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| **Strands** | The Bible and Christian Beliefs; Story of the Church;  |
| **Stage of Development** | Junior Secondary (Year 7) |  **Created** June2023 |  **Review** 2026 |
| **Focus** | This unit looks at what is church for Christians. It is intended for all students: for those who have never been to church; those who come from another faith; and those who don’t believe in God. It explores definitions of church, and considers some core and peripheral beliefs. It asks how does the bible talk about church? It investigates what church is like, why some things are done, and why some churches are different from others. The unit leads to a personal church visit and a reflection on the experience. |
| **Content Descriptions** | **Knowledge and Understanding*** The key elements of Church
* The History of the Early Church
* Why Christians go to church and worship.
* What are the main sacraments in Church
* How is the Church structured
 |  **Religious Studies Skills & virtues*** Critical thinking
* The Story of the Church
* Respect and understanding
 |
| **Additional Resources** | Anglican Church Resources, Worship and Prayers  | [Anglican Church of Australia |](https://anglican.org.au/) [Liturgy & Worship | Anglican Church of Australia](https://anglican.org.au/our-work/liturgy-worship/) |
| ASC Publication | About Being an Anglican |
| WA Anglican School Resources | [Home - WAASA | Western Australian Anglican Schools Association](https://www.waasa.wa.edu.au/) |
| Anglican Music Resources | [Anglicans Online | Music Resources](http://anglicansonline.org/resources/music.html) [Songs of Grace: great songs, great new congregational resource (anglicanfocus.org.au)](https://anglicanfocus.org.au/2020/03/03/songs-of-grace-great-songs-great-new-congregational-resource/) |
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(This unit was prepared using material developed by Stewart Shattock and teachers at **St Marks Anglican Community College,** Hilarys, PERTH).

| **Lesson** | **Key Questions** | **Lesson Activity Ideas** | **Resources** |
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| **1** | **THE PURPOSE AND MEANING****OF CHURCH** | What is church?What does it look like?What does the Bible say about Church?What can be learned from these verses about the purpose and community of Church? | 10min30min5 mins5 mins | Introductory activity:**ASC PPT1:**Introductory Class Activity leads to discussion of “What makes a church?”Classroom activity:“What does the Bible say about Church?”In pairs, create your own PPT slides to highlight Bible explanations of ChurchShare your PPT with the classReflection activity:In discussion, what have we learned about the nature of church?And about the purposes of a Church community?Extension task:**ASC KAHOOT** | **ASC PPT1****ASC PPT1** (final 2 slides)**ASC KAHOOT** |
| **2** | **GROWTH OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH** (History of the Early Christian Church) | How did the Christian Church grow from its beginnings in Jerusalem?Why did the Church grow so quickly in these early times?Want do the Apostles teach us about Church?How can Church help us grow in our faith?Why did the Early Church grow quickly?What are examples of the faithfulness of members of the early Church? | 10min5min10 min5 min10 min10 min10 min | Introductory activity:**Gang up** and/or **Twister**.Play games with the students. For **Twister** (substitute any good game you prefer), get 3-4 kids to start playing, with the instruction that they should play in a way that welcomes people who ask to join in.\*\**Gang up* = example of a game that the more people who are “it”, the more people can be tagged, and become “it”. (Exponential growth.)\*\**Twister* = example of a game where people who are playing make it look fun/appealing, so others ask to be included.Ask Questions: 1. Did you join the game? Why?
2. Did you become part of the group?

Explain Purposes of the lesson:The goal of this lesson is to help students understand how the church got so big, from such small beginnings.* The first Christians proclaimed the message about Jesus enthusiastically. The more who heard, the more that could tell.
* The first Christians treated one another & outsiders so well that people wanted to join them.

Read: **Acts 2:32-47** Take notes on the main things that the new church did together as a faith community.View: Video animation explaining how the church grew under the influence of the Holy Spirit. Class Activity 1:Create your own PPT slides following the instructions on Slide 5 – with 2 slides: “Telling People Good News” and “Loving People”.Add in pictures as directed.**OR**Class Activity 2:View the CPX video (on slide 6) explaining the beginning of Health Care in our Western Society. Answer the questions on Slide 6, explaining how the growth of Health Care grew from the beginnings of the Christian faith.**OR**Class Activity 3:Tell the story of Perpetua (*Everlasting*) and Felicitas (*Happiness*) in Ancient Rome, following Slides 5 or 6.Add in pictures to your PPT as directed. | Bring own games to class that foster engagement and inclusiveness**ASC PPT 2** (slide 3)A**SC PPT 2** (slide 4)**ASC PPT 2** (slide 5)**ASC PPT 2** (slide 6)**ASC PPT 2** (slide 6) |
| **3** | **WHAT DO CHRISTIANS BELIEVE 1?** | What are the core Christian beliefs?How does the Bible help us to understand these Christian principles?How did Christianity grow? | 5 min10min15min10 min5min | Introductory ActivityShare with a buddy, brainstorm 2-3 basic Christian beliefs which you think are CORE, MAIN beliefs. Share around the class.Read 1 Corinthians 15:3-8, which stands a a helpful summary by Paul.Discuss. Establish the time frame of this statement (AD30) (according to Michael Goulder)Explore the 1 Corinthians passage closely to identify specifically the fundamental statements (belief and evidence) of Christianity.Classroom activity Students complete the table of evidence created in the PPT.Then transfer that information onto the “Bullseye Beliefs” diagram.View the ‘Gospel Map’ video showing the growth of Christianity throughout the Romans Empire | **ASC PPT3** (slide 2)**ASC PPT3** (slide 4-5)**ASC PPT3** (slide 6-10 )**ASC PPT3** (slide 11-12**)****ASC PPT3** (slide 13-14) |
| **4**  | **WHAT DO CHRISTIANS BELIEVE 2?** | How were the basic Christian beliefs recorded historically in the two ‘Creeds’, and the ‘39 Articles’?How does the church validate its most important or central beliefs?Is the church still consistent in its beliefs today? | 5min30min10min10min10min |  View and consider the Timelines in the **ASC PPT** establishing the historical context of each Belief Statement.Using the **ASC PPT**, explore together, and discuss, the three core Belief Statements which announce the principles of modern Christianity: 1) Apostles Creed 2) Nicene Creed 3) 39 Articles Classroom Activity Use the “Bullseye Beliefs” diagram to map each of these essential Belief StatementsListen to a contemporary statement of Christian beliefs in Hillsong’s “This I believe”.**OR**Write your own summary version of the essential Christian beliefs | **ASC PPT3** (slides 18-20)**ASC PPT3** (Apostles Cr Slides 15-16Nicene Cr Slides 19-2)**ASC PPT3 (**Slides 17, 24)**ASC PPT3** (slide 25)**ASC PPT3** (slide 25) |
| **5** | **DENOMIN-ATIONS** | How has the church diversified into different denominations in church history?How was Martin Luther a key figure in the history and development of the Protestant church?How do the denominations differ from each other? | 5min10min10min10min5min15min |  Review the “Bullseye Beliefs” target image, with its focus on the “central” elements of the church. Lead to considering the body of the church in the world.Discuss:What have been your experiences of church and, in particular, the different kinds of church services?Examine the ‘Protestant Denominations’ slide which gives an outline and overview of the history of the developing denominations. View the episode “Martin Luther and the Reformation” from the Compass series on the ABC website. (Decide in advance how much of the series to watch).Review “Bullseye Beliefs” image to show growth and development of secondary (outer) elements of the church and worship.**OR**Classroom activity: In pairs, students select one Denomination from the list provided, and research some basic facts and figures. | **ASC PPT4** (slide 2)**ASC PPT4** (slide 3)**ASC PPT4** (slide 4)**ASC PPT4** (slide 5)**ASC PPT4** (slide 6)**ASC PPT4** (slide 7) |
| **6** | **WORSHIP AND THE SERMON**(Foundations of the Church) | What is Worship in a Church service?How does God speak to us through the Bible?How is God’s Word structured?What does God’s Word consist of? | 10min5min5min6min5 mins5min10min | Opening Activity: listening to the song on the slide, students brainstorm what are some of the good things that can happen in Church? Share your responses around the class.Discuss “What are the key elements of a Church service or Worship?”View segment from “Alpha Youth Bible’ Ep6 video (3 mins)**OR** View Bible Project Animation “What is the Bible and How to Read it”View slides summarising Old Testament and New Testament Classroom Activity Students create their own KAHOOT based on their new knowledge of the Bible **OR** Classroom Activity Students play “Bible Sheriff game”, practising their skills of searching the Bible. | **ASC PPT4** (slide 2)**ASC PPT4** (slide 3)**ASC PPT4** (slide 4-5)**ASC PPT4** (slide 6)**ASC PPT4** (slide 7 and 8)**ASC PPT4** (slide 9)**ASC PPT4** (slide 10) |
| **7** | **WORSHIP AND THE SERMON****Cont.*****CHOOSE*** *from a variety of fun and interesting classroom activities helping students to engage with the Bible …* | What does Timothy tell us about the importance of God’s Word for us today?How does the sermon teach us about Jesus?What are some classroom activities That will actively engage students in learning about Jesus? | 5 min5min10min10min10min5min5min5min | Review “What are the key elements of Church?” slideView “What does Timothy tell us about the Bible?” slide. Read 2Timothy 3:16 and identify outcomes.Discuss Use the “Reading the Bible in Church?” slide to discuss the similarities and differences between listening to stories in Church and in the secular world.View the ‘Bible Project’ animation “Devote Yourself to the Public Reading of Scripture”. View **Slide 17** “Bible Talk” as a guide for discussion following the “Bible Project” Video.Activity View **slide 19** - ask the class to find a favourite bible verse and image.**OR**Activity View **Slide 21**. Run a quick ‘Bible Quiz’ in class.**OR**Activity View **Slide 22**. Follow the link to find a range of interesting and unusual fun facts about the Bible.**OR**Activity View **slide 23**. Follow the link to a fun Colin Buchanan song about Church | **ASC PPT4** (slide 11)**ASC PPT4** (slide 12)**ASC PPT4** (slide 15)**ASC PPT4** (slide 16)**ASC PPT4** (slide 19)**ASC PPT4** (slide 21)**ASC PPT4** (slide 22)**ASC PPT4** (slide 23) |
| **8** | **PRAYER** (Chapel Worship) | How can we pray?How can we pray in Chapel?What does Jesus teach us about prayer?What can we learn about the Lord’s Prayer? | 10min10min 30min 5mins10min10min10min |  Discuss what is prayer? How can we pray? Discuss with the class, what are some ideas to pray about for Chapel this coming week  Activity Students follow a template on PPT showing a model of how to write their own prayer for Chapel.View a 6 min segment from an ALPHA Youth Prayer video.  View Jesus words in from Matthew 6 View and Discuss ASC Slides 7-10 on the structure and purposes of the Lord’s PrayerActivity Use ASC slide 11 to read through the lord’s Prayer and “colour code” the words/lines to help for a better understanding of the prayer. Discuss your findings in class  | **ASC PPT6 (slide 2)****ASC PPT6 (slide 3)** **ASC PPT6 (slide 4)****ASC PPT6 (slide 5)****ASC PPT6 (slide 6-7)****ASC PPT6 (slides 8-10)** **ASC PPT6 (slide 11)** |
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| **9** | **COMMUNION AND THE SACRAMENTS** | What are the two central sacraments of the Anglican Church?What is Baptism?What is Holy Communion?What happens in Holy Communion? | 5min10min10min5min10min10min |  Discuss What are some rituals that have become part of our everyday life? How are symbols a necessary part of our daily life? What symbolic rituals are central in the Church? Activity In small groups read through the selected passages describing the life of the early church - and the importance of baptism in their community. Complete the work sheet.Complete the worksheet activities relating to Baptism Read about the first Lord’s Supper in 1 Corinthians 11:23-27 View the PPT to explain what happens in the Sacrament of Holy Communion Activities: \*Complete the worksheet find-a-word \*Colour in Michelangelo’s painting of ‘The Last Supper’ \*Complete the Wordsearch | **ASC PPT8** (slides 1-5)**ASC PPT8** (slides 6-9)**ASC handout****ASC PPT8** (slide 11)**ASC PPT8** (slides 10-15)**ASC handout** |

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| **10** | **STRUCTURE OF THE CHURCH** | What is the organisational structure of the Church?What are the main offices in the structure of the Church?What does the Anglican church of Australia do?What is a Religious Order? | 5min10min15min10min | Discuss How is the organisation of a school like the organisation of a church?View the PPT explaining the “offices” of the Anglican ChurchActivity Search the website of the ‘Anglican Church of Australia’[Anglican Church of Australia |](https://anglican.org.au/)In pairs, research ONE aspect of the work of the Anglican Church of Australia.Report back to the class with your findings.**OR**Activity From the Anglican website, Select ONE of the ‘Anglican Religious Orders’ across Australia.[Anglican Religious Life | Anglican Church of Australia](https://anglican.org.au/anglican-church-community/advisory-council-for-anglican-religious-life-in-australia/)Outline the way of life that this Church community leads. | **ASC PPT9** **ASC handout****ASC handout** |

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| **11** | **SINGING****IN CHURCH** | What are the key elements of Church?Why do Christians sing in Church?How can we benefit by listening to Christians singing about God? | 5min5min10min10min15min | Review Look again at the starting slide which outlines the key elements of Church – focus on singingListen to a contemporary example of powerful Christian singing in church? View and Discuss a range of reasons from PPT slides which draw on the bible to explain why Christians sing in ChurchView PPT slides explaining what’s happening spiritually when Christians sing togetherView and listen to Chris Tomlinson’s “Indescribable”, following the words on ASC handout. Write down any personal reflections.Activity In pairs, write your own song/poem that you might be able to sing in Chapel. Google accompanying music in class | **ASC PPT7** (slide 2)**ASC PPT7** (slide 3)**ASC PPT7** (slide 4-8)**ASC PPT7** (slide 9-10)**ASC PPT7** (slide 11-12)**ASC PPT7** (slide 13-4) |