

INTRODUCTION TO THE WAY

BLUEPRINTS
OF THE CHURCH
SERMON RESOURCE

Our Liturgy

The Lord is here — His Spirit is with us.

Where the Spirit of the Lord is — there is Freedom!

CONNECT

— 15 MINUTES

When you think of the word “church” what comes to mind?

REVIEW

— 30 MINUTES

In this next season the Great God Story continues with Blueprints of the Church. We will discover God’s design for a Christ centred, Spirit empowered, and mission focused community through the teachings of the book of Acts and the Epistles.

Jesus first used the word *ekklesia* to describe his followers as the church (Matt. 16:18)

The church as a gathered body of believers was born at Pentecost.

After the resurrection and before His ascension, Jesus gave some instructions — Acts 1:4-8

- What are the instructions?
- Do they have any implication for us today?

This was not the first time Jesus referred to two baptisms — John 3:1-8

- What is our part and what is the Spirit’s part?

On the Day of Pentecost the Spirit came with power — Acts 2:1-4

- What did the Spirit give them the power to do?

Those in the crowd had two different responses — Acts 2:12-13

Peter, filled with the Spirit, becomes bold and explains the Great God Story. The people asked what they must do.

Read Peter’s response — Acts 2:38-42

- What do we do and what does God do?



APPLICATION

— 20 MINUTES

- Followers of Jesus became known as The Way because they lived in a different way. (Acts 9:2; 19:9, 23; 22:4; 24:14, 22)
- Jesus referred to Himself as “the way” – John 14:6
- Jesus said not every will choose the way — Matthew 7:13-14
- How do you think your neighbours and co-workers would identify you?
- What action steps might Jesus be inviting you to that would identify you as one walking The Way of Jesus?

Going Deeper:

Becoming identifiable as one walking The Way of Jesus—

Many events have happened in the world in the past few weeks that naturally provoke lots of fear and anger. There is a pull to “pick a side” and make your opinion known, join the clamour. This is polarizing and can threaten our unity as believers, which is exactly the strategy of the enemy. We cannot let pundits and algorithms lead us. Bitterness, rage, judgement, and fear are the desires of our sinful nature that will disrupt the work of the Spirit among us (Gal. 5:19-21). How then should we as apprentices of Jesus, followers of The Way, respond with both humility and conviction, maintaining unity even among diversity of opinions?

Read Joshua 5:13-15

Joshua was trying to identify whose “side” this man was on. The man (and angel) told him there was another option.

These words from Joshua provide direction for us from the word of God.

Before we send, share, or shout on any topic:

- Put down your sword—all those burning words—and fall to your knees.
- Pour out your heart to God, He will help you (Psalm 62:8).
- Confess all the fear, anger, bitterness, and judgment.
- Pray the words of Joshua, “I am at your command. What do you want your servant to do?”
- Invite the Holy Spirit to fill you with boldness, courage, and love to do whatever He asks you to do.

