

Unit C: Early Church History 33-64 AD and 64-312 AD

What challenges faced the Church during its infancy? How did the Church respond to these challenges?

The Church faced rejection from Jewish and Roman audiences. Through perseverance, fueled by faith and community, their faith was defined: in the Early Church to live like Christ meant to die like Christ.

Prescribed Learning Outcomes	Suggested Achievement Indicators
<p><i>It is expected that students will:</i></p>	<p><i>The following set of indicators may be used to assess student achievement for each corresponding Prescribed Learning Outcome.</i></p> <p><i>Students who have fully met the Prescribed Learning Outcome are able to:</i></p>
<p>C1 defend the primacy and role of Peter (Matthew 16; John 21) in the early Church emphasizing Apostolic Succession (CCC¹ 77, 860-862)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Explain the importance of Peter (Matthew 16; John 21) and his successors' role in the foundation of Christianity (YC² 92, 137, and 141; CCC 77, 860-862).
<p>C2 explain the effects of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (Acts 2) showing changes (i.e. conversion experience) in apostolic behaviour (i.e. evangelization)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Illustrate how Pentecost (Acts 2) was the defining moment in the creation of the Church (Acts 2.4 and 2.41) – exploring the impact of this event on the development of the Church <input type="checkbox"/> Reflect on the importance and role of conversion in spreading the Gospel message (Describe: Conversion Experience (Acts 2.41); Define: Evangelization (Acts 2.4)) <input type="checkbox"/> Write a reflection about someone who has experienced personal conversion

¹ CCC Catechism of the Catholic Church

² YC YouCat

<p>C3 describe the importance of the Council of Jerusalem (Acts 15) as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a model of discernment guided by the Holy Spirit in the Church • distinguishing Christianity from its Jewish roots 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Explain how The Council of Jerusalem <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provides a model for the Church to resolve conflict as guided by the Holy Spirit (Acts 15) • led to the universal (catholic) nature of the Church □ Compare and contrast early Christianity to Jewish practices of the time. Evaluate the changes taking place within the emerging Christian community. (Acts 2.43-47 and Acts 5.1-11)
<p>C4 recount the significance of persecution as a continuing theme in Church history:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize St. Stephen as the first martyr (Acts 7) • Identify Saul of Tarsus as being instrumental in early persecutions (Acts 8) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Write a first person account of one of the following: the martyrdom of St. Stephen (Acts 7), Saul's role in the persecutions of early Christians (Acts 8).
<p>C5 differentiate between pre- and post-conversion Saul noting the significance of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-Conversion Saul <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - violence, ego, fear-based, legalism - killing Christians • Post-Conversion Paul <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - peace, selflessness, love, justice - dying for Christ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Explain the nature of the conversion experience – how is the human being changed by God's actions. □ Account for Paul's changes in behavior using a chart to compare the pre-conversion Saul to the post-conversion Paul noting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pharisee: religious zeal and expertise in Mosaic Law • Roman Citizen: valid EU passport • Multi-lingual: • Multi-cultural: Tarsus (cosmopolitan city) • Road to Damascus • Location: Fear of Saul extends beyond Jerusalem • Purpose: To apprehend Christians; Jewish (Saul) to Greek (Paul): relates to his purpose as universal evangelizer

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relationships with the Sanhedrin, The Followers of The Way, and the Jewish faith community
<p>C6 illustrate knowledge of St. Paul's journeys and the building of the early Christian communities noting where he went (e.g. Corinth, Ephesus, Rome) and the challenges he faced (e.g. imprisoned, shipwrecked, tortured).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Map one of St. Paul's journeys creating a visual representation either through a travel pamphlet, a travel journal, or personal photo album chronicling their experiences □ Explain Paul's mission to spread the faith to a Greco-Roman audience and the troubles encountered in that mission (Acts 13-28 and 2 Corinthians 11.24-27) □ Reflect on the challenges that we face in our mission to spread the "Good News"
<p>C7 recount the origins of <u>Roman</u> persecution as a continuing theme in Church history</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Explore the reason for the Roman persecutions against the Christians – why choose that group as a scapegoat? □ Analyze how the Roman persecution defined the Church during this period noting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nero – began the persecution of the Christians (64 AD) • Diocletian – final attempt to eradicate the faith (310 AD)
<p>C8 compare and contrast the persecutions of the early Christians to the personal and societal challenges faced by Catholics throughout the world today.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Brainstorm current examples of where Christians are facing persecution □ Connect these examples to the example found in the Roman persecutions – How are they similar or different? □ Discussion of whether the Church thrives better in times of persecution or peace.

