



PATTERN

WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

WEEK 1

NOTES

WARM-UP

- What was the most valuable thing entrusted to you? How did you act when it was in your care?
- What is one skill or trick that you think only you can do? Show it to the group if possible.
- Name a person you are closest to at the moment. What made you close?

WORD

"16 Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17 And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. 18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

John 21:15-17

For most people, when they hear the word ‘church’, the first thing that comes to mind is a building. However, Scripture says that the church is a people, followers of God with a calling. These three points will show us what it means to be God’s church.

1. WE ARE GOD’S AMBASSADORS AND CARRIERS OF HIS PRESENCE.

"Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?"

1 Corinthians 3:16

10His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, 11according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Ephesians 3:10,11

As we receive Jesus as Savior and Lord of our lives and are added to His church, we become living testimonies of His presence. God’s intent is to reveal Himself to the world through the church. In what ways can we represent God as His church?

2. WE CARRY OUT GOD'S WILL HERE ON EARTH.

"1 When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, 2 and he sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.

Luke 9:1,2

"I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Matthew 16:19

Jesus gave His church purpose and the power to carry out His will on earth. He has no one else to do this mission but through His people alone, through you and me. By whose power does the church carry out God's will? What happens if we shrink back from obeying God?

3. WE SHARE GOD TO OTHERS THROUGH RELATIONSHIP.

Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:25

46Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Acts 2:46,47

As God's church, we can effectively share God and His love by reaching out to people through relationship. Jesus Himself modeled this for us. Name a few examples in the Bible that showed Christ building relationship with people. How can we show God's love to others?

APPLICATION

- Is there anything in your life that you think is hindering your testimony as God's representative? Ask God to help you give up those hindrances and restore your confidence in Him.
- Has God given you specific things to do but you find hard to obey? Pray for God's grace to be upon you to obey and do these things by His strength.
- List down at least three people you know who need to hear the gospel. Pray with someone in your group and discuss a way you can build relationship with these people before sharing Christ to them.

PRAYER

- Pray that God will help you to grow your relationship with your Church Community.
- Pray that no weapon will form against the church and that the church will continue to be passionate in building relationship with the people.
- Pray to God that you will not be set apart from fellow believers but you will always be on fire in sharing lives with God's people.



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