



EXPLORE

WALKING WITH JESUS & HIS CHURCH

“The Church”

The Definitions of the Church: The New Testament used the Greek word *ekklesia* approximately 114 times. While some uses of the word refer to an assembly of people apart from a religious emphasis, most occurrences identify either the universal church (often spelled with an uppercase C) or local churches (local groups of Christian believers). Of special importance is the fact that a church in the Bible always refers to people, not to buildings, as many people understand the term today. In the New Testament, Christians did not go to church; Christians were the church.

Scripture Verses:

- Psalm 122:1
- Acts 2:42–47
- 1 Timothy 3:14–15
- Romans 12:4–5
- Colossians 1:17–20
- Ephesians 2:19–22
- 1 Peter 2:4–5
- 1 Corinthians 14:26
- Hebrews 10:24–25
- Revelation 21:2–3
- 1 Corinthians 12:12–26
- Colossians 3:16
- Acts 20:28

Study Questions:

Take a moment and define “the church.”

Why is Ecclesiology (the study of the church) so important?

What is the purpose of the church/ Why does the church matter?

What is the first thing that comes to mind when you think of church?

What were your first/early experiences of attending church?

Were those positive or negative experiences in your faith journey and why?

What do you think it means that the church is God’s plan for communion with him and community with others?

How have you communed with God recently in the corporate gathering of the church?

How have you felt true community recently?

What would be some positive attributes of “community” in the context of the church?

PRAY

