

What is the Church?

Questions:

- What is your earliest memory/experience of Church?
- What images come to mind when you think of the word Church?
- Which of the images of church from the talk the people of God, the family of God, the body of Christ, the holy Temple, the bride of Christ, speaks to you the most? Why?
- Read 1 Peter 2:9-10
 - In what other ways does Peter describe the Church?
 - What is the primary purpose of the Church according to Peter?
 - What does it mean to be a royal priesthood (you may want to consider what the role of the priesthood was in the Old Testament)
- Read 1 John 4:7-20
 - How did God demonstrate his love for us? How might we demonstrate our love for one another?
 - What are the reasons people drift away from the family of God? What can we do to try and prevent this? Is there anyone you are aware of who might be struggling in their faith at the moment?
- Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-27
 - Paul writes that there should be 'no division in the body'. What should our approach be when we encounter disunity or disagreement within the church?
 - As the body of Christ in the world, how can the church best witness to the reality of the risen Jesus?
- Read Ephesians 2:19-21
 - Paul describes the church as the dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit. How might this understanding change the way we see ourselves?
 - How might we carry the presence of God into our homes, places of work, etc?
- Read Ephesians 5:25-32
 - Does Paul's description of the church as the bride of Christ change the way you view church? If so, how?
 - How might the marriage analogy help us in thinking about how we respond to Christ?
- Church is not a good idea, it is GOD'S Idea. Do you agree with this statement?
- How can we help St James to become more Christ like?