

WEEK 1: WHO ARE BAPTISTS AND WHAT IS A CHURCH?

DAY 1: WHO ARE BAPTISTS?

1. Testament means "covenant" "agreement". The old covenant, or Old Testament, teaches us very much about God. The New Testament was written after the life, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The New Testament teaches about God's new covenant with people. There have been many different groups of Christians from the time of the New Testament. Some of those Christian groups have believed and Mowed New Testament teachings. Baptists believe and follow New Testament teachings.

Name a group of Christians that believe and follow New Testament teachings.

2. Baptists are a group of Christians that believe and follow New Testament teachings. The first church to use the name, Baptist, began in the country of Holland in 1609. The members of the church were Christian refugees from England. They taught and believed that the Bible, God's Word, has all authority over our lives. They had been forced to leave their country because the Church of England said decrees, or laws, of the king and church leaders have authority over our lives, even more than the Bible.

Who has authority over our lives

Church leaders? _____ or The Bible, God's Word? _____

In which country were New Testament Christians first called Baptists?

_____ In what year was that? _____

3. The Bible, God's Word, has authority over our lives. New Testament Christians were first called Baptists in Holland in 1609. Those Christian refugees wanted each church to govern itself, as the Bible teaches. They believed strongly in religious freedom. They believed that each believer can be led of God through His Word. They followed God's Word as the only guide for their lives.

What is the only true guide for our lives? _____

4. God's Word, the Bible, Is where we find the only true guide for our lives. Those Christian refugees baptized by immersion. We will study all about baptism by immersion in another lesson They refused to accept baptism of babies. They baptized every believer who had not been baptized by immersion as a believer. Doing this is what caused others, actually their enemies, to call them Baptists.

How did the first Baptists baptize? _____

What people did the first Baptists baptize? _____

5. The first Baptists baptized by immersion, or by putting under the water. They would baptize only believers who had not been baptized by immersion after they believed. Baptizing was not a major goal, or teaching, of these first people called Baptists. Preaching the Word of God (1) and seeing people saved by God's grace (2) were their main goals. They believed that salvation was by faith alone and that baptism was only a sign to show that salvation to others. It is of no value to baptize a person who does not first accept Jesus as Lord.

What comes first Baptism? _____ or Salvation? _____

What are the major goals, or teachings of Baptists?

(1) _____

(2) _____

6. Salvation must come first Baptism only shows others what happened when a person was saved. The major goals of Baptists are (1) preaching the Word of God and (2) swing people saved by God's grace.

Baptists have never had one person as a church leader, world wide. They have no central authority over churches. The New Testament tells us Christ is the only true head of the Church. Baptist churches are autonomous. Autonomous means self governing. Each church follows God's leading for activities and choice of local church leaders.

Who is the only true head of the Church? _____

7. Christ is the only true head of the Church.

Baptist churches work and fellowship together. When just a few in me local area work and fellowship together it is called an association of churches. This group of churches am close together. They do not have to travel far to meet together for work and fellowship.

When just a few Baptist churches work and fellowship together, what is their group called? _____
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8. A few Baptist churches in a small area working and having fellowship together are called an association of churches. All the Baptist churches in a country can work and fellowship together. When they do this it is called a union or convention.

When all the Baptist churches in a country work and fellowship together, what is their group called? _____
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9. Baptist churches from all over a country working and having fellowship together are called a union or convention. Many national Baptist unions or conventions work with unions or conventions from other nations through the Baptist World Alliance. There are Baptist churches In more than 150 countries of the world today.

What is the name of the organization of Baptists from all over the world?

In about how many nations or countries around the world do we find Baptists?

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10. The organization made up of Baptists from all over the world is the Baptist World Alliance. There are Baptists in over 150 countries of the world today. As of 1994 there were over one million Baptists in Africa. At that same time there were over 30 million Baptists in the United States alone, making them the

largest protestant church group in the United States. Baptists are found in nearly every country in Africa.

How many Baptists are in your country? _____
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11. We will talk about this in class. You may have to ask some one who keeps records for your union/convention to get this answer.
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Remember these six truths that show who Baptists are and what Baptists believe:

1. Baptists are people who believe and follow New Testament teachings. Hebrews 8:6-13 and 9: 1 -5.
2. Baptists are people who believe the Bible has authority over our lives. Matthew 28:18 and 2 Timothy 3:16.
3. Baptists are people who believe the Bible is the only true guide for our lives. 2 Timothy 3:16.
4. Baptists are people who believe salvation comes before baptism. Acts 2:38.
5. Baptists are people who believe in and practice baptism by immersion. Mark 1:9-10.
6. Baptists are people who believe that Christ is the head of the church. Colossians 1: 18.

WEEK 1: WHO ARE BAPTISTS AND WHAT IS A CHURCH?
DAY 2: WHAT IS A CHURCH?

1. The word "church" in the New Testament is never used to refer to a building or a denomination. The New Testament was first written in the Greek language. The word, *ekklesia*, is translated in English as "church" and means "called together" or "congregation". God calls his people together into a church.

A group of God's people is a _____
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2. A group of God's people is a church. The word church is used in two ways in the New Testament. The church is

1. The redeemed of all ages.
2. The local congregation of believers.

We will learn about the two ways the word, church, is used in the New Testament. Write the first way the word, church, is used.

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3. "Church" can refer to the redeemed of all ages or times. It means a spiritual body which includes all Christians. This means all Christians, from all times and all places. Some speak of this as the "Universal Church". A redeemed person is one who has been delivered from sin when he repented and asked God's forgiveness.

Who are the people in the Universal Church? _____
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4. The people in the Universal Church are the redeemed of all ages, or those who have repented of their sins through all of history. When the word, Church, is written with a capital "C" it is referring to the redeemed of all ages or times.

Who is the Church? _____
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5. The Church is the redeemed of all ages. The Church was begun by Jesus Christ. Jesus asked his disciples who he was. Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church..." Matthew 16:16-18

Who did Peter say Jesus was? _____
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6. Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." The rock on which Jesus declared he would build his Church was the rock of belief or confession such as Peter made. Peter's confession was, "You are the Christ the Son of the Living God." This confession was the rock on which Christ built his Church,

On what rock did Christ say he would build his Church? _____
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7. Jesus said he would build his Church on the confession of Peter "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God." Read in your Bible Ephesians 1:22, 4:15, and 5:23 and Colossians 1:18.

In these verses Jesus is called the _____
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8. When you read these verses you will see that Jesus is called the Head of the Church. No man can be the head of the New Testament Church. No group can be the head of the New Testament Church. Jesus Christ alone is the Head of the Church. This means Jesus is the only one who can be the true leader of the Church.

Write "yes" or "no" in front of these statements:

_____ In the Church the elders are the true leaders.

_____ In the Church Jesus is the true leader.

_____ In the Church the pastor is the true leader.
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9. The only "Yes" answer is that Jesus is the true leader of the New Testament Church. In Colossians 1:18 Paul wrote that "He (Christ) is the head of the body, the Church." The place of honour In the Church must always be given to Jesus Christ.

In Colossians 1:18 the Church is referred to as a body, and all bodies have a head.

Who Is the head of the Church? _____
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10. Jesus Christ is the head of the Church. The Church is called the spiritual body of Christ Without Christ as the head, the Church would not have life or direction. Jesus controls and gives direction to the Church through his teachings.

Baptists recognize believers who are not called Baptists as also redeemed, and have fellowship with them. There are believers who have different names and worship God the Father through Jesus Christ, the Lord, in different languages and in different ways.

Are some people who are not Baptists redeemed, or saved? _____
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11. Being a Baptist is not what makes one redeemed. Salvation, or redemption. is when a person is delivered from the wages of sin by believing in Jesus Christ and receiving eternal life. The Universal Church is made up of all the redeemed of all times and places, not just Baptists.

WEEK 1: WHO ARE BAPTISTS AND WHAT IS A CHURCH?
DAY 3: WHAT IS A CHURCH?

1. The word "church" has two meanings in the New Testament. Write the first meaning. The church is:

1. _____
 2. The local congregation of believers.
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-

2. One meaning of the word, church, in the New Testament is that the Church is the redeemed of all ages. The word, church, is used in the New Testament much more often to mean the local congregation of believers. Over 90% of the references in the New Testament use the word, church, when talking about the local congregation of believers.

Write the meaning of the word, church, that is used most in the New Testament.

3. Over 90% of the times the word, church, is used in the New Testament it refers to the local congregation of believers. Read 1 Corinthians 1:2 and 2 Corinthians 1: 1. Both of these letters were addressed to the church of God in Corinth. Corinth was a town where there was a local church. In the New Testament the local congregation of believers, or organized church, was always in a village or a town or a city. Read Galatians 1:2.

Was this letter (or book) written to one church or more than one church?

4. The book of Galatians was written to more than one church. Galatia was a district or region rather than a town or village. Every Christian needs to belong to one local body of baptized believers. Jesus wants a local church to encourage each other. Jesus wants a local church to care for each other. Jesus wants a local church to fellowship with each other.

How many local churches should a believer belong to? _____

5. Each believer should belong to one (1) local church. Jesus led the disciples to bring believers together into one local church wherever they went. These local bodies of baptized believers were taught how to worship, teach, minister to one another, and witness to their community.

The local body of baptized believers is also called a _____

6. The local body of baptized believers is a church. Read 1 Corinthians 12:7-31. Paul wrote this letter to a local body of believers, called "the church of God in Corinth."

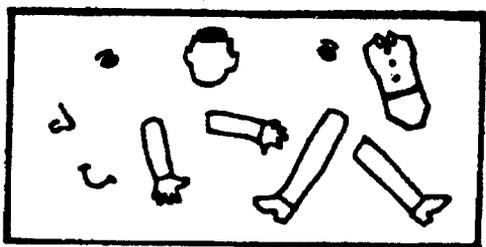
Can a man function when his body parts are not together? _____

Can a church function when its members are not together? _____

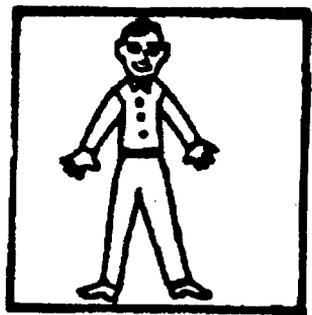
7. The answer to both of these questions is "no."

Circle the letter of the picture that shows how a church, and a body, can function, A or B.

A



B



8. Picture B shows how a church, and a body, can function. You can read in the book of Acts how Paul worked with the new believers, encouraging them to work together. Reading all of the book of Acts can be exciting. There you can learn how people were led to Jesus. You can read how believers followed what Jesus said to do to start local churches. Read what Jesus said to do. Read Matthew 28:19 & 20. Write it here.

9. Jesus spoke these words for you, too. Study them and learn to write them without looking in the Bible. Be Able to say them when we are together for class.

Jesus also told us how the church would grow and do all the things we are learning about. The church grows when believers witness to non-believers. In Acts 1:8 Jesus said, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

We are to be _____ of Jesus.

WEEK 1: WHO ARE BAPTISTS AND WHAT IS A CHURCH?

DAY 4: WHAT IS THE WORK OF THE CHURCH?

1. What command did Jesus give us in Matthew 28:19 & 20? Write it here.

2. Check your Bible to be certain you have written it correctly. In Acts 1:8 what did Jesus say we would have power to do after the Holy Spirit came?

3. Jesus said we would have power to be witnesses. The first work of the church is to witness to others. A person witnesses about what he sees or experiences. The church, as the body of local believers, tells others about God's love and the new life made possible by Jesus. Another way of saying this is that the church shares the Gospel, or good news.

In Mark 16:15 Jesus says, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation."

Where did Jesus say we are to preach the Gospel? _____

4. Jesus said to go into all the world to preach the Gospel, or good news. Because of the power of the Holy Spirit, when the Gospel is preached, people will become disciples, or followers of Jesus. The Holy Spirit speaks to people through preaching, to turn them to Jesus.

After preaching is done and people have become disciples, or believers, what

does Matthew 28:19 say the church does next? _____

5. The church, as a body of believers, is to baptize the new believers in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Read Acts 2:41.

Who were baptized and added to the church? _____

6. Those who believed were baptized and added to the church. It is the work of the church to preach the Gospel and baptize new believers.

What does Matthew 28:20 say comes after baptism? _____

7. After baptizing new believers, we are to teach them to obey everything Jesus commanded. Read Acts 2:42.

Whom did the new believers learn from? _____

8. They spent much time learning from the apostles. The apostles were the first church leaders. Paul preached and taught in many places. Read Acts 20:3-31.

What did Paul teach about? _____

9. He taught them about the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul also wanted others to learn to be teachers. Look at what he wrote to Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:2.

What did he want Timothy to do? _____

10. Paul wanted him to teach others who would be reliable enough to teach someone else. That is the plan for growing strong Christians and strong churches. Believers grow strong when they study the Bible. The churches grow strong when believers, who are the church, are strong. It is the work of the church to teach what Jesus taught. It is the work of the church to teach believers how to obey the teachings of Jesus.

After preaching to win people to Christ and baptizing them, what is the church to do? _____
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11. The command of Jesus is to preach to all nations to make disciples, baptize them, and then teach them to obey the commands of Jesus. The church is to teach new believers.

Read Ephesians 4:11-16 and 1 Thessalonians 5:11.

What other work of the church do these verses talk about?

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12. The church is to build up the body of Christ and encourage me another. We will learn more about how Baptist churches do this work in lessons to come.

WEEK 1: WHO ARE BAPTISTS AND WHAT IS A CHURCH?
DAY 5: MAKING A PROFESSION OF FAITH

1. Baptist churches do not all do everything the same. One practice that is somewhat different from Baptist church to Baptist church is making a public profession of faith. Baptist churches receive persons who make a first time profession of faith in different ways. But all Baptist churches agree that it is necessary to make a public profession of faith in Jesus Christ.

Is it necessary to make a public profession of faith in Jesus Christ? _____

2. You should have said "yes" to the question above. It is necessary to make a public profession of faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus called people to identify themselves publicly if they wanted to follow him, even if it meant persecution. In Matthew 10:32 Jesus said, "Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven." To acknowledge Jesus before men means to tell or declare publicly that you belong to Jesus.

What does it mean to acknowledge Jesus before men? _____

3. To acknowledge Jesus before men means to tell or declare publicly that you belong to Jesus. God is happy when you tell, or declare, or profess publicly that you belong to Jesus. Paul put it in different words. Look at what he wrote in Romans 10:9. Confessing, telling, or declaring with your mouth publicly that Jesus is your Lord can be called your public profession of faith in Jesus. Doing this shows to others that you are standing for Jesus and you have faith in Him. Believing in your heart is making that faith in Jesus personal, just for you.

What can declaring or telling publicly that Jesus is your Lord be called? _____

4. Declaring or telling publicly that Jesus is your Lord can be called your public profession of faith in Jesus. All through history most Baptist churches have invited new believers to publicly profess their faith in Jesus just after a message from God's Word. This is called an invitation. This is done in worship services and in special evangelistic meetings. The message may not be about salvation, but the invitation still includes the opportunity to publicly profess Jesus as Lord.

What is one thing people are invited to do during an invitation?

5. One thing people are invited to do during an invitation is to publicly profess their faith in Jesus. During the invitation people are invited to come in front of the church and talk to the church leader who is standing there. They can tell the church leader that they are now Christians because they have received Jesus Christ as personal Saviour and Lord. Then, either at the end of the invitation period or at a later meeting of the church, the church leader tells the congregation and introduces the new Christian. Often that person is asked to give a testimony about how and when he/she received Christ.

Name one thing a person is sometimes asked to do after going to the front of the church during an invitation. _____

6. A person who goes to the front of the church to make a public profession of faith during an invitation is often asked to give a testimony about how and when he/she received Christ.

The act of publicly professing one's faith in front of the church is not the way of becoming a Christian. Walking to the front during the invitation and shaking hands with the church leader can not save you.

Does making a public profession of faith save you? _____

7. Making a public profession of faith does not save you. It is belief in Jesus Christ that saves. Jesus explained to Nicodemus about salvation in John 3. Verse 16 says, "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." Paul told the Philippian jailor in Acts 16:31, "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved."

In the verses above, what does the Bible say a person must do to be saved?

8. The Bible says that a person must believe in the Lord Jesus Christ to be saved. It is the believing and inviting Jesus to come into your life as Lord that saves you. The public profession of faith in Jesus is an opportunity to tell about a new life in Jesus. It is the first step taken towards becoming a member of a Baptist church. It is also a big step in learning to walk with Jesus.

What is the first step you must take in order to become a member of a local Baptist church?
