

Topic 4: What We Believe About the church

Diving into Scripture:
Acts 2:43-47
Matthew 28:19
1 Corinthians 12:12-27

A. Read what the Apostle’s Creed Says about the church

“I believe in...the holy catholic church, the communion of saints.”

A. Discussion

1. Begin your time of discussion talking about what church is. Write down the words that come to mind when you are trying to define what church is.

2. Take a look at Acts 1:12-26 – What reference can you find about the size of the church? Search through the 2nd chapter of Acts and again, look for the number of church members can be accounted for? Continue to the 4th chapter of Acts and repeat. How many members in chapter 4? **Now fill in the blanks below....**

Shortly after Jesus’ ascension, the church had about _____ members. At Pentecost, they added _____ thousand more; and a little while later another _____ thousand. So, in a very short period of time, the church grew from _____ to several thousand. Within a few decades the church had spread from Jerusalem to Rome and by the 4th century was the official religion of the Roman Empire. Today there are over _____ Christians in the world and the church has a major presence on every continent.

3. Why do you think the church grew and spread so rapidly? According to Acts 1:16 what was responsible for this massive spread?
4. There is a difference between the two words, catholic and Catholic. Discuss...
5. The modern church has splintered off many times since the days of the Holy Roman Empire. Discuss with you partner the different denominations of the Christian faith. How many can you think of? Can you discuss known differences between Catholics and Protestants?
6. Look closely at the 1 Corinthian 12 passage from above... go back to your discussion in our first question and think more about what church is to you now. Is church a building? _____ yes _____ no
7. The term “communion of saints” refers to the whole community of faithful followers of Christ, living and dead, past, present and future. Can you think of someone who has passed away that left you with a special memory of what church is?

B. Write your ideas about “what I believe about the Church”
