected and judged by its teachings.

In this lesson you will learn about the message that is preached. You will also discover why this message is preached and the effects it has on the lives of those who respond to it.



In this lesson you will study . . .

The Message Must Be Preached
Preaching the Word Brings Faith
Preaching the Word Strengthens Believers

This lesson will help you . . .

- Explain what message is to be preached and why it must be preached.
- Describe how preaching the Word stirs up faith.
- Realize the power of the Word strengthening your own spiritual life.

THE MESSAGE MUST BE PREACHED

Objective 1. *Identify characteristics of the message we are to preach.*

“Someday I would like to be a preacher like our pastor,” said Timothy to Mary after a Sunday morning service.

“Why?” asked Mary.

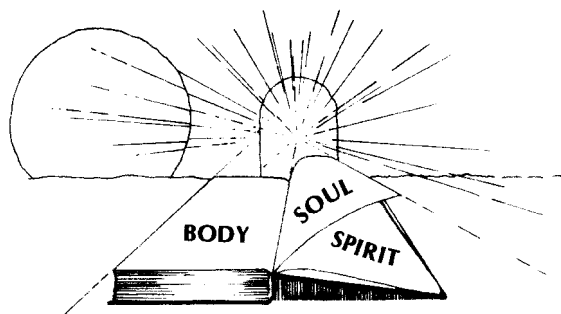
“Because I think it would be great to have God give me a message from His Word to give to people,” said Timothy. “Besides, there was a Timothy in the Bible who was a preacher.”

“You can!” Mary encouraged. “I know you can because I heard someone say that we must all preach or tell people about Jesus.”

Preaching is proclaiming a message in such a way that it commands a hearing. Its purpose is to persuade people to trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord. The apostle Paul emphasized both the basic need of mankind and the grace of God to meet that need. That meant of course that his message proclaimed the good news of salvation through faith in Christ.

The message must be Christ-centered. To the church at Corinth Paul wrote:

I want to remind you, my brothers, of the Good News which I preached to you, which you received, and on which your faith stands . . . I passed onto you what I received, which is of the greatest importance: that Christ died for our sins, as written in the Scriptures; that he was buried and that he was raised to life three days later, as written in the Scriptures (1 Corinthians 15:1, 3, 4).



The message must be *Bible-centered*, including all Scripture, and must meet the need of the whole person—body, soul, and spirit. It offers salvation for people’s souls, healing for their bodies and minds, and the baptism in the Holy Spirit to set aflame their spirits. Added to this, the gospel offers the glorious hope of the second coming of Christ. What a message!

Such a message includes not only the life of Christ as recorded in the Gospels, but the action of the book of Acts. When we preach Christ risen, we remember His promise to send the Helper (John 14:16). This promise was fulfilled at the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. A Bible-centered message includes the whole Bible.

Preaching this message isn’t just for full time pastors or evangelists who usually preach in a formal manner. Millions of believers give the gospel in an informal way. The early church did this. Scattered by terrible persecution, laymen fled to Antioch in Syria. There they preached the gospel to Gentiles (non-Jews), telling them the good news about Jesus. As a result, a great number of people believed and turned to the Lord. These lay folks caused the founding of a new church, the first among the Gentiles (Acts 11:19-21).

A modern-day example of lay preaching comes from Ivory Coast, West Africa. Spirit-filled farmers and teachers, during their off season from work, gave several days a week to evangelism. Under the direction of their African pastors, groups went to various outposts. Dividing into small teams, they shared the good news with families sitting under shade trees. Villagers hearing the gospel from lay people like themselves accepted Jesus as Savior. As a result, many new churches were started.

Churches preach this message not only in their sanctuaries, but also in homes, in marketplaces, in evangelistic campaigns held in tents or halls, in prisons and hospitals, and in homes for the aged or for the mentally ill. We have also preached in services held on board ocean freighters, inside stone houses in mountain villages, in booths along crowded streets, and in high-rise apartment buildings of Oriental cities.



For You To Do

1 Which three words below would describe the message about Christ which Paul preached (according to 1 Corinthians 15:3-4)?

- a) Born
- b) Crucified
- c) Buried
- d) Risen
- e) Ascended

2 Circle the letter in front of the correct completion of the sentence. A Bible-centered message is one that

- a) begins with a passage of Scripture.
- b) branches out from a Bible story or parable.
- c) applies the truth of Scripture to people's needs.

3 Compare Acts 8:4 with Acts 13:2-5. Complete

the following sentence. and

..... preached formally in the

synagogue; the who were

scattered went preaching informally the message of salvation.

4 What are some of the places believers should preach the good news?

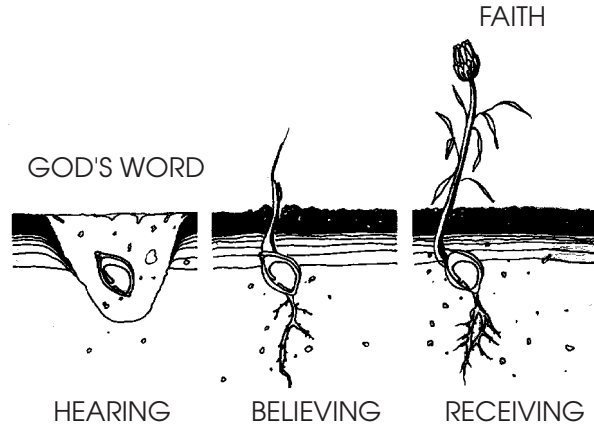
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PREACHING THE WORD BRINGS FAITH

Objective 2. *Describe the relationship between God's Word and faith.*

Let us look at Paul's church-planting ministry in Corinth. There "many other people . . . heard the message, believed, and were baptized" (Acts 18:8). First they had to hear the Word of God. The hearing of the Word then created faith in their hearts, and through faith in Jesus Christ they were converted.

God's message is . . . the message of faith that we preach. So then, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message comes through preaching Christ (Romans 10:8, 17).



The apostle John wrote his gospel for the specific purpose that his readers might believe, and that through their faith in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, they might have life (John 20:31).

After preaching a gospel message, an African invited his listeners to accept Christ. Several were converted. One man, however, seemed very distressed. The minister talked kindly to him, then read from Isaiah 53:6, “All of us were like sheep that were lost, each of us going his own way.”

The man exclaimed, “That’s me! I’ve led a terrible life. I’m only fit to be lost!”

“Don’t despair,” the preacher said. “Listen to the remaining part of the verse.” He then read, “‘But the Lord made the punishment fall on him, the punishment all of us deserved.’ Did you understand that? God laid the punishment for your sins upon Jesus the Savior who died on Calvary in your place. Do you believe it?”

“That’s what it says.”

“Then where is the punishment for your sins?” the preacher asked.

“It has fallen on Jesus.” And with these words the man raised his face and exclaimed with joy, “O thank God, I’m set free! Jesus bore my punishment!”

Saving faith for this man rose out of hearing and then believing the Word of God.



For You To Do

5 In your own words describe the relationship between faith and God’s Word.

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.....

PREACHING THE WORD STRENGTHENS BELIEVERS

Objective 3. *State how the Word of God builds up believers.*

When Jesus faced temptation, He used Scripture as a weapon with which to defeat His enemy. For us, too, God’s Word serves as the “sword which the Spirit gives” (Ephesians 6:17) to win the victory. One of the temptations our Lord faced after fasting came in this form:

“If you are God’s Son, order these stones to turn into bread.” But Jesus answered, “The scripture says, ‘Man cannot live on bread alone, but needs every word that God speaks’” (Matthew 4: 3-4).

With that statement Jesus defeated the devil. And with that statement we are told how important God’s Word is to us—more important than our daily food.

We must eat if we are to grow and to keep up our physical strength. We must feed on the Word of God if we are to grow spiritually and to have strength to withstand temptation.

The psalmist put it this way, “How sweet is the taste of your instructions—sweeter even than honey” (Psalm 119:103). Acts 8:8 tells us that after Philip preached in Samaria there was “great joy in that city.”

We all like to be joyful, but joy does more than make us feel good. “The joy that the Lord gives you will make you strong” (Nehemiah 8:10). As we trace it back we see that the source of His joy is in His Word.

It’s His Word that gives us the message of God’s grace, His divine favor (Ephesians 1:6). When Paul was leaving Ephesus after three years of ministry there, he knew that the people would be facing new problems, so he comforted them with these words:

And now I commend you to the care of God and to the message of his grace, which is able to build you up and give you the blessings God has for all his people (Acts 20:32).



For You To Do

6 Circle the letter in front of the correct completions to the sentence. God’s Word is spiritual food that

- a) we need for spiritual growth.
- b) is like a dessert—nice but not necessary.
- c) we should be sharing with others.

7 Why did Jesus say we need God’s Word as well as bread?

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8 Paul said that the message of God’s grace would

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Check Your Answers

- 1 b) Crucified.
c) Buried.
d) Risen.
- 5 Faith comes from hearing and believing God's Word.
- 2 c) applies the truth of Scripture to people's needs.
- 6 a) we need for spiritual growth.
c) we should be sharing with others.
- 3 Paul, Barnabas, believers, everywhere.
- 7 Bread only nourishes our physical bodies; we also need spiritual nourishment.
- 4 Your answer. You might have listed jails, rest homes, public parks, or your own backyard. As you look for opportunities you will find them.
- 8 build us up and give us God's blessings.

Lesson
4

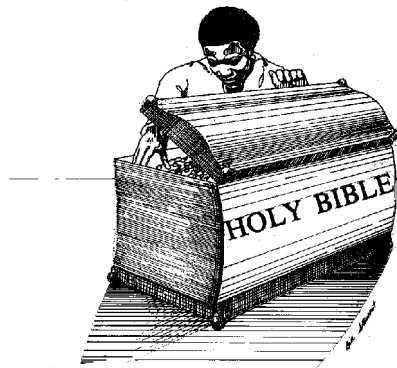
Churches Teach the Truth

All through the ages great minds have searched for truth. They came short of finding it, however, if they did not look for it in the right place. Jesus said in prayer to God the Father, “Your word is truth” (John 17:17).

The Bible is a marvelous book, a volume of 66 books written over a span of about 1,600 years. The Good News Bible totals 1,395 pages of small print, which means many hours of reading.

Now churches have a task on their hands: teaching tremendous truths from a tremendous book. More has been written about the Bible than about any other book. There seems to be no end. Truths of the Bible are inexhaustible—they cannot be used up or worn out.

As you get into a lifelong study of the Bible, you will discover gold, silver, and precious stones in the mines of Scripture. It contains treasure worth digging for!



In this lesson you will study . . .

Teaching: A Ministry Gift
Church Schools
Bible Study Classes
Lay Leaders Training Classes

This lesson will help you . . .

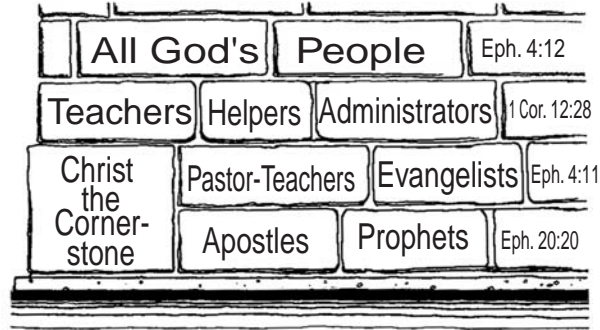
- Explain the ministry gift of teachers.
- Describe the varieties of church school and Bible study classes.
- Value a lay leaders training class.

TEACHING: A MINISTRY GIFT

Objective 1. *Differentiate between preaching and teaching.*

In Lesson 2 you were introduced to nine gifts of the Holy Spirit. In addition to gifts of the Holy Spirit, God has given ministry gifts for the building up of His church. “In the church God has put all in place: in the first place apostles, in the second place prophets, and in the third place teachers” (1 Corinthians 12:28).

It was he who “gave gifts to mankind”; he appointed some to be apostles, others to be prophets, others to be evangelists, others to be pastors and teachers. He did this to prepare all God’s people for the work of Christian service, in order to build up the body of Christ (Ephesians 4: 11-12).



THE MINISTRY GIFTS, WITH CHRIST THE CORNERSTONE



For You To Do

1 Read Ephesians 2:20. Could you write your name on one of the stones of the building in the previous sketch? Why? (in your own words)

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In 1 Corinthians 12 a teaching ministry is rated as being very important. Where Paul actually numbers the ministry gifts, the work of a teacher comes third. Some Bible scholars place the combined gifts of pastor and teacher on the same level.

Mary and Timothy enjoy the Bible class for young adults. Their teacher, Andrew Jay, gives well-prepared lessons and encourages everyone to take part in their lively discussions.

Timothy asks him, “What is the difference between the ministry of a pastor and that of a teacher?”

“What do you think?” asks Mr. Jay.

Timothy ponders, then replies, “It seems to me that there is a close relationship. Both a pastor and a teacher should study the Bible and pray in preparation for what they present. Maybe the main difference is in the manner in which it is given.”

“Yes,” says Mr. Jay. “Perhaps we could put it this way. All pastors must also be teachers. They must study hard and be able to teach, to instruct others, and to inspire them with their sermons. All teachers, however, are not pastors. As you see, I’m a teacher, but not a pastor. I do not preach publicly or pastor a church. Both pastors and teachers have their distinct functions or ministries in the church.”

You learned in Lesson 3 that preaching is *proclaiming* a message to persuade listeners to respond in repentance and dedication. Teaching is explaining truth with the purpose of informing people, to help them grow spiritually.

Christ has placed teachers in the church. A person with a gift of teaching needs to develop that gift. A good teacher, like an accomplished violinist, isn't born as such. Teachers must receive training; they must study if they are to know their subjects well. They shoulder the great responsibility of teaching God's Word to people who, in turn, teach and train others. This is why the apostle Paul encouraged Timothy as he did.

Take the teachings that you heard me proclaim in the presence of many witnesses; and entrust them to reliable people, who will be able to teach others also (2 Timothy 2:2).

Earlier he had written, "God has appointed me as an apostle and teacher to proclaim the Good News" (2 Timothy 1:11). Here he placed his offices of apostle and teacher together. Paul the apostle became a teacher of teachers.



For You To Do

- 2 Choose the best answer of the two given in parentheses and write it in the blank.
 - a Teaching is God's Word.
(proclaiming/explaining)
 - b Preaching is God's Word.
(proclaiming/explaining)
 - c Paul lists third on the list of
(preaching/teaching)
ministry gifts.

CHURCH SCHOOLS

Objective 2. *Explain the functions of a church school.*

Mary and Timothy represent millions of believers who participate in church schools. Those meeting on Sunday are usually called Sunday Schools.

The first Sunday School was held in England in 1780. A kind man, Robert Raikes, noticed the wild behavior of children on Sundays when they were free from their work in the factories. He invited many of them to a school where he had arranged for some women to teach them reading and church doctrine. Once he encouraged poor, hungry children to come by offering cooked potatoes!



His work with the children was so successful that the district in which he worked was described as “quite a heaven upon Sundays!” The idea of Sunday School spread rapidly to other parts of the world. These schools play an important role in fulfilling Christ’s command to go everywhere and make disciples, teaching people to obey Him.

Though Sunday School began with children, all ages need this training. Some churches have activities and classes for every age and type of student. Their slogan is “Sunday School for all—up to the age of 100.” And sometimes someone over 100 attends!

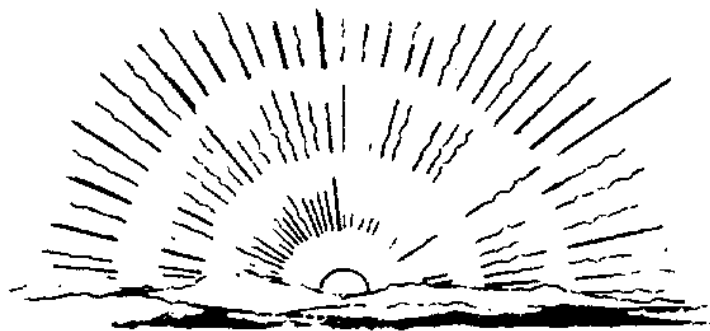
Many churches now prefer to use the overall term *church school* because classes may be held at times other than on Sundays, for example, on Saturday or on weekday evenings.

Church school facilities may be elaborate with a complete building primarily for this purpose. Each class has its own meeting place with adequate teaching aids and materials. Other church schools have little or no equipment. Students may be seated on the ground in the shade of trees or other shelter. Perhaps no literature is available. But some teachers are able to do amazingly well with so little! Whatever the facilities may be, teachers must have a message and be trained to teach it.

Vacation Bible School (VBS), a branch of the church school ministry, is usually conducted for a week or two when children are free from their regular schooling. VBS may be held in the home community, in another building, or at a camp.

Some churches have developed Christian schools offering primary and even secondary education. Others have classes for adults who want to learn to read. These classes use the Bible as one of their textbooks.

Whatever avenue they choose, the main function of church schools is to provide Christian education for all. Public preaching of God’s Word is not enough. Our children and young people especially need Bible teaching. A strong church school will help make a strong local church.





For You To Do

- 3 Circle the letter in front of each TRUE statement.
- a Church schools are only for children.
 - b Teaching in Sunday School or church school is an important ministry.
 - c Teachers need training even if they teach only one hour a week.
 - d The church school has no real effect on the church as a whole.
- 4 List four possible avenues of outreach that the church school may have.

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Check your answers.

BIBLE STUDY CLASSES

Objective 3. *Identify the advantages of attending Bible study classes.*

Closely linked with church schools are Bible study classes. These classes, devoted to the serious study of the Scriptures, are usually attended by adults. They do not have the range of age levels as do the church schools although the studies may be divided into groups for men, women, and youth. Often larger churches divide their studies so that people may take classes that fit a particular need or interest.

Many churches conduct a midweek service that includes both a time for prayer and a period of Bible study. Pastors or lay leaders teach these classes.



Sessions may deal with a *theme* of the Bible, such as salvation; or the class may choose to study the life of a *person*, like Moses or David. The studies can also center upon a section or *passage* of Scripture such as the Beatitudes or the book of James.

Interesting Bible studies taught under the anointing of the Holy Spirit can be a blessing to everyone. Paul writes, "Christ's message in all its richness must live in your hearts" (Colossians 3:16). After the Day of Pentecost the apostles taught believers doctrines of faith (Acts 2:42), and through the years that followed, teaching was emphasized (Acts 19:9-10; 20:20).

A church deeply rooted in God’s Word is a strong church. It will not be easily swayed by strange doctrines that come along. As we become spiritually mature, we are no longer “blown about by every shifting wind of the teaching of deceitful men” (Ephesians 4:13-14).

Bible studies conducted in believers’ homes have proven to be very profitable. Classes are held during the week at a time and place suitable for a group of perhaps ten to twenty people. This form of study and sharing has the advantage of bringing the teaching of God’s Word closer to the lives of those attending. In a home atmosphere people feel more free about sharing truths and experiences with each other.

In this system of home studies the teachers themselves often attend classes beforehand. Besides receiving this added help, the teacher must spend much time in prayer and preparation before giving the lesson to others.

Correspondence courses such as those offered by ICI are being used effectively by many groups. Sharing a series of lessons together makes it more interesting for all. Certificates can be given to those who successfully complete a course.

Bible studies can also be conducted at camps or retreats. As people come away from home and work they find more time for meditating on God’s Word. Good, sound Bible study classes yield fruit. And when combined with times of prayer and waiting upon God they bear more fruit!



For You To Do

5 Circle the letter in front of each correct completion to the sentence. One of the advantages of having Bible study groups is that

- a) people often feel more free to share their experiences in an informal setting.
- b) they can be structured to fit a particular need or age group.
- c) group study can be both interesting and effective.
- d) it takes the place of going to church.

6 Our lesson suggested three possible ways to study in a Bible class. One was to choose a *theme* to study. The other two were to study

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LAY LEADERS TRAINING CLASSES

Objective 4. *Identify the purpose of lay leaders training classes.*

It’s a pleasant spring evening and Mary and Timothy are walking home from church.

“What about this lay leaders class to begin tomorrow night, Timothy? What are lay leaders? Are you going?” asks Mary.

“No.” Timothy replies. “As to your other question: lay leaders are people who have secular work, but also work in the church. They hold offices like elders, deacons, group leaders, and Sunday School teachers. Allen is one.”

“Allen is one what?” asks Allen as he catches up to walk with them.

“Wouldn’t you like to know!” laughs Timothy, teasing him. “But seriously, Allen, we were talking about your being a lay leader and about the training classes beginning tomorrow. You’re going, right?”

“Yes, indeed!” replies Allen. “I need all the training I can get! Being a leader in the Lord’s work is a big responsibility. You may sit in on the classes if you wish, Timothy. We need every leader that can be trained for the future. Our pastor and his assistants can’t take care of everything, especially as the church grows. We must free them so they can devote more time to spiritual ministry. In fact, all God’s people must be prepared for Christian service.”

First Timothy 3:1-7 lists high qualifications for all church leaders. They must be mature in the faith, be trustworthy, and lead respectable personal lives. Lay leaders training classes include Bible studies as well as practical helps for dealing with people’s needs and church matters. It is important for all those God has called into lay ministries to be trained for these responsibilities.



For You To Do

- 7 Circle the letter in front of each correct completion to the sentence. Lay leaders training classes help to prepare workers
- a) to teach biblical truths.
 - b) to be pastors.
 - c) for practical Christian service.
 - d) for further responsibilities in the church.



Check Your Answers

- 1 As a believer you can answer “yes” because you are building your life on Christ.
- 5 a) people often feel more free to share their experiences in an informal setting.
b) they can be structured to fit a particular need or age group.
c) group study can be both interesting and effective.
- 2 a explaining
b proclaiming
c teaching
- 6 a Bible passage or the life of a person.
- 3 Statements **b** and **c** are True.
- 7 a) to teach biblical truths.
c) for practical Christian service.
d) for further responsibilities in the church.
- 4 You may have listed any of the following: teaching children and young people, classes for the deaf, vacation Bible school, summer camps, Christian schools, adult education classes, or other forms of outreach that you know about.

Lesson
5

Churches Baptize Believers

Years ago in mainland China some Chinese Christians were discussing various churches and their view on water baptism. One lay leader expressed it this way, “Some groups believe in ‘Big Wash.’ Others hold to ‘Little Wash.’ And the rest have ‘No Wash.’”

The speaker meant that those in the “No Wash” group do not practice any form of baptismal ceremony. To them it is not essential.

The “Little Wash” group represents the churches that practice baptism by sprinkling drops of water as a symbol of water baptism. Most of these churches also use colorful and impressive rituals.

“Big Wash” groups practice baptism by immersion, putting the candidates under the water. Pentecostal or full gospel churches are in this group. Before being baptized, however, a person should understand the meaning of baptism and why it is recognized as an ordinance of the church.



In this lesson you will study . . .

Baptism: A Picture
Its Purpose
Its Forms

This lesson will help you . . .

- Relate water baptism to key doctrines of the New Testament.
- Accept the ordinance of water baptism for yourself.
- Evaluate forms of baptism in the light of Scripture.

BAPTISM: A PICTURE

Objective 1. *Describe what water baptism pictures or symbolizes.*

Mary has not yet been baptized in water, although she has seen others being baptized. Timothy, who has already taken the step, is encouraging her to do the same.

“I don’t understand why we have to be put under the water. I wouldn’t want people to see me come up with my hair all wet!”

“They won’t be looking at that,” encourages Timothy. “Haven’t you noticed how people seem to glow with joy after they are baptized? That is because they have identified themselves with the Lord Jesus. All the Christians rejoice with them.”

“I do want to obey the Lord,” agrees Mary at last. “But I still don’t fully understand.”

“After we attend the class for baptismal candidates, you will,” Timothy assures her. “And you will be eager to be baptized too!”

Jesus instituted two ordinances—water baptism and communion, both of which portray great Bible truths in visual form. An ordinance is an established rule or an authoritative decree. Church ordinances are based on the authority of God’s Word. In this lesson we will look at the first of these ordinances, water baptism.

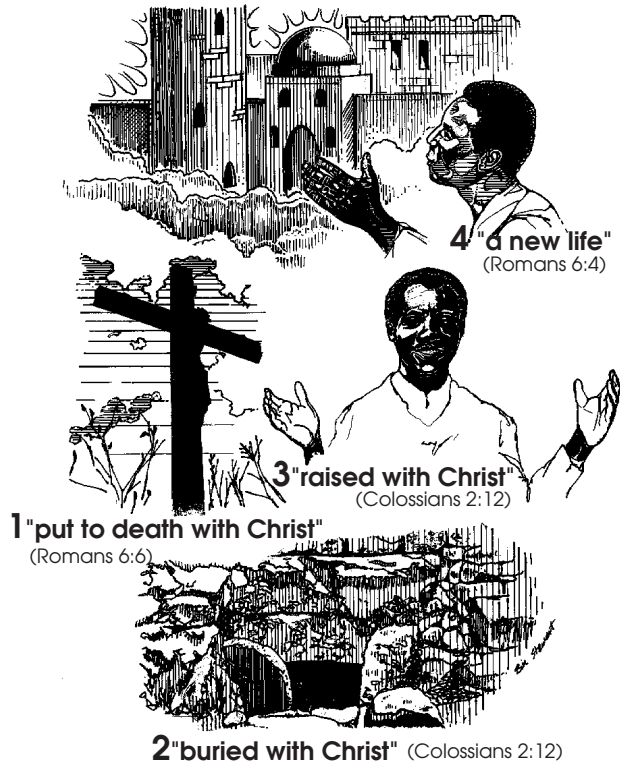
Water baptism gives a two-fold picture. The first is that of Christ dying in our place.

I passed on to you what I received, which is of the greatest importance: that Christ died for our sins, as written in the Scriptures; that he was buried and that he was raised to life three days later, as written in the Scriptures (1 Corinthians 15:3, 4).

The convert going down *into the water* pictures Christ dying for our sins. His or her being momentarily *under the water* speaks of Christ being buried. Then when he or she is lifted up *out of the water* this demonstrates Christ being raised to life. Paul writes, “Because of our sins he was given over to die, and he was raised to life in order to put us right with God” (Romans 4:25).

Baptism is also a picture of our deliverance from sin and union with Christ. The believer baptized in water illustrates the following truths:

1. He or she is “put to death with Christ” (Romans 6:6). Galatians 2:20 also refers to the old nature being crucified with Christ.
2. He or she is “buried with Christ” (Colossians 2:12). The believer being baptized is attending, in a spiritual sense, his or her own funeral! The old self life must die and be buried.
3. He or she is “raised with Christ” (Colossians 2:12). Jesus said, “Because I live, you also will live” (John 14:19).
4. He or she now lives “a new life” (Romans 6:4). Like Paul, he or she can say “it is no longer I . . . but it is Christ who lives in me” (Galatians 2:20).



Christian baptism is summarized briefly in these words.

“You were baptized into union with Christ, and now you are clothed so to speak, with the life of Christ himself” (Galatians 3:27).



For You To Do

1 Complete the following sentence. For a believer being baptized, going into the water symbolizes that Christ; being under the water symbolizes that Christ was; coming out of the water

symbolizes that He was

2 Water baptism is also a picture of something that happens to the old self. Write it in your own words.

.....

.....

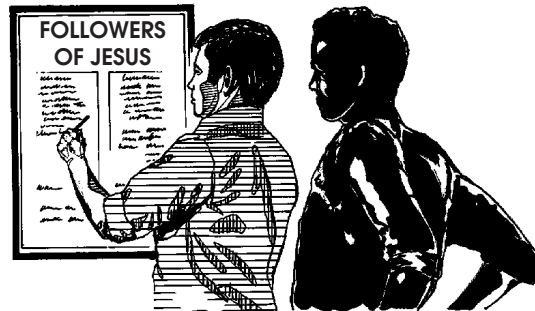
ITS PURPOSE

Objective 2. *State some truths concerning the importance of water baptism.*

Christian baptism probably had its origin in a custom observed by the Jews before the time of Christ. When a Gentile (non-Jew) chose to follow the true God, he underwent a baptism. The convert would stand in water while a rabbi read to him a passage from the law of Moses. Then the convert would plunge into the water as a sign of cleansing himself from the old life of heathenism.

Coming out of the water symbolized his new life as one of God's covenant people. He "acted out" his decision to serve the Lord.

Today baptism in water is a public witness that a believer has accepted Christ and chooses to follow Him in the fellowship of a local church.



A church leader, such as the pastor, performs the baptismal ceremony. Baptism in water is usually a once-in-a-lifetime experience. However, a person who was baptized at a time when he or she was not truly converted might desire to be baptized again, in order to experience a meaningful baptism in place of an empty ritual.

In simple terms, *baptism is an outward sign of an inner trust in Christ*. It is a public confession of Christian discipleship in obedience to Jesus' command to make disciples and "baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19).

The Bible does not say where baptismal services should be held. We recall some rather unusual services, one which took place at the seashore. For this we had to get special permission from the authorities. Soldiers holding their guns with bayonets fixed watched as the national pastor and I baptized converts. Seeing the candidates for baptism being put under the waves and then brought up again while people sang joyful choruses made them curious.

"What kind of ceremony is this?" they asked.

Thus the way was opened for believers to tell about their salvation and why they were following the Lord in baptism.

Regardless of the facilities, whether in a church baptistry or in a river or stream, the spiritual significance of baptism and our confession of Christ are of primary importance.



For You To Do

- 3 Which of the following statements are TRUE?
 - a My loyalty to Christ is expressed by my obedience to His commands.
 - b Water baptism is an outward sign of an inward trust, an acceptance of Christ as my Savior.
 - c It is important for me to be baptized if it is part of our family tradition.
 - d I should be willing to confess Christ publicly and let the world know that I have accepted Him as Lord of my life.
 - e Baptism is worthwhile but optional for Christians.

ITS FORMS

Objective 3. Describe the form of baptism practiced by Pentecostal churches.

John's Baptism

In a desert area by the Jordan River a prophet named John the Baptist preached repentance (Luke 3:1-15).

“Turn away from your sins and be baptized, and God will forgive your sins,” he said.

Many people, including tax-collectors and soldiers, responded to his preaching. John's baptism became known as the baptism of repentance (Acts 19:4).

Then one day Jesus appeared and He, too, asked to be baptized. John declined for he knew who Jesus was. He was the Son of God! He had no sin and did not need to repent and be baptized. But Jesus told John that by being baptized He would fulfill what God required, and John agreed to baptize Him (Matthew 3:13-15).

As soon as Jesus was baptized, he came up out of the water. Then heaven was opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God coming down like a dove and lighting on him. Then a voice said from heaven, “This is my own dear Son, with whom I am pleased” (Matthew 3:16-17).

Thus Jesus identified Himself with sinful humankind, becoming an example for us all.



For You To Do

4 Complete the following sentences.

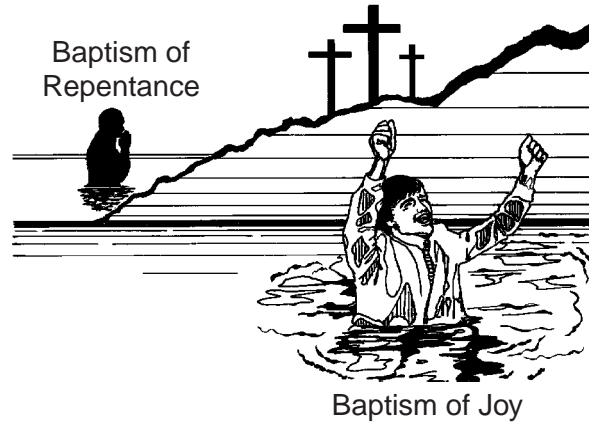
a John's baptism was a baptism of

b Christ's baptism identified Him with

Baptism in the Early Church

The baptism of John served a unique purpose in preparing people to receive their Messiah (Matthew 3:1-6). It was a sign of confessing and turning from their sins. After the death of Christ baptism took on new meaning. Now, *because* their sins were washed away by the shed blood of Jesus, believers were baptized to identify themselves with His completed work of redemption. (Acts 22:16; 1 John 1:7). However, the water of baptism in itself can never wash away sins! Cleansing from sin comes only through the merit of Christ's shed blood.

In the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) Christ's clear command is to make disciples. He tells His followers to do this by 1) going to all peoples everywhere, 2) baptizing them, and 3) teaching them.



The early church leaders baptized converts in obedience to Christ’s command. We read of 3,000 baptized on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:41). Philip the evangelist baptized the Ethiopian official when he believed on Jesus Christ (Acts 8:36-38). Ananias, a layman, baptized Saul who later became the apostle Paul (Acts 9:18). Cornelius, captain of “The Italian Regiment,” together with relatives and close friends, was baptized in water after the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon them (Acts 10:24-48).

During Paul’s first ministry in Europe, Lydia and her household were baptized (Acts 16:15). Later the Roman jailer and his family were baptized (Acts 16:32-34). Then in Corinth a leader of the synagogue, Crispus, and his family believed on Christ and were baptized along with many others (Acts 18:8).

From all these records of baptisms we learn that turning from sin (repentance) and belief in Jesus as Savior were essential requirements. We also learn that baptism in water was **not** the same experience as conversion, or the same experience as the baptism of the Holy Spirit.



For You To Do

- 5 Which of the following statements is TRUE?
 - a The baptism of John the Baptist and ours today have the same meaning.
 - b The early church baptized in obedience to Christ.
 - c Conversion, water baptism, and the baptism of the Holy Spirit are all terms for the same general experience.

Forms of Baptism Vary Today

Pentecostal churches believe that immersion (putting the candidate completely under the water) agrees with New Testament teaching and practice. In some churches, tradition (and perhaps a lack of water long ago) changed baptism by immersion to baptism by sprinkling or pouring. This form of baptism, however, does not give as clear a picture of Christ who died, was buried, and rose again.

A few groups who believe in immersion also make an issue of being “baptized in the name of Jesus,” because this phrase is used in Acts 2:38 and Acts 19:5. It was probably used to distinguish Christian baptism from John’s baptism and most evangelical churches do not try to build a doctrine on it. Christ’s own command leaves no question: “Baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19).

Another group baptizes three times—once in the name of the Father, once in the name of the Son, and once in the name of the Holy Spirit. They do it to honor the persons of the Trinity (Triune God), but we don't see that as essential. The act of baptism needs to be only once, even as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are one.

Tradition also brought about infant baptism—sprinkling water on a baby to be sure he or she will go to heaven if he or she dies. But a baby has not sinned, neither has he or she knowledge of right and wrong; he or she has no need of repentance. Many believers choose instead to dedicate their children to the Lord. We shall be studying about this in Lesson 8.

If you have not been baptized in water, we hope this lesson has helped you to see what the Bible teaches on baptism. As you follow the Lord in baptism, His blessings await you!



For You To Do

- 6 Circle the letter in front of each TRUE statement.
 - a Babies should be sprinkled with water to wash away their sins.
 - b Baptism should be a sad experience because it reminds us of our sin.
 - c Religious traditions may not always follow Bible teaching.
 - d One must be baptized to be saved.
 - e Every believer should obey the Lord's command to be baptized.
- 7 Fill in the following blanks.
 - a Jesus' command was to be baptized in the name of the, the, and the
 - b Baptism by putting the believer under the water is called
 - c Why do Pentecostals practice baptism by immersion?
.....
.....
.....



Check Your Answers

- 1 died for us, buried, raised to life.
- 5 Statement **b** is True.
- 2 Your own words. Your answer might be something like this: When we accept Christ our old life is put away and we are raised to live a new life in Him.
- 6 Statements **c** and **e** are True.
- 3 Statements **a**, **b**, and **d** are True.
- 7 **a** Father, Son, Holy Spirit.
b immersion.
c They believe it agrees with New Testament practice and teaching.
- 4 **a** repentance.
b sinful humankind.

Now that you have completed the first unit, you are ready to answer the questions in your student report for *UNIT ONE*. Review the previous lessons, then follow the instructions in your student report. Send your answer sheet to the address given on the copyright page of your study guide.

Lesson
6

Churches Remember the Lord's Death

During the seventeenth century in Scotland the Covenanters, an evangelical group, faced severe persecution. They had to meet secretly.

One evening a Scottish girl was on her way to a believers' meeting. Suddenly some enemies sprang into her path. Seizing her roughly, they asked where she was going. In a flash of inspiration she bravely replied, "I'm on my way to a supper to hear my Elder Brother's will and testament read."

"That sounds harmless enough," the leader of the men replied, and let her go. Joyfully the girl hurried on to the secret meeting to partake of holy communion.

The Scottish girl referred to the Lord's table as being the *supper* to which she was going. Jesus was her *Elder Brother*. The will to be read was the new covenant the Lord made in effect by His death on the cross.



In this lesson you will study . . .

The Lord's Table: A Picture
The Bread and the Cup
Forms and Purposes of Holy Communion

This lesson will help you . . .

- Explain the symbols of the bread and the cup used in communion.
- Explain the significance and purpose of the Lord's Supper.
- Partake of the communion with fuller appreciation for its meaning.

THE LORD'S TABLE: A PICTURE

Objective 1. Explain the significance of the Lord's table.

Mary looks radiant! Timothy beams as she takes her place beside him. She and several others have just been baptized in water. A communion service is about to begin and she will partake for the first time.

Mary has already received teaching on the meaning of the Lord's Supper. She joins in the singing and worship. Later, as she hears the pastor read the words of Jesus, "This is my body which is given for you" (Luke 22:19), tears come to her eyes. She understands so much better now what it means to worship. Instead of looking around as the emblem of bread is passed, she is praising and thanking the Lord in her heart. Then the pastor reads, "This cup is God's new covenant sealed with my blood, which is poured out for you" (Luke 22:20).

The believers take communion with reverence. How wonderful that the Lord should offer Himself for the sins of the world! Mary feels the nearness of the Lord and hungers for more of God's Spirit.

"We need to be baptized in the Holy Spirit," she whispers to Timothy. He squeezes her hand in agreement.

In Paris, France, stands a great monument, the magnificent *Arch of Triumph*. Beneath the huge arch in a tomb lies The Unknown Soldier, representing all the soldiers who have died in battle. Every evening members of a patriotic group light a "flame of remembrance," expressing the gratitude of a nation for its men who sacrificed their lives for their country.

Believers, too, have a memorial. The "Lord's table," or holy communion, reminds us of the suffering and death that Jesus went through for us. The broken bread and the cup represent His body that was crucified and His blood that was shed for all the sin of mankind. We partake of the bread and the cup of the Lord's table to remind us of the great sacrifice that Jesus made for us (1 Corinthians 5:7).

Taking part in holy communion symbolizes or pictures the suffering and death of Jesus. In remembering, however, we must not just sympathize with His sufferings. We should think of and accept His victory and finished work. Christ's death was not in vain. He fulfilled the work the Father sent Him to do that He might claim a people for His own.

In addition, we must remember that the Lord's table is never an altar. It is a *memorial!* It speaks to us of how Christ "appeared once and for all, to remove sin through the sacrifice of himself" (Hebrews 9:26).

The Lord's table is not an altar upon which Christ is to be sacrificed again! When we observe the Lord's death we are thanking Him for His sacrifice that is complete. We are proclaiming His death until He comes again (1 Corinthians 11:26).



For You To Do

- 1 Circle the letter in front of each correct completion to the sentence. Observing the Lord's Supper is significant because it
 - a) reminds us of Jesus and His sacrifice for us.
 - b) reminds us of His victory over sin.
 - c) helps us remember that He still reigns.
 - d) is a beautiful and impressive ceremony.
- 2 Circle the letter in front of each TRUE statement.
 - a) The Lord's Supper is an altar of sacrifice for us.
 - b) Jesus' death brought a new covenant into effect and now we are saved by faith.
 - c) Communion is a continuing observance until Jesus comes again.
 - d) Everyone should take part in the Lord's Supper, even if he or she doesn't know what it means.

Check your answers.

THE BREAD AND THE CUP

Objective 2. *Associate the emblems of communion with their meaning.*

The Bread

At the Passover supper that Jesus ate with His disciples He took a piece of bread, gave thanks, broke it, and handed it to His disciples saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in memory of me” (Luke 22:19).

Earlier in His ministry Jesus had spoken of Himself as the “bread from heaven” and the “bread of life” (John 6:32, 35). He was the bread that God gave, the One who came from heaven and gave His life to the world.

“I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats this bread, he will live forever. The bread that I will give him is my flesh, which I give so that the world may live” (John 6:51).

That Jesus meant all this to be in a spiritual sense is clear from the reading of John 6:25-58. Some of His listeners thought the Lord meant His actual physical flesh and they had an angry argument about it. One must interpret this language in the same way as one interprets the words, “I am the gate for the sheep” (John 10:7). Jesus is not a literal gate; the gate typifies Him and His work. Certain features of a gate, such as its strength and how it divides and protects, represent His character and ministry.

When we take a piece of bread at the Lord’s table, we in faith receive the life of Jesus. Just as literal bread strengthens our physical bodies, so His life gives us spiritual strength.

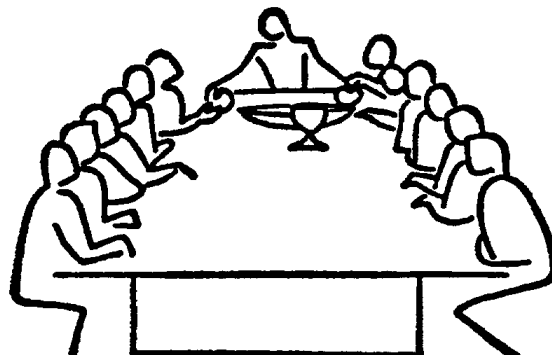
The Cup

After the supper Jesus took the cup and said, “This cup is God’s new covenant, sealed with my blood. Whenever you drink it, do so in memory of me” (1 Corinthians 11:25). The fruit of the vine represents His shed blood; the cup also represents the new covenant sealed with His blood that was poured out for us (Luke 22:20).

Later that night, after the supper and His talk with the disciples, the Lord Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. There, in a place called Gethsemane, He knelt alone.

“‘Father,’ he said, ‘if you will, take this cup of suffering away from me. Not my will, however, but your will be done’” (Luke 22:42). The “cup” He shrank from represents the sins of the world. This burden was far more terrible than the physical pain that He bore. His anguish was so great that His sweat fell like drops of blood to the ground.

The cup of suffering and sin that Jesus drank has become the cup of salvation for us! May we always be full of gratitude to Him who loved us and gave His life for us! (Galatians 2:20).





For You To Do

3 Complete the following sentences.

Jesus broke the bread and said, “This is my.....”

He later gave the fruit of the vine which typifies His

4 The “cup” has a twofold meaning. Circle the letter in front of each correct definition.

- a) The new covenant sealed with Jesus’ blood
- b) The suffering Jesus went through for us
- c) Forgiveness of sin if we take communion

5 For the descriptions on the left write the number which represents the symbol or object described (right column).

- | | | |
|--------|---------------------|-------------|
| a | Guards and protects | 1) Bread |
| b | Leads | 2) Vine |
| c | Dispels darkness | 3) Light |
| d | Supports | 4) Lamb |
| e | Quenches thirst | 5) Water |
| f | A sacrifice | 6) Shepherd |
| g | Spiritual life | 7) Door |

FORMS AND PURPOSES OF HOLY COMMUNION

Objective 3. *State the purposes of the Lord’s Supper or holy communion.*

A variety of church practices exist with respect to the Lord’s Supper. For the bread some groups use only unleavened bread. This follows the pattern of the Passover bread made without yeast or leaven (Mark 14:1). Others prefer that the bread be in one piece, either a loaf or a wafer to be broken by the leader into small pieces. Large churches may find individual-size wafers more practical.

Some churches use one or two large cups that are shared by all the participants. In this case the cup is wiped with a cloth after each person takes a sip. Other congregations make use of small individual cups. The drink is usually grape juice, but may be wine or wine mixed with water. In parts of the world where grape juice is not obtainable, juices of other fruits are substituted.

Some churches observe the Lord’s Supper every Sunday as part of the morning worship. Others serve communion the first Sunday of every month. Rural churches might have communion only once in several months—whenever a minister is able to come for a service. The Scripture says “whenever.” This leaves it up to the local churches to decide what is best for them.

Though some churches practice “closed communion” (restricting it to their own members), most Pentecostal churches have “open communion.” This means that all who are born-again believers are invited to participate.



For You To Do

6 Reflect for a moment on how communion is practiced at your church. List the characteristics mentioned above which apply.

.....

.....

Its Purposes

While the forms for observing holy communion vary from place to place, its *purposes* should be the same. They are as follows:

1. *To remind us of Jesus Christ and what He did.* It is a memorial feast to honor, worship, and thank Him. The Holy Spirit wants to make Christ’s sufferings, death, resurrection, and ascension meaningful and real to each person.

2. To draw believers together in love and unity through fellowship with Jesus Christ. John, the apostle of love, writes:

If we live in the light—just as he is in the light—then we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from every sin (1 John 1:7).

3. *To point believers to the glorious hope of the future, when Christ will set up His Kingdom.* At the table Jesus said, “I tell you, I will never again drink this wine until the day I drink the new wine with you in my Father’s Kingdom” (Matthew 26:29). And Paul exhorts us at the communion table to “proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes” (1 Corinthians 11:26).

4. *To provide healing and restoration.* The Bible teaches us that each one must examine himself or herself first before eating the bread and drinking from the cup (1 Corinthians 11:28). We are to come in a spirit of humility and dependence upon Him. In faith we can draw from His life and strength, even for our physical bodies.

This last point is illustrated by the following story. Au-ma was a Chinese tribeswoman who had heard the gospel from missionaries. She in turn became a “Bible woman” ministering to her own people.

One day while partaking of the Lord’s Supper, Au-ma felt led of the Holy Spirit to take some of the bread and juice to a poor outcast leper woman who desperately needed help. She hurried up the mountain path to the leper’s home to pray for her. Then, with a heart full of faith and love, she shared the symbols of the Lord’s body and blood. As the leper received these emblems, Jesus’ healing power came upon her and she was completely healed!



- 7 Circle the letter in front of each TRUE statement.
- a “Open” communion means that only the members of the church may partake.
 - b Communion is a memorial.
 - c The Bible doesn’t say how often communion should be taken.
 - d Forms of serving communion may vary, but the purpose remains the same.
- 8 Which of the following are purposes for celebrating the Lord’s Supper?
- a) To remind us of the Lord’s Second Coming
 - b) To remember the death of Christ for our sins
 - c) To create a beautiful service
 - d) To provide for healing
 - e) To bring believers together in love
- 9 In your own words tell what partaking of the Lord’s Supper has meant to you.

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Check Your Answers

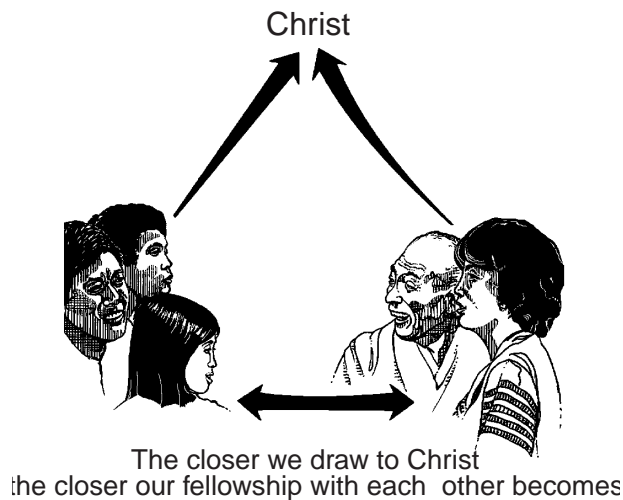
- 1** a) reminds us of Jesus and His sacrifice for us.
b) reminds us of His victory over sin.
c) helps us remember that He still reigns.
- 6** Your answer.
- 2** Statements **b** and **c** are True.
- 7** Statements **b**, **c**, and **d** are True.
- 3** body; blood
- 8** a) To remind us of the Lord's Second Coming.
b) To remember the death of Christ for our sins.
d) To provide for healing.
e) To bring believers together in love.
- 4** a) The new covenant sealed with Jesus' blood.
b) The suffering Jesus went through for us.
- 9** Your own words. Someone else wrote: It has helped me not to take for granted what the Lord has done for me. It gives me new hope and courage as well.
- 5**
- | | | | |
|----------|--------------|----------|-----------|
| a | 7) Door. | e | 5) Water. |
| b | 6) Shepherd. | f | 4) Lamb. |
| c | 3) Light. | g | 1) Bread. |
| d | 2) Vine. | | |

Lesson
7

Churches Provide Fellowship

Just before a Sunday morning communion service, five persons to be received as church members stood before a pastor and a group of deacons. One new member was a Chinese businessman and another was a girl who worked as a maid in a wealthy home. The others were an old man, a teen-age boy, and a factory woman. Impressed by the variety of backgrounds, the pastor remarked, "Today five different people will receive the right hand of fellowship, becoming members of this church. Though not alike in race, position, or age, through salvation in Christ each has been brought into one fellowship. As the apostle said, 'There is no difference between Jews and Gentiles, between slaves and free men, between men and women; you are all one in union with Christ Jesus' (Galatians 3:28). Today you see proof of this!"

God has designed fellowship that we may be a help, a strength, and a joy to each other. This is one of the important functions of the local church.



In this lesson you will study . . .

Fellowship in the Local Church

Fellowship Between Churches

This lesson will help you . . .

- Explain why fellowship among believers and between churches is so important.
- Realize the many areas of fellowship open to believers.

FELLOWSHIP IN THE LOCAL CHURCH

Objective 1. *Explain the importance of opportunities for fellowship in the local church.*

Reasons for Fellowship

Something wonderful has happened! During a week of special meetings both Timothy and Mary received the baptism in the Holy Spirit. It made them want to share the good news with everyone. Mary's parents, who showed no interest in the gospel before, were impressed by the

change in Mary. While not yet ready to visit the church, they did accept an invitation to a church picnic at the park.

There was plenty of food for all and games to participate in. The people seemed to really care about each other, and they warmly included Mary's parents in all the activities. Mary's younger brother especially enjoyed the races. When he heard the others talk about what they did in Sunday School, he decided he wanted to go too.

Mary's family began to attend meetings and soon all three were converted. Christian fellowship first attracted them to the church and eventually led to their hearing and responding to the message of salvation.

The early church provided for this basic need for fellowship. After Peter's preaching on the Day of Pentecost, many believed and were baptized. About 3,000 people were added to the church that day. They "spent their time in learning from the apostles, taking part in fellowship, and sharing in the fellowship meals and the prayers" (Acts 2:42).

We have drawn the following guidelines from the example left us by the early church:

1. *Believers took time to learn from the apostles.* With the large numbers being saved, each one could hardly have had private instruction. Perhaps they were in classes comparable to our church school. As we study God's Word together, we not only learn, but we develop a closeness as we share the beautiful truths our Heavenly Father gives us.

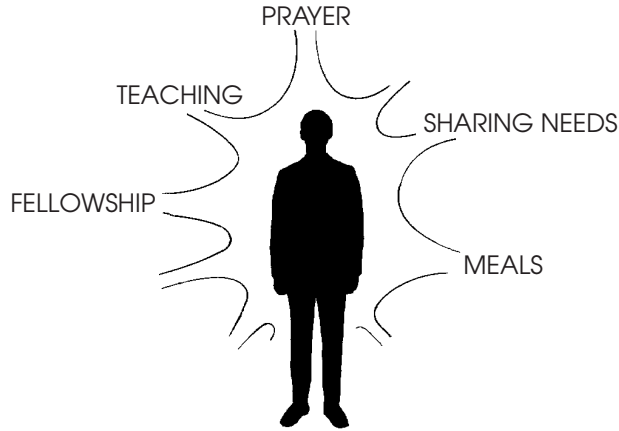
2. *Believers all took part in the fellowship.* In today's world people still need the fellowship of a local church. Listening to gospel broadcasts or watching church services on television does not substitute for being part of a local body.

It can be especially difficult for young converts to live the Christian life by themselves. They need the strength and the experience of mature believers and older Christians need their zeal and enthusiasm. By meeting together the entire church is strengthened.

3. *They shared meals together.* Eating is an essential part of life, and eating together is a vital kind of fellowship. Inviting a person to eat with you is a sign of friendship. Fellowship meals play an important part in church life.

4. *The early church emphasized praying together.* Prayer gatherings in a church building or in homes strengthen spiritual fellowship. As believers worship the Lord and pray for each other, they grow together in grace and love.

5. *They shared needs together.* Members of the Early Church were considerate of each other. They helped widows and the poor (Acts 2:44; 4:32; 6:1; 9:36). Because of this sharing together, Paul was able to write to the young church at Philippi, "You have fellowship with the Spirit, and you have kindness and compassion for one another" (Philippians 2:1). This is how it should be done in the churches today.



For You To Do

1 If a local church meets only for teaching and prayer, what three activities are lacking?

.....

.....

Structures for Fellowship

We have seen how doing things together is a vital part of our Christian life. We shall now look at some of the organizations within the church that help meet our need for fellowship.

Church women often form their own groups for fellowship and outreach in prayer, work, and giving. Their concerns are for the church, missionaries, and local needs. They work together on projects such as sewing for needy families, decorating Sunday School rooms, or visiting shut-ins. Their giving may seem small, but it is surprising what big things they accomplish! They find real joy in this fellowship of helping.

Men also organize into groups and meet for prayer. They raise funds for missionary projects, or perhaps for Christian literature. In some places they help to build their own or another church building. Not least in their activities is that of reaching other men for Christ.

Childrens are encouraged to engage in programs designed especially for them. Capable, consecrated adults teach them various skills: cooking, sewing, handwork, camping, woodwork, and survival skills. These fun times help them stay interested in church. Both boys' and girls' groups are trained in Christian principles. They memorize Scripture and are given goals to strive toward. Guided while young and responsive, they are more likely to grow into well-rounded adults who love and serve the Lord.

Youth also need activities suited to them. Given worthwhile goals, they can do much for the church and its outreach. They have their own services with leaders from within their group, under the direction of the pastor. Some larger churches have a youth pastor in addition to the regular pastor. Young people should be provided with interesting activities and teaching to counteract the attractions and temptations of a sinful world.

The church can meet the needs of *elderly people*. One of the greatest problems of older people in many societies today is that of loneliness—they feel forgotten. Churches reaching these people in retirement homes or private residences not only help to fill their empty hours, but serve as a reminder that God cares.

These organizations and others within the church provide needed fellowship. There can also be “get-togethers” for special occasions and holidays. A picnic is a common favorite. Some churches have a fellowship hall, a place with tables, chairs, and a kitchen unit, where all kinds of gatherings can take place.

Perhaps you can think of other ways that people can have fellowship together. Sometimes fellowship takes place without previous planning as the Lord lets us meet other believers in unexpected ways. Although the main purpose of the church is to worship, fellowship contributes to the well-being of a balanced church. Worship is lifting our hands up to God. Fellowship is holding our hands out to each other.



For You To Do

- 2 Circle the letter in front of each TRUE statement.
 - a The early church spent all its free time in study and in prayer.
 - b Children can have fun as well as learn in church-related activities.
 - c Young people should be provided with interesting activities to counteract the temptations of the world.
 - d Fellowship with other believers helps produce a well-balanced Christian life.
- 3 From the list below, select the *key* word to having fellowship.
 - a) Study
 - b) Organization
 - c) Picnic
 - d) Togetherness
 - e) Needs
- 4 Which of the activities or organizations within the church appeals most to you?

.....

If you are not already involved in some form of fellowship with other believers, look for a way to get involved. If your church is lacking in opportunities for fellowship, ask others to work together with you to get it going.

FELLOWSHIP BETWEEN CHURCHES

Objective 2. *Match fellowship activities with their specific purposes.*

Taking part in fellowship between churches is a stimulating experience. It broadens our outlook and helps each church realize it is part of a much greater whole—the body of Christ. Wider ranges of friends are formed as we associate with other churches.

Fellowship meetings. In some areas fellowship meetings are held once a month. Churches take turns being the host to other churches. Preaching of the Word, testimonies of answered prayer, perhaps a meal together in between services, and special singing and music are features of a fellowship meeting.

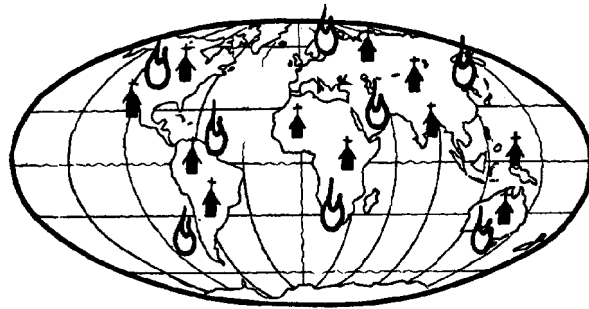
Rallies. These are usually “get-togethers” of the various groups with similar groups from other churches. Young people enjoy youth rallies conducted by their youth leaders. Women respond to women’s rallies and men like to attend a men’s convention.

Contests. Memory work competition, or Bible Quiz competition between churches, encourage the study of God’s Word. Musical competition is also a means of attracting people to the church.

Camps and Retreats. Church members over a wide area get away from their everyday work schedules to attend camps or retreats. As they take time out for spiritual things they are refreshed and edified. Many people have received the baptism in the Holy Spirit at a camp or retreat.

United Evangelistic Outreach. Churches near each other can work together in a joint outreach. Special speakers or musical groups may be invited to minister. Such meetings can make a strong impact on the community. Follow-up work should be organized so new converts will find fellowship in a church near them. Local churches need to look beyond their own walls to the ripening harvest field of souls. Working in cooperation with other churches helps them remember that the body of Christ includes all believers everywhere.

Churches need each other in fellowship just as individual believers do. Today we are seeing a coming together among born-again and Spirit-filled people. The large interchurch gatherings show the world that the love of Christ and the fellowship in the Spirit are stronger than denominational lines. Jesus said, “If you have love for one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples” (John 13:35).



Although some churches prefer being completely independent, most of them belong to a denomination. A form midway between these two is called a “cooperative fellowship.” Many Pentecostal churches belong to such an organization. Though in a cooperative fellowship, each local group governs and supports itself. Those involved in such a movement are banded together to work for God. Through cooperation greater ministries can be carried out, such as printing gospel literature, producing radio programs, sending out missionaries, and conducting large conventions or evangelistic crusades.



For You To Do

5 Before each example, write the number of the phrase that applies:

- | | | |
|--------|---|---------------------------------|
| a | To help young people meet other youth | 1) Fellowship meeting |
| b | To spend time in prayer and relaxation along with other believers | 2) Rally |
| c | To stimulate interest in God's Word | 3) Contest |
| d | To have fellowship with other churches | 4) Camp or retreat |
| e | To work with other churches in evangelistic outreach | 5) United evangelistic outreach |

6 Circle the letter in front of each correct sentence. Fellowship between churches strengthens

- a) our fellowship as individuals.
- b) the local church.
- c) missionary outreach.
- d) our witness to unbelievers.



Check Your Answers

1 Fellowship, sharing of meals, and sharing of needs.

4 Your answer.

2 Statements **b**, **c**, and **d** are True.

5 a) 2) Rally.

b) 4) Camp or retreat.

c) 3) Contest.

d) 1) Fellowship meeting.

e) 5) United evangelistic outreach.

3 d) togetherness

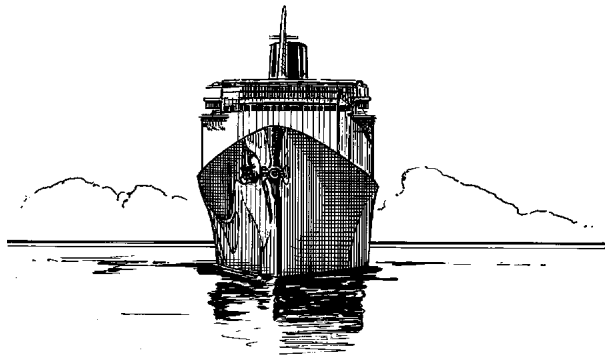
6 You should have circled all of them as all the completions are correct.

Lesson
8

Churches Celebrate

A ship tossed at sea leans first to one side and then to the other. It seems also to be within human nature to lean to one extreme or another. As a result, some churches have added so much ceremony and ritual to their services that they have left no room for the moving of the Holy Spirit. Others, on the other hand, have declared “freedom” from all ceremony and would not so much as sing from a hymnal. But the freedom we have in Christ allows for a beautiful balance between ritual and free form worship. This balance can be achieved in other church celebrations as well.

Churches celebrate with a variety of ceremonies and meaningful festivals. No doubt you have attended a beautiful wedding, a touching baby dedication, or a sad but celebratory funeral of a church member who passed away into God’s presence. Christmas, Palm Sunday, Good Friday, Easter, and Thanksgiving are some favorite festivals celebrated in church. These and other ceremonies and festivals should be done as a remembrance of the Lord.



In this lesson you will study . . .

Church Ceremonies
Church Festivals
Ritual or Free Form Worship

This lesson will help you . . .

- Describe the variety of church ceremonies.
- Appreciate the great festivals of the church year and realize the meaning behind them.
- Discover a balance between ritual and free form in church services.

CHURCH CEREMONIES

Objective 1. *Identify ordinances that are required and church ceremonies that are optional.*

The great day has arrived for Timothy and Mary —their wedding day. Both of their families are involved in the planning and preparation. All their church friends are invited to attend the ceremony performed by the pastor. Afterwards refreshments will be served in the fellowship hall.

Mary is starry-eyed, but she also feels awed at the solemnity of the occasion. She wants to be the wife that God intends her to be. Timothy is excited, yet he has considered seriously the vows he will take—to love and provide for his bride, and to be the spiritual head of his home. They have had several counseling sessions with the pastor and realize that a solid marriage doesn't just "happen"—it is *built*. With Christ as the center of their relationship, their love will last and grow deeper with the years.

And they are so happy about the church they will be married in! The congregation sharing in their joy will make it complete.

We have already discussed water baptism and the Lord's Supper. These are known as *ordinances* because the Bible *tells* us to observe them. These we studied in Lessons 5 and 6. The church also conducts ceremonies with definite scriptural basis, such as weddings. Others, like the dedication of a new home, are quite optional. That means we may have them if we wish, or we may not—the choice is ours. We will look at some of the rites that help us to share in both the joys and the sorrows we all may experience.

1. *Performing marriages*. Because God Himself instituted marriage, it is most appropriate to have weddings in the church. The ceremony centers around a promise made between a man and a woman to be true to each other as husband and wife as long as they live. In some countries ministers are recognized as legal officers with authority to perform weddings. In other lands a civil marriage must be conducted first and a church wedding may then follow.

2. *Dedicating children*. Christian parents may bring their babies or young children forward in a church service to present them to the Lord in a public act of consecration. The pastor takes the infant in his or her arms and offers prayer for both the child and the parents who promise to bring up the child in the fear of the Lord. The whole congregation enjoys this lovely custom.

3. *Praying for the sick*. Often in a meeting people who are ill ask for special prayer. One of the church leaders may anoint them on the forehead with a touch of oil before praying for them. It isn't unusual for healings to take place. It may come instantly or gradually. The sick may also be prayed for in their homes or in the hospital. Jesus said that believers will "place their hands on sick people, and these will get well" (Mark 16:18). See also James 5:14-15.

4. *Dedicating homes*. When someone moves into a new home, he or she may want a ceremony of dedication. Church leaders and friends gather for this happy occasion to dedicate the house to the Lord, to invite Christ as head of the home. Christians have also asked for a dedication service when opening a new place of business, a school, an activity center, or a church, because they want to honor Christ in all that they do.

5. *Conducting funerals*. Everyone needs the church when there is a death in the family. A funeral ceremony with believers to help share the burden can do much toward lifting sorrow. The pastor speaks comfort from God's Word, reminding the family that we are not sad "as those who have no hope" (1 Thessalonians 4:13). We have the glorious hope that our loved ones in the Lord have been received into the presence of Jesus where they will suffer no more. The Bible assures us that we shall see them again.

Because people attend funerals who never go to church otherwise, it presents an opportunity to talk to the unsaved about accepting Christ. Christians can also minister to the family by preparing food or offering to help in other ways.

Sometimes a family likes to have a special service to remember the departed loved one on the anniversary of his or her death. They may give an offering to the church as a memorial. This is a good substitute for the ancestor worship formerly practiced by some new converts.



For You To Do

1 Look up each Scripture (left column) and write the number that represents the ceremony or custom it refers to (right column).

- a Genesis 50:1-14 1) Wedding
- b 1 Samuel 1:27-28 2) Funeral
- c 2 Chronicles 7:9 3) Baptism
- d John 2:1 4) Praying for the sick
- e Acts 28:7-9 5) Dedication of children
- 6) Dedication of a building

Two other ceremonies relating to the church and conducted in the church are customary.

6. *Receiving new members.* After instruction in membership classes, candidates for membership are extended “the right hand of fellowship” by the pastor and the board. This ceremony should be conducted when most of the other members can be present. It’s a beautiful way to say “Welcome!”

7. *Installing officers and teachers.* Some churches conduct installation services for those who are taking on new duties in the church. The pastor exhorts them to carry out their responsibilities in a way that would please the Lord. Usually the congregation stands as the pastor prays for the new officers and teachers. More than a custom, this short ceremony encourages the leaders and assures them of the support of the whole body.



For You To Do

2 Draw a circle around the letter in front of the correct completion to the sentence. According to Romans 12:15, we should share

- a) mostly in other people’s sorrows.
- b) mostly with others and their happiness.
- c) when a particular need touches us.
- d) both in happiness and in sorrow that comes to others.

3 Write *ordinance* after each of the following ceremonies about which the Bible gives definite instructions.

- a Water baptism.....
- b Receiving of new members.....
- c Installation of officers.....
- d The Lord’s Supper.....
- e Funeral.....

CHURCH FESTIVALS

Objective 2. Match the names of festivals with the occasions they commemorate.

A church festival is a special time of celebration, usually one of rejoicing, in memory of a great event in the life of Christ or the history of the church. Most church calendars highlight four major festivals: Christmas, Good Friday, Easter, and the Day of Pentecost (Whitsunday). Others are Palm Sunday, Ascension Sunday, and the Lord's Day.

Christmas is a festive occasion. Churches usually have a program for which there is much preparation. The young people practice carols while children learn verses to recite and songs to sing. Perhaps they will act out the Christmas story. Candies or other treats may be given out. Whatever the church plans, simple or elaborate, it is all done to commemorate the birth of Christ, the Savior who is God's Gift to the world. Parents and unsaved friends may, through the program, be introduced to the gospel message.



Palm Sunday recalls the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem riding on a donkey. Crowds waved palm branches, spreading them on the road before Him. They praised Him, shouting, "Praise to David's Son! God bless him who comes in the name of the Lord!" (Matthew 21:9). Palm Sunday begins the Holy Week, when churches remember the last week of Christ's life before His crucifixion and burial.

Good Friday reminds us of the sufferings of Jesus and His death on the cross. Some churches open their doors all day for prayer; others celebrate three hours by meditating on the seven last words of Jesus and having appropriate hymns and a time of prayer.

Easter is a day of special rejoicing because Christ is risen from the dead. People like to decorate the church with flowers. Some choose to wear bright, new clothes. It is a time of gladness as pastors preach the resurrection of Jesus. Without this truth all church celebrations would be meaningless. Instead, we rejoice because we know that Jesus lives. Not only do we have scriptural proof (1 Corinthians 15:20), but we have an inner assurance that by His Spirit He is living within us.

Ascension Sunday comes the sixth Sunday after Easter. The Ascension actually falls on Thursday, 40 days after Easter, but most churches observe it the following Sunday. We must never forget that Christ literally left this earth and ascended into heaven. He sat down at the right hand of God (Hebrews 10:12), as head of the Church and our Great High Priest again, just as He promised (Acts 1:11).

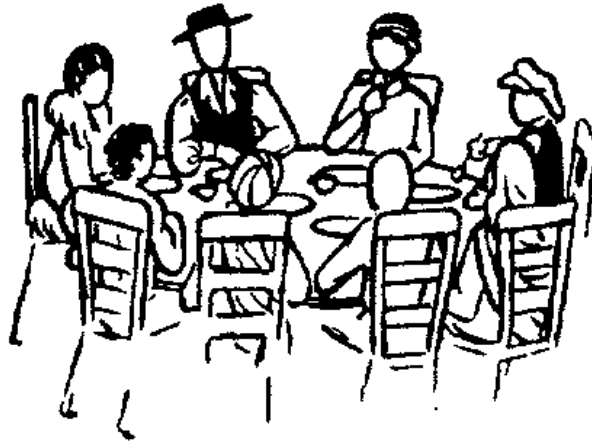
Pentecost comes 50 days after the Crucifixion. It coincides with the Jewish Harvest Festival that came 50 days after their Passover. Pentecost also celebrates the "birthday of the church," when the Holy Spirit came upon believers who met in Jerusalem. They were gloriously filled with power and joy and began to talk in other languages as the Spirit enabled them to speak. In explaining the Pentecostal experience to those standing around, Peter quoted from Joel who wrote, "This is what I will do in the last days, God says: I will pour out my Spirit on everyone" (Acts 2:17).

The Lord's Day, the usual day of worship among believers today, is the only festival known to be observed by the early church. Christians then celebrated a "weekly Easter," to remind themselves of Christ's resurrection. They kept this "Christian day," the first day of the week, by praying, preaching, teaching, and partaking of the Lord's Supper.

A few church celebrations have developed in recent years. Both *Mother's Day* and *Father's Day* honor our parents. *New Year's Eve* celebrates the arrival of a new year in an atmosphere of prayer, worship, and dedication. Often it is called the "watchnight service."

Churches may also choose to hold a *Thanksgiving* service or a *Harvest Festival* in the autumn. Or believers might ask for a special service of thanksgiving in gratitude for something the Lord has done for them. It may be a definite answer to prayer, or some achievement through God's help. At such times they might want to give a special "thank offering" to the Lord through the church.

Your church may celebrate some or all of these special days or some others not mentioned. What is important to remember is that the day must not be celebrated for its own sake, but as a remembrance of the Lord's work and presence with us. Keep this in mind and your celebrations will not become empty rituals without spiritual meaning.



For You To Do

4 For the descriptions in the left column, write the number which represents the festival described (right column).

- | | | |
|--------|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| a | The birth of Jesus | 1) Palm Sunday |
| b | The Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem | 2) The Lord's Day |
| c | The Crucifixion | 3) Good Friday |
| d | The Resurrection | 4) Christmas |
| e | Jesus' return to heaven | 5) Easter |
| f | "Birthday of the church" | 6) Pentecost |
| g | Weekly remembrance of Easter | 7) Ascension Day |

5 Circle the letter in front of each correct completion to the sentence. The festivals we studied are valuable to the church because they

- a) remind us of important spiritual or biblical events.
- b) help us hold to tradition.
- c) give us something interesting to do.
- d) provide a way for us to witness to others.

6 List at least three church celebrations that have developed in recent years.

.....

.....

RITUAL OR FREE FORM WORSHIP

Objective 3. Explain what place both ritual and free form worship have in the church.

Ritual worship in a religious ceremony uses an orderly, set pattern of words and actions. *Free form* worship includes more spontaneous (natural) wording and action. Both of these play a role in the church.

Reading about the early church, you will discover a lack of rigid forms and rituals. Their informal ministry and worship allowed the Spirit to work and the people to respond. Since then, however, many churches have become too formal or ritualized and, thereby, have restrained the moving of the Holy Spirit. The rituals have remained but their meaning has been lost.

Is there a place, then, for ritual in our churches? Yes, there is. On occasions such as weddings, funerals, and the communion service, ceremony with its planned wording and procedure lends dignity and insures that nothing will be forgotten or left out.

Reciting church creeds and repeating Scripture also has value, especially for those who cannot read. Moreover, Scripture teaches that worship should be “done in a proper and orderly way” (1 Corinthians 14:40). Such forms, however, must not be used so much that we become dependent upon them. A balance should be sought between ritual and free form, remembering that the ceremony is not as important as the *meaning* behind it.

In contrast to the dress required for Old Testament priests, no mention is made of special clothing for pastors or other church leaders in the New Testament. Status and position in the church were not emphasized since there was no longer a wide distinction made between clergy and laity. Instead, we read of simple worship, rich Christian fellowship, a vibrant faith in Jesus Christ, and humility of ministry and service.

Churches must celebrate! What events could be more exciting to celebrate than what we have in the drama of redemption?



For You To Do

7 Write *yes* after each church situation in which some definite ritual would be helpful.

- a Weddings
- b Praying for the sick
- c Funerals

- d City-wide evangelistic meetings
- e Praise and worship services
- f Communion services



Check Your Answers

- 1 a 2) Funeral.
- b 5) Dedication of children.
- c 6) Dedication of a building.
- d 1) Wedding.
- e 4) Praying for the sick.

- 4 a 4) Christmas.
- b 1) Palm Sunday.
- c 3) Good Friday.
- d 5) Easter.
- e 7) Ascension Day.
- f 6) Pentecost.
- g 2) The Lord's Day.

- 2 d) both in happiness and in sorrow that comes to others.

- 5 a) remind us of important spiritual or biblical events.
- d) provide a way for us to witness to others.

- 3 a Water baptism.
- d The Lord's Supper.

- 6 You could have listed Mother's Day, Father's Day, New Year's Eve, Thanksgiving, Harvest Festival, or another celebration important to your town or country.

- 7 You probably wrote yes after **a** Weddings, **c** Funerals, and **f** Communion services. In all these, however, participants should remain open to the gentle moving of the Holy Spirit.

Lesson
9

Churches Grow

A great forest in central Europe is famed for its beauty in the spring and fall seasons. Footpaths, bicycle routes, and horse trails thread through the stately trees whose leaves form a lace pattern against the sky—a pattern so tight that sunlight scarcely pierces through.

We have been awed by the magnificence of these trees. If we were hungry, however, their beauty would not meet our need. We would rather be in a fruit orchard where our hunger could be satisfied.

Psalm 1:3 compares those who obey the Lord to trees that grow beside a stream and bear fruit at the right time. Christ has set the church in the world to meet a need—not just to be admired for its magnificence. It is to be like a tree whose roots hold firm, growing deep down to the water of life, whose branches blossom and bear fruit!



In this lesson you will study . . .

Roots Become Established
Branches Spread
Blossoms Become Fruit

This lesson will help you . . .

- Value membership in a local church.
- Explain how a church supports itself.
- Describe basic church government.

ROOTS BECOME ESTABLISHED

Objective 1. *Identify statements giving responsibilities and requirements for church membership.*

Timothy and Mary return from a short wedding trip and attend a class for church membership. During the second class Mary asks, “Didn’t I become a member here when I was converted?”

“When you were saved,” the teacher explains, “you became a member of the body of Christ. But you can also choose to become a member of a local church. This requires certain qualifications, such as being baptized in water and understanding basic doctrines and practices of the church.”

“Would you explain the real purpose of church membership?” asks Timothy.

“Yes, it’s like this,” the teacher continues. “The members of a local church are like a foundation or a base—something firm and steady to be built upon. This makes it possible to carry out the various church ministries and to be firmly established in a community.”

Members Form a Base

Perhaps you, as a member of Christ’s body, have wondered why you should also become a member of a local church.

The *true church*, or *body of Christ*, is made up of all people everywhere who have been redeemed through His death on the cross (Colossians 1:20). This “spiritual organism,” also called the invisible church, needs a visible form on earth for people to see and relate to.

The *visible church* is made up of groups of people forming local bodies. Each church must recognize Christ as the Head, and that it is a part of the whole body. Each finds ways of functioning that suit its needs. These ways or methods of governing a church may differ, which results in different denominations being formed. These differences, however, are often only a matter of preference, or what works best for the group to function as a unit. What is *essential* is that its teachings are soundly biblical and that its members form a solid base from which the church can operate.

The church must be a *voluntary association*. No one is forced to attend or to support the church or to get involved in its activities. Its members love the Lord and willingly serve Him.

Requirements for membership. We suggest the following points as general qualifications for belonging to a church. Each member should:

- . . . have a clear experience of salvation through trust in Jesus Christ (Romans 10:9-10).
- . . . have an understanding of the basic doctrines and practices of his or her church (John 14:23; Acts 2:42).
- . . . be baptized in water (Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:38).
- . . . be baptized in the Holy Spirit or sincerely desire to be filled with the Spirit (Acts 2:4; Ephesians 5:18).
- . . . follow the moral standards taught in God’s Word (1 Corinthians 6:9-10; 18-20; Hebrews 13:4).
- . . . be a respectable member of society, obeying the laws of his or her country and honoring its leaders (Romans 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-14).

Responsibilities of membership. People who flit from one church to another do not add to the stability of any group. But faithful members keep the church going and growing, forming the base to which newcomers can be added. We suggest the following points regarding the responsibilities of church members. Church members should:

- . . . live a life consecrated to God and open and clean before the world (Matthew 5:13-16; 1 Peter 2:9, 12, 15; 2 Peter 1:4-8).

... respect the pastor and cooperate with him or her and other church leaders (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13).

... support God’s work through regular giving of tithes and offerings (1 Corinthians 9:12-14).

... regularly attend church services and Bible classes, and take part in activities of the church (Acts 2:42; Hebrews 10:25).

... establish a time of Bible reading and prayer in their homes. Family devotions bring great blessing to any home (Deuteronomy 11:18-20).

... share the gospel with the unsaved and witness of what Jesus has done for him or her (2 Corinthians 5:18-19).

... participate in the business sessions of the church and offer his or her help and advice, according to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

It is important for you to join a church so you can serve the Lord more effectively. You can help the local group fulfill its mission as an expression of the body of Christ.



For You To Do

- 1 Circle the letter in front of each TRUE statement.
 - a Everyone, believers and unbelievers alike, should join a church.
 - b Church members should follow the moral standards taught in the Bible.
 - c Faithful members keep a church going and growing.
- 2 If you joined a church, would you feel it necessary to attend the business sessions? Give a reason for your answer.

.....
.....

Giving Keeps the Church Alive

Objective 2. Explain the importance of giving to support the local church and its ministries.

The various ministries of the church need support. Faithful stewardship, steady and reliable giving, makes it possible for the church to take care of present costs and plan for future growth.

The earliest churches may have needed help to get started, but nowhere do we read of their continued dependence on other churches. Instead, the churches in Macedonia, *though they were very poor*, sent gifts to distressed believers in Judea. Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-4.

We have already learned that we can worship by giving the tithe (one tenth) of what we earn, and our offerings (more than the tenth) to the Lord. No one is too poor to give. Though in some areas actual cash income may be very small, a person can tithe in other ways (Leviticus 27:30, 32).

A tribeswoman of southwest China raised chickens for a living. She learned to tithe the eggs — laying aside one out of every ten for the pastor and his family who lived at the log-cabin church.

One day as she trudged down a mountain path to the market with a basket of eggs on her head, she said to herself, “I have such nice large eggs in my basket. What pity to keep back five for the church. Today I will sell them all, and later I will replace the tithe for the church.”

Just then she stumbled over a tree root in her path. She fell—and all the eggs were broken!

The woman learned a lesson that day which she shared with other believers. “If you hold back from God, you will be the loser. That was my mistake, and that was the mistake of Ananias and Sapphira” (Acts 5:1-11).

In one Asian country Christians are taught to bring three “holy things” to the house of God: the Holy Bible, the holy songbook, and “holy rice.” Each time a housewife cooks for her family, she first puts one spoonful of rice into a bag. She takes this to church on Sunday and empties it into a container kept inside the pulpit. It is called “holy rice” because it is given to the Lord for His servants. It’s surprising how this adds up when done faithfully by a group!

You can also find ways of giving your time and talents to the Lord. God will not be a debtor to anyone; He will bless you abundantly and His church will prosper.



For You To Do

3 Circle the letter in front of the correct completion to the sentence. A church becomes strongly rooted when it has

- a) visitors who give generously to its work.
- b) strong backing from other churches.
- c) faithful members who support the work.

4 What three things can any believer give to the work of God through his or her church?

.....

.....

5 Circle the letter in front of each TRUE statement.

- a) Joining a church and helping to support it should be done willingly.
- b) Even a person living in poverty has something he or she can give to the Lord.
- c) If we give money, we don’t need to give time and talent.
- d) The first requirement for church membership is that a person desire to help others.

BRANCHES SPREAD

Objective 3. *Match definitions and terms relating to church organization and the role of the Holy Spirit.*

From the trunk of a tree grow branches. These spread out to give the tree form or structure. A church, like a tree, needs structure and strength to fulfill its purpose: structure in its organization and government, and strength in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Organization Gives Form and Unity

In Lesson 7 you studied about various groups within the church. Like the branches of a tree, they need to be held together as one. Proper organization not only gives stability, but helps the groups work together in harmony as well. The church needs leaders if it is to be self-supporting and self-governing. The Bible tells us something about the structure of the early church.

The churches had *deacons*. Acts 6:1-6 records that the church at Jerusalem chose seven deacons, or helpers. These were men of good character and filled with the Holy Ghost who helped the apostles by taking on some of the church responsibilities. See also 1 Timothy 3:8-13.

The churches had *elders*. In each church that Paul and Barnabas founded, they appointed elders—men who were able to teach and to minister (Acts 14:23). Like shepherds over a flock, they looked after the congregation, which the Holy Spirit had placed under their care (Acts 20:28; 1 Timothy 3:1-7).

From this we learn that the local church wasn't under the control of one man, but rather, guided by a group of men. In any group of leaders, however, there is usually one head. The pastor today is the head of the local church and together with the elders and deacons serves and leads the church.

The Holy Spirit Gives the Church Strength

A tree's strength comes from the sap that flows throughout its system, giving it life. The spiritual strength of a church comes from the Holy Spirit when He flows through every part and through every member.

The early church was a Spirit-filled church. Acts 4:31-33 tells us that when the believers at Jerusalem met for prayer "they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to proclaim God's message with boldness." Also, "with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and God poured rich blessings on them all."

The church is like a tree. As long as it has life it keeps growing, and churches today can grow mightily as they draw strength and life from the Spirit of Power and Life.



For You To Do

6 For the descriptions in the left column, write the number which represents the person or factor described (right column).

- | | | |
|--------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| a | Gives the church structure | 1) Holy Spirit |
| b | Gives the church strength | 2) Deacons |
| c | Helpers within the church | 3) Organization |
| d | Care for "the flock" | 4) Pastor |
| e | Leads the local church | 5) Elders |

BLOSSOMS BECOME FRUIT

Objective 4. *State two ways in which Christians can bear fruit.*

The blossoms of a fruit tree are not meant just to be admired. They are for producing fruit.

One day Jesus came to a fig tree looking for fruit. When He found only leaves He cursed the tree and it died (Matthew 21:18-19). This could picture a church that may have a fine structure and capable leaders, but is not reaching people for the Lord. Jesus said, “My Father’s glory is shown by your bearing much fruit; and in this way you become my disciples” (John 15:8).

The church is to bear fruit first in the lives of the believers. This spiritual fruit is named in Galatians 5:22-23, the greatest being love. These qualities are impossible to attain in the natural and this is why we need the Holy Spirit. Secondly, the Lord wants the church to be fruitful in winning souls (John 10:21; Matthew 28:19-20). We will study more about this in our final lesson.



The Lord founded His church for this purpose—to belong to Him, to serve Him, and to glorify Him by bearing much fruit (Revelation 5:9-13).



For You To Do

7 In your own words state two ways in which Christians can be fruitful.

.....
.....

8 Circle the letter in front of the correct completion to the sentence. Our primary purpose in bearing fruit is to

- a) encourage church membership.
- b) draw attention to ourselves.
- c) interest people in Christianity.
- d) glorify God.



Check Your Answers

- 1 Statements **b** and **c** are True.
- 5 Statements **a** and **b** are True.
- 2 Your answer. I would have answered yes because as part of the body I have a responsibility to fulfill in participating in its business activities.
- 6
 - a 3) Organization.
 - b 1) Holy Spirit.
 - c 2) Deacons.
 - d 5) Elders.
 - e 4) Pastor.
- 3 c) faithful members who support the work.
- 7 Your own words. You might have said by bearing spiritual fruit and by winning souls.
- 4 Money or other natural resources, time, talent.
- 8 d) glorify God.

Lesson
10

Churches Minister to People

Some visitors went into a fine cathedral. They took time to marvel at its beauty, its architecture, and its treasures. Local church leaders remarked to their guests, “Long ago Peter said to the lame man at the Beautiful Gate, ‘I have no money at all.’ Now we need no longer say that we have no silver and gold!”

“Ah,” replied one of the visitors, “unfortunately, neither can you any longer say with Peter, ‘I give you what I have: in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth I order you to get up and walk!’” (Acts 3:6).

Churches today must minister to the needs of people as the New Testament churches did! Wealth, education, and prestige are no substitute for the power of God. “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever” (Hebrews 13:8). May we minister to people in His Name!



In this lesson you will study . . .

Churches Nurture Believers
Churches Help the Needy
Churches Evangelize the Lost

This lesson will help you . . .

- Give reasons why churches must nurture believers. Explain how churches can help the needy.
- Explain the urgency and importance of evangelizing the lost.

CHURCHES NURTURE BELIEVERS

Objective 1. *List ways that the church can nurture its believers.*

True church leaders are like faithful shepherds who look after the sheep. Jesus gave us a story about a good shepherd and a hired man. He said:

I am the good shepherd, who is willing to die for the sheep. When the hired man, who is not a shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees a wolf coming, he leaves the sheep and runs away; so the wolf snatches the sheep and scatters them. The hired man runs away because he is only a

hired man and does not care about the sheep. I am the good shepherd. As the Father knows me and I know the Father, in the same way I know my sheep and they know me (John 10:11-15).

Soon after Timothy and Mary’s wedding they were received into their church as members. Besides attending Bible studies, they have been going to leaders training classes and have taken several correspondence courses. Because of this, and the times of prayer they spend together, they have both grown rapidly in the Lord.

Serving as a youth leader has taught Timothy many lessons too. He has discovered how the Holy Spirit helps him speak when he seeks God and depends on Him. Mary has been teaching a Sunday School class. She also has been practicing the piano and now plays for their youth meetings. They really enjoy their church!

Timothy and Mary’s church illustrates ways that a church can nurture its believers. The word *nurture* means to supply with nourishment, to train, and to educate. Church leaders are to nourish the flock of God, helping new converts to feed on the Word of God. The church provides opportunity for people to pray and seek the Lord; it encourages them to be filled with the Holy Spirit; it is there to pray for the sick and to comfort in time of sorrow. The church is the visible expression of the body of Christ.



For You To Do

- 1** List five ways in which a church nurtures its members.

.....

.....

.....

- 2** Perhaps you would like to write one or two ways in which the church has already nurtured you or your family.

.....

.....

CHURCHES HELP THE NEEDY

Objective 2. *Describe how churches can help the needy in practical ways.*

At the beginning of Christ’s own ministry He stood up to read the Scripture in the synagogue (house of worship) at Nazareth, His hometown. Unrolling the scroll He read:

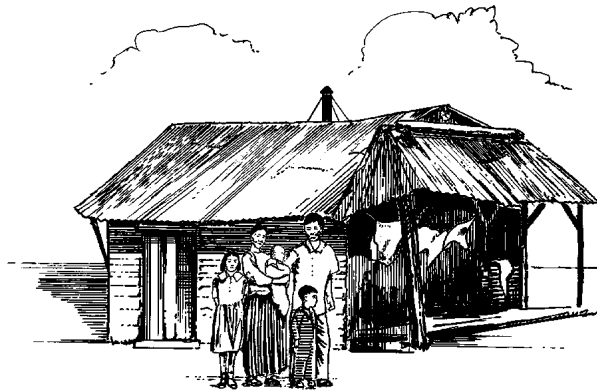
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has chosen me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free the oppressed and announce that the time has come when the Lord will save his people (Luke 4:18-19).

Jesus is called the Christ, meaning “Anointed One.” God anointed His Son with the oil of the Holy Spirit and power. “He went everywhere, doing good and healing all who were under the power of the Devil, for God was with him” (Acts 10:38). Like Christ, people of His church must be anointed with the power of the Spirit to tell the good news. You studied about this in Lesson 2.

Jesus came with good news for the *poor*. The poor represent needy hearts everywhere. The message of salvation and deliverance must be given to them in a way that they will understand and respond to. Jesus also spoke of the captives, the blind, and the oppressed. These words may describe people either spiritually or physically, but Christ came to meet every need. The gospel spells complete salvation for the whole person—body, soul, and spirit!

The Bible tells us to balance our faith with our actions:

My brothers, what good is it for someone to say that he has faith if his actions do not prove it? Can that faith save him? Suppose there are brothers or sisters who need clothes and don't have enough to eat. What good is there in your saying to them, "God bless you! Keep warm and eat well!"—if you don't give them the necessities of life? So it is with faith: if it is alone and includes no actions, then it is dead (James 2:14-17).



In some countries large populations live in makeshift shacks, wondering where the next meal will come from. They face desperate shortages of food and clothing. In other places refugees face starvation. How can God's people help them?

Churches can give through organizations that know how to reach these distressed areas. Many church denominations also have relief programs and the local churches can send money, food, and clothing through these agencies.

At the same time we must not neglect the needy people in our own communities. The women's group or another arm of the church often takes on this responsibility. Perhaps a child coming to the church school lacks proper clothing or shoes. Someone can visit the family and with understanding and tact find ways to help.

And we must not neglect the rich and needy! Many people rich in this world's goods carry heavy burdens of confusion and emptiness. They, too, need the message of salvation and hope!



For You To Do

3 Consider each of the needs below and suggest a practical action you might take in ministering to the needy.

a A car with a family of six breaks down. They are a long way from home and have little money.

.....
.....

b An earthquake destroys a city in another country.

.....
.....

c A nearby community is flooded.

.....
.....

d A child comes to church barefooted on a cold winter morning.

.....
.....

4 Complete the following statements.

a According to James 2:14-17, faith must be accompanied by

b The Bible says that Jesus came with good news for the

CHURCHES EVANGELIZE THE LOST

Objective 3. *Recognize statements describing aspects of evangelizing the lost.*

Jesus spoke of His own life and ministry as coming to “seek and to save the lost” (Luke 19:10). The lost are people in spiritual need of salvation and forgiveness of sins.

The churches’ primary task is to evangelize the lost. They do this by telling the good news of salvation to all, by witnessing of the power of Christ, by winning people to the Lord, and by making disciples who will evangelize others.

Three years have passed since Mary and Timothy’s wedding.

“What are you thinking about?” Mary asks Timothy, who has been very quiet all day.

“You know those four families who were saved last month—the ones who live on the other side of the city?”

“Yes. What about them?”

“They aren’t able to come regularly to church from such a distance. And there is no church at all in that area though it is heavily populated.”

“I know what you are going to say,” offered Mary earnestly. “God has been speaking to me about that too. We have to help them.”

“Praise the Lord!” exclaimed Timothy. “I’m so glad you are willing to do that, but do you realize what it will mean? We will have to give up attending the services we love so much.”

“Yes, I know,” assured Mary. “That was the hardest part. But I have finally surrendered and said yes to the Lord. I knew He was dealing with you about it too.”

“That confirms it to me, then, that it wasn’t just my imagination. I feel that God wants us to have a branch church there under the supervision of our pastor. I can keep my job and we can minister on weekends. The four families could form the base to start with. We will talk it over with Pastor and see what can be done.”

The preaching Timothy and Mary have heard about the field “ripe and ready to be harvested” (John 4:35) has challenged their hearts. And the training they have had in evangelism and church leadership along with actual experience in outreach has been preparing them. Now they feel that they have been nurtured by their church for a purpose—to put into action what they have learned.

Timothy and Mary are right! A church nurtures new converts and believers through the pastor’s messages, Bible teaching, and meaningful activities. But if all of this is merely flowing into people’s hearts, it will stagnate. Believers should be channels through which the blessing can flow out, and the more they give out, the more they will receive.

A church thrives on evangelizing the lost, as a fire blazes by burning wood. Our Lord before His ascension into heaven said:

You will be filled with power, and you will be witnesses for me in Jerusalem, in all of Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8).

At Pentecost the Holy Spirit came like fire; He provided power for the church to expand.

Today, churches around the world are being revived by the fiery power of God’s Spirit. As they obey Christ’s command to evangelize to the ends of the earth, they will become blazing fires in a world of darkness, chill, and gloom.

“God makes His . . . servants

flames of fire.”

—Hebrews 1:7

Of all the things that churches do, this is the most important—for when the Savior’s gospel has been preached and taught to all peoples of the world, Jesus Christ Himself will return for His own!



For You To Do

5 Complete the following sentence in your own words. In a spiritual sense, those who are lost are those who

.....

6 Circle the letter in front of each activity that is part of evangelizing the lost.

- a) Sharing the good news of salvation
- b) Witnessing and giving our personal testimony
- c) Winning people to Christ
- d) Making disciples who will in turn win others

Now you are ready to fill out the last half of your student report for Lessons 6–10. Review these lessons, then follow the instructions in your student report. When you send your answer sheets to your instructor, ask him about another course of study.



Check Your Answers

- 1 You might have listed teaching, praying for the sick, training, educating, encouraging people to pray and to be filled with the Holy Spirit, comforting, and giving opportunities to minister.
- 4
 - a actions (or works).
 - b poor.
- 2 Your answer.
- 5 are in sin, or those who have not accepted Christ as their Savior.
- 3 Suggested answers:
 - a You might prepare a meal for the family and get help from a mechanic.
 - b Send financial aid.
 - c Organize a work crew to help make their homes livable again.
 - d Visit his or her home and then help according to the need.
- 6 You should have circled them all, as each is important in evangelizing the lost.

One Final Word

This is a special kind of book because it was written by people who care about you. These are joyful people who have found good answers to many of the questions and problems that trouble almost everyone in the world. These people believe that God wants them to share with others the answers they have found. They believe that you need some important information in order to answer your own questions and problems and find the way of life that is best for you.

They have prepared this book in order to give you this information. You will find this book based on these fundamental truths:

1. You need a Savior. Read Romans 3:23, Ezekiel 18:20.
2. You cannot save yourself. Read 1 Timothy 2:5, John 14:6.
3. God desires that the world should be saved. Read John 3:16-17.
4. God sent Jesus who gave His life to save all those who believe in Him. Read Galatians 4:4-5, 1 Peter 3:18.
5. The Bible shows us the way of salvation and teaches how to grow in the Christian life. Read John 15:5, John 10:10, 2 Peter 3:18.
6. You decide your eternal destiny. Read Luke 13:1-5, Matthew 10:32-33, John 3:35-36.

This book tells you how to decide your destiny, and it gives you opportunities to express your decision. Also, the book is different from others because it gives you a chance to contact people who prepared it. If you want to ask questions, or explain your needs and feelings, you may write to them.

In the back of the book you should find a card called *Decision Report and Request Card*. When you have made a decision, fill out the card and mail it as indicated. Then you will receive more help. You may use the card to ask questions, or make requests for prayer or information.

If there is no card in this copy of the book, write to your ICI instructor and you will receive a personal answer.

What Churches Do

UNIT STUDENT REPORTS AND ANSWER SHEETS

STUDENT REPORT DIRECTIONS

When you have completed your study of each unit, fill out the answer sheet for that unit. Do only one unit at a time. Return each answer sheet to your ICI instructor or office in your area as soon as you have completed it.

The following are directions on how to indicate your answer to each question.

EXAMPLE

There is one best answer. Blacken the space for the answer you have chosen.

- 1** To be born again means to
- a) be young in age.
 - b) accept Jesus as Savior.
 - c) start a new year.

The correct answer is b) *accept Jesus as Savior*, so you would blacken space **b** like this:

1	A	B	C
----------	----------	----------	----------

Now read the questions in your Student Report and mark your answers in the answer section as we have shown in our example. Choose your answer and blacken the space **a**, **b**, or **c** according to your choice.

STUDENT REPORT FOR UNIT ONE

For all questions, be sure the number beside the spaces on the answer sheet is the same as the number of the question.

- 1** Christians come together for worship because
 - a) we cannot worship alone.
 - b) it is a well-established custom.
 - c) it helps us to grow spiritually.
- 2** Our singing becomes a means of worship when we sing
 - a) lively, upbeat worship songs.
 - b) praises to God from our hearts.
 - c) choruses from memory.
- 3** *Amen* is a Hebrew word meaning
 - a) "That is all I have to say."
 - b) "May it be so."
 - c) the same as a period or an exclamation mark.
- 4** Jesus called the place where believers meet
 - a) the true church.
 - b) a Christian center.
 - c) a house of prayer.
- 5** Giving can be a part of worshipping God if we
 - a) give with a joyful heart.
 - b) give more than the tithe.
 - c) show others we are giving.
- 6** One of the three effects of worship through the Holy Spirit discussed in this course is
 - a) protection.
 - b) freedom.
 - c) maturity.
- 7** The experience of receiving the Holy Spirit sometime after one's conversion is called
 - a) indwelling of the Holy Spirit.
 - b) being gifted by the Holy Spirit.
 - c) baptism in the Holy Spirit.
- 8** To "anoint" means to
 - a) set apart.
 - b) put oil on.
 - c) make something shine.
- 9** The gifts of the Holy Spirit always operate
 - a) through people in places of leadership.
 - b) in harmony with what the Bible teaches.
 - c) when something new is being taught.
- 10** The message that churches preach must be
 - a) beautifully crafted.
 - b) centered upon Christ.
 - c) inspiring of good deeds.

- 11** Faith comes through hearing
- and believing the Word of God.
 - many inspired sermons and songs.
 - and reading Christian books.
- 12** Why is the Word of God spoken of as “bread”?
- Some form of bread is found in almost every country of the world.
 - It provides spiritual nourishment and helps us to grow in the Lord.
 - Nearly everyone likes to eat bread.
- 13** The Word of God builds up believers by
- strengthening them to resist temptation.
 - making them experts in Bible knowledge.
 - giving them irrefutable arguments.
- 14** The relationship between preaching and teaching is best summed up this way:
- preaching is proclaiming while teaching is explaining.
 - the purpose of both is to provide information for believers.
 - preaching and teaching are two names for the same ministry gift.
- 15** The function of church schools is to provide
- supplemental teaching to the public schools.
 - training for the ministry.
 - Christian education for persons of all ages.
- 16** Bible study classes often offer
- a substitute for Sunday worship services.
 - age level instruction for all ages.
 - an atmosphere that encourages participation.
- 17** To teach God’s Word one must
- spend much time in prayer and preparation.
 - have a large library of commentaries.
 - quote from other teachers and writers.
- 18** Water baptism pictures
- our bodies being filled with the Spirit.
 - new life replacing the old self.
 - periodic renewals of our spirit.
- 19** Conversion, water baptism, and the baptism in the Holy Spirit are all
- basically the same thing.
 - important to our Christian growth.
 - good, but not necessary.
- 20** Pentecostal churches baptize
- new members by immersion.
 - new converts by immersion.
 - babies and small children by sprinkling.

This is the end of the requirements for Unit One. Please stop here and return your Answer Sheet for Unit One to your instructor. Continue your study in Unit Two.

STUDENT REPORT FOR UNIT TWO

For all questions, be sure the number beside the spaces on the answer sheet is the same as the number of the question.

- 1** The significance of the Lord's table is that it
 - a) memorializes Christ's death for us.
 - b) represents church membership.
 - c) is the primary furniture in the church.
- 2** The emblems of communion are
 - a) the actual body and blood of Jesus.
 - b) representative of Jesus' body and blood.
 - c) similar to flesh and blood.
- 3** Jesus said at His last supper with His disciples, "Do this"
 - a) whenever you meet together."
 - b) to take away your sin."
 - c) in remembrance of me."
- 4** Most Pentecostal churches have "open communion," which means that
 - a) it takes place in a public meeting.
 - b) all born-again believers may take part.
 - c) it is open to all, saved and unsaved alike.
- 5** Organizations within the local church need to provide fellowship for
 - a) the elderly and the lonely.
 - b) young people especially.
 - c) all age groups.
- 6** Worship is lifting up our hands to God; fellowship is
 - a) giving our hands a rest.
 - b) holding our hands out to each other.
 - c) doing something with our spare time.
- 7** The key to having fellowship is
 - a) being together in love.
 - b) getting well organized.
 - c) providing suitable entertainment.
- 8** The specific purpose of a church rally is to
 - a) work with other churches in evangelism.
 - b) stimulate interest in God's Word.
 - c) gather similar groups from different churches.
- 9** Church ceremonies offer an opportunity for believers to
 - a) do something different.
 - b) share in each other's joys and sorrows.
 - c) keep up with the world.
- 10** The early church kept a "weekly Easter" that we
 - a) call "the Lord's day."
 - b) no longer observe.
 - c) observe once a year.

- 11** We do not remember a day for its own sake, but
- as an opportunity to relax.
 - for the sake of tradition.
 - as a remembrance of the Lord's work and presence among us.
- 12** Within the church, leaders should
- give priority to ritual over free form.
 - remove all ritual and allow free form.
 - seek to balance ritual with free form.
- 13** Church membership is important to
- provide a foundation for ministry.
 - prove one's devotion to Christ.
 - establish one's salvation.
- 14** If we do not have money to give to the Lord, we can
- excuse ourselves for not giving.
 - borrow from someone.
 - give of other resources, our time, and our talent.
- 15** That which gives the church strength is
- the pastor.
 - the Holy Spirit.
 - its organization.
- 16** We recognize Christians who bear fruit by
- their fine church building.
 - the capable leaders they have.
 - the souls they win for the Lord.
- 17** A church becomes strongly rooted and grows when it
- asks for help.
 - has faithful members who support it.
 - gets financial backing from other sources.
- 18** The Bible says that faith
- answers all things.
 - can stand alone.
 - without actions is dead.
- 19** According to Scripture, churches are to help the needy by
- meeting spiritual and physical needs.
 - relieving them of financial debts.
 - not requiring certain things of them.
- 20** Evangelizing the lost is
- a task for mature churches.
 - the primary task of the church.
 - a task given to a few churches.

End of requirements for Unit Two. Please return your student report Answer Sheet for Unit Two to your ICI instructor. Now that you have completed your study of this course, ask your instructor to recommend another course of study.

What Churches Do

Answer Sheet for Unit One

CL4340

Please fill in the blanks below:

Your name

Your ICI Student Number
(Leave blank if you don't know what it is.)

Your Mailing Address

.....

City State or Province

Zip or Postal Code

Country

Age Sex

Occupation

How many members are in your family?

How many years have you studied in school?

If you are a member of a church, what is the name of your church?
.....

What responsibility do you have in your church?

.....

How are you studying this course: Alone? In a group?

What other ICI courses have you studied?
.....

Now, turn the page and answer all questions.

Blacken the correct space for each numbered item.

1	A	B	C
2	A	B	C
3	A	B	C
4	A	B	C
5	A	B	C
6	A	B	C
7	A	B	C

8	A	B	C
9	A	B	C
10	A	B	C
11	A	B	C
12	A	B	C
13	A	B	C
14	A	B	C

15	A	B	C
16	A	B	C
17	A	B	C
18	A	B	C
19	A	B	C
20	A	B	C

Write below any questions you would like to ask your instructor about the lessons.

.....

.....

.....

Now look over this answer sheet to be sure you have completed all the questions. Then return it to your ICI instructor or office in your area. The address should be stamped on the copyright page of your study guide.

Christian Life Program

For ICI Office Use Only
Date Score of UPE 1 Score of UPE 2

What Churches Do

Answer Sheet for Unit Two

CL4340

Please fill in the blanks below:

Your name

Your ICI Student Number
(Leave blank if you don't know what it is.)

Your Mailing Address

.....

City State or Province

Zip or Postal Code

Country

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

The ICI office in your area will be happy to send you information about other courses that are available and their cost. You may use the space below to ask for that information.

.....
.....
.....
.....

Now, turn the page and answer all questions.

Blacken the correct space for each numbered item.

1	A	B	C
2	A	B	C
3	A	B	C
4	A	B	C
5	A	B	C
6	A	B	C
7	A	B	C

8	A	B	C
9	A	B	C
10	A	B	C
11	A	B	C
12	A	B	C
13	A	B	C
14	A	B	C

15	A	B	C
16	A	B	C
17	A	B	C
18	A	B	C
19	A	B	C
20	A	B	C

Write below any questions you would like to ask your instructor about the lessons.

.....

.....

.....

CONGRATULATIONS

You have finished this course. We have enjoyed having you as a student and hope you will study more courses with ICI. Return this student report answer sheet to your instructor or to the ICI office in your area. When we have checked your answers, we will send you a certificate for this course in your program of studies.

Please print your name below as you want it to appear on your certificate.

Name

Christian Life Program

For ICI Office Use Only
Date..... Score

CL4340 What Churches Do
Decision Report and Request Card

After studying this course, I have placed my trust in Jesus Christ as my Savior and Lord. I am returning this card with my signature and address to your ICI office for two reasons: first, to testify to my commitment to Christ and, second, to request information about more material to help me in my spiritual life.

NAME.....

ADDRESS

.....

SIGNATURE



**THE GREATEST OF ALL
IS THE SERVANT OF ALL**

Serving is one of the greatest ways we can show our love to God. ICI courses prepare you to better serve others.

Using our courses will create an orderly system of Bible study and encourage a better understanding of spiritual truths.

To begin preparing for God's service, we suggest enrolling in courses offered from our **Christian Service Program**.

Some courses from the **Christian Service Program** are:

- THE GREAT QUESTIONS OF LIFE
- GOD LOVES YOU
- WHO JESUS IS
- WE BELIEVE
- GOD'S DESIGN—YOUR CHOICE
- CHRISTIAN WORSHIP
- PERSONAL EVANGELISM
- ALIVE IN CHRIST
- CHRISTIAN MATURITY

If you desire a more detailed description about each course or directions on how to enroll in any of these courses, contact your local ICI director.

**SEND US THE NAMES AND ADDRESSES
OF YOUR FRIENDS**

We will send them Lesson 1 of
“The Great Questions of Life.”

Print Clearly

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Country

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Name

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Name

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City.....

Province or State

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E-mail.....

Your Name

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City

Province or State

Country

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