

23 April

 Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: 7 Churches of Revelation – week 1

 Let's hear your story

1. Tell of a time when you had to explain to a friend or family member the characteristics of a New Testament church, according to the book of Acts?
2. What does Revelation 1:1 tell us about the book of Revelation? **(v.1; The revelation from Jesus Christ. Revelation is about Jesus Christ.)**
3. What does Revelation 1:4 tell us about the book of Revelation? **(John, to the seven churches in the province of Asia. Revelation is about Jesus' church.)**
4. What does Matthew 16:18 tell us about Jesus Christ? **(Jesus Christ is the Builder and Owner of the church.)**

 Let's go deeper

5. What was the first church devoted to in Acts 2:42? **(The Apostle's teachings "Word of God," prayer, fellowship and breaking of bread.)**
6. What followed the preaching of God's Word in Acts 8:5 – 8; 12 – 13? **(Salvations, healings, deliverance, and great miracles.)**
7. According to Acts 15:40 – 41, what was important to the early church? **(Team ministry and discipleship.)**
8. What was another important aspect of the early church according to Acts 20:28 – 30? **(Pastoral leadership, demonstrated by servant-heartedness.)**

 Let's apply this

9. **Revelation 1:4**; John to the **seven churches** that are in Asia:

As Builder and Owner of the church, Jesus builds according to a specific plan and pattern that He reveals in His Word, especially in the book of Acts.

- Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you, how you fit in God's plan for His church?
- How can you serve Jesus' church with your gifts and talents?
- Ask Jesus to give you His love for His church (His people).
- Allow the Holy Spirit to use you this week to serve Jesus' church.

SUMMARY:

**7 Churches of Revelation:** Week 1 (Jesus loves His church).

**Read:** Revelation 1:1 – 8

The author of Revelation is John. John served and followed Jesus for a long time, he outlived all the other apostles. John wrote the Gospel of John; 1, 2, 3 John and the book of Revelation. John also oversaw seven churches in what is now called modern-day Turkey, and seven letters were written to these churches.

Revelation is about Jesus Christ and Jesus' church.  
Jesus is the Builder and Owner of His church – Matthew 16:18.  
Jesus is the Rock – 1 Corinthians 10:4 and Numbers 20:1 – 13.  
Jesus is the Cornerstone – Ephesians 2:20.

**Characteristics of a New Testament church:**

**Preparation:** Acts 2:1 – 4. The early church prayed for, and sought the outpouring of the Holy Spirit for the new task. They were all filled with Holy Spirit.

**Priesthood of all believers:** Acts 2:42 – 47. Believers had a relationship with God, leaders, other believers, and unbelievers. They ministered to each other.

**Power evangelism:** Acts 8:5 – 8; 12 – 13. The early church evangelised cities, and individuals with signs, wonders and miracles following the preaching of God's Word.

**Purity:** Acts 8:20 – 23. The purity of motive and deed was that God alone should get the glory, and no man. A passionate love for the Lord.

**Prayer:** Acts 13:2 – 3. Prayer was very important to the early church; to humble themselves before God, to seek His face, and find His heart for all they did.

**Participation:** Acts 15:40 – 41. The early church focused on team ministry, and discipleship. Investing in each other's lives.

**Prophetic direction:** Acts 16:9 – 10. Prophetic direction was part of the early church. The prophetic help us to see, prepare and become the future that God has for us.

**Potential doors:** Acts 16:9 – 10. New doors in new areas opened for effective work.

**Praise:** Acts 16:25 – 26. Jesus alone is worthy to be praised.

**Planting churches and multiplication:** Acts 17, 18 and 19.

**Provision:** Acts 18:5, 2 Corinthians 11:9 and Philippians 4:15 – 18.

**Preaching:** Acts 19:8 – 10. Proclaiming God's truth to a lost world.

**Pattern for apostolic ministry:** Acts 19:10. Build strong bases to work from.

**Pastoral leadership:** Acts 20:28 – 30. Servant-hearted leadership was the example.