

LIFE GROUP notes

19 July



Break the ice

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

TOPIC: Discipleship Journey – The church



Let's hear your story

1. Tell of a time when you had to explain to a friend or family member that church is not about a building, but people?
2. What does 1 Peter 2:9 tell us about the church? **(You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession...).**
3. What does Ephesians 2:19 tell us about the church? **(You are no longer strangers but fellow citizens with God's people, members of His household).**
4. What does Ephesians 2:21 tell us about the church? **(In Him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.).**



Let's go deeper

5. What does Romans 12:5 tell us about the church? **(In Christ we though many form one body and each member belongs to the others)**
6. What does Revelation 19:7b tell us about the church? **(The wedding of the Lamb has come, and His bride has made herself ready.).**
7. What does 1 John 3:8b tell us about the church? **(The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.).**
8. Name four benefits of being part of a church?
(Friendship – Proverbs 18:24. Fellowship – Acts 2:42, 44. Worship – John 4:23 – 24 and Discipleship – Mathew 28:18 – 20.).



Let's apply this

9. Matthew 16:18; And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock, **I will build my church,** and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

- Are you part and involved in a church family?
- Are you being discipled, either one-on-one or a small group?
- Are you making disciples, and who are you teaching to obey God's Word?
- Name three believers you can call for help in a spiritual emergency?

SUMMARY:

Discipleship Journey – The church

Read: Matt.16:16 – 18; 1 Peter 2:9–10

The word church is the translation of the Greek word "ecclesia," which means the called-out ones, those called out of the world by Jesus, to belief, belong and follow Him. Church refers not to a building nor to an organisation but to a group of people.

- Pictures of the church in scripture:

1. **People / Nation** – 1 Peter 2:9 – 10 and Exodus 19:5 – 6

Israel alone of all the nations of the earth were God's people, called out from the nations of the earth. Their unique origin (divine election) gave them a unique identity, purpose and destiny (covenant with God). The New Testament applies these titles to the church. To believing Jews have been added believing Gentiles to make up the one New Covenant people of God (Eph 2:14 – 18), the church.

2. **Family / Household** – Ephesians 2:19 and Romans 8:16 – 17

The church is a family of believers a group of people connected by relationships. We are all God's children. Jesus is our elder brother. We are brothers and sisters to other believers. The godly, natural family is an environment of faith, hope, love, instruction, encouragement, support, correction and discipline.

3. **Building / Temple** – Ephesians 2:21 and 1 Corinthians 3:16 – 17

The church is a building of which Jesus is the cornerstone, foundation, capstone and master builder. He builds with a plan. This shows the church as strong, enduring and visible to the world. The church is a holy temple. In the Old Covenant the temple was where God dwelt, it was both holy and all nations came to find God and salvation. The church is now the temple of God, the place where He dwells by His Spirit and nations of the world come to find the message of salvation.

4. **Priesthood** – 1 Peter 2:5, 9

The church is the priesthood ministering to God. In the Old Covenant, only some of God's people were priests, in the New Covenant all of God's people are priests, the whole church is a priesthood; all believers minister as priests to God, to fellow believers and to the world.

5. **Body** – Romans 12:5; 1 Corinthians 12:12 – 27; Ephesians 4:1 – 16

Just as a physical body has many different parts, each important to the successful function of the whole, so this spiritual body is made up of many different people, each of whom has a different gifting, but is essential for the functioning and effectiveness of the whole church. The church, as Christ's spiritual body, continues all the work Jesus began in His physical body during His time on earth.

6. **Bride** – Ephesians 5:22 – 32 and Revelation 19:7

The church is Jesus' bride; He came to win her back; He paid the price for her; now He prepares her for His return to marry her in the wedding feast of the Lamb.

7. **Army** – Ephesians 6:10 – 18 and 1 John 3:8