# CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Chapter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>i</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vii</td>
<td>Contents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Background to Church History: The Roman World</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Chapter 1: Jesus Christ and the Founding of the Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>Chapter 2: The Early Christians</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66</td>
<td>Chapter 3: Persecution of &quot;The Way&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88</td>
<td>Chapter 4: The Church Fathers and Heresies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>118</td>
<td>Chapter 5: Light in the Dark Ages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>141</td>
<td>Chapter 6: The Conversion of the Barbarian Tribes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>166</td>
<td>Chapter 7: Iconoclasm, the Carolingian Renaissance, and the Great Schism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>190</td>
<td>Chapter 8: Collapse, Corruption, and Reform in Europe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>213</td>
<td>Chapter 9: The Crusades, Military Orders, and the Inquisition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>234</td>
<td>Chapter 10: The High Middle Ages: Scholastic Development and the Flowering of Culture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>258</td>
<td>Chapter 11: A Century of Suffering: Plague, War, and Schism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>278</td>
<td>Chapter 12: The Renaissance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>303</td>
<td>Chapter 13: The Reformation: Protestant and Catholic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>335</td>
<td>Chapter 14: Wars of Religion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>359</td>
<td>Chapter 15: Exploration and Missionary Movements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>383</td>
<td>Chapter 16: The Church and the Age of Enlightenment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>407</td>
<td>Chapter 17: The French Revolution and Napoleon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>430</td>
<td>Chapter 18: The Nineteenth Century: The Age of Revolution and the Emergence of Nationalism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>463</td>
<td>Chapter 19: The Church Gives Witness in Wars and Revolutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>487</td>
<td>Chapter 20: Vatican II and the Church in the Modern World</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>508</td>
<td>Chapter 21: The Church in the United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>529</td>
<td>Chapter Tests &amp; Answer Keys</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chapter 1

Jesus Christ and the Founding of the Church

Chapter Overview

The life, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus Christ form the pinnacle of salvation history. The founding of Christ’s Church and the work of the Apostles are the foundation for the spread of the Gospel message to the entire world.

This chapter discusses Christ’s life, the birth of the Church on Pentecost, and the missionary activity of the Apostles. Events in early Church history bear witness to the Holy Spirit’s guidance of the Church. The birth and early years of the Church exhibit in a particular way the tremendous graces that God bestows on those called to care for Christ’s Church.

Nearly two thousand years after the founding of the Church, it is possible to misunderstand her mission. Unlike many forms of religion, the Church does not exist solely to satisfy the human desire to worship a creator. Rather, the Church exists so that the whole world may answer Christ’s call to holiness.

The Magisterium of the Church ensures that the Deposit of Faith will be kept free from error in matters of faith and morals. The pope and the bishops in union with him are the direct successors of St. Peter and the first Apostles. The Church is protected from error in Faith and morals by the Holy Spirit, who has guided the Church through even the most difficult of times. In order to understand Christianity, it is imperative to examine Christ’s life and the lives of the Apostles who spread his Gospel in the face of great adversity. The persecution of the Apostles and the martyrdom of all, except Christ is the Spouse and Savior of the Church.... The more we come to know and love the Church, the nearer we shall be to Christ.
St. John, should remind us that being a Christian is not always easy. Still, the prevalence of Christianity in our world should fill us with great hope and reassurance that the Holy Spirit watches over the Church and that the Christian struggle will never fail. Like the Apostles, we are called to continue spreading the message of the Gospel with the confidence that our efforts will play a role in the history of Christ’s imperishable Church.

**Chapter Goals**

Students will be able to:

- Identify that Church history is the result of both the loving guidance of the Holy Spirit and the free choices of individuals in history;
- Understand that, beyond the remarkable accounts of the Gospels, Christ spent the majority of his life as a simple carpenter;
- Discuss the importance of Pentecost, the descent of the Holy Spirit on Mary the Mother of God, St. Peter the first pope, and the Apostles;
- Explain what it means for the Church to be one, holy, catholic, and apostolic;
- Understand that the Apostles were the first bishops and that St. Peter was the first pope; and
- Understand the obstacles the Apostles faced in their call to evangelize.

**Help from the Catechism**

748–750, 761–762, 763–768, 771–776, 889–891, 2051

**Key Ideas**

1. **Christ is the Messiah.** To understand the true nature of Christianity, it is important to consider Christ as the fulfillment of God’s Old Covenant with the Jewish people. Christ’s teachings represent the completion and perfection of the Old Law of the Old Testament. Although Christ is the means of salvation for all peoples, his divinity must be understood in the context of fulfilling Old Testament prophecies. In this way, the birth of the Church has its foundation in the Jewish faith and tradition.

2. **Christ founded the Church.** The Church traces its roots directly to Christ. No other institution can claim to be founded by God in the person of Jesus Christ. Christ’s teachings comprise the crux of the Church’s doctrine, while his Death and Resurrection are the source of all salvation. Therefore, Church teaching is wholly founded on Jesus Christ, and salvation is possible only through Christ: God became man to save the world from sin.

3. **The Holy Spirit guides the Church.** Shortly after his Resurrection, Christ ascended into heaven and sent the Holy Spirit to watch over the Church. The spectacular occurrences of Pentecost mark the beginning of the Holy Spirit’s guardianship over the Church. Since that moment, the Holy Spirit has been the infallible guide to the Church, even through the most treacherous times in her history.

4. **The Eucharist is an essential component of the Faith.** As it can be seen in the second chapter of Acts, the Eucharist was the central means of practicing the
Christian Faith from its beginning. As Christ established his Church, his Body and Blood in the Eucharist immediately became the spiritual nourishment of the newly baptized Christians.

5. The Magisterium derives its authority from the Apostles. The Apostles were commissioned by Christ himself to teach the Gospel message. As a body under St. Peter, the first pope, they received authority to protect the Deposit of Faith. That authority has been handed on through the Sacrament of Holy Orders. The pope and bishops in union with him share in the same authority that Christ gave to his Apostles. The deference that the Apostles showed towards St. Peter at the Council of Jerusalem (AD 49/50) is evidence of his primacy from the very beginning of the Church. The Magisterium has taught, and always will teach, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, without error.
Chapter 1 Lesson Plan

Reading & Homework Assignments

Lesson 1
- Vocabulary
- Assign reading: Chapter 1 Intro and Part I
- Assign supplementary reading from Josephus
- Assign study questions 1–9
- Assign practical exercise 1

Lesson 2
- Discuss reading and review study questions 1–9 and practical exercise 1
- Assign reading: Part II
- Assign supplementary reading from John Paul II
- Assign study question 10
- Assign practical exercise 2

Lesson 3
- Discuss reading and review study question 10 and practical exercise 2
- Assign reading: Part III
- Assign study questions 11–12
- Assign practical exercise 3
- Ask students to write two paragraphs to turn in at lesson 4: What are the four marks of the Catholic Church? What is the meaning of each mark?

Lesson 4
- Collect short essays and discuss essay questions
- Discuss reading and review study questions 11–12
- Assign reading: Part IV: beginning through “The Conversion of Paul”
- Assign supplementary reading from The Navarre Bible
- Assign study questions 13–22
- Assign practical exercise 4

Lesson 5
- Discuss reading and review study questions 13–22 and practical exercise 4
- Assign reading: Part IV: “An Interlude—the Conversion of Cornelius and the Commencement of the Mission to the Gentiles” to the end of Chapter 1
- Assign study questions 23–31

Lesson 6
- Discuss reading and review study questions 23–31
- Ask students to prepare for Chapter 1 test
- Review chapter goals
- Discuss chapter’s main principles
- Review all study questions in group study

Lesson 7
- Chapter 1 test

Chapter 1 Study Guide begins on page 56 of textbook

Notes

---
Jesus Christ and the Founding of the Church

This chapter deals with a number of key issues that will resurface throughout the entirety of the text. The guidance of the Holy Spirit, the primacy of Peter, the authority of the Apostles, and, of course, the life and teachings of Jesus all are basic themes crucial to understanding the history of the Church.

Perhaps, one of the most difficult concepts to grasp is the concept of the Church as both visible and invisible. While the specific distinctions of this concept are discussed in detail later in this chapter, it is imperative that the students understand that, from her very beginning, the Church has been quite unique in her composition. The Church is both human and divine and she represents the already triumphant Kingdom of Heaven here on earth.

Notes

---
Part I: The Life of Jesus Christ

When Christ entered the world in his humanity, he was under the protection of Mary and Joseph. He was born and raised in adherence to the Jewish Law. Mary and Joseph are continually saying yes to God’s plan. Mary’s immortal words, “behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word” (Lk 1: 38), constitutes the most perfect human response to God’s will. The heroic and simple obedience of Mary and Joseph remind us that God’s plan is carried out through individuals and our adherence to his will is really a participation in Christ’s salvific mission.

The actions of Joseph and Mary demonstrate how difficult God’s call can be at times. Joseph was forced to move his family to a foreign land in the middle of the night to avoid an angry and dangerous king. In a similar way, the slaughter of the innocents is a gruesome reminder that Christianity will at times require great suffering and even martyrdom.

If the question of anti-Semitism is raised, students should be led to understand that this practice is wholly absurd for Christians because the Holy Family was Jewish in heritage and practice.

It is important to remember that, from the ages of twelve to thirty, Christ lived an ordinary life, working and praying as an ordinary man. It may be easier to relate to Christ when we consider that the majority of his life was spent doing the ordinary tasks of everyday life. This image of Jesus also suggests that remarkable moments of heroic faith are only possible when preceded by a daily effort to work piously in accordance with God’s will.

Christ’s teaching illustrates how revolutionary Christianity is. Many of his teachings are difficult to accept, particularly the forgiveness of one’s enemies and the acceptance of suffering. He calls mankind to embrace charity and love over strict
justice. His Death and Resurrection signify the universality of his mission. He did not die for a few but for all. The all-embracing love of Christ and his call to mankind to serve one another are the cornerstones of Christianity.
Part II: Pentecost, the Birth of the Church

Pentecost is the first instance of the Holy Spirit’s presence in the Church. The history of the Church, beginning at Pentecost and stretching into eternity, is one of struggle and triumph. The descent of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost assures us that the Church is not alone in her mission but is filled with his grace and guidance. The gifts that are bestowed on the Apostles are proof that God will bestow the necessary graces on each person to fulfill his or her mission for Christ. The many conversions on Pentecost are a tribute to the eloquence that the Holy Spirit conferred on the Apostles.

The account of Pentecost in chapter two of the Acts of the Apostles clearly indicates that, from the very beginning of the Church, St. Peter was the definitive head and spokesman of the Apostles. The primacy of Peter, that is, his role as the first pope, is crucial to understanding the Church. St. Peter did not merit his position of leadership; it was bestowed on him, and in his response to Christ’s call, he received the immense grace to carry out his duty. We may recall St. Peter’s denial of Christ and his subsequent repentance. In so doing, we can understand that God will forgive any repentant sinner and fill him or her with the grace to embrace his will.

Another important aspect of the account of Pentecost from the Acts is the presence of the Eucharist. The new converts “devoted themselves to the Apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers” (Acts 2:42). It is clear that from the beginning of the Church, the Eucharist has been essential to the practice of the Faith.

Notes