

## The Bride of Christ

- Ephesians 5:25 - 27

### Christ's love for His Church

- Ephesians 5:25 - 27

### Christ's purpose for His Church

- Revelation 21:2

### Our response

- 1 Peter 2:9

## Discussion Questions

- 1 What definition would you give to the word "church"?
- 2 How does the Greek word for church help to explain what it is all about?
- 3 What are the three types of Christian gatherings referred to in the New Testament? What are the distinctive roles of each one?
- 4 Nicky says, "The church is one, even though it often appears divided." What can we do about the things that divide us?
- 5 Nicky also says, "... we cannot be a Christian alone." Do you agree? Why?
- 6 What exactly do you need your fellow Christians for? In what specific ways do they need you?
- 7 What does "the dwelling place of God" actually mean in practice?
- 8 How can the service of Holy Communion be entered into more fully?
- 9 In what ways do you think the church falls short of the pattern described in the New Testament? What might we do to change things for the better?



# Alpha

## A Practical Introduction to Christianity

### Session 14 What About the Church?

Introduction

The People of God

The Family of God

The Body of Christ

A Holy Temple

Discussion

## **Introduction**

Popular misconceptions

- Church = services
- Church = clergy
- Church = a particular denomination
- Church = building

## **The People of God**

- 1 Peter 2:9 – 10
- Ephesians 2:19 - 22

Baptism: Mark of Entry

- 1 Corinthians 6:11
- Romans 6:3 - 5
- Colossians 2:12
- 1 Corinthians 12:13

Universal Church:

- Ephesians 3:10
- Ephesians 3:21
- Ephesians 5:23 - 25

Local churches

- 1 Corinthians 16:1
- 1 Corinthians 16:19
- Romans 16:5
- 1 Corinthians 16:19

Celebration Services

Congregation

- Ephesians 4:12
- 1 Corinthians 12:7 – 11

## **The Family of God**

- Ephesians 2:14 - 18

Brothers and sisters to each other

- 1 John 4:19 – 21

Children of God as our Father

- John 1:12
- John 17:11

Faithfulness

- Galatians 6:10

Forgiveness

- Matthew 18:15
- Matthew 18:35
- Matthew 5:23 – 24

Fellowship

- Acts 2:42 – 47
- 1 John 1:3
- 2 Corinthians 13:14
- 1 John 1:7
- Hebrews 10:24 - 25

## **The Body of Christ**

Unity of the Spirit

- 1 Corinthians 12:1-26
- Acts 9:4
- 1 Corinthians 12:4 – 6
- 1 Corinthians 12:12 – 13

Diversity

- 1 Corinthians 12:7 – 11
- 1 Corinthians 12:28 – 30

Mutual dependence

- 1 Corinthians 12:14 – 26
- You and I may be the only message of God's love, grace, and forgiveness that many people hear and see. Are we living in ways that will lead others to believe and to "praise our Father in heaven"?

## **A Holy Temple**

- Ephesians 2:19

Apostles and prophets as the foundation

- Ephesians 2:20

Jesus as the Cornerstone

- Ephesians 2: 20

Holy Spirit as indweller

- Ephesians 2:22