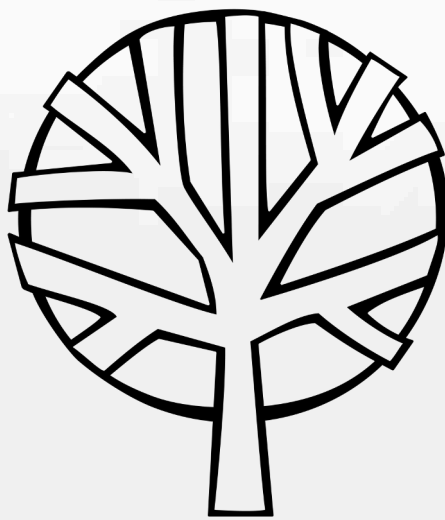


CHURCH STUDY GUIDES

SUMMERLEAS CHRISTIAN CHURCH



'CHURCH' STUDY GUIDE

WEEK	PASSAGE	THEME
1	Matthew 18:15-20 Mark 10:29-31	Church in the Gospels Church is... Jesus' people
2	Acts 2:42-47	Church in Acts Church is...A Gathered Assembly
3	1 Corinthians 12-13 Ephesians 4	Church in Paul's Letter Church is...Christ's body
4	Revelation 2-3 Revelation 21	Church in Revelation Church is...A Holy Priesthood
Page 12	Whole Family Learning (WFL) ideas on the topic of church	

INTRODUCTION:

A GENERAL OVERVIEW OF THE 'CHURCH' STUDY GUIDE

These studies are going to sketch broadly across the New Testament to explore the topic of church. We will make our way through the gospels, the letters, and lastly Revelation to see what these books of the Bible contribute to our view of church.

PRAYER POINTS

- We want to encourage you to be on mission to your non-Christian friends, family and contacts. Who are you on mission to? Make a list and pray for them regularly.

SUGGESTED READING:

If you would like to engage more with this topic we recommended:

- *Gathered Together* by Karl Deenick
- *What Christ thinks of the Church* by John Stott

WEEK 1 GC STUDY: MATTHEW & MARK

As we start this series on the topic of church, have a quick think about what images come into your head when you hear the word 'church'.

Share some of those ideas with one another.

In this study we are going to broadly look at what the gospels contribute to God's teaching of church. The gospels rarely use the actual word for 'church' (*Gk: ekklesia*), however they do provide us with a start as we seek to discover what the New Testament teaches on this topic.

What does Jesus teaching in the following verses teach us?

Depending on the size of your group, it might be good to divide these up and then come back together to share.

- Matthew 19:28-30
- Matthew 22:1-14
- Matthew 28:18-20
- Mark 3:31-35
- Mark 10:13-16
- Luke 12:32
- John 10:27-30
- John 15:5-11

READ MARK 10:29-45

What imagery does Jesus use to describe his followers in this passage?

How does Jesus expect the community of believers to be similar/different from the communities around them?

What promise does Jesus hold out to his followers in these verses?

READ MATTHEW 18:15-20

What does the passage teach us about sin and how Jesus' followers are to deal with it?

How does Jesus comfort his people in these verses?

What can we infer about one of the purposes of church from Jesus' teaching here?

As we consider the teaching from Jesus, how would you summarise what the church is according to the gospels?

GC PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 2 GC STUDY: ACTS

Share with one another some of your favourite church gatherings and what was it that made them so special?

READ THE FOLLOWING PASSAGES FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS and think through, what were the priorities for Jesus' followers when they were gathered and/or in their community life together?

- Acts 2:42-47
- Acts 5:42
- Acts 11:19-30
- Acts 12:12 (*in the context of Peter's imprisonment*)
- Acts 13:44
- Acts 14:27
- Acts 15:30-32
- Acts 20:7
- Acts 20:17-21

Think about what Summerleas looks like when we gather together, would you consider our priorities to be similar or different?

Considering what we have read today, how would you describe the purpose of gathering together as Christians? (for some extra reading you could also have a look at Ephesians 3:10)

GC PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 3 GC STUDY: PAUL'S LETTERS

How different is Sunday to the rest of the week for you? And what purpose does gathering together at church play for you in your life?

In Paul's letters we find many references to church, in fact 62 of the 114 references to church are in the writings of Paul. This includes the local church as well as the universal church of all Christians. In his writings Paul describes different images of the church, as well as what the local church should look like and have as its priorities. In this study we are going to focus on the latter. However, if you would like to explore the different images of church, we have listed some of the different passages in an Appendix (this could be a good WFL exercise).

We will first look at how Paul describes what the local church should look like when it gathers together.

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 14:26-33

What are Paul's main concerns for how the church is to behave when they gather together?

What could disunity look like in our modern-day churches?

How can we guard ourselves against this at Summerleas?

What examples of unity have encouraged you at Summerleas (or other churches that you have been part of)?

We will now turn to how Paul describes what the church should be characterised by all throughout the week.

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-31 & EPHESIANS 4:1-16

How does Paul describe the community of believers in these passages?

What role do the church leaders have within this community?

How do you feel about yourself being part of the body of Christ? What difference does that make to how you feel about yourself and the decision that you make?

In Ephesians 4:12, Paul's mentions 'works of service'. Within the context of this passage, what do you think he means?

How are you going at doing 'works of service'? If necessary, how could this improve?

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 13

How should 1 Corinthians 13 inform our application of the other passages that we've read today? Can you think of some practical ways to express a priority of love?

GC PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 4 GC STUDY: REVELATION

Do you ever wonder what Jesus would say to the church if he was on earth in this present age? If so, what do you think he would say? If not, have a think about that now and discuss it together.

READ REVELATION 2-3. *If you can, it might be easier to divide up the different letters to the church amongst yourselves. Don't worry if you can't get through them all.*

- Revelation 2:1-7
- Revelation 2:8-11
- Revelation 2:12-17
- Revelation 2:18-29
- Revelation 3:1-6
- Revelation 3:7-13
- Revelation 3:14-22

Discuss what the different things that Jesus encourages the churches for. And what are the things that Jesus rebukes the churches for?

Of the different churches and their characteristics, do you think there is one in particular that you resonate with?

How can we at Summerleas church guard ourselves against the dangers that Jesus mentions?

READ REVELATION 7:9-12 & 21:1-7

How is the church described in this vision that John sees?

What is the ultimate destination of the church?

How does this final reality of the church affect how we conduct ourselves as the church in this present age? (see also Hebrews 10:19-25)

GC PRAYER POINTS

APPENDIX

Take a look at the passages below and discuss what the images are and what they represent.

- Ephesians 2:19-22
- Romans 5:12-17
- Romans 12:4-5
- 1 Timothy 3:15
- 1 Corinthians 3:9
- 2 Corinthians 11:2
- Galatians 5:25-6:5

WHOLE FAMILY LEARNING (WFL) IDEAS

1. Choose one of the topics under the heading 'The Ology of the Church' from '*The Ology*' by Marty Machowski on pages 181-196.
 - a. Read through it together and pick some of the bible passages to read out and discuss.
 - b. Pray for one another

2. Theme: Church is the body of Christ from 1 Corinthians 12:12-31.
 - a. Watch this short video together:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=evRQUxzn8qA>
 - b. Discuss together the following questions:
 - o What they think their gifts might be. May be helpful to point out what you think are gifts in others as they might not be able to articulate them.
 - o How can you use your gifts to serve one another?
 - c. Spend some time praying together.

3. Theme: The church as God's People
 - a. Watch this short video together:
<https://www.pursuegodkids.org/what-is-the-church-2/>
 - b. Discuss together some of the following questions:
 - o What's your favourite part of the video? What's one thing you learned from it?
 - o What are some of the things you like best about going to church?
 - o Who are some of your favourite people at church?
 - o What have you learned about Jesus at church? What other things have you learned?
 - o Why do you think it's important to go to church?
 - o How will you apply this lesson to your life this week?
 - c. Spend some time praying together.

SUMMERLEAS CHRISTIAN CHURCH MISSION PARTNERS



FELLOWSHIP OF OVERSEAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS (FOCUS) & SUBBIES

FOCUS and Subbies are Christian international student societies that seeks to share the good news of Jesus with International students at the University of Hobart.

How Summerleas can help:

- Go along to Friday Night FOCUS and/or cook for them or go along to Subbies
 What: FREE food, fun, friendship and teaching from the Bible.
 When: FOCUS: Fridays 6.00-8.30pm (if your GC is bringing food please bring it at 5:30pm) or Subbies: Tuesdays 7:00-8:30pm for Subbies
 Where: Wellspring Anglican Church Building
- Pray:
 - Pray that we will be keen to support this strategic ministry and that it would grow us in our passion for God's great mission!
 - Praise God for this wonderful opportunity to reach the nations.
 - Pray for the leadership teams that they will speak the truth in love.
 - Pray that God will be working in the hearts of those who come along to hear and understand that Jesus is their Lord and Saviour

THE DURDIN FAMILY



Marc and Joey Durdin are another one of our mission partners at Summerleas Church. Marc is the developer of Keyman software which helps translate writing into native languages. Joey is a midwife who provides support and education to women in many ways. They are currently living in Cambodia

- Pray:
 - That they would be a light pointing to Jesus to the people around them in Cambodia. That they will be bold to proclaim Christ and show his love to the people in their lives.
 - Pray for Marc as he continues with the keyman project. Pray for good working relationships with his team and that this software will continue to enable God's word to go out to the world.
 - Pray for Joey as she continues to educate and support women.
 - Pray that God would provide for all their needs financially and that new supporters will come on board with them.