

Church History: 30AD to Present



Session 1

30AD-476. In this session, we will look at two overarching themes: *the growth of the Church* and *how the Church conquered Rome*. For *the growth of the church* we will explore how the Church goes from a small band of followers to conquering the Roman Empire. We will look at the formation of the Christian Scriptures, and the influence martyrs had on the expansion of the early Church. For *how the Church conquered Rome*, we will also look at how the Nicene Creed came to be, the beginnings of the monastic movement, and the effect the decline of the Roman Empire had on Christianity. We will discuss several saints and how they influenced the growth of the early Church.

Session 2

476AD-1350. In this session, our overarching themes are the *Church fractures* and *the crusades*. For the *Church fractures* we will look at how the separation of the Roman Empire is a major cause of the separation of the Church and other events that lead to the Great Schism in 1054. For *the crusades* we will look at the lay investiture controversy, the beginnings of the crusading movement, and the Sack of Constantinople by the 4th Crusade and its effect on East and West. We will also look at the movement towards building Gothic churches, and end with the Black Death. We will discuss several saints (including St. Francis of Assisi), and their roles in this difficult time frame.

Session 3

1350-2015. In this session, our overarching themes are *the Reformation* and how the *Church spreads throughout the world*. For *the Reformation*, we will look at some of the root causes of the Reformation beginning with the Great Western Schism, the final collapse of Constantinople in 1453, and the well-known reformers: Luther, Calvin, and King Henry VIII. For the *Church spreads throughout the world*, we will look at the missionary movement, the First and Second Vatican Councils, the changing nature of the papacy, and conclude with Pope Francis. We will discuss several saints and their influence during this period of Church history.