

1. God continues His care
2. There is no fear ahead—in any situation"

*"It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming."*

*Ephesians 4:11-14*

1. God's people are to be equipped to serve
2. God provides for His people to be equipped
3. The aim is not simply unity but a close relationship with God.
4. The result will include personal strength—even in hard situations
5. Have you found yourself needing strength in difficult places?

# DISCOVERING THE BIBLE

## LESSON 11

## THE CHURCH

*"But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body"*

*Philippians 3:20,21*

1. Our citizenship is in heaven
2. We are transformed
3. He brings everything under his control
4. Does this suggest a need for obedience to God?

*"Now you are the body of Christ, and each of you is part of it."*

*1 Corinthians 12:27*

1. Christians are the body of Christ
2. We are all a part of Christ's body
3. Does the body picture suggest that you are special to God?

*"I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters," says the Lord Almighty"*

*2 Corinthians 6:18*

1. God, the King of heaven has a Fatherly attitude to us
2. We are to be His sons and daughters
3. This means we are to be princes and princesses in God's kingdom. How do you feel about that?

*"The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. Now the body is not made up of one part but of many ... God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honour to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honoured, every part rejoices with it."*

*1 Corinthians 12:12,24-26*

1. God's body has been made to be united
2. The body works together
3. How could you become a part of the body of Christ?

*"For we were all baptised by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink."*

*1 Corinthians 12:13*

1. Being baptised is a work of God's Holy Spirit
2. All kinds of people are part of God's body
3. Does this mean that we are designed to work together?

*"They devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as they had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their*

*homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved"*

*Acts 2:42-47*

1. This is a picture of how the early church behaved
2. It is an ideal picture
3. The apostles teaching was central to the life of the body
4. The community grew when a combination of factors was present
5. Do you think that something special was happening to these people?

*"Having brought the apostles, they made them appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. 'We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name', he said, ' Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man's blood.' Peter and the other apostles replied, 'We must obey God rather than men!'"*

*Acts 5:27-29*

1. The early church faced opposition
2. The apostles were teachers
3. God's word was to be obeyed—even if it meant facing courts of law
4. Would God care for people who obeyed Him? Would He care for you?

*"God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you. So we say with confidence, 'the Lord will be my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?'"*

*Hebrews 13:5*