

STEPINFAITH MINISTRY

BIBLE STUDY PROGRAM, INTRO:

"INTRODUCTION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP"



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StepInFaith Ministry

WOMENS' DISCIPLESHIP STUDY

Lesson 2

The Church Strengthening Your Life

A church is a group of baptized believers voluntarily joining together for instruction, fellowship, worship, and service. Jesus Christ personally established the church while He was here on the earth to unite Christians together as a spiritual family (*"And so I tell you, Peter: you are a rock, and on this rock foundation I will build my church, and not even death will ever be able to overcome it."* -Matthew 16:18 GNB). Just as you are physically born into an earthly family, Jesus said you must be spiritually born into God's family (*Jesus answered, "I am telling you the truth: no one can see the Kingdom of God without being born again."* -John 3:3 GNB). God has placed men in families for their care, protection, fellowship and development. You need the church for all the reasons you need a family and many more.

It is through the church that you are to be fed the *"milk of the Word"* (1 Peter 2:2). God said, *"And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding"* (Jeremiah 3:15). It is through the church that you are to give your tithes and offerings. God's Word says, *"Upon the first day of the week let everyone of you lay by him in store, as God has prospered him..."* (1 Corinthians 16:2).

Jesus said, *"It is more blessed to give than to receive"* (Acts 20:35). He denounced selfishness as one of the gravest of all sins. ... *And he went on to say to them all, "Watch out and guard yourselves from every kind of greed; because your true life is not made up of the things you own, no matter how rich you may be."* -Luke 12:15 GNB.

Selfishness destroys life. It kept a rich man from becoming a believer (Read Mark 10:17-22). It can keep you from becoming a strong and useful Christian. A right attitude toward your total life will mean the difference between a life of joyful victory and a life of frustrating defeat. This lesson is to help you learn about your church and your responsibilities within it. Begin now to memorize Hebrews 10:25 to remind you to be faithful in attending and supporting your church.

"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another; and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." (Hebrews 10:25)

YOU'RE DOING GREAT! BUT DON'T STOP NOW.

The Church's Origin & Purpose

1. Who established the church of the New Testament? (Matthew 16:18)
 - ❖ How did Christ obtain the church? (Acts 20:28)

2. What is Christ's relationship to the church? (Colossians 1:18)
 - ❖ What is the church's relationship to Christ?

3. What is necessary before a person can become a member of the church? (Acts 2:41, 47)

4. What are the two major purposes Christ gave the church? (Matthew 28:19-20)

5. What spiritual leaders has God given to the church? (Ephesians 4:11)
 - ❖ Why has God given them to the church? (Ephesians 4:12)

6. For what purpose are the saints perfected or spiritually equipped? (Ephesians 4:12)
 - ❖ Use a dictionary and define the word "edify"

7. What are the main responsibilities of my pastor? (Jeremiah 3:15, Acts 20:28)
 - ❖ (Acts 6:4)

 - ❖ What should be my attitude toward my pastor and other spiritual leaders? (1 Thessalonians 5:12,13)

Fellowship

8. What is said of the fellowship of the early church? (Acts 2:44-47)
 - ❖ What is God's desire for my church? (I Corinthians 1:10)
 - ❖ What is one of my responsibilities to my church? (Ephesians 4:3)
 - ❖ How can I do this? (Ephesians 4:2)
9. If any other Christian is helped or hurt, does it affect me? Why? (I Corinthians 12:26)
10. What should I do if someone tries to disrupt the fellowship of my church? (Romans 16:17,18)
11. Why were deacons added as spiritual servants of the church? (Acts 6:1-3)

Giving and Serving

12. What did Jesus say about the joy of giving? (Acts 20:35)
 - ❖ What was His estimate of a small but sacrificial gift? (Luke 21:3,4)
 - ❖ Even in poverty and affliction, how did the Macedonians give? (II Corinthians 8:2,3)
 - ❖ What is God's plan for my giving through my church?
 - ❖ Attitude? (II Corinthians 9:7)
 - ❖ Regularity? (I Corinthians 16:2)

❖ Amount? (Malachi 3:10, I Corinthians 16:2)

13. What are some other things the early Christians did as they gathered together? (Acts 2:42, 12:5, 1:27) (I Corinthians 4:17, 16:1,2) (Hebrews 2:12)

14. What must I as a true believer never neglect? (Hebrews 10:25)

❖ What was Christ's attitude toward His church? (Ephesians 5:25)

❖ What should be my attitude toward attending church? (Psalm 122:1)

15. From this study, why is it important for me to attend church faithfully and participate in its activities and fellowship?