

The History of the Church

Student Workbook

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The Didache Series

Contents

Introduction to the Students	vii
Background to Church History: The Roman World	1
Chapter 1: Jesus Christ and the Founding of the Church	15
Chapter 2: The Early Christians	31
Chapter 3: Persecution of "The Way"	51
Chapter 4: The Church Fathers and Heresies	69
Chapter 5: Light in the Dark Ages	95
Chapter 6: The Conversion of the Barbarian Tribes	115
Chapter 7: Iconoclasm, the Carolingian Renaissance, and the Great Schism	137
Chapter 8: Collapse, Corruption, and Reform in Europe and the Church	159
Chapter 9: The Crusades, Military Orders, and the Inquisition	179
Chapter 10: The High Middle Ages: Scholastic Development and the Flowering of Culture	195
Chapter 11: A Century of Suffering: Plague, War, and Schism	211
Chapter 12: The Renaissance	225
Chapter 13: The Reformation: Protestant and Catholic	247
Chapter 14: Wars of Religion	277
Chapter 15: Exploration and Missionary Movements	291
Chapter 16: The Church and the Age of Enlightenment	307
Chapter 17: The French Revolution and Napoleon	327
Chapter 18: The Nineteenth Century: The Age of Revolution and the Emergence of Nationalism	345
Chapter 19: The Church Gives Witness in Wars and Revolutions	371
Chapter 20: Vatican II and the Church in the Modern World	387
Chapter 21: The Church in the United States	401
Catholic Prayers and Devotions	415

Name _____

Date _____

Hour _____

Chapter 1: Jesus Christ and the Founding of the Church

1. What was the initial effect of the Resurrection of Jesus on his disciples?

2. Christ is the _____ of the Church, and St. Peter is _____ upon which the Church is built.

3. Christianity began to spread rapidly due to the ardent teaching of the disciples. What else in society aided the fearless teaching and preaching of Jesus' followers?

PART I: THE LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST

(The text begins this section by telling us that Jesus was born about 4 BC. That means that Jesus was born four years Before Christ! This can be confusing, since it would seem that Jesus should have been born in the year zero. It is due to adjustments that had to be made to the calendar throughout the centuries that most scholars set the year of Jesus' birth around 4 BC.)

4. What details of Jesus' childhood are preserved in the Gospels?

5. What do we traditionally believe about the life of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph in the home at Nazareth?

6. How does Jesus begin his public ministry?

7. _____ and _____ constitute the Deposit of Faith.

8. What is the most concise and direct collection of Jesus' teachings, and where in the Bible is it found?

9. What was significant about Jesus teaching his followers to love their enemies?

10. What is the significance of Jesus teaching his disciples to serve God and one another "in spirit and in truth"?

11. How did Jesus ultimately model the desired behavior and show his disciples how he wanted them to act?

THE FOUR GOSPELS

12. The word "Gospel" comes from the Old English word *godspel* meaning "good story." The Greco-Latin word is *evangelium* which means _____.
13. The Gospels of Sts. Matthew, Mark, and Luke are known as the _____ Gospels.
14. Of the Gospel writers, only Sts. _____ and _____ were Apostles.
15. The Gospel of St. _____ is thought to have been the first Gospel written and the Gospel of St. _____ was the last.
16. St. Mark probably got most of his material about Jesus' life from _____, and St. Luke's main source for his Gospel was most likely _____.
17. Next to each name, write the symbol that accompanies the Gospel writer.
- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| a. St. Matthew _____ | c. St. Luke _____ |
| b. St. Mark _____ | d. St. John _____ |

(These symbols are found in the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel 1: 10 and Revelation 4: 7. They were applied to the Gospel writers by St. Irenaeus of Lyon in the second century. Look carefully at the pictures on pp. 29 and 33 of the text and see if you can find the "four living creatures" spoken of in Ezekiel and Revelation.)

18. Why do we believe that the Gospels of Sts. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John have authority? Why should we believe that we should model our behavior on what these books teach?

PART II: PENTECOST: THE BIRTH OF THE CHURCH

19. The Jewish feast of Pentecost celebrates God giving the Law to Moses after the Israelites had celebrated the first Passover and had escaped from Egypt through the Red Sea to arrive at Mt. Sinai fifty days later.

In the Catholic Tradition, _____ days after Jesus rose from the dead, he _____ days later (for a total of _____ days) the Father and the Son sent _____ upon the Apostles and our Blessed Mother.

20. What were some of the ways that the Holy Spirit showed his power on Pentecost?

PART III: THE CHURCH

21. What are the two meanings for our word "church" as they have been derived from their Latin and Greek roots?

22. What is the purpose of the teaching authority and sanctifying power of the Church?

23. Give some examples of the visible dimensions of the Church.

24. Give some examples of the spiritual dimensions of the Church.

25. Explain how the Church reflects a divine reality.

26. Explain how the Church reflects a human reality.

THE CHURCH IS ONE

27. If you were to get out a copy of the yellow pages in the telephone directory and look up “churches,” how would this prove the unity of the Catholic Church (i.e., that the Church is One)?

THE CHURCH IS HOLY

28. When we say the Church is Holy, we are not referring to her human members. What do we mean when we profess that the Church is Holy?

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29. Why is it wrong to use the shortcomings of an individual as an excuse for our own bad behavior or a reason to ignore the advice or authority of another? Why does this not work with the Catholic Church?

THE CHURCH IS CATHOLIC

30. When the Christian world fragmented into pieces due to the Protestant Reformation of the sixteenth century, the word Catholic came to mean "one who is a Christian in union with the pope." What is the original meaning of the word "catholic"?

THE CHURCH IS APOSTOLIC

31. When you receive Holy Communion at Mass, you know you are receiving the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ. When your sins are absolved in the Sacrament of Penance, you know you leave the Sacrament with your soul clean and reconciled to God. How does the apostolicity of the Church guarantee this for you?

PART IV: THE APOSTLES

32. The word "apostle" means _____.
33. Who are the three men who enjoyed the title of Apostle although they were not part of the original Twelve that Jesus selected?
- a.
 - b.
 - c.

THE CALL OF THE TWELVE

34. How did the Apostles become apostles?

35. Why is it worth noting that St. Peter is always listed as the first Apostle?

36. Why does Jesus select *twelve* Apostles? What is significant about this number (cf. Revelation 21: 9-21)?

THE APOSTOLIC TRADITION AND THE OFFICE OF BISHOP

37. Why have the Apostles been held in such high esteem over the centuries?

38. All of the Apostles eventually died. How did they pass on the authority they received from Jesus himself for the continued service of the Church?

ST. STEPHEN: THE FIRST MARTYR FOR CHRIST

39. What office did St. Stephen hold in the early Church, and what is the function of this office?

40. What, according to the Acts of the Apostles, was to be the primary job of the bishop?

41. What did the martyrdom of St. Stephen and the death of Jesus have in common?

THE SANHEDRIN

42. How many men served on the Sanhedrin, and why was there this number of members (cf. Numbers 11: 16-30)?

ST. PAUL

43. _____ was St. Paul's Jewish name.

44. Who was St. Paul's influential teacher in the Jewish Law?