

Major Event: The Church

Lesson 2: Formation of the Church

Central Text: Matthew 16:18

Suggested Subjects for Teacher to Cover:

The Church is Prophesied

During the dispensation of Israel, the church was predicted.

- Matthew 16:18 - “I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.”
- The Greek word used for the name “Peter” is Πέτρος [Petros- rock]. Jesus then says “on this **rock** I will build My church.” The word “rock” translates the Greek noun πέτρα [*petra*- rock, large stone). Peter is praised for his accurate testimony of Christ (Matthew 16:16-17), with Jesus then indicating that He will build His church on Himself.

Other passages show Christ as the foundation of the Church.

- 1 Corinthians 3:11 - Christ is the foundation
- Ephesians 2:20 - Christ is the chief cornerstone
- 1 Peter 2:4-8 - Christ is the choice stone (cf. Acts 4:10-12)

The Church Begins

The church began on the day of Pentecost and is formed by the baptism of the Spirit, which first occurred on the day of Pentecost (compare Acts 1:5-8; 2:1-4 with Acts 11:15-16; 1 Cor. 12:12-13; **Note:** The comparison of these verses supports the fact that what happened on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2 was the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

The Church Formed

1 Corinthians 12:12-13 “For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. **For by means of one Spirit we were all baptized into one body**, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.” “baptized” = Greek verb βαπτίζω, *baptizo*- This term emphasizes *identification*.

Other passages dealing with Spirit baptism (not water baptism):

- Romans 6:3 - “Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?”
- Galatians 3:27 - “For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.”
- Ephesians 4:4-5 - “One faith, one Lord, one baptism.”
- Colossians 2:12 - Buried with Him in baptism.

The Church Age Ends (Church Removed From the Earth)

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.”

Suggested Attributes and Characteristics of God:

- Omnipotence - God’s power in forming the church through the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
- Omniscience - Christ knows where all believers are at any time since He will gather the church at the Rapture (1 Thessalonians 4:16-18).
- Trinitarianism - The Holy Spirit plays a distinct role in the formation of the church. Stability and reliability of God (Christ is the Rock on whom the church is founded- Matt 16:18).

Suggested Reading for Parents and Child at Home:

- The church was predicted by Christ during the dispensation of Israel as a future event (Matt. 16:18).
- The church has a distinct beginning, the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2).
- The baptism of the Spirit forms the church, the body of Christ, an entity consisting of Jew and Gentile believers in Christ (1 Cor. 12:12-13; Eph. 2:13-22; 3:6).
- The church age has a distinct ending, namely, the imminent event of the Rapture of the Church (1 Thes. 4:16-17).