

THE CHURCH.

INWARD. OUTWARD. UPWARD. BACKWARD.

Backward– The Promise of the Church (Matthew 16:18)
September 22, 2024

Do you love the Church?

**I will build My church
(Matthew 16:18)**

Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” **Matthew 16:16 NKJV**

Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. **Matthew 16:17 NKJV**

And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock **I will build My church**, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. **Matthew 16:18 NKJV**

1 Corinthians 3:9-12, Ephesians 2:19-22, 1 Peter 2:4-8

**I will build My church
(Matthew 16:18)**

The church is about Jesus

And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. **Colossians 1:18 NKJV**

to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. **Ephesians 3:21 NKJV**

The church is Jesus' promise

For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. **Matthew 5:18 NKJV**

by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. **2 Peter 1:4 NKJV**

The church is Jesus' work

having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, **Ephesians 2:20 NKJV**

in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, **Ephesians 2:21 NKJV**

in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. **Ephesians 2:22 NKJV**

The church is Jesus' church

Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. **Acts 20:28 NKJV**

And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, **Ephesians 1:22 NKJV**

The church is the gathering of Christians

“Church” = Greek *ekklesia*

Now when they had come and gathered the church together, they reported all that God had done with them, and that He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles. **Acts 14:27 NKJV**

And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, **Hebrews 10:24 NKJV**

not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. **Hebrews 10:25 NKJV**

**I will build My church
(Matthew 16:18)**

This week's [OWNit365 Whole Bible Plan](#):

September 23 – Jer 2 & Acts 20
September 24 - Jer 3-4 & Acts 20:1
September 25 - Jer 5 & Acts 22-23
September 26 - Jer 6 & Acts 24-25
September 27 - Jer 7-8 & Acts 26
September 28 - Jer 9-11 & Acts 27
September 29 - Reflection & Prayer

September 22

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In this series, we learn that Jesus cares for us, like the Good Samaritan cares for the man in need.

Memory Verse: "Jesus Cares" 1 Peter 5:7 (Adapted for Toddlers)

Heart of the Lesson: Jesus Cares About Us All the Time

Parent Connect: Gather a variety of stuffed animals, combs, blankets, etc. Pretend play with your toddler and take care of the stuffed animals like they are alive. Comb their hair, wrap them in blankets, sing them a song, etc. Explain that caring for others is one way we can share Jesus' love. Remind them of the story of the Good Samaritan and how he cared for the hurt man in the story to show him God's love.



This series will go into the different ways different people decided to listen to God and to follow His plan for them!

Memory Verse: "The angel of the Lord appeared to him and said, 'Mighty hero, the Lord is with you!'" Judges 6:12

Heart of the Lesson: Hannah | 1 Samuel 1-2

Parent Connect: Today we learned about Hannah and how God hears our prayers! Hannah had prayed to God asking for a son and God answered her prayer! Talk to your kid about praying, different ways to pray, answered prayers and unanswered prayers. Practice praying with your kid and remind them that God always hears our prayers.



The church needs to focus inward, outward, upward, and backward. In this series we'll use the popular game 'Dance Dance Revolution' to help us understand these concepts.

Memory Verse: The Lord directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives. 1 John 2:6

Heart of the Lesson: Looking Backwards at God's Promise of a Church – Matthew 6:18

Parent Connect: Today we talked about how we can look back at God's promises in the Bible and see how he answers his promises! This week, take some time to read through Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John with your kid and look for some promises that Jesus made and discuss how he fulfilled that specific promise! We can't wait to hear about what you discovered!

THE CHURCH

This month we are looking at four aspects, the “DNA” of the church. We will look inward – how we help each other grow spiritually within the church outward – sharing Jesus with the world, upward – focusing our eyes on Jesus and Heaven, and backward – going back to the promise God made for the church.

Memory Verse: “Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.” Hebrews 10:24-25

Heart of the Lesson: Backward – The Church will last forever (Matthew 16:18 – Jesus’ Promise)

Parent Connect: This week we focused on the church being God’s promise and that it will last forever. Consider making a time capsule of things that your family uses daily right now (school schedule, a piece of mail, a piece of art someone recently made, a grocery receipt). Put the capsule somewhere safe and come back to it in one year, five years or ten years. Include a note about why you made the time capsule!! These things were important when you were putting them in the capsule, and it can be neat to look at the things that stand the test of time.

THE CHURCH



The Church has a mission to build relationships with Jesus and with others. That looks like focusing on relationships IN the Church, OUT in our community, UP towards Jesus, and remembering BACK to Jesus’ promise for the Church. This series, we’re looking at how we are called to connect with our Church family, local community, and with Jesus!

Memory Verse: And because you belong to him, you too are being built together. You are being made into a house where God lives through his Spirit. (Ephesians 2:32)

Heart of the Lesson: The Church can remember and trust God’s promises! (Matthew 16:16-18, Ephesians 1:22-23, & John 14:1-3)

Parents/Caregivers:

- How do you feel when people are true to what they promise?
- Is it easy or hard for you to trust that Jesus’ promises are always true?
- Did any of the promises we learned about stand out to you today?
- Who can you share Jesus’ promises with this week?