

LESSON 4

ONE TRUE CHURCH

OBJECTIVES

1. To recognize the significance and qualifications of the church according to the Bible.
2. To identify the work that God has entrusted to the church.
3. To understand the duties of the believers in the church.

MEMORY VERSE

"Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood."

(Acts 20:28)

PRAYER

Our heavenly Father, we praise and thank You for allowing us to be part of Your church. Today, we have gathered here to study and learn about the blessings that You have given to Your precious church. Please help us to understand the importance of being part of God's one body, of which Christ is the head. May You open our hearts and minds to receive this important message.



Overview

1. Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

- a. What is the Church?
- b. What Makes a True Church?
- c. The Mission of the True Church

2. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—One true church

3. Life Application—Being a Part of the Truth

4. Activity—Diamante Poem



Background Knowledge for Teachers

The church is not only a physical building; it is also God's people, together as one body. God purchased these people through the blood of Christ (Ac 20:28), so it is not merely a social organization of like-minded people. God chooses His children. In the Old Testament, God chose Israel to be His own special people (Num 23:9; Deut 14:2). We can see that from the beginning, God has chosen His people, those who will be separate from the people of the world. Today, this is the same concept that is applied to the church of God. There is only one church in God's heart; there cannot be two different churches. Just as there can only be one husband and one wife, there is only one church for God. As members of the true church of God, we receive a special status, so we should treasure this relationship. Through being part of the true church, we are able to experience the Holy Spirit, the truth, and the miracles and signs that accompany and testify the one true church of God.



Reaching Out to Your Students

Elementary 2 students understand the importance of going to church and are able to tell the difference between church and social organizations. However, students may not see the importance of the true church and the significance of being chosen to be part of it. It is important to stress the key difference between our church and other denominations or organizations: the abidance of the Holy Spirit and the truth. Both testify that we are the one true church of God. Lastly, it is important to give concrete examples of actions that students who are part of the true church should take, such as behaving well in school and preaching the gospel.

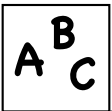


Opener

5 Minutes

Prepare about three to four pictures of different buildings that are easily recognizable to students (e.g., school, library, fire department, post office, etc.).

Show one picture at a time. Ask students: "Who normally goes to this kind of building, and why do they go there?" (For example, students and teachers go to school to learn and to teach.) After going through three or four pictures, ask students to think about the church. Explain that today, we are members of the church, and as members of the church of God, we have been given a special identity and purpose. Let us examine more about what it means to be part of the true church.



Vocabulary

abidance: the act of dwelling in a place

mission: a special assignment that is given to a person or a group



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

What Is the Church?

The church is not just a building that we visit on Saturdays; rather, it is made up of people. Let us look at some verses in the Bible that describe the church of God.

FOR TEACHERS

Hand out Bible Discovery Worksheet #1 to the students now. As you go over the lesson, pause for the students to complete the worksheet. After each section, ensure that the students have completed the worksheet correctly, then move on. Keep a copy of the Teacher Version to reference throughout the lesson.

- **Acts 20:28**

The church consists of the people that have been purchased or redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ. We are redeemed when we receive water baptism and have our sins washed away.

- **Ephesians 1:22-23**

The church is the body of Jesus Christ and Jesus Christ is the head of the church. Since Jesus Christ is the head, He is the one that leads the church.

- **John 15:5-6**

The church is the true vine and the believers are the branches. Once we grow from the vine, we have to bear fruit for the Lord. Bearing fruit means living out our life as Christians and preaching the gospel.

- **1 Timothy 3:15**

The church is the house of God and the members belong to His household. This means that all the members in church are our fellow family members in Christ, and we have to treat one another with love.

From these descriptions, we can see that there can only be one true church, just like how there is one body, one vine, and one household of God. With so many different

churches and organizations, it is important that we understand that the True Church has to be according to the Bible. Let us look into the Bible see what it says about the True Church of God.

What Makes a Church True?

The True Church Is Built on the Truth (Gal 1:6-9)

The way to salvation is clear when we follow the truth, which can only be found in the Bible. If there are two different churches preaching two different gospels, only one of them can be true, because there is only one gospel in Christ. The true church must follow the truth and the commandments in the Bible.

The True Church Must Have the Abidance of the Holy Spirit (Rom 8:9)

The true church will have the Spirit of God, the promised Holy Spirit, dwelling in the members. The church is the body of Christ, so the Spirit of Christ needs to be there for the body to live. The abidance of the Holy Spirit confirms that the church is from God.

The Truth Church Has Many Signs and Wonders

The true church will have many signs, miracles, and wonders that prove its divine power. These testify to the truth of salvation and prove that the word of God is true. They also prove the abidance of God with the believers.

Now that we know what makes a church the true church, let us look at the work of the church.

The church has two missions. The first is to preach the gospel and the second is to pastor, or take care of, the members. These two missions continue the work of Jesus

Christ, since Jesus Christ had commanded His disciples to make disciples of all nations and to teach them to follow the teachings that He had taught them (Mat 28:18-20). As the church works on these two missions, it is also preparing itself for the second coming of Christ! When Christ comes again, there will be a great wedding between Christ and His bride, which is the church.

FOR TEACHERS

Hand out Bible Discovery Worksheet #2 for students to complete. Allow the students time to fill out the chart. Then, ask for volunteers to share their answers.

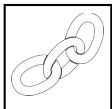
Today, the same mission has been given to us by God. It is our duty as the true church of God to preach the gospel of salvation and to take care of the members of the Church. Even though we may be young in age, there are many actions we can take. Let us brainstorm together some of the ways we can do what Christ has called us to do.

Preaching

I can preach to my friends and tell them that I go to church on Saturday. I will live out my life as a Christian and make sure that my actions glorify God. I will make sure that I watch what I say so that people can tell that I am a Christian.

Pastoring

I will take care of my brothers and sisters by making sure that I am being an example to them. I will make sure that I do not take more food than I can eat. I will make sure that I pick up the trash from the ground, so that the house of God is clean.



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

One True Church

The true church is the key to receiving salvation for it is through the church that we are able to receive water baptism and have our sins forgiven. It is a blessing for us to be part of the true church, which is the body of Christ!



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

- 1. What is the true church?** The church is made up of the people that have been purchased by the blood of Jesus Christ.
- 2. What are the requirements of the true church?** The true church: has the Holy Spirit; follows the truth in the Bible; is accompanied by miracles, wonders, and signs.
- 3. What are the two missions of the true church?** The two missions of the true church are: to preach the gospel to the ends of the earth; and to take care of the members of the church.



Life Application

10 Minutes

BEING A PART OF THE CHURCH

For each scenario, ask students to write down what they would do in response to each scenario. Sample responses have been provided.

Sample Responses

Scenario 1

Many times when we look at the church, we can be discouraged when we only see through our eyes. However, we need to look at it through the eyes of God. Timothy needs to remember that Christ is the head of His church and He will be the one that takes care of the problems in the church. Our duty is to pray for the members and ask God to give us more faith to believe in His greater will.

Scenario 2

Julia and her friends should make sure to pick up the trash, even though they were not the ones that made the mess. As members of God's household, we should treat it with respect and love. It is not about who caused the situation, but about what we can do to help it.

Scenario 3

Moving to a new place is always difficult, especially if you are the new student. Titus should spend some time to talk to John and also introduce John to other people. The act of thinking of other people is an act of love. Through our actions, we can show others that we are acting in love and that we are the true church.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. C
2. A
3. preach, pastor (take care of the members)
4. Has: signs and wonders; the abidance of the Holy Spirit; the truth according to the Bible
5. Answers may vary.



Activity

Diamante Poem

10-15 Minutes

In this activity, students will be writing a diamante poem about the one true church. A diamante poem is a poem that is shaped like a diamond. Each line of the poem uses a different part of speech (i.e., verbs, adjective, or nouns). The poem does not have to rhyme.

The poem is formatted as follows:

Line No.	Content	Part of Speech	No. of Words
1	Topic A	Noun	1
2	Topic A	Adjective	2
3	Topic A	Gerund	3
4	Transition Topic A to Topic B	Short phrase/nouns	4
5	Topic B	Gerund	3
6	Topic B	Adjective	2
7	Topic B	Noun	1

Example

“The One True Church”

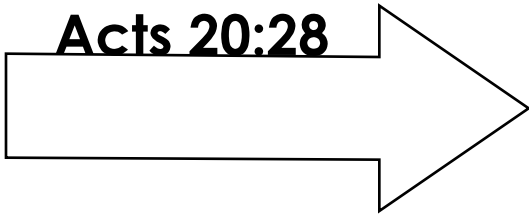
Christ
 Pure, Righteous
 Leading, Guiding, Controlling
 The Head united to the Body
 Evangelizing, Saving, Pastoring
 Holy, True
 Church

Instructions

1. Ask students to choose a beginning topic (Topic A) and an ending topic (Topic B) that are both related to the concept of the one true church. The topics can be antonyms or synonyms of each other, or simply related topics.
2. Follow the format and insert the correct parts of speech for each line.

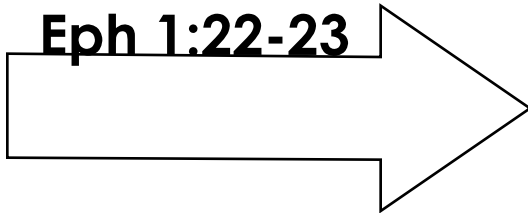
WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

Acts 20:28



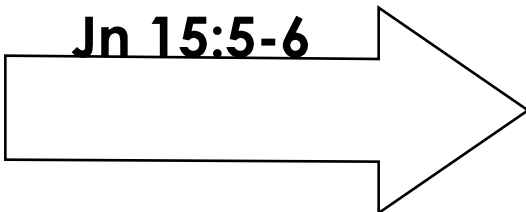
The church is the people purchased by the blood of Jesus Christ.

Eph 1:22-23



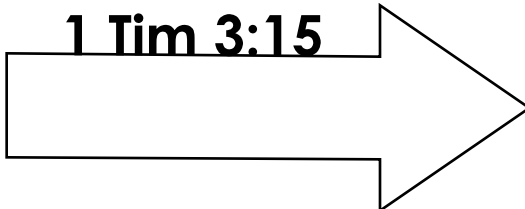
The church is the body and Jesus Christ is the head.

Jn 15:5-6



Jesus Christ is the vines and the members are the branches.

1 Tim 3:15



The church is the house of God.
The members belong to His household.

WHAT MAKES A CHURCH TRUE?

The True Church has...

1

The truth according to the Bible

2

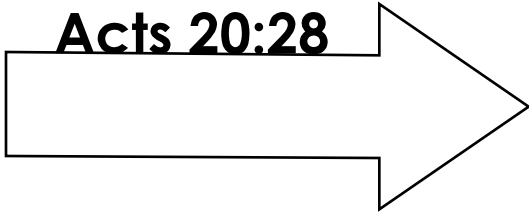
The Holy Spirit

3

Signs and wonders

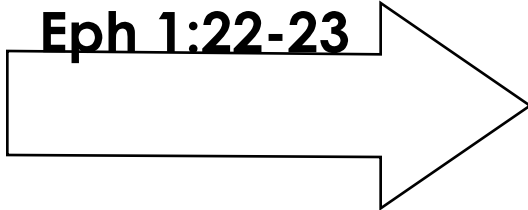
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Acts 20:28



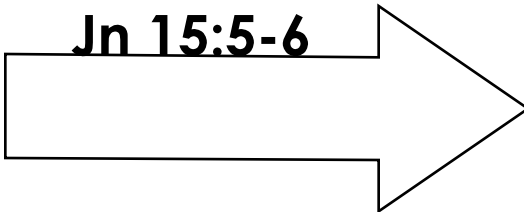
The church is the people purchased by the _____ of Jesus Christ.

Eph 1:22-23



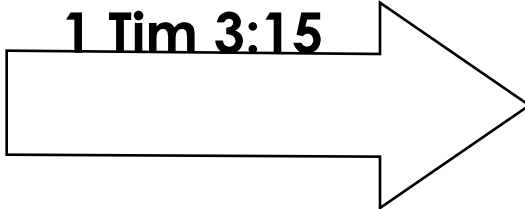
The church is the _____ and Jesus Christ is the _____.

Jn 15:5-6



Jesus Christ is the _____ and the members are the _____.

1 Tim 3:15



The church is the _____ _____
_____. The _____ belong
to His _____.

**What makes a
CHURCH TRUE?**

The TRUE CHURCH has...

1

2

3

THE MISSION of the TRUE Church

I can do ALL THINGS
through CHRIST who
STRENGTHENS me.
(Philippians 4:13)


Preaching

What I Can Do


Pastoring

What I Can Do

BEING A PART OF THE CHURCH

Instructions: Read each scenario and write down what you would do in each situation.

Scenario 1

Recently, Timothy has been discouraged by the things that he sees going on in church. He can't see how this is the church of God. One time, there were members that were arguing with each other and just not getting along. Shouldn't the true church be a place of joy, peace, and love?



How would you encourage Timothy?

Scenario 2

Julia had been playing with her friends during lunchtime at church. As they were running around outside, they saw that a group of Elementary 1 students had left a great deal of trash on the ground. The wind had blown it all over the church grounds.



What should Julia and her friends do?

Scenario 3

Titus knew that John's family had just moved to the area and that John didn't know a lot of people in church. During lunchtime, Titus was walking to where he usually sat with his friends when he saw John sitting by himself looking lonely and miserable.



What should Titus do?

E2 Year 3 Book 3 Lesson 4—One True Church

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Weekly Bible Reading: _____

Bible Reading: Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

Prayer: Check each box after you pray to God that day.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. (Acts 20:28)

Multiple Choice

1. _____ : The church is the _____ and Christ is the _____.
 - a. Head, body
 - b. Body, Spirit
 - c. Body, head
2. _____ : The church makes up the _____ and Christ is the _____.
 - a. Branches, true vine
 - b. Leaves, branches
 - c. Roots, tree

Fill In the Blank

3. The mission of the true church is to _____ and to _____.

Short Answer

4. What are three requirements to know whether or not a church is the true church?

5. List three ways that you can serve the church.

