

PROGRESSING TOGETHER



104 THE CHURCH



They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts.

Acts 2:42 & 46

E.R.B. - B.P. 10112
F-13425 MARSEILLE CEDEX 12
FRANCE
www.progressingtogether
January 2013

<p>THE CHURCH Introduction</p>

Most people have false impressions about the Church of Jesus Christ. The Greek root of the word “Church” does not mean a building, but a “called out assembly”, or “those set apart.” The best way to get a true picture of the Church is to go to the Bible. There we see God’s design for believers in Jesus Christ. It is they who constitute the real Church.

In this series we will study the following subjects:

Lessons:	
①	The Birth of the Church
②	Illustrations used to Describe the Church
③	The “Ordinances” of the Church
④	Church Leaders
⑤	The first Church Council

1

THE CHURCH
The Birth of the Church

Name: _____

Date: _____



Read Acts 2:1- 47 carefully





EXPLANATION OF CERTAIN NUMBERS:


50 The feast is called "Pentecost" because it comes 50 days after the Jewish Passover feast ("pentecost" means 50 in Greek.)

3 It was about the third hour when Peter began to preach. (nine o'clock in the morning).

11 "The eleven" (verse 14) are the other 11 apostles beside Peter.

①  In what ways are the events recorded in Acts 2 a fulfilment of Jesus' words in Acts 1:5 and 7-8?

②  Peter quotes from the Old Testament prophets Joel (Acts 2:17-21) and David (Acts 2:25-28). What point is he proving in each case?

③  According to verses 21, 38 and 39, how can you be reconciled to God and who can be reconciled?

④ ✍️ What were the activities of the early Church in the beginning.

⑤ ✍️ In your own words, what part did the Apostles play in the establishing of the Church?

2

THE CHURCH
Illustrations used to describe the Church

Name: _____

Date: _____



Read carefully Ephesians 5:22-33, Romans 12:1-13, and Ephesians 2:19-22

①

The Church is called the “**Bride of Christ**” (Ephesians. 5:22-33).



How did Jesus show his love for the Church?

What is Jesus’ desire for his “Bride”?

②

The Church is the “**Body of Christ**” (Romans 12:1-13).



When we belong to the “Body of Christ,” what should be our attitude about our own bodies? (verses 1-2)

What should be our attitude towards the other members of the “body”? (v. 3-5, 9-13)


Cite some of the gifts that God gives to different members of the “body”? (v. 6-8)

③

The church is a “**temple**” for God’s dwelling place. (Ephesians. 2:19-22).

 What are the different elements that compose this holy temple?

According to this text, describe what is the function of this temple.

④  What do you do that shows you are a member of the Church, which is the “Bride, Body and Temple”?

What could be changed to better demonstrate these realities?

3

THE CHURCH
The “ORDINANCES” of the Church

Name: _____

Date: _____



Read carefully Luke 22:7-23, Acts 8:26-40, Hebrews 8:6-13



Jesus commanded two “ordinances”: The Lord's Table (also called Holy Communion) and Baptism.

- **“The Lord’s Table”**: Instituted by Jesus while eating the Passover with his disciples. The elements remind us of his body broken for us and his blood shed for us.
- **Baptism**: A public testimony of faith, symbolizing the death and resurrection with Jesus.

①

For what reason had “The Lord’s Table” been instituted according to 1 Corinthians 11:23-26?


②


What is the meaning of the bread (Luke 22:19) and the cup (Luke 22:20)?


What do you understand by the term “new covenant” (Hebrews 8:10-13)?

③

According to the text of Acts 8:26-40, what is the gospel of Jesus, “The Good News”, announced to the Ethiopian? (verses 32-35)

 What condition(s) did the Ethiopian fulfil to be baptized? (N.B. The NIV does not include v 37 in the text. Please read the note in the margin or use another version (King James, Amplified Bible, etc))

④  According to Matthew 28:18-20, who ought to be baptized, and in whose name?

⑤  Going back to the text used for the first lesson of this series (Acts 2), pick out verses that prove that the early church practised the ordinances of the Lord's supper and baptism?



THE CHURCH Church Leaders

Name: _____

Date: _____



Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, 1 Timothy 3:1-13 carefully



DEFINITIONS :

- **Apostles** : The twelve disciples and Paul, who had a unique role in founding the church.
- **Deacon** : An official in the local Church who takes care of practical matters.
- **Overseer or Elder** : An official in the local church who is responsible for good doctrine and proper church discipline.

NOTE : It is generally agreed that the words “Overseer” and “Elder” are two words that describe the same function. 1 Peter 5:1-2 says that overseers are also “shepherds” (pastors).

① According to 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 (knowing that the apostles were eye witnesses to the sufferings and resurrection of Jesus); what were the essential points of the gospel preached by the apostles?

② In reference to the same passage and Acts 9.1-6, 15-16, in what way does Paul consider himself to be an apostle?

③ 1 Timothy 3:1-7 describes the qualifications of an overseer in a local church. What are these qualifications? (Of the 16, name at least 10.)

④ ✍️ 1 Timothy 3:8-13 describes the qualifications of a deacon in a local church. What are these qualifications? (name at least 8.) What are the qualifications for deaconesses?

⑤ ✍️ What qualifications raised above from 1 Timothy 3.1-13 and in 1 Peter 5.1-14 show that both overseers/leaders/elders and deacons are servants in the church?

⑥ 🕯️ Most qualities enumerated above are qualities which apply to every disciple in Christ.
✍️ Note 2 or 3 qualities that the Lord has given you since your new birth.

Note 2 or 3 qualities that you would like to develop, with His help, for his glory.

5

THE CHURCH
The first Church Council

Name: _____

Date: _____





Read Acts 15:1-35 carefully





DEFINITIONS:


- The **Gentiles**: Non Jewish peoples; pagans.
- The **Pharisees**: A Jewish religious party which called for the strict adherence to the law of Moses.

①  What was false teaching which made necessary the meeting of the church council at Jerusalem? (v. 1 et 5)

②  According to verses 9-11, what is indispensable to the salvation of the Jews and Gentiles?

③  On whose testimonies was the decision of the council based? (v. 7-18)

④  How did the council communicate their decision to other believers? (22-30)

⑤  What are the practical applications of the decision of the council in Jerusalem for you and me today?