The First Years

GRADE 8

CHAPTER 10 Study Guide

*Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Chapter 10**.*

The Church began because Jesus wanted it to be so. The Church is both the means and the goal of God's plan. Some people listened to the Christians, while others did not. During the early years, the Church had joys, sorrows, successes, failures, and conflicts.

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In the Acts of the Apostles, we read about the first years of the Church and its movement from Jerusalem to Rome. The book follows the ministry of two figures in the Church: Peter, the first church leader, and Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles. The Holy Spirit plays a major role in the Church in the Acts of the Apostles. This book is often referred to as the Gospel of the Holy Spirit.

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About half of the letters, or Epistles, in the New Testament were either written by Paul or attributed to him.

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Peter and John chose to obey God rather than men and so moved forward in the mission that Jesus had given them.

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We learn from the Acts of the Apostles that prayer was an important part of the life of the early Christians.

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Stephen became the first martyr. He angered the Jewish leaders by accusing them of not observing God's law.

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A martyr is someone who sacrifices his or her life out of witness to Jesus. The martyrs teach us that it is our duty to take part in the life of the Church. After Stephen's death, there was an all-out persecution against the Christians. Most of the Jerusalem community moved to the countryside.

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Deacons assist priests and bishops by performing a number of duties such as preaching, assisting at the Liturgy of the Eucharist, celebrating Baptism, and helping proclaim the Gospel.

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