

STEPS TO MATURITY

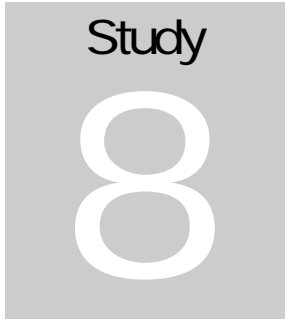
Celebration Centre Resources

Foundation Studies

CELEBRATION CENTRE RESOURCES

Steps to Maturity Study Guide

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The Church

When you gave your life to Jesus, He placed you in His family – the Church.

MT 12:46-50 “While He was still talking to the multitudes, behold, His mother and brothers stood outside, seeking to speak with Him. Then one said to Him, “Look, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, seeking to speak with You. But, He answered and said to the one who told Him, “Who is my mother and my brothers?” And He stretched out His hand toward His disciples and said, “Here are My mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother”.

God is now your spiritual Father - you were reconciled back to Him the day you received Jesus as your Lord and Saviour. You are now one of God’s children. Every other born again believer is a part of this family also.

God’s plan for you is to find a local Church to become a part of. Being connected to a local Church that is growing and moving on with God is a very important thing.

What is ‘the Church’

In Greek, the word used for ‘Church’ in the Bible is ‘ekklesia’. This simply means ‘called out ones’. Christians are called out by God from the world system. You are called to be a citizen of the Kingdom of God.

PHP 3:20 “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ”.

EPH 2:19 “Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God”.

Write out COL 1:13

Also read 1 PT 2:9

The word 'church' can refer to two things –

1. Universal Church – all believers in all ages past, present and future. Together, we all make up the universal Church.

The universal Church is not a single denomination or a political Church. It is every born again person. We are all unified due to the fact that Jesus is our Saviour and the Head of the Church.

JN 10:16 “...there shall be _____ flock and _____ shepherd”.

The 'flock' is the Church and the 'shepherd' is Jesus.

2. Local Church – This is an assembling together of born again believers in a suburb, town etc. It is the local Church that the Bible refers to most often. The local Church should be a smaller version of the universal Church.

In the Bible God's people are referred to in many different ways –

A Priesthood	A Body	
A Bride	A Kingdom	
A Family	A Temple	
An Army	Branches of the vine	(and many more).

Purpose Of The Church

1. The New Testament tells us that God uses his Church (His people) to establish His Kingdom on the earth. The Church is also meant to carry on the work Jesus started when He was on the earth.

JN 14:12 “I tell you the truth, anyone who has _____ in Me will do what _____ have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I go to the Father”.

2. EPH 1:20 and ROM 8:34.

Where is Jesus now? _____

Jesus was born a man and lived 33 years. He died on the cross and was resurrected from the dead. He now has a resurrection body and lives in heaven. But, He still has an earthly body (the Church) that continues to do His work, which He started when He was on earth.

Read COL 1:18 and 1 COR 12:27.

Who is the Body of Christ? _____

3. 1 JN 3:8. What was, and is, Jesus' ministry?

4. 1 JN 3:8. What should the Church be involved in?

5. EHP 3:10-11. Write this verse in your own words.

6. The Church is the vehicle God is using to accomplish His purposes on the earth. The ministry of the Church involves many things. Read the following scriptures and fill in the spaces.

EPH 4:11-12 _____

ROM 15:6 _____

MK 16:15 _____

GAL 6:10 _____

1 PET 2:12 _____

The Local Church

1. The local church is a family and a community of people.

Read ACTS 2:41-47. This was the beginning of the universal church and was the first local Church to exist.

2. The believers did five things together. What were they? See verses 41 & 42.

What were the four results the Church had? See verses 43 – 47.

3. The Church is the people, not the building or a denomination. God's perfect Church is made up of imperfect people. Not all of us are able to relate to everybody but this is no reason not to commit to a local Church.

The Bible clearly tells us what we should not do. Read HEB 10:25 and write it our in your own words –

4. Each individual member of the Church needs to take responsibility for what the church is like. For example, if every member is friendly to new people, that local church will appear open, welcoming and friendly.
5. You can be a blessing or a hindrance to your Church.

COL 3:12-17. Write down some of the things you should do in your church?

6. 1 PT 2:9 “But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light”.

We are all ministers in God’s Kingdom. God did not plan a local Church to have one minister and a congregation. Every member in the Church is seen as a minister in God’s eyes. The Bible says that God gives some individuals different ministries to benefit members of His Church. These gifts and ministries will help develop you in your Christian life and ministry (the things God has called you to do).

Read EPH 4:11-12. What are the five ministries listed here?

7. When you are involved in a local Church, you will make friendships with people who also believe in Jesus. It is healthy to be in relationship with people who love Jesus and are committed to Him.
8. Another benefit of being involved in a local Church is that you are exposed to the presence of God and the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

1 COR 12:1-30

Word of Wisdom	Verse 8
Word of Knowledge	Verse 8
Faith	Verse 9
Healings	Verse 9
Miracles	Verse 10
Prophecy	Verse 10
Discerning of Spirits	Verse 10
Different kinds of tongues	Verse 10
Interpretation of tongues	Verse 10

1 COR 12:31 “But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills”.