

Sunday School Lesson

February 1, 2026

The Christian Church

1

Mark 4:26-32; Ephesians 4:4-6, 11-18

Instructor: Ralph Gordon

PREVIOUS Sunday School Lesson

January 25, 2026

Call and Growth

2

**Matthew 4:18-20; 16:16-18; John
21:15-18; 2 Peter 3:14-15, 18**

Instructor: Ralph Gordon

NEXT Sunday School Live Lesson

February 8, 2026

Baptism and the Lord's Supper

**Matthew 3:13-17; 28:19-20;
1 Corinthians 11:23-29**

3

Instructor: Ralph Gordon

TODAY'S Sunday School Lesson

February 1, 2026

The Christian Church

4

Mark 4:26-32; Ephesians 4:4-6, 11-18

Instructor: Ralph Gordon

Questions for Us Today

February 1, 2026

5

How do you see the role of the Christian church today?

How may we improve the way in which we serve the Lord?

Sunday School Lesson Objective

February 1, 2026

6

To understand and internalize God's messages for us today through these passages of Scripture, regarding the Christian church.

Sunday School Lesson Segments – 1

February 1, 2026

1. Bibliography

2. Points of Information: Mark, Ephesians

Sunday School Lesson Segments - 2

February 1, 2026

3. Lesson Context

4. Lesson Text

5. Remember These Things

Bibliography - 1

9

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Points of Information – Mark

Mark's first name was John. John Mark was not one of the Twelve Disciples. He was a protégé of Peter.

13

Mark was a co-laborer (for a period of time) with the Apostle Paul. They had a disagreement but later reconciled.

Points of Information – Mark

It is generally accepted that the Gospel according to Mark was the first one written.

14

The other Synoptic Gospels – Matthew and Luke – were significantly influenced by the writing of Mark.

Points of Information – Ephesians

The letter to the Ephesians was written by the Apostle Paul while he was in prison.

15

Jesus had words of compliment for the ancient church of Ephesus in one of the seven letters to churches which He dictated (to John the Apostle). Revelation 2:1-7.

Points of Information – Ephesians

As with other epistles, the letter to the Ephesians was likely intended to be circulated and read aloud to other churches.

16

The site of ancient Ephesus still exists today in the nation of Turkey.

The Christian Church

Lesson Context – Mark 4

17

The fourth Chapter of the Gospel according to Mark shows Jesus teaching by the Sea of Galilee – to His Disciples and to a large crowd.

Jesus used parables in this teaching.

Mark 4:26 [NIV]

He also said, “This is what the Kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground.

Mark 4:27 [NIV]

Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how.

Mark 4:28 [NIV]

All by itself the soil produces grain – first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head.

Mark 4:29 [NIV]

As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.”

Mark 4:30 [NIV]

Again He said, “What shall we say the Kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it?”

Mark 4:31 [NIV]

It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth.

Mark 4:32 [NIV]

Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade."

The Christian Church

Lesson Context – Ephesians 4

25

In the fourth Chapter of this epistle, the author gives holy advice regarding unity, spiritual gifts, God's grace, and holy living.

Ephesians 4:4 [NIV]

There is one body and one spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called;

Ephesians 4:5 [NIV]

one Lord, one faith, one baptism;

Ephesians 4:6 [NIV]

one God and Father of all, Who is over all and through all and in all.

Ephesians 4:11 [NIV]

So Christ Himself gave the apostles,
the prophets, the evangelists, the
pastors and teachers,

Ephesians 4:12 [NIV]

to equip His people for works of service, so that the Body of Christ may be built up

Ephesians 4:13 [NIV]

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.

Ephesians 4:14 [NIV]

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 people in their deceitful scheming.

Ephesians 4:15 [NIV]

Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of Him Who is the head, that is, Christ.

Ephesians 4:16 [NIV]

From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, so each part does its work.

Ephesians 4:17 [NIV]

So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking.

Ephesians 4:18 [NIV]

They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.

Remember these things:

Let us understand and remember the importance of the Christian church.

Let us do what we can to maintain unity among people of faith.