

Providence Baptist Church

History and Heritage of the African-American Baptist Church

Lesson 1: The Early Christian Era

Objectives: 1. To become familiar with the conventional notions of Christian origin.
2. To understand the identity of the early Christians and their communities.

1. In its early years, why do scholars refer to this emerging religion as “The Way” instead of Christianity?
2. Does the term “Christian” appear in the Bible? If so, where?
3. How did the early followers of Jesus spread his message? How do their messages and methods compare to those used by religions today?

4. What conditions allowed Christianity to grow as quickly as it did?
What role did Constantine play in the expansion of Christianity?

SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT

Research the 1st Council of Nicaea and the Council of Chalcedon. What was the significance of these councils?

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Lesson 2: The Coptic Church

Objectives: 1. To develop an understanding of the spread of Christianity
2. To discover truths about the founder of the Coptic Church and his role in the “great commission”.

1. Who was the founder of the Coptic Church and where?
2. What is significant about the founder that would make him important to us as African-Americans?
3. What are the Seven Sacraments of the Coptic Church? Which of these are practiced at Providence?

4. What differences caused a split with the Coptic Christians and what was the result of the split?

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Lesson 4: The Renaissance

Objectives: 1. To develop an understanding of the impact politics, geography, theology, etc., have on the spread of Christianity.

1. What is the “Renaissance”? Give a few general characteristics of this time period.

2. Discuss the Great Chain of Being. Is this in line with our Christian beliefs?

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Lesson 5: The Protestant Reformation

Objectives: 1. To develop an understanding of the impact politics, geography, theology, etc., have on the spread of Christianity.

1. Who is the father of Protestantism?
2. What are the main causes of the Protestant Reformation.
3. What were the effects of the protest? What were the reforms?

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Lesson 6: Anabaptists and Baptists

- Objectives:
1. To become familiar with the beliefs of the Anabaptists.
 2. To understand why the Anabaptists were persecuted.
 3. To identify the Baptists and their beliefs.
 4. To analyze the relationship or lack of for Anabaptists and Baptists.

1. Who were the Anabaptists, and what did they believe? Why were they persecuted?

2. Who are the Baptists and what are their beliefs?

In your opinion, is there a relationship between the Baptist denomination and the Anabaptist. Support your position.

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Lesson 7: Coming To America

- Objectives:
1. To compare and contrast slavery and racism.
 2. To understand the difference between the slavery of Hebrews in biblical times and the enslavement of Africans from the 16th through the 19th centuries.
 3. To identify the factors that contributed to the institution of slavery.
 4. To identify skills brought by Africans to the Americas.

1. Are slavery and racism the same thing? Why or why not?

2. How does the slavery of Hebrews in biblical times differ from the enslavement of Africans in the 16th through the 19th century?

3. How did Europeans initiate and carry out the enslavement of Africans and what factors contributed to their success? What did they hope to gain?

4. Why did European Americans systematically suppress the language, religion, and names of those Africans who were enslaved?

5. What skills did enslaved Africans bring with them to the Americas?

6. How did the rationale Europeans used for their enslavement of Africans change over time?

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Lesson 8: The Conversion of Enslaved Africans to American Christianity

Objectives:

1. To summarize the central commitments and effects of the First and Second Great Awakenings.
2. To describe the characteristics of the revival or evangelical meetings and the impact of these meetings on enslaved Africans.
3. To identify the significance of George Liele, Andrew Bryan, and David George.
4. To analyze the effect of the American Revolutionary War on enslaved Africans

1. Research the First and Second Great Awakenings. Explain what they were, the circumstances precipitating them, and the effect they had on the people. Why were many European colonist against these “revival” meetings?

2. How did the preaching of revivalist ministers, especially Methodist and Baptist, contribute to the large number of slaves converting to Christianity?

3. Who were George Liele, Andrew Bryan, and David George. What is their significance to us as Baptist and African-Americans?

4. What opportunities did the Revolutionary War offer? Who could take advantage of these opportunities? Who couldn't and why?

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Lesson 9: The Black Church and Black Reconstruction

- Objectives:
1. To understand the importance of establishing independent Black churches.
 2. To identify barriers faced by “freed” Africans after the Civil War.
 3. To analyze the effect of the Black Code and its impact on freed Africans.
 4. To understand the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to the Constitution.

1. What was “Reconstruction” and what was being reconstructed?
2. In the aftermath of the Civil War, the black church was a powerful influence in the south; what two denominations commanded the largest African American following? Why?
3. During Reconstruction, the black church was vital to newly freedmen. What major roles did the church play in the lives of former slaves.

4. What was the Freedmen's Bureau and what was its principle task? Did the Freedmen's Bureau succeed or fail? Why?
5. How did the Black Codes maintain a social order similar to slavery?
6. Did the Civil Rights Act of 1866 and the Civil War Amendments (13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments) address racial inequality after the Civil War? Why or why not?
7. Are there legacies of Emancipation and Black Reconstruction that can be observed today? Explain.

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Lesson 10: The Civil Rights Movement as an Outgrowth of the Black Church

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| <p>Objectives: 1. To identify factors that led to Black ministers becoming leaders in the Civil Rights Movement.</p> <p>2. To describe the role of religious institutions in the Civil Rights Movement.</p> <p>3. To identify key legislations and Supreme Court decisions as a result of the Civil Rights Movement.</p> <p>4. To analyze the gains and limitations of the Civil Rights Acts of 1957, 1960, and 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.</p> |
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1. Why did the twentieth century Civil Rights Movement emerge?
(Think about major events that were contributing factors in mobilizing Blacks i.e., Plessy v. Ferguson, Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, murder of Emmett Till.)

2. What factors led to Black ministers becoming leaders in the Civil Rights Movement? Identify various ministers who were leaders of the movement and their roles.

3. How do you think media affected the Civil Rights Movement? How would things have been different had there not been magazines, newspapers, and television coverage.

4. Which provisions of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 do you think were most important? Why?

5. How do you think the events of Bloody Sunday affected the Voting Rights Act of 1965?

6. That do you think Lyndon Johnson meant when he said that “There is no Negro problem...There is only and American problem?”

7. What do you think was the most significant achievement of the Civil Rights Movement? Did civil rights activists achieve all of the goals of the movement?

Baptist Identity:

3 Facts I learned

2 Interesting facts I want to share

1 Question I still have

Baptist Identity	Notes

