BALLARAT & CENTRAL HIGHLANDS
CHURCH OF CHRIST

FIRST PRINCIPLES | STUDY 10 OF 11

The Church

A self-guided Bible study. Read the passages for yourself, then write down your own answers, questions and conclusions.

This week

Day 1: The first church

Day 2: One body, many parts

Day 3: Unity and maturity

Day 4: Why meet together?

Day 5: Daily encouragement

Day 6: What should identify Jesus' followers?

Day 7: Where do I fit?

DAY 1

The first church

Read

- Acts 2:40-47 - Read NIV on YouVersion

Think about it

1. What are these Christians devoted to?

2. What do they do together?

3. How do they treat one another?

4. What role does God have in what happens?

For yourself

What would a community like this feel like to belong to?

Which part of this community's life would I find most challenging to take part in? What might help me begin?

DAY 2

One body, many parts

Read

- 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 - Read NIV on YouVersion

Think about it

1. Why does Paul use the human body as a picture?
2. What happens if one part thinks it isn't important?
3. What happens if one part thinks it doesn't need the others?
4. What responsibility do members have towards one another?

For yourself

Do I tend to feel I have nothing to offer, or that I do not need others? How could I respond to that honestly?

DAY 3

Unity and maturity

Read

- Ephesians 4:1-16 - Read NIV on YouVersion

Think about it

1. What qualities protect unity?
2. What things does Paul say Christians share?
3. Why are different gifts given?
4. What does spiritual maturity look like?

For yourself

Which quality in this passage do I most need to practise in my relationships? What could I do this week?

DAY 4

Why meet together?

Read

- Hebrews 10:22-25 - Read NIV on YouVersion

Think about it

1. What are Christians encouraged to do?

2. Why should they consider one another?

3. What purpose do meetings have?

4. Why might encouragement become more important over time?

For yourself

How could I make room to meet with other Christians and encourage someone when we gather?

DAY 5

Daily encouragement

Read

- Hebrews 3:12-14 - Read NIV on YouVersion

Think about it

1. What danger is described?

2. How can sin affect someone?

3. What role can other Christians play?

4. Why does the writer say 'daily'?

For yourself

Who could I encourage this week, and who could I invite to encourage me? What would help those conversations be honest?

DAY 6

What should identify Jesus' followers?

Read

- John 13:34-35 - Read NIV on YouVersion

- John 17:20-26 - Read NIV on YouVersion

Think about it

1. What does Jesus command?

2. How should His followers' love be measured?

3. What does Jesus pray for?

4. What might Christian unity communicate to outsiders?

For yourself

How could I show Jesus' kind of love in one of my relationships this week?

DAY 7

Where do I fit?

Read

- Romans 12:4-8 - Read NIV on YouVersion

- 2 Corinthians 8:7 - Read NIV on YouVersion

Look back

1. According to these passages, is church mainly a building, an event, an organisation, or a community of people?

2. What responsibilities do Christians have towards one another?

For yourself

If you were part of such a community, what could you contribute?