

4. Read 1 Corinthians 9:12. Why did Paul refuse to accept money from the people he was preaching to? _____

7) The PSALMS of the assembly— assembly singing.

1. Read Colossians 3:16 and Ephesians 5:18-20. What effects does our choice of music have on our hearts? _____
2. What is the difference between psalms, hymns and spiritual songs? _____
3. What instrument is “tuned” to express thanksgiving to God? _____
4. Read 1 Corinthians 14:15. What does it mean to have both “mind” and “spirit” blended in worshipful singing to God? _____
5. James 5:13 says we should sing praise when we are glad. What examples of singing do you remember from the gospels and Acts? What circumstances did these men have to be glad? _____
6. Psalm 150 mentions that in the temple were used trumpets, lute, harp, tambourine, dance strings, pipe and cymbals. Why would any assembly not follow this example for use of instruments? _____
7. “Worship leader” or “chief musician” is a common title used in the title of many Psalms. Why might this title be missing in the lists of gifts or gifted persons mentioned in the epistles? (Ephesians 4:11; Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-10) _____

Name _____

Bible Study Guide on the Assembly Postville Teen Week 2013

1. The **PATTERN** of the assembly—first examples.
2. The **PURPOSE** of the assembly—What does the church exist for?
3. The **PURITY** of the assembly – Reception, fellowship, discipline
4. The **PEOPLE** of the assembly—Elders, men, women and young?
5. The **PRACTICES** of the assembly—The meetings of the assembly.
6. The **POSESSIONS** of the assembly—Handling money.
7. The **PSALMS** of the assembly—Assembly singing.

1) The PATTERN of the assembly

First mention and examples of the universal and the local church.

1. What is the meaning of the word “church” (greek “ecclesia”) as used in the Bible? Use a Bible or Greek dictionary to help you find the root words of ecclesia? _____
2. Why do we often use the word “assembly” or “congregation” or “gathering” instead of the word “church”? _____
3. Read Acts 15:14 Even though the verse does not contain the word “church”, why do many people use this verse as a definition of the *universal* church? _____
4. Read Matthew 18:20. Even though the verse does not contain the word “church”, why do many people use this verse as a definition of the *local* church? _____
5. Matthew 16:18, the first mention of the church in the Bible.
 - A. What “rock” does Jesus refer to? _____
 - B. When does Jesus say the church would form – past, present or future – from the time he was speaking? _____

Differences between the local and universal church—write the word “local” or “universal” in each line.

1. The _____ church meets as a total group (Heb 10:25) while the _____ church is together at the rapture (2 Thes 2:1).
2. We enter the _____ church the moment we are saved while we enter the _____ church after baptism and being received (1 Cor 12:13, Acts 2:41-42).
3. There is no distinction between male and female in the _____ church (Gal 3:28) while there are distinctions in the _____ church (1 Cor 11:1-16; 14:34; 1 Tim 2:12-15).
4. No believer can be separated from the _____ church (Romans 8:38-39) while it may be necessary to put away a believer from the _____ church (1 Corinthians 5).
5. False believers enter the _____ church (Ac 20:29) while nothing false can enter the _____ church (Mt 16:18).
6. There is unity in the _____ church (Eph 4:4) while there can be divisions in the _____ church (1 Cor 3:3).

To which church – *universal or local* – do these verses refer?

Local	Universal	
_____	_____	1 Corinthians 12:28;
_____	_____	1 Corinthians 15:9
_____	_____	Matthew 16:18
_____	_____	Ephesians 1:22-23
_____	_____	Colossians 1:18.
_____	_____	1 Thessalonians 1:1
_____	_____	1 Corinthians 4:17
_____	_____	2 Corinthians 11:8

Example of the first fellowship in Jerusalem. Acts 2:42-42

1. Read Acts 2:42-42, the first mention the church in Acts. Does this passage refer to the local or the universal church? Explain your answer. _____
2. “The fellowship” is mentioned first in the New Testament here. What kinds of things do people have in common when they

Why should I give? 2 Corinthians 8 and 9 (entire chapters)

1. Read 2 Corinthians 8:8-14. What are the various motives that the Corinthians had for giving in the name of the LORD?

2. 2 Corinthians 9:7. Where does the motivation for giving come from? _____
3. Read Matthew 6:19-21 How can you tell what is important to a person? _____
4. Answer the question in Luke 16:5 personally “How much do you owe my lord?” _____

What should I give? 2 Corinthians 8:1-9.

1. (v1-4) How did the Macedonians decide on the quantity of money they would give? _____
2. (v5) What was the first gift that the Macedonian brothers gave to the Lord? _____
3. (v7-8) What does a gift prove? _____
4. (v9) What gift will always be unmatched? _____

When should I give?

1. 1 Corinthians 16:1-2. When did the Corinthians make collections? _____
2. James 2:15. When is a good time to help a brother? _____

Missionary Preachers—Read 3 John 1:5-8.

1. What kind of work did the “strangers” do that Gaius was helping? _____
2. The missionaries accepted nothing from “Gentiles”. Who might these people be? _____
3. Who has the responsibility to support people who have been sent out to preach? _____

headship. _____

2. In Paul’s society, the head covering was used by all respectable women. Only prostitutes had uncovered heads. Our society has no such tradition. So the practice of head coverings no longer applies. _____

3. Paul concludes with “we have no such custom” indicating that even the early churches didn’t practice the head coverings so we also have the option to practice head covering or not. _____

4. Young men - Read 1 Timothy 4:12; 1 Timothy 5:2

A. What duties should a young man concentrate on? _____

B. What should the young men avoid? _____

5. Young women – Titus 2:3-5; 1 Timothy 2:9; 1 Peter 3:1-5

A. What duties should a young woman concentrate on? _____

B. What should the young women avoid? _____

6) The POSSESSIONS of the assembly—handling money

Who can give?

1. Read Proverbs 21:27. Why doesn’t the Lord want money from unconverted people? _____
2. Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-2. What kind of financial situation did the brothers of Macedonia have? _____
3. Read 1 Timothy 6:16-17. Who should feel a strong obligation to share wealth? _____

“devote themselves to fellowship”? _____

3. How many steps (or activities) are seen in the practice of the believers in these verses? _____

4. If the order of the steps were reversed or scrambled, would it change the meaning of the activities? Explain your answer. _____

2) The PURPOSE of the assembly.

What are the figures or pictures of the assembly in these verses? What kind of emphasis of purpose does each image bring to mind?

Passage	Figure	Purpose
1. 1 Corinthians 3:16-17	_____	_____
2. 1 Corinthians 3:9	_____	_____
3. 1 Corinthians 3:9	_____	_____
4. 1 Corinthians 12:27	_____	_____
5. 1 Peter 5:1-3; Acts 20:28	_____	_____
6. 2 Corinthians 11:2	_____	_____
7. Galatians 6:10	_____	_____
8. 1 Timothy 3:15 (2x)	_____	_____

Complete the sentence for each verse. “The church exists in order to...”

1. 1 Timothy 3:15 _____
2. 1 Corinthians 11:26 _____
3. 1 Thessalonians 1:8 _____
4. Hebrews 10:25 _____
5. Philippians 2:15 _____
6. Matthew 28:18-20 _____
7. 1 Thessalonians 5:14 _____
8. Are there any other verses that give a sense of mission to the church? _____

Matthew 18:20—Examine the first description of a local assembly

1. "Two or three" - How large must a church be in order to begin their meetings? _____
2. "are gathered together" - Passive voice is used. What difference would it make to say "where two or three gather together"?

3. "in my name" - Three aspects of this preposition "in" (greek eis) can be emphasized...
 - (1) Attraction—"unto" my name. What would pull away a Hebrew believer from the temple in Hebrews 13:13?

 - (2) Authority-What are some of the other activities done "in his name"? See Matthew 10:41-42; 18:5; 21:9; 28:19; Lk 24:47, Jn 3:18; 14:13, 26; 16:23; Acts 2:38; 3:6, 16; 4:7, 17; 5:28, 40; 9:21, 27, 29; 10:43, 48; 16:18; 19:5; 1 Cor 1:10, 13; 5:11; Eph 5:20, Php 2:10; Col 3:17; 2 Thes 3:6; James 5:10, 14; _____
 - (3) Abiding—What should be the reason for Christians to continue to "meet together" as Hebrews 10:25 says?

4. "there am I" - How does one know that the Lord is in the gathering? _____
5. "in the midst" - Notice other occasions when Jesus was "in the midst" in Luke 2:46; John 19:18; 20:19; Revelation 5:6. Who is the center of attention in each occasion? _____

Where does the Bible say that the church exists primarily to

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| meet your needs? _____ | honor traditions? _____ |
| support political change? _____ | make new friends? _____ |
| make money? _____ | grow larger? _____ |
| maintain the building? _____ | host events? _____ |

3) The PRACTICES of the assembly

In the book of Acts and epistles we find that the Christians "come together" or "gather together" indicating a purpose of a meeting.

What kinds of meetings do these passages show?

1. Acts 4:31 _____

shame(6), creation(7-9), angels(10), nature itself (13-15) and obedience to apostles' word (16).

- A. In what are the four "heads" mentioned? (1) _____
(2) _____ (3) _____ (4) _____
- B. Who is the spiritual head of Christ? _____ of man?
_____ of the woman? _____.
- C. Why should the man's head NOT be covered?

- D. Why should the woman's head be covered?

- E. Why might angels be concerned with a symbol of authority?

- F. How is it "natural" for women to have long hair? _____
- G. What was the common practice of the early churches?

H. Three common explanations for Paul mentioning long hair in this chapter are (1) long hair is a natural illustration of the women's use of the veil in prayer (2) the long hair IS the head covering making the use of another veil during prayer unnecessary (3) just as it is mandatory for a woman to wear a veil in prayer, she must also have uncut hair and men must have short hair. Which of these three interpretations is the strongest contextually, logically, grammatically etc? Explain

- I. There are arguments used to **not** practice women's head coverings during prayer and permit the use men's head coverings. For each of the following what problems or merit do you see with these arguments?
 1. Paul was prejudiced against women and preferred traditions of male dominance. Personal preference and different modern values allow us to make a different conclusion about

1. Are qualifications for elders based more on talent or character?

2. Based on these chapters, what jobs are elders supposed to do?

3. *Identifying elders.* Read 2 Timothy 2:2, Acts 14:23; 1 Timothy 3:10, 5:22-25, 1 Corinthians 11:19, Acts 6:5 Which of the following most closely resembles the biblical process of a church recognizing its elders? Holding elections? Family succession? Job interviews? Observation of character and work ethic followed by a public recognition of such work? _____

Deacons. Read 1 Timothy 3:8- Acts 6:1-6.

1. Where in Acts 6 is the word “deacon” used (hidden)? Use a commentary or Greek bible to find it. _____

2. What does the Greek word translated as “deacon” mean?

3. Rom 15:25; 1 Peter 4:10-11 are examples of the use of the word “deacon”. How do you know if someone is acting as a deacon / deaconess? _____

4. Can a person serve as both elder and deacon? Explain your answer _____

Women.

1. **Silence** - In 1 Corinthians 14:31-35 and 1 Timothy 2:8-15 which of the following types of talking are not permitted for women? Speak (publicly)? _____ Ask questions? _____ Public prayer? _____ Teaching? _____ Exercise authority? _____

2. **Child bearing** - In 1 Timothy 2:15, what are women “saved” from or “saved” for by bearing children? _____

3. **Head covering** - 1 Corinthians 11:1-16

Paul mentions several reasons supporting practicing the covered head of women and uncovered head of men: headship(4-5),

2. Acts 10:24 _____

3. Acts 12:12 _____

4. Acts 14:27 _____

5. Acts 15:6 _____

6. Acts 15:30 _____

7. Acts 16:13 _____

8. Acts 19:9 _____

9. Acts 20:7 _____

10. Acts 20:8 _____

11. 1 Corinthians 5:4 _____

12. 1 Corinthians 11:18, 20, 33, 34 _____

Some passages don’t specifically mention which kind of meeting is being conducted, but rather mentions something about the general practice of getting together. What lesson should we learn about attending meetings in each of these passages?

1. Matthew 18:20 25 _____

2. 1 Corinthians 14:23, 26 _____

3. 2 Thessalonians 2:1 _____

4. Hebrews 10:25 _____

The Lord’s Supper—1 Corinthians 11:17-34

1. Problems at the Lord’s supper (v17-22). What abuses did the church in Corinth practice? _____

2. Preaching at the Lord’s supper (v23-26)

• What is the primary theme regarding the meeting?

• Who are we speaking to when we “proclaim his death”?

3. Preparation before the Lord’s supper (v27-34) The Corinthians were guilty of treating the solemn supper as a party.

• Which was “unworthy”, the people or their behavior? (27)

• What did they fail to discern? (29) _____

- What was the judgment that God passed on them? (30) _____

- What good practices do you and your family do to prepare yourselves for the Lord's supper? _____

Questions to consider about "special" meetings:

1. Why don't most assemblies consider the Sunday school or evangelism outreach an official meeting of the assembly but rather an "activity of the assembly"? _____

2. Why do most assemblies discourage the practice of planning meetings exclusively for "young people" or "women's meeting" or "men's conferences"? _____

4) The PURITY of the assembly

Moral boundaries. Read 1 Corinthians 5

1. Which verse indicates that there is an "inside" and "without" regarding assembly participation? _____

2. How many sins are mentioned in this chapter that would disqualify a brother from participating in the assembly? _____

3. What do these sins have in common? _____

Doctrine boundaries. 1 Timothy 1:19-20, Jude 1:3

1. What was the sin of Hymenaeus and Alexander? _____

2. What does the phrase "delivered unto Satan" mean? _____

3. What does it mean that they will learn "not to blaspheme"? _____

4. What does an interview accomplish about doctrine for someone interested in entering the fellowship? _____

Personal conflict boundaries. Read Matthew 18:15-20.

1. Who should first attempt to resolve interpersonal problems? _____

2. What should be done with a person who is impossibly obstinate? _____

Example of believers being received.

1. Read Acts 9:26 What types of commendation did Paul use to influence the believers in Jerusalem to accept Him? _____

2. Read Romans 16:1; 2 Corinthians 3:1-2; What purpose do letters of commendation do for a believer? _____

Problems in reception

1. Read Romans 15:1-7, James 2:1-5. What distinctions should we NOT consider when receiving a believer? _____

2. How can these examples of discrimination persist in an assembly even if a person is officially and publicly received? _____

3. Read 2 Corinthians 2:5-8 What consequences result when a church refuses to recognize repentance in a believer? _____

4. Read 3 John 1:9-10 What was the basis of Diotrephes' decision to excommunicate people from the church? _____

5) The PEOPLE of the assembly

Elders, deacons, women, men and young people.

Elders. 1 Timothy 3:1-7; 5:17; Titus 1:5-11 and Acts 20:28-32.