

The Doctrine of the Church

Lesson 1 — Student Guide

Prepare for class: Read Matthew 16:13-20 and 18:15-17

Lesson Goal

The goal of this lesson is to answer the following question: **Why is it important for us as church planters to distinguish between the visible church and the invisible church?**

Think

Evaluate

1. Who are the characters in this story?
2. What are the objects in this story?
3. Where did this story happen?
4. When did this story happen?
5. What is the problem?
6. What events occurred in this story?
7. Is the problem solved?

Learn

8. What is the main theme of this lesson?
9. What sin does this lesson teach us to confess?
10. Where do you see the love of God in this lesson?
11. What does God teach us to do in this lesson?

Lead

12. What would be a good situation in which to share this message?

Discussion

13. Read 2 Corinthians 5:14. Why are we here in this course together? What does this course include?
14. Read Matthew 16:16-18. What is the invisible church?
15. Read Matthew 18:15-17. What is the visible church?
16. Why is it important to distinguish between the invisible church and the visible church?

17. How is having the correct, biblical understanding of the biblical church a blessing for the church planter?
18. Read Matthew 7:13-14. In this class we seek to multiply churches. We do this for the salvation of many souls. As we talk about plans, strategies, and methods, though, we ask God to help us walk the narrow, biblical path. What are two ways we can stray from this path, and what happens if we do?

Lesson wrap-up

Why is it important for us to distinguish between the visible church and the invisible church?