

The History of the Church

Student Workbook

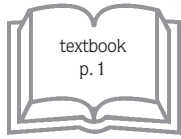
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Chapter 1

THE FOUNDING OF THE CHURCH AND THE EARLY CHRISTIANS

1. What was the initial effect of the Resurrection of Jesus on his disciples?
2. What details of Jesus' childhood are preserved in the Gospels?
3. What do we traditionally believe about the life of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph in the home at Nazareth?
4. How did Jesus begin his public ministry?
5. _____ and _____ constitute the Deposit of Faith.

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6. What is the most concise and direct collection of Jesus' teaching, and where in the Bible is it found?
7. What was significant about Jesus teaching his followers to love their enemies?
8. What is the significance of Jesus teaching his disciples to serve God and one another "in spirit and in truth"?
9. How did Jesus ultimately model the desired behavior and show his disciples how he wanted them to act?
10. The word "Gospel" means _____.
11. The Gospels of Sts. Matthew, Mark, and Luke are known as the _____ Gospels.
12. Of the Gospel writers, only Sts. _____ and _____ were Apostles.

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13. The Gospel of St. _____ is thought to have been the first Gospel written and the Gospel of St. _____ was the last.

14. St. Mark probably got most of his material about Jesus' life from _____, and St. Luke's main source for his Gospel was most likely _____.

15. 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. 3 and 7 of the text and see if you can find the "four living creatures" spoken of in Ezekiel and Revelation.)

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

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

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

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

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

21. Explain how the Church reflects a divine reality.

22. Explain how the Church reflects a human reality.

23. 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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24. 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”?
25. 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?
26. The word “apostle” means _____.
27. 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.
28. How did the Apostles become apostles?

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29. Why is it worth noting that St. Peter is always listed as the first Apostle?
30. Why did Jesus select *twelve* Apostles? What is significant about this number (cf. Rev 21:9–21)?
31. 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?
32. _____ was St. Paul's Jewish name.
33. Who was St. Paul's influential teacher in the Jewish Law?
34. Why was St. Paul so ferociously persecuting the early Church?

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35. What does Jesus' reference to himself demonstrate in the question, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"
36. What was the attitude of the early Christians about their association with the Jewish faith?
37. What was the particular Jewish law that proved to be a major obstacle for those early Jewish-Christians?
38. How did the Holy Spirit "force the issue" so as to convince St. Peter and other Jewish Christians that the Gentiles must be accepted as Christians? (See Acts 11:47–48)
39. What advantages did St. Paul have over the other Apostles?

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40. When were most of St. Paul's letters probably written?

41. As St. Paul worked to explain the Gospel to his listeners, which four main themes emerged as key to his teaching?

a.

b.

c.

d.

42. While the New Testament contains thirteen of St. Paul's letters, which three are considered to be the central texts that best reveal his theological thought?

a.

b.

c.

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