

LESSON 1:

THE CHURCH IS MADE UP OF CHRISTIANS

TEXT: MATTHEW 16:13–18, ACTS 2

WELCOME

This tutorial chapter will teach you how best to use your teacher book. Please read through this before proceeding. Enjoy!

LESSON TITLE

This is the topic that you will be teaching about for this week's lesson.

LESSON TEXT

This is the text that you will be teaching for this week's lesson.



CENTRAL TRUTH:

TRACKERS

This is the weekly memory verse for Trackers. It is underlined, in bold, and is not the entire verse.

CENTRAL TRUTH

This is the main point that you want your listeners to walk away understanding.

SCOUTS

The weekly memory verse for Scouts will be the entire verse, including what is underlined and in bold.

- **Matthew 16:18** – 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.

BONUS VERSES:

- **John 10:16** – And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.
- **Acts 2:47b** – And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

TRAILBLAZERS

Trailblazers will memorize the memory verse and the first bonus verse for each week.

BONUS VERSE

For AC kids in any age group that need an additional challenge, a bonus verse is included for them to memorize.

LESSON 1 SUMMARY

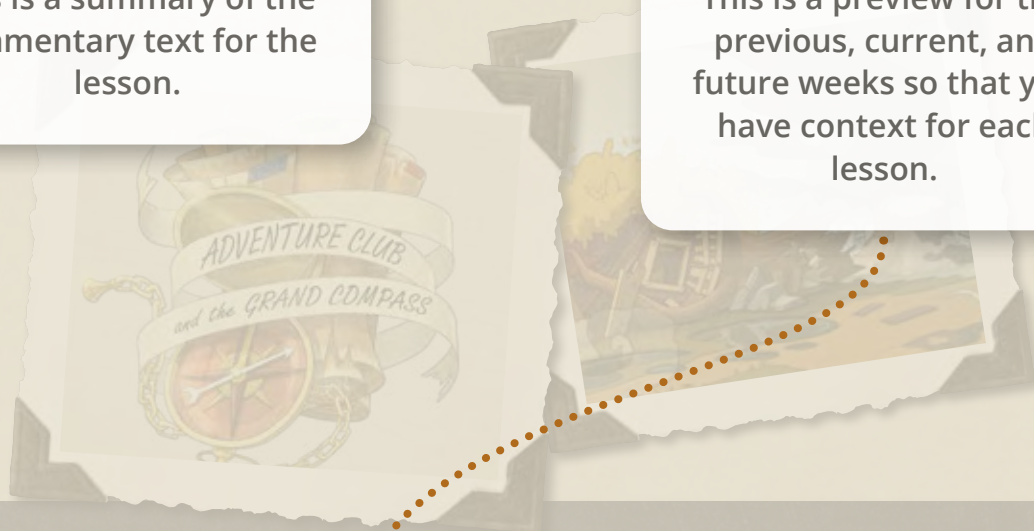
● The church is perhaps one of the most misunderstood concepts in the history of mankind. Many people mistakenly think the church is a building or traditional establishment led by a mere man. However, God's Word makes it clear that the church is actually made up of every man, woman, and child who has trusted in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. The church has always been made up of Christians only. It had a definite beginning shortly after Christ returned to Heaven, and it will continue on forever.

SUMMARY

This is a summary of the commentary text for the lesson.

PREVIEW

This is a preview for the previous, current, and future weeks so that you have context for each lesson.



● THIS WEEK

THE CHURCH IS MADE UP OF CHRISTIANS

NEXT WEEK

THE CHURCH IS THE BODY OF CHRIST

LESSON 1 OBJECTIVE & APPLICATION

OBJECTIVE

Communicate this point clearly

OBJECTIVE

Make sure to communicate this point clearly in your lesson.

APPLICATION

Conclude your lesson with this to help the AC kids know how to apply the message to their lives.

Conclude by explaining how to apply this point

BELIEVE THAT JESUS CHRIST IS THE DIVINE SAVIOR

LESSON 1 COMMENTARY

The church had a distinct beginning, a beginning that was prophesied by the Holy Spirit. When the Bible talks about the church, it always refers to it as a community (Acts 4:2) of professing believers in Jesus Christ (Acts 2:44, 46) to edify the saints (Acts 2:42), evangelize the lost (Acts 2:47). Pentecost marks the birthday of the church. It is the day God sent the Holy Spirit to the world.

OUTLINE

The lesson outline is bolded and either numbered or lettered for easy identification in the commentary text.

1. The FOUNDATION of the Church (Matt 16:13-18)

Matthew 16 provides the first New Testament mention of the church when it records Christ's very own words prophesying about its beginning. Jesus started teaching His disciples about the future of the church by getting them to recognize how important He is to the church. **Jesus is the only suitable foundation for the church.**

a. An Exalted Person

Christ asked a pointed question about His person in Matthew 16:13. He asked for the popular opinion about His reputation and status. The disciples, apparently in tune with the debate of their day, offered four alternatives. Some thought Jesus was John the Baptist raised from the dead, some thought He was Elijah, and some thought He could be any one of the prophets.

Jesus then asked them directly who they thought He was. He asked His disciples directly who they thought He was, and He asked all the disciples, yet it was Peter who immediately answered. Peter was the first to answer, and he answered as the Messiah.

Peter's confession was the first step in the church's understanding of Jesus. Peter's opinion of Jesus was not simply a notable prophet. Jesus truly was the Messiah, and He was God in human flesh. Peter realized it was not sufficient to see Jesus as a forerunner to the Messiah or as just a special man. Jesus was Himself the long-awaited one. Peter's confession marked Jesus as **unique** and highlighted the importance of His person. Jesus Christ is the foundation of the church. **Without Christ's death, burial, resurrection, and ascension, the church could not exist.** Jesus is often referred to as the church's head, meaning that before He came, there was no church body to be a part of. The church is a Christian organization, so Christ had to come first as the foundation before it could exist.

Christ responded to Peter's words with an encouraging prophecy. He announced that Peter was richly and divinely blessed. Peter was the rock upon which the church would be built, and the gates of hell would not prevail against it.

b. An Encouraging Prophecy

Christ responded to Peter's words with an encouraging prophecy. He announced that Peter was richly and divinely blessed. Peter was the rock upon which the church would be built, and the gates of hell would not prevail against it.

LESSON HIGHLIGHTS

This icon identifies where the Lesson Highlights are located in the commentary text.

UNIQUE:

Since the church is made up of Christians, it is an entirely unique entity. Emphasize the uniqueness of the church to your students by showing a bag filled with a variety of marbles, yet with only one white marble (the unique member of the church).

SUGGESTED INTRODUCTIONS

Teach topics in fun and engaging ways by using these Suggested Introductions. Match the word in the text to the box to identify its location in the commentary.

KEYWORDS

Each lesson outline has Keywords to focus on. Identify them in the commentary text by looking for the capitalized words.

Peter was blessed not because of his own logic or wisdom, but because Jesus himself revealed it to him. Jesus wanted the people truly grasped who He was and the promise that He would build the church (Matt 16:18). The disciples had never heard of the church before this, but Jesus was pointing them to the future. He promised that He would one day build the church.

Jesus used apostles like Peter to give direction and guidance to the church. The apostles' confession that Jesus was Lord was so important to the church that Jesus called Peter a rock to build on. The other apostles are also called a foundation for the church (Eph 2:20). The church could not have existed before the apostles if the apostles were the foundation, nor could it exist without them and their teaching. Jesus used Peter to show that He promised to bless His Word and help it grow. The church, including Satan, can overcome the church's growth of the church.

2. The **FORMATION** of the Church (Acts 2:1-4)

The fulfillment of Jesus' prophecy came on the day that Jesus met with and taught His disciples (Acts 1:3). He commanded them not to leave the city. The reason was so they could wait for the promise from God the Father (Acts 1:4). The promise Jesus referred to was the Holy Spirit. **The Holy Spirit was the helper who would minister to the disciples once Jesus left.**

a. **The Holy Spirit's Arrival**

The disciples obeyed Jesus and stayed in Jerusalem. While they waited, they prayed constantly (Acts 1:14) and appointed a new apostle to take Judas Iscariot's place (Acts 1:26). On the day of Pentecost all the disciples were **gathered together** in one place (Acts 2:1). In one moment, the Holy Spirit came to them and changed their lives and church history forever.

The disciples were gathered together when suddenly there was a noise from the sky (Acts 2:2). The sound filled the entire house where the disciples were. There was also something to see. Divided tongues, which Luke compared to small

BEGINNING:

Ask the students if they always lived, or if they had a definite beginning. Ask them when their definite beginning—their birthday—was, and ask them what birthday traditions they celebrate. Explain to the class that the church also had a definite beginning: the day of Pentecost.

SUGGESTED ILLUSTRATIONS

Illustrate topics in fun and engaging ways by using these Suggested Illustrations. Match the word in the text to the box to identify its location in the commentary.



GATHERED TOGETHER:

Use a magnet with paper clips to show your class how the magnet gathers the paper clips together into small groups. Explain that this is similar to how Christ gathers the church into small local churches around the world.

LESSON 1 COMMENTARY CONT.

flames, came and rested on top of each disciple. While it was not actual flames, the closest thing Luke could think of to describe this unusual sight was fire. God graciously sent these sights and sounds to help the disciples understand the significance of the Holy Spirit's arrival. The physical signs symbolized the Spirit's presence and power. Because the disciples could not see the Holy Spirit, they needed help understanding the uniqueness of this important moment in history.

Along with the sights and sounds, the Holy Spirit also brought some special gifts. Every disciple was filled with the Holy Spirit

SUGGESTED INTRODUCTIONS

Here is another example of a Suggested Introduction.



...to describe the way the Spirit... power to Christians, and it always... found in God's Word. The... with the Spirit by speaking in... clearly that the disciples... only because the Holy Spirit... Spirit helped the disciples... languages because it was an obvious, visible way... of His presence and power. The disciples could never have spoken in foreign languages they did not know without the help of the Holy Spirit.

b. The Holy Spirit's Significance

This dramatic event clearly indicated that the **church** had begun. Jesus had promised that

He would baptize His disciples with the Spirit, and Pentecost was the fulfillment of that promise (Acts 1:16). Later in Acts, Peter clearly calls Pentecost the beginning of the church and connects it with the coming of the Holy Spirit (Acts 11:15). The apostle Paul would also explain later that the Spirit baptizes true believers into the church, making them Christians (1 Cor 12:13). Without the Spirit's baptism, there could be no church body. The remarkable physical sights and language abilities at Pentecost definitively proved that the baptism of the Spirit had happened and that the church had begun.

3. The FUNCTION of the Church (Acts 2:5-47)

Once the Spirit had come to minister to the disciples in the place of the ascended Jesus, the church could start. Like a newborn baby, the church instantly showed signs of life. The church was a gathering of Christians, a people set apart from the world to share the Gospel. They would evangelize the lost, edified each other, and exalted the Lord, just like true local churches do today.

CHURCH:

Show the class pictures of where churches have met throughout history to help them understand that the church is not about a building. Include an artist's rendition of a first century AD house church, or a photo of huts in Sudan which serve as meeting places for the local church.

SET APART:

Explain how Israel was set apart in the Old Testament to be God's witness to the Gentiles and the difference between Israel and the world. Use similar examples from the Old Testament.

KEYWORDS

Here is another example of a Keyword.

a. **Evangelize unbelievers**

From the moment the church started, evangelism happened. Many Jewish people who had come from every nation in the world were in Jerusalem to celebrate the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:5). When they heard the commotion at the disciples' house they rushed over to see what was happening. They were astonished to hear their own languages being spoken (Acts 2:6–12). The apostle Peter stood up in front of the crowd and began preaching a powerful message (Acts 2:14). He explained that these events had all been prophesied by Joel in the Old Testament (Acts 2:17–21). Peter then preached the good news about Jesus' death and resurrection (Acts 2:22–32). He used many other words to exhort his hearers (Acts 2:33–40). On the church's birthday, around 3,000 people

LESSON HIGHLIGHTS

Here is another example of a Lesson Highlight.



b. **Edify Christians**

Salvation was directly followed by baptism and membership in the fledgling church (Acts 2:41). This new group began ministering to each other immediately, learning more doctrine, celebrating the Lord's Supper, praying, and meeting each other's financial needs (Acts 2:42–45). "Edification" is the name for the actions Christians do to help each other progress spiritually. Like a bricklayer adding bricks to a wall, the church was built up spiritually so its members would become

SUGGESTED ILLUSTRATIONS

Here is another example of a Suggested Illustration.



c. **Exalt God**

To evangelize, the church needed to be united in the worship of God (Acts 2:46–47). Their unity and devotion were evident in their hearts. They praised God directly through worship and presented a good witness to their community. God was glorified by all the new Christians and continued to save more and more. Jesus' promise to build His church was just beginning, and countless more Christians would be added to accomplish Jesus' purposes for the world.

For many new Christians, to follow Christ meant rejecting the world, and to be rejected by the world. These early Christians learned that they could not belong to both the world and to Christ. Like **oil and water**, the two cannot mix. The Christian's willingness to give up everything this world had to offer and to seek to know Him, and enjoy Him forever, exalted God. This is what God designed man for, to exalt Him and to bring Him glory.



OIL & WATER:

The church is a group of people who have been saved through faith in Jesus Christ. The church cannot mix with the world. Attempt to mix cooking oil with water in a clear plastic container. Show your class how, no matter what, the oil and water will separate from each other.

ABRIDGED LESSON PREP

If you don't have time to fully prepare the lesson from scratch, then use the Lesson Highlights here.

LESSON HIGHLIGHTS:

1. The **FOUNDATION** of the Church (Matt 16:13-18)
 - Jesus is the only suitable foundation for the church.
 - Without Christ's death, burial, resurrection, and ascension, the church could not exist.
 - Nothing could stop the beginning and growth of the church.
2. The **FORMATION** of the Church (Acts 2:1-4)
 - The Holy Spirit was the helper who would minister to the disciples once Jesus left.
3. The **FUNCTION** of the Church (Acts 2:5-47)
 - From the moment the church started, evangelism happened.

LESSON QUESTIONS:

1. What happened at Pentecost?
 - a. God flipped a penny at the store
 - b. The Holy Spirit came to start the church**
2. Who makes up the church?
 - a. Snowmen
 - b. Christians**
3. What is the foundation of the church?
 - a. Silly string
 - b. Truth from the Bible**
4. Who is the Holy Spirit?
 - a. A ghost
 - b. God**
5. What is the foundation of the church?
 - a. The Holy Bible because it is God's perfect Word.**

LESSON QUESTIONS

These questions will be discussed during the small group time. Make sure you address them during your lesson. The correct answers are bolded.

SCOUTS LESSON 1 OUTLINE & NOTES

SCOUTS

These pages are designed for you to plan out your lesson for the Scouts age group.

1. **The FOUNDATION of the Church (Matt 16:13–18)**
 - a. An Exalted Person
 - b. An Encouraging Prophecy
2. **The FORMATION of the Church (Acts 2:1–4)**
 - a. The Holy Spirit's Arrival
 - b. The Holy Spirit's Significance
3. **The FUNCTION of the Church (Acts 2:5–47)**
 - a. Evangelize unbelievers
 - b. Edify Christians
 - c. Exalt God

LESSON PREP

The Outline and Lesson Highlights both get expanded for Scouts to convey more information to the older age groups.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE GOSPEL

Always end your lesson with the gospel.



SPOTLIGHT ON THE GOSPEL

Jesus promised to build His church, drawing people to Himself. Attending church or saying a prayer does not mean a person truly belongs to the church. Instead, they must turn from their sin and trust in Jesus Christ, for the church is made up of Christians.

SCOUTS LESSON 1 HIGHLIGHTS & QUESTIONS

LESSON HIGHLIGHTS:

- The FOUNDATION of the Church (Matt 16:13-18)**
 - **Jesus is the only suitable foundation for the church.**
 - a. An Exalted Person
 - Without Christ's death, burial, resurrection, and ascension, the church could not exist.
 - b. An Encouraging Prophecy
 - Nothing could stop the beginning and growth of the church.
- The FORMATION of the Church (Acts 2:1-4)**
 - **The Holy Spirit was the helper who would minister to the disciples once Jesus left.**
 - a. The Holy Spirit's Arrival
 - b. The Holy Spirit's Significance
- The FUNCTION of the Church (Acts 2:5-47)**
 - a. Evangelize unbelievers
 - **From the moment the church started, evangelism has been the church's primary function.**
 - b. Edify Christians
 - c. Exalt God

LESSON QUESTIONS:

- What happened at Pentecost?**
 - a. God flipped a penny at the store
 - b. **The Holy Spirit came to start the church**
 - c. Jesus was born
 - d. Noah built the ark
- Who makes up the church?**
 - a. Snowmen
 - b. Bears
 - c. **Christians**
 - d. Mountains
- What is the foundation of the church?**
 - a. Silly string
 - b. **Truth from the Bible**
 - c. Really long books
 - d. Truth from the dictionary
- Who is the Holy Spirit?**
 - a. A ghost
 - b. A football player
 - c. **God**
 - d. A dog
- What is the foundation of the church?**
 - a. The Holy Bible because it is God's perfect Word.
- What are ways that you can help the church?**
 - a. AC kids can list various ways they see others help (music, cleaning, helping people, etc.)

LESSON QUESTIONS

Small group questions increase in difficulty and quantity with older age groups.

LESSON ANSWERS

Bolded words indicate the correct answers to the questions.

TRAILBLAZERS

These pages are designed for you to plan out your lesson for the Trailblazers age group.

1. **The FOUNDATION of the Church (Matt 16:13-18)**
 - a. An Exalted Person
 - b. An Encouraging Prophecy
2. **The FORMATION of the Church (Acts 2:1-4)**
 - a. The Holy Spirit's Arrival
 - b. The Holy Spirit's Significance
3. **The FUNCTION of the Church (Acts 2:5-47)**
 - a. Evangelize unbelievers
 - b. Edify Christians
 - c. Exalt God

LESSON PREP

The Outline and Lesson Highlights both get expanded for Trailblazers to convey more information to the older age groups.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE GOSPEL

Always end your lesson with the gospel.



SPOTLIGHT ON THE GOSPEL

Jesus promised to build His church, drawing people to Himself. Attending church or saying a prayer does not mean a person truly belongs to the church. Instead, they must turn from their sin and trust in Jesus Christ, for the church is made up of Christians.

TRAILBLAZERS LESSON 1 HIGHLIGHTS & QUESTIONS

LESSON HIGHLIGHTS:

- The FOUNDATION of the Church (Matt 16:13–18)**
 - **Jesus is the only suitable foundation for the church.**
 - a. An Exalted Person
 - **Without Christ's death, burial, resurrection, and ascension, the church could not exist.**
 - b. An Encouraging Prophecy
 - **Nothing could stop the beginning and growth of the church.**
- The FORMATION of the Church (Acts 2:1–4)**
 - **The Holy Spirit was the helper who would minister to the disciples once Jesus left.**
 - a. The Holy Spirit's Arrival
 - b. The Holy Spirit's Significance
- The FUNCTION of the Church (Acts 2:5–47)**
 - a. Evangelize unbelievers
 - **From the moment the church started, evangelism had to be a part of the church's mission.**
 - b. Edify Christians
 - c. Exalt God

LESSON QUESTIONS

Small group questions increase in difficulty and quantity with older age groups.

LESSON QUESTIONS:

- What happened at Pentecost?**
 - a. God flipped a penny at the store
 - b. The Holy Spirit came to start the church
 - c. Jesus was born
 - d. Noah built the ark
- Who is the Holy Spirit?**
 - a. A ghost
 - b. A football player
 - c. God
 - d. A dog
- How do you become a part of the church?**
 - a. When you become a Christian, you join the church by the Holy Spirit entering your heart.
- What happened at Pentecost?**
 - a. The Holy Spirit came to live in the hearts of those who believed in Christ.
- What is the foundation of the church?**
 - a. The Holy Bible because it is God's perfect Word.
- What are ways that you can help the church?**
 - a. AC kids can list various ways they see others help (music, cleaning, helping people, etc.)

LESSON 1 PROGRAM STRUCTURE

MATERIALS NEEDED

You will need these materials to play the suggested games for all age groups.

MATERIALS NEEDED: Painters tape.

GAMES

These are game options for each age group. Directions on how to play are in the back of the book.

Games (page 516)
15 minutes

Numbers and Letters

Long Jump

Transition
5 minutes

Music (page 518, 519)
15 minutes

"All Creatures of Our God and King"

"All Creatures of Our God and King"

MUSIC

These songs for each age group are listed in the back of this book. Find songs and more resources on the enclosed CD and our website.

5 minutes

Small Group
5 minutes

Pray and review the lesson

Pray and review the lesson

15 minutes

Ask questions from the lesson and discuss

Ask questions from the lesson and discuss

SMALL GROUP TIME

Small group time is designed to reinforce and engage the AC kids in the lesson that they just heard.

Review the memory verse and the pin reward system

Review the memory verse and the pin reward system

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

These pages are the suggested Program Structure for how to run your Adventure Club program. Your structure may vary, but you can use this as a guide.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

PROGRAM:

Volunteer Meeting

5 minutes

Check In

15 minutes

Games (page 516)

15 minutes

Transition

5 minutes

Music (page 520)

15 minutes

Lesson

20 minutes

Transition

5 minutes

Small Group

5 minutes

15 minutes

10 minutes

Pick Up

15 minutes

TRAILBLAZERS SCHEDULE:

Prayer and Structure Review

Tape Maze

"All Creatures of Our God and King"

(Hymn of the Month)

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

"Amazing Grace"

The Church is Made Up of Christians

Pray and review the lesson

Ask questions from the lesson and discuss

Review the memory verse and the pin reward system

COMBO SCHEDULE:

Prayer and Structure Review

Long Jump

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

(Hymn of the Month)

"Tune Up Our Hearts"

"Do Not Be Anxious"

"Amazing Grace"

Pray and review the lesson

Pray and review the lesson

Ask questions from the lesson and discuss

Review the memory verse and the pin reward system

EVENT TIME

This is the suggested duration for each program event.