

Church Household readings

Church is something we do. Church is something we are. Church is a building. Church is people. Actually, what is 'church'? And who creates it? And why do we do it? And what purpose does it serve? And what should we do at 'church'?

These are the questions we will be looking at in this series on the doctrine (a flash word for 'teaching', what the Bible says) of 'church'.

These shorts devotions will help you sit with your household each day (well, five days in the week!), and prepare your hearts and minds by looking at the passages we will be thinking through each Sunday. They should take about 10 minutes together:

- Begin each time with a short prayer, asking God to help you understand the Bible.
- Do the 'tasks/questions'.
- Finish by praying a short 'thank-you' prayer to God.

Try to set aside the same time each day to spend this time together, making this a household habit!

It won't be easy but it will be greatly rewarding!

Week 1 (starting December 27) What is church?

Day 1

- Write down an answer for this question: 'What is church?'
- Why did you say that?

Day 2

- Read Deuteronomy 4:10-14.
- What do you think people felt that day?
- Find verse 10... see that word 'assemble' (CSB; NIV)... that word means 'church'... what happened at 'church' that day?

Day 3

- Read Hebrews 12:18-24.
- Find verse 23... see that word 'assembly' (CSB; NIV)... that word means 'church'... what are some the things connected with 'church' there?
- When is this passage talking about?

Day 4

- Think back over the Deuteronomy passage and the Hebrews passage.... What is the same in both of them?
- What is different in both of them?
- Why are these things the same, and different?

Day 5

- Look back at your answer on 'day 1'... is there anything you would change about that answer? Why/why not?

Week 2 (starting January 3)

Who builds the church?

Day 1

- If you can, try to research who built the Narrabri Anglican Church, and when...
- Do you think this is the person who built the church in Narrabri, as the Bible describes...?

Day 2

- Read Matthew 16:13-20.
- Who is Jesus?
- What does Jesus promise to do?

Day 3

- Read Hebrews 12:18-24.
- Look at verses 22-24...
- List all the things/people/ideas connected with the 'assembly' described there.

Day 4

- Read 1 Timothy 2:5-6.
- What is the thing that stops people like you and me becoming the church on our own?
- What does Jesus do about this? How does this show he 'builds' the church?

Day 5

- Read Ephesians 2:17-22.
- How is Jesus described?
- What kind of 'building' does he 'build'?

Week 3 (starting January 10)

Who makes up the church?

Day 1

- Who comes to our church?
- What kind of people do you think are part of the church?
- Why?

Day 2

- Read Hebrews 12:22-24.
- Write down all the descriptions of those who are part of the church.

Day 3

- Read Ephesians 2:1-10 (or Titus 2:11-14).
- What did Jesus do for his people?
- What does this tell you about who is part of the church?

Days 4/5

- Over today and tomorrow, read the following passages and write down how people show that they members of the church:

Romans 10:8-9

Colossians 2:6-7

John 15:9-12

1 John 2:1-3

Week 4 (starting January 17)

What is the purpose of church?

Day 1

- Write down an answer to this question: 'What is the purpose of church?'
- Why did you say that?

Day 2

- Read Revelation 21:1-4.
- This is a picture of the forever church (what is described in Hebrews 12:18-24)... what are people doing?
- What does this tell you about the purpose of church?

Day 3

- Read Ephesians 1:3-6.
- What has God's plan always been?
- What does this tell you about the purpose of church?

Day 4

- Given what we have learned over the last few weeks, what do you say to the following statements, and why?
 - 'Church is an end in itself, not a means to an end'
 - 'Non-Christians are not part of the church'
 - 'Church is the climax of history'

Day 5

- Look back at your answer on 'day 1' - would you change anything? Why/why not?

Week 5 (starting January 24)

What do we do in church?

Day 1

- Write down everything we do at church...
- Why do we do those things?
- How do they help with the 'purpose for church'? (look back at 'week 4')

Day 2

- Read Romans 12:1-2.
- What do we do everyday as God's people?
- What might that involve?

Day 3

- Read 1 Corinthians 14:26.
- What is the key principle for what we do in church?
- What does this word mean?

Days 4/5

- Over the next two days, read the following passages and write down what we might do in/at church:

Ephesians 4:11-16:

Luke 22:14-20:

Ephesians 5:18-21:

Colossians 3:16-17:

Colossians 4:2:

1 Corinthians 14:27-33:

1 Corinthians 13:1-8:

Hebrews 10:24-25: