

Possible Subjects for Church Leaders in China  
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1. Doctrine of the Church
  - a. Bible Study on Ephesians
    - 1) Purpose of the Church
      - a) The Glory and Headship of Jesus Christ (1:1-23)
      - b) Chosen and Called in Christ (1:3-19)
    - 2) Steps to Fulfill God's Purpose for the Church
      - a) Salvation by Grace for Works (2:1-10)
      - b) Unity in Christ (2:11-22)
      - c) Access to the Father in and through Jesus Christ (3:11-12)
    - 3) Applications: Ways to Fulfill God's Purpose in and through the Church (4:1-6:24)
      - a) Spiritual Gifts (4:7-16)
      - b) Maturity in Christ (4:12-16). (Show how to use *Basic Christianity* here.)
      - c) Holiness of the Church (4:17-5:33)
      - d) Deference in Personal Relationships (5:21-6:9)
      - e) Strength in the Cosmic Warfare of Spiritual Conflict (6:10-24). (Show how to use *Journey into Joy* here.)
  - b. What Is the Church?
    - 1) The Meaning of "Church" in the Bible. (Refer to relevant sections of *Basic Christianity*.)
      - a) The Essence of the Church
        - 1- The Visible Manifestation of the Covenant (Genesis 17:7; Galatians 3:26-29)
        - 2- ek (out of) + kaleo (to call) = ekklesia (church, those who are called out) to serve God (Ephesians 2:8-10)
        - 3- The Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12, esp. v. 27; Ephesians 1:22)
      - b) Distinguishing between the Kingdom of God and the Church
        - 1- Christ's Kingly Office
          - a- Christ's Spiritual Kingship (Psalm 2:6; 132:11; Isaiah 9:6-7; Micah 5:2; Zechariah 6:13; Luke 1:33; 19:38; Acts 2:30-36)
          - b- Christ's Universal Kingship (Acts 28:18; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28; Ephesians 1:20-23)
        - 2- The Kingdom of God is here but not yet (in the fullest). (Luke 17:21; John 18:36-37)
      - c) Distinctions Applied to the Church
        - 1- The Church Militant and the Church Triumphant (Ephesians 6:10-20; Revelation 4-5)
        - 2- The Visible and Invisible Church (Matthew 7:13-23)
        - 3- Church as Organism: People Called by God to Serve Him in the Accomplishment of His Purposes. The church in the Bible is always people, never a building. (Ephesians 3:21)

- 4- Church as Organization: People Organized to Most Effectively Serve as God's Primary Means through Whom He's Working to Redeem His Creation (Acts 11:30; 14:23; Ephesians 3:10)
- 2) The Characteristics of the Church
  - a) Unity (Ephesians 4:3-6, 13)
  - b) Holiness (Ephesians 4:1-6:18; 1 Peter 2:9-12)
  - c) Universality (Psalm 2:8; Revelation 9:7)
  - d) Apostolicity (2 Timothy 1:13; 2:15; 3:16; Titus 2:1; 2 Peter 1:20-21)
- 3) Marks of the True Church
  - a) The True Proclamation of the Word of God (1 John 4:1-3; 2 John 9)
  - b) The Right Administration of the Sacraments (Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:42; 1 Corinthians 11:23-34)
  - c) The Faithful Practice of Discipline (Matthew 18:18; 1 Corinthians 5:1-5, 13; 14:33, 40; Revelation 2:14, 15, 20)
- 4) The Government and Power of the Church
  - a) Christ is the Head of the Church and the Source of Its Authority. (Ephesians 1:19-23; 4:11-12; 5:23-24)
  - b) The Officers of the Church
    - 1- Extraordinary Officers of the Church
      - a- Apostles (Matthew 16:16-19; Acts 1:1-2, 12-26; 14:4, 14; 1 Corinthians 9:1, 5-6; 15:9)
      - b- Prophets (Acts 11:27-28; 13:1; 15:32; Ephesians 4:11)
      - c- Evangelists (Acts 21:8; Ephesians 4:11; 2 Timothy 4:5)
    - 2- Ordinary Officers of the Church
      - a- Elders/Overseers/Bishops (Acts 11:30; 14:23; 1 Timothy 3:1; Titus 1:5; 1 Peter 5:1-2)
      - b- Teachers (Ephesians 4:11; 1 Timothy 5:17; 2 Timothy 2:2)
      - c- Deacons (Acts 6:1-6; Philippians 1:1; 1 Timothy 3:8, 10, 12)
  - c) Government of the Local Church
    - 1- The government of the local church is representative in form. The pastor and the elders, chosen by the people, form a leadership council. (Acts 14:23; 20:17-38 [Ephesian Elders]; Titus 1:5)
    - 2- Though the church leaders are appointed by and represent the members of the local congregation, their authority comes not from the people but from the Lord Jesus Christ. (Matthew 28:18; Ephesians 1:19-23)
  - d) Major Assemblies of the Church
    - 1- Representatives of the churches meet in a higher judicatory to deliberate on matters of importance to all. (Acts 15:1-31)
    - 2- Major assemblies thus address matters of doctrine and morals and how the churches should function governmentally in these matters.
    - 3- The decisions of the major assemblies are binding on all the churches except when the assembly states specific decisions are advisory and optional.
  - e) The Power of the Church

- 1- The Source of the Power (Acts 20:28; 1 Corinthians 5:11-13; 2 Corinthians 10:4; Ephesians 1:15-23)
- 2- Types of Power
  - a- Teaching Power (1 Timothy 1:3, 4; 2 Timothy 1:13; 2:2; Titus 2:1- 15)
  - b- Governing Power (John 21:15-17; 1 Corinthians 14:33, 40; 1 Peter 5:1-11)
    - 1} God, who is a God of order, desires the church to function in all ways decently and in order, especially in worship, the context of 1 Corinthians 14. (1 Corinthians 14:33, 40)
    - 2} The God of order provided for the proper functioning of the church to implement the laws of Christ, putting them into effect. (John 21:15-17; Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-11)
    - 3} Church Discipline
      - a} Admission and Exclusion of Members and Under What Circumstances (1 Corinthians 5:1-13)
      - b} Spiritual Edification of the Individual Being Disciplined and of the Whole Congregation (1 Corinthians 5:1, 2, 5)
  - c- Power in the Ministry of Mercy
    - 1} Spiritual Gifts (1 Corinthians 12:9, 28)
    - 2} Caring for Whole Church, and Especially the Poor (Acts 6:1-6; Romans 16:1; 1 Corinthians 16:1, 2; 2 Corinthians 8:13-15; 1 Timothy 3:8-12; James 1:27; 1 John 3:17)
- 5) The Means of Grace for the Church
  - a) The Word of God (1 Peter 1:25)
    - 1- The Law (Romans 3:20; Galatians 3:24)
      - a- The Law, used by the Holy Spirit, enables people to be conscious of sin and of the need of a Savior. (John 16:8; Romans 3:20, 7:7; Galatians 3:24-25)
      - b- The Law is done not to earn salvation, which we cannot do, but out of gratitude for our salvation and as a means of being holy to God that he may work through us to accomplish his purposes. (Romans 3:20; 14:6; Ephesians 2:8-10; 2 Corinthians 4:15; 2 Corinthians 9:11; Ephesians 5:4; Colossians 1:12-14; 3:17; 1 John 5:3)
    - 2- The Gospel of Jesus Christ (Romans 1:16; 1 Corinthians 1:18)
  - b) The Sacraments
    - 1- The Meaning and Parts of the Sacraments
      - a- The Outward and Visible Sign that Points to the Inward Part
      - b- The Inward and Spiritual Grace Signified by the Sacrament
      - c- The Union of the Sign and the Grace Signified, the Essence of the Sacrament
    - 2- The Biblical Basis of the Sacraments
      - a- The number of sacraments were two in the Old Testament, both of which were bloody.
        - 1} Circumcision

- 2} Passover
- b- In the New Testament Protestant Christians see only two sacraments appointed by the Lord Jesus Christ. Both are unbloody, since by Jesus' perfect, once-for-all, and all-sufficient sacrifice no other blood need be shed. (Hebrews 9:22-28)
- c- The Old Testament sacraments pointed ahead to Christ. The New Testament sacraments point back to Christ's completed sacrifice.
- d- Comparison of the Old and New Testament Sacraments
  - 1} Circumcision Replaced by Baptism (Genesis 17:1-14; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 18, esp. vss. 3-4; Galatians 3:26-29; Colossians 2:9-12)
  - 2} Passover Replaced by the Lord's Supper (Matthew 26:17-30; cf. John 6:30-40; note v. 32 [present tense, active voice: signifying the Father still gives]; 49-59; 1 Corinthians 5:7-8)
- 6) The Importance of Church Attendance and Church Membership
  - a) Reasons to Attend Church
  - b) Reasons to Be a Member of a Church
- c. Pastoral Care (Distinguishing between Pastoral Care and Church Education and Identifying Where the Two Ministries Overlap)—Including but Not Limited to the Following:
  - 1) Four Main Functions of Shepherding/Pastoral Care (John 21:16 [*poimaine*, take care of]; 1 Peter 5:2 [*poimante*, shepherd]) in/of the Church
    - a) Identification of the Four Main Functions
      - 1- Healing
      - 2- Sustaining
      - 3- Guiding
      - 4- Reconciling
    - b) Pastoral Care Practices (Since some aspects of the work of pastoral care in the church overlap with each of these functions, the practices are listed separately below.)
  - 2) Prayer
    - a) With People Individually
    - b) In Small Groups
    - c) In Corporate Worship (More below)
  - 3) Counseling
    - a) Personal Counseling
      - 1- Marriage
      - 2- Family Relationships
      - 3- Other Problems (E.g., Depression, Discouragement, Overcoming Fears, Guilt & Forgiveness, Conflict Resolution & Reconciliation, Loneliness, Meaning in Life, Psychological Health, Self-Esteem, Stress, Suicide, Work-Related Issues)
    - b) Small Group Counseling (For Those with Similar Concerns)
      - 1- Divorce Recovery

- 2- Homosexuality (For Those Who Are Homosexual)
- 3- Families of Homosexuals
- 4- Widowhood
- 5- Caregivers
- 6- Spouses of Those Who Have Addictions
- 7- Parents of Children
- 8- Parents of Teen-agers
- 9- Overcoming a Painful Childhood
- 4) Diaconal Ministry (e.g., Matthew 25, Acts 6)
  - a) Hospitality (Matthew 25:35-36)
    - 1- For those who are hungry
    - 2- For those who are thirsty
    - 3- For those who are strangers in need
    - 4- For those who need shelter
    - 5- For those who need clothes
  - b) For those who are ill (Matthew 25:36)
    - 1- Healing Ministry
      - a- on an Individual Basis
        - 1} Pastoral Ministry
        - 2} Medical Ministry
      - b- Healing Services in Worship Setting
    - 2- Caring for the Aged (Acts 6:1-6; 1 Timothy 5)
    - 3- Disability Ministries
    - 4- Helping the weak (Acts 20:35)
- 5) In Corporate Worship
  - a) Prayer
  - b) Music
  - c) Sermons
- 6) Visitation, Ministry of Presence (Matthew 25:36)
  - a) Home
  - b) Hospital
  - c) Prison and Prison Ministries
- 7) Seminars
  - a) Premarital Seminar (Can also Be Taught in Education Session)
  - b) Preparing for and Overcoming the Challenges of Each Stage of Life
  - c) How to Be a Caring Christian Friend (E.g., Reaching Out to Those New in the Community; Sensitivity to Needs for Help)
  - d) Stewardship and Financial Planning for the Future
  - e) Conflict Resolution
  - f) Workplace Concerns
    - 1- Job Search
    - 2- Oppression at Work
- 8) Social Services
  - a) Care for children: orphans, adoption, foster care

- b) Caring for the poor
      - 1- Individually
      - 2- In Corporate Ministries
    - c) Addictions
      - 1- Alcohol
      - 2- Drug Addiction
      - 3- Gambling
      - 4- Pornography
    - d) Prostitution
  - 9) Characteristics of Pastors and other Diaconal Ministers Essential for an Effective Shepherding Ministry in the Church (These characteristics are helpful for churches to use in considering whom to call for pastoral care ministry in the congregation. Awareness of these characteristics is also needed for pastoral care leaders for affirmation and nurture of these characteristics in order to serve most effectively.) (1 Timothy 3:1-7; 3:8-12; Titus 1:6-9)
2. Premarital Seminar (Separate Session as an Education Subject: Topics and Information to Include in a Premarital Seminar)
  3. Homosexuality (Separate Session as an Education Subject)
  4. Leadership Principles
    - a. Leader Behaviors
    - b. Leader Priorities
    - c. Leaders' Continuing Education
  5. Suburban Church (Can Be Abbreviated to Focus on Key Principles)
    - Includes how Dr. DeKruyter used *Basic Christianity* in the establishment of the church and *Basic Christianity* and *Journey into Joy* in the nurture and development of the church.
  6. Diffusion of Innovations (Subfield of the Field of Communication Dealing with How to Facilitate the Adoption by a Social System [including a Church] of Anything New)
  7. Teaching Methods (Focus on Demonstration Including in the above Subjects)