

2024 NORTHEAST SUMMER SCHOOL OF TRUTH
THE CHURCH—THE VISION AND BUILDING UP OF THE CHURCH
HIGH SCHOOL SESSION

Focus Statements

Scripture Reading: Gen. 1:26; Matt. 16:18; Eph. 5:32; Rev. 1:10-11, 20.

Session One—The Vision Concerning the Church and God’s Purpose for the Church

The burden in this series of lessons is for the young people to see a vision of the church and then give themselves to the practical building up of the church. In this opening lesson, we want to help them begin the process of seeing the church in God’s economy and gaining an appreciation of the church for the fulfillment of God’s eternal purpose.

Reading Assignment:

The Church - The Vision and Building Up of the Church, chapters 1-2.

Session Two—The Status of the Church (1)—The Assembly, the House of God, the Kingdom of God, and the Body of Christ

In their appreciation of the vision of the church, the young people need to be impressed with the various statuses of the church: as the assembly for their meeting life; the house of God for the family life of the church, for the dwelling place of God in our spirit; the kingdom of God with its rights and responsibilities; and as the Body of Christ with the Head and all the members. By seeing and appreciating these statuses, the young people can be brought into the experience and enjoyment of the church life in these various aspects.

Reading Assignment:

The Church - The Vision and Building Up of the Church, chapters 3-4.

Session Three—The Status of the Church (2)—God’s Masterpiece, the New Man, the Counterpart of Christ, and the Golden Lampstands

In their appreciation of the vision of the church, the young people need to be impressed with the various statuses of the church: as God’s masterpiece in His working on them; the new man for their taking Christ as their person and dropping all their differences; as the counterpart of Christ for their loving the Lord supremely and preparing themselves to meet Him; and as the golden lampstands to shine in this dark age as the testimony of Jesus. By seeing and appreciating these statuses, the young people can be brought into the experience and enjoyment of the church life in these various aspects.

Reading Assignment:

The Church - The Vision and Building Up of the Church, chapters 5-6.

Session Four—The Two Aspects of the Church—Universal and Local

The young people need to be equipped with this crucial truth of the two aspects of the church. This should become a controlling vision to them for their practice of the church life. The universal aspect is heavenly and intangible and is the goal of God’s eternal economy. The local church is the church life on the earth in a locality, is practical, and is the procedure to reach the goal of God’s eternal purpose.

Reading Assignment:

The Church - The Vision and Building Up of the Church, chapter 7.

Session Five—The Ground of the Church

This lesson is for the young people to see this crucial truth of the ground of the church and to understand why we meet the way we do, why we take this stand, and why we call ourselves “the church” in a city. This lesson will also equip them with this most important truth for them to stand against any opposition or questions concerning our stand. We must show them that the divinely-inspired word of God is so consistent when it comes to this matter of the church ground and we have no choice but to meet on this ground for the Lord’s testimony.

Reading Assignment:

The Church - The Vision and Building Up of the Church, chapter 7.

Session Six—The Original Condition of the Church, the Failures in the Churches, and the Degradation and Recovery of the Church

As we come to the heart of this series of lessons we want the young people to see the original condition of the church at its beginning and the subsequent failures and degradation that came in. The purpose of this lesson is to impress the young people with the Lord’s need for a recovery of the truth and of the proper church life where He can fulfill His eternal purpose and economy. We hope and pray that this lesson will give them a vision of the Lord’s recovery so that they would give themselves to it for their whole life.

Reading Assignment:

The Church - The Vision and Building Up of the Church, chapter 10.

Session Seven—The Seven Churches in Revelation Signifying the Seven Stages of the Church

This burden of this lesson is a continuation of the previous lesson with its burden for a vision of the Lord’s recovery. Through the letters to the seven churches in Revelation chapters 2 and 3 we see the degradation and recovery of the church life through the eyes of church history. This lesson should impress the young people with the authenticity of the Bible as the word of God and how the two thousand years of church history are described in detail through these seven churches. This lesson should also impress the young people with the way to overcome the degradation of the church and what the Lord needs at the end of this age.

Reading Assignment:

The Church - The Vision and Building Up of the Church, chapter 11.

Session Eight—The Building up of the Body of Christ in Oneness and the Increase and the Spread of the Church

In this lesson, we need to impress the young people that for the building up of the church we must remain in the oneness of the Body of Christ. The building takes place in oneness and must be the characteristic of our practical church life. The oneness of the church is a real test to us. We also need to enter into this up-to-date burden for the increase of the church through our gospel preaching and the spreading of the church through migration by seeing how this took place in the early church.

Reading Assignment:

The Church - The Vision and Building Up of the Church, chapters 15-16.

Session Nine—The Meetings of the Church for the Building up of the Church and the Prayer Ministry of the Church

In most places, the young people have difficulty enjoying and participating in the meetings of the church. The burden of this lesson is to inspire the young people for their appreciation

and participation in the meetings of the church. The meetings of the church are most crucial for the building up of the church. We also want to impress the young people with the prayer ministry of the church and to help them enter into a prayer life both personally and corporately in the church and with their companions.

Reading Assignment:

The Church - The Vision and Building Up of the Church, chapters 17-18.

Session Ten—The Holy, Royal, and Gospel Priesthood for the Building up of the Church

This lesson is to help the young people enter into the experiential and practical working out of the universal priesthood of bringing man to God (Holy) and God to men (Royal). The result of this priesthood is the New Testament priesthood of the gospel. This lesson stresses the practical working out of the God-ordained way to carry out our New Testament priesthood of the gospel.

Reading Assignment:

The Church - The Vision and Building Up of the Church, chapter 19.

Session Eleven—Our Entrance into the Church and Our Attitude in the Church Life

In this lesson, we need to impress the young people with their need to enter into the practical church life in their locality. In order for all these lessons to be worked out on the earth, we need to give ourselves to the church in a practical and experiential way. This means we need to enter into the church life practically. We also have to maintain a proper and balanced attitude toward the church to remain in the church life for the long run.

Reading Assignment:

The Church - The Vision and Building Up of the Church, chapters 20-21.

Lesson Twelve—Our Need to Serve for the Building Up of the Church

In this lesson, we want to impress the young people that they can actually participate in the building up of the church in a practical way. They can participate by learning to function in the meetings, by entering the church service through the children's work, and by entering the church life through the homes.

Reading Assignment:

The Church - The Vision and Building Up of the Church, chapter 23.

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THE CHURCH—THE VISION AND BUILDING UP OF THE CHURCH
MIDDLE SCHOOL SESSION
Focus Statements

Scripture Reading: Gen. 1:26; Matt. 16:18; Eph. 5:32; Rev. 1:10-11, 20.

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This lesson is to help the young people enter into the experiential and practical working out of the universal priesthood of bringing man to God (Holy) and God to men (Royal). The result of this priesthood is the New Testament priesthood of the gospel. This lesson stresses the practical working out of the God-ordained way to carry out our New Testament priesthood of the gospel.

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The Church - The Vision and Building Up of the Church, chapter 19.

Session Seven—Our Entrance into the Church and the Meetings of the Church

In this lesson, we need to impress the young people with their need to enter into the practical church life in their locality. In order for all these lessons to be worked out on the earth, we need to give ourselves to the church in a practical and experiential way. This means we need to enter into the church life practically through the meetings of the church. We want to inspire the young people to appreciate and participate in the meetings of the church. The meetings of the church are most crucial for the building up of the church.

Reading Assignment:

The Church - The Vision and Building Up of the Church, chapters 20, 17.

Session Eight—Our Need to Serve for the Building Up of the Church

In this lesson, we want to impress the young people that they can actually participate in the building up of the church in a practical way. They can participate by learning to function in the meetings, by entering the church service through the children's work, and by entering the church life through the homes.

Reading Assignment:

The Church - The Vision and Building Up of the Church, chapter 23.