

ST PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Session 12

What about the Church

Alpha

WELCOME TO ALPHA – A SERIES OF INTERACTIVE SESSIONS TO DISCUSS LIFE AND THE CHRISTIAN FAITH IN AN INFORMAL, FUN AND FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT.

After each talk, there is a time for discussion with the people in your pew, during which you can ask questions, delve into different issues and find out what others think.

This is your guide, so use it however you like. Write, scribble, note, jot, or doodle. Whatever helps.

After each discussion there will be a short time of worship and prayer during which you are invited to sing and pray along with the rest of the congregation, or if you prefer simply listen and observe.

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What is the church?

- Popular misconceptions:
 - Church = services
 - Church = buildings

1. FRIENDS (John 15:15)

- Friends with Jesus
- Friends with one another (Hebrews 10:25)
- Greek word *koinonia* = fellowship

2. FAMILY (1 John 5:1)

- God as our Father (John 1:12)
- Brothers and sisters to each other (1 John 4:19 – 5:1)
- Importance of unity
- Jesus prayed “... that they may be one.” (John 17:11)

Becoming a Christian involves:

- Something God does—He gives you the Holy Spirit
- Something you do—you repent and believe
- Something the church does—baptism

Baptism is the visible mark of being a member of the church.

Baptism signifies:

- Cleansing from sin (1 Corinthians 6:11)
- Dying and rising with Christ (Romans 6:3–5; Colossians 2:12)

3. HOME (Ephesians 2:19–22)

- Old Testament—physical temple was God's home
- New Testament—a building made up of people

(Ephesians 2:21–22)

- Jesus as the cornerstone (v.20)
- Indwelt by God's Spirit (v.21) “a holy temple”
- A place where people are loved, accepted, and welcomed home

4. JESUS (1 Corinthians 12:1–27)

- We are the body of Christ through whom the world will see Jesus. (v.27)
- Universal church (Ephesians 3:10,21; 5:23,25)
 - Unity (John 17:20–21)
 - Diversity (Ephesians 4:7–11)
 - Mutual dependence (vv.14–26)

5. LOVE (Ephesians 5:25–27, 32)

- Jesus loves the church; Jesus loves you. (v.25)
- The church should be famous for its love.

“You can do what I cannot do, I can do what you cannot do; together we can do great things.”

(MOTHER TERESA)

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RECOMMENDED READING

Questions of Life
Nicky Gumbel

We pray and give thanks for

International - Our Companion Diocese of Ho - Bishop Matthias

Mission of the Month - St Paul's VBS

Diocese - Our Bishop David and his wife Janet & Retired Bishops Harold, George, William and Claude.

Government - Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Premier Brian Gallant, Mayor Ken Chorley and the town council

Deanery – Upham: Rev. Rob Marsh & Retired Clergy: Rev. John Tremblay

Parish - Rev. David & Family & Rev. Deacon Deborah Cochran & Family

St Paul's Prayer Corner

Raymond Bates, Don Buchanan, Bobbi-Jo Corner, Loretta Derrah, Barb Glauser, Pat Keirstead, Dawn Lent, Paul Robichaud, Lloyd Ryder, Sue Scribner, Erika Wisted

September 18	9:00 am HC – BCP	10:30 am HC – BAS
Music Leader	Glenna Geer	Christian Gowan
Layreader	Debbie Cochran <i>Amos 8: 4-7 & Psalm 113</i>	Marg Petrie <i>Psalm 113</i>
Reader	<i>1 Timothy 2: 1-7</i>	Debbie O'Bryant <i>1 Timothy 2: 1-7</i>
Greeters	P & P Hanratty	Keenan Family
A/V	Kevin Scott	
Sunday School	Kate Turner /	
Nursery		
Chancel	Dawn Lent / Joyce Logan	
Counters	Paul Robichaud /	