

## The Story of the Church

**What is the Church?** *The Church is the fellowship of the saved.*

### What is the Church's origin story?

**John 3:16** For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

### Why do we know the Church is so important to God?

- He was right there when it happened. (Acts 1:1-3)
  
- He brought the perfect gift...Himself! (Acts 1:4-9)
  
- Through the Church, He reunites broken humanity. (Acts 2:1-4,38-41,42-47)

### LIFE APPLICATION STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What "birth" have you witnessed? What did it mean to you?
2. How does the birth of the Church demonstrate the wisdom and love of God?
3. Why is your spiritual re-birth so important to God? How has He been at work in your life?
4. Being ever present through the Holy Spirit is one of the greatest gifts God has given to believers. How have you experienced the Holy Spirit in your life?
5. In what ways has God used you to reconcile broken people around you to God and to other people?
6. Pray for God's joy and renewed Gospel purpose to fill you and those believers you know.

### RESOURCES FOR SPIRITUAL SKEPTICS

- ❖ [redeemer.com/skeptics\\_welcome](http://redeemer.com/skeptics_welcome)
- ❖ [gotquestions.org](http://gotquestions.org)
- ❖ [rzm.org](http://rzm.org)
- ❖ [thebibleproject.com](http://thebibleproject.com)
- ❖ [reasons.org](http://reasons.org)
- ❖ [billygraham.org](http://billygraham.org)

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# What is the Church?

The Church is the fellowship of the saved.

What is the Church's origin story?

John 3:16

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

Why do we know the Church is so important to God?

*He was right there when it happened.*

**Acts 1** <sup>1</sup> In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach <sup>2</sup> until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. <sup>3</sup> After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.

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*He brought the perfect gift...Himself!*

**Acts 1** <sup>4</sup> On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. <sup>5</sup> For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

**Acts 1** <sup>6</sup> Then they gathered around him and asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

<sup>7</sup> He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.

<sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

<sup>9</sup> After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

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**Acts 2** <sup>1</sup> When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. <sup>4</sup> All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

**Acts 2** <sup>38</sup> Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup> The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

<sup>40</sup> With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” <sup>41</sup> Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

**Acts 2** <sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup> Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup> They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. <sup>46</sup> Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

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