

Master Teacher Outline

LET THE CHURCH BEGIN

(15-20 minutes, easy set-up)

Use this outline and the Biblical Commentary to prepare to share the truths of this passage with learners. Encourage learners to take notes on their copies of the Learner Worksheet as you teach. The underlined words in the Master Teacher Outline correspond to the blanks on the worksheet.

Introduction: Begin today with a brief quiz. The lone question is: What is the Church? Choose one or more of the following answers: a) a building that I pass each day on my way to work or school, b) a place in which people meet to worship, c) an institution that provides spiritual instruction, d) the people who worship God together, or e) all of the above. Compare your answers to what the Bible reveals.

1. Members of the Church confess Jesus as Christ, the Son of God (Matthew 16:13-17).

- According to the disciples, the people identified Jesus as a great prophet to the Jews (vv. 13-14).
- When asked for his belief, Peter confessed Jesus as Christ, the Son of God (vv. 15-16).
- Jesus blessed Peter for recognizing the truth that God had revealed to him (v. 17).

Illustration: In his book *The Jesus I Never Knew* (1995), Philip Yancey said, “Sometimes I have felt like a tourist walking around a great monument, awed and overwhelmed. I circle the monument of Jesus inspecting its constituent parts—the birth stories, the teachings, the miracles, the enemies and followers—in order to reflect on and try to comprehend the man who has changed history.”

Interactive Questions: How have you struggled to know Jesus? What has God revealed to you?

2. Members of the Church proclaim the Kingdom of God (Matthew 16:18-20).

- Jesus promised His Church will never be overcome by death or the forces of evil (v. 18).
- Jesus’ followers have the authority to proclaim God’s Word on earth (vv. 19-20).
- Because The Church is God’s Plan, He has appointed His followers to proclaim the gospel to all people.

Reflective Question: On page 15 of the *Ekklesia* journal, Gene Wilkes explains Jesus’ calling for the Church: “Peter and the disciples would not create the Church on their own. Jesus commissioned them to make other disciples, and He gave them the Holy Spirit and the authority to lead those within the *Ekklesia*.” **What would happen to Christ’s Church if followers neglected to make other disciples?**

3. Members of the Church follow Jesus’ teachings revealed in the Bible and by the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:1-3).

- Jesus’ apostles recorded His actions and teachings so that we can follow them now (vv. 1-2).
- For 40 days after His resurrection, Jesus taught His apostles about the Kingdom of God (v. 3).

Illustration: State what these three things have in common: a young girl dressed in her mother’s clothing, high heels, and jewelry; a young boy using his father’s golf club to whack golf balls around the yard; a young professional who takes on the dress and mannerisms of his or her mentor. In each case, the younger person is imitating the most important person in his or her life. Believers should demonstrate their devotion to Jesus by following His teachings so that He is reflected in their lifestyle.

Conclusion: Every person who professes faith in Jesus Christ becomes a vital member of God’s Church. Philip Yancey describes the importance of our mission: “We in the Church, Jesus’ successors, are left with the task of displaying the signs of the Kingdom of God, and the watching world will judge the merits of the Kingdom by us.” **What message are you sending to the people who are watching you?**