



THE CHURCH

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Lesson 1

THE CHURCH—PROMISED AND BEGUN

NOTE TO THE TEACHER

If we were to list Bible doctrines in the order of their importance, the list would probably begin this way:

1. Salvation by grace
2. The true Church

It is important, therefore, that your pupils know about the Church.

The Church had its beginning on the Day of Pentecost. It could not have come before that, for Christ had to die in order to redeem the Church. It had to be purchased with His blood. The Church could not have begun before the resurrection of Christ, for He had to be raised from the dead so its members could have resurrection life. The Lord Jesus had to ascend to Heaven before the Church began, so He could be the Head of the Church. The Church could not build itself. It had to wait for the Holy Spirit to come for that very purpose. On the same day

that the Holy Spirit came to earth, the Church came into being. To the Christian, therefore, the Day of Pentecost is significant.

Today, in some parts of the world, the word “Church” has come to mean a building in which people meet. But when it began, the word “Church” meant people—*called-out ones*. *Called-out ones* are believers who have been called out from among unbelievers.

If your students are true believers in Jesus Christ, they belong to the Church. In these lessons they will learn the answers to some vital questions:

1. How and when did the Church begin?
2. What is the Church like?
3. What does the Church do?
4. What is the message of the Church?

Scripture to be studied: Matthew 16:13-20; Mark 8:27-30; Luke 9:18-20; Ephesians 2:19-22; 1 Peter 2:4-8; Psalm 118:22-23

The aim of the lesson: To show how and when the church began.

What your students should know: Those who believe in Jesus Christ as Saviour are living stones in Christ’s Church.

What your students should feel: A desire to be a part of the church.

What your students should do:

Unsaved: Believe on the Lord Jesus as Saviour.

Saved: Tell someone this week about the Lord Jesus.

Lesson outline (for the teacher’s and students’ notebooks):

1. God promised to send His Son to earth (Genesis 3:15).
2. Jesus Christ made many promises (John 14:16).
3. Jesus Christ promised to build His church on Himself (Matthew 16:18).
4. Jesus Christ is the cornerstone of the church (1 Peter 2:6-7).

The verse to be memorized:

Christ is the Head of the Church: and He is the Saviour of the Body. (Ephesians 5:23b)

THE LESSON

Whenever God promises that He will do a certain thing, He does it. Sometimes it takes many, many years—even hundreds of years—for a promise to come true. But in God’s time He keeps His promises.

1. GOD PROMISED TO SEND HIS SON TO EARTH

Genesis 3:15

Show Illustration #1



In the long ago, God the Holy Spirit breathed on men of His choosing, causing them to write the Word of God. That Word—the Bible—has been wonderfully kept for us. And in the Bible, God has recorded many promises. One promise that God made was that His Son would come from Heaven to earth. God made that promise as soon as the first man and woman (Adam and Eve) sinned. (See Genesis 3:15.) Sin has always separated man from God. And the only One who could bring man and God together is the Son