

Spiritual Adventure, Kick-Off Sunday

THE CHURCH: WHAT IS IT and WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Central Idea: The church is unique to God's program for this present age and is the means through which He is at work in the world.

I. The Use of "Church" in the NT

A. Definition

B. Distinction: Local and Universal

II. When Did the Church Begin?

A. Jesus (Mt 16)

B. Peter (Acts 2, 11)

C. Paul (Eph 2)

III. Metaphors for the Church in the NT

A. Body

B. Building or Temple

C. Household or Family

D. Bride

E. Flock

F. Branches

Questions for Personal Reflection or Group Discussion

1. What comes to your mind when you hear the word *church*? Do you have both negative and positive thoughts?
2. Share about the local churches in which you have been involved. What was good and what was challenging?
3. Sometimes people say ... "they love Jesus but not the church." Evaluate this statement.
4. Considering Mt 16.18, what are the implications of what Jesus says here?
5. Reflect on each of the New Testament metaphors for the church. How does the church today reflect each of these?

Community Bible Church
Rev. Charles Tschetter, Lead Pastor

This outline is provided to assist you in understanding and applying today's message. *The Church: What Is It and Why Is It Important?* is the first message in a series on CBC's ministry essentials or core values called *In Focus: Magnify What Really Matters*. This message can be listened to or downloaded at cbcomaha.org. You may also stream and download CBC podcasts from itunes or google play.