

[www.prisonnet.org](http://www.prisonnet.org)  
**Bible Study Series**  
**Being Part of the Church**

This series focuses on what makes the biggest difference in whether a Christian ex-inmate can make it "on the street" or ends up back "inside" — whether he or she gets actively involved in a solid church in his or her community. What are the most important things to look for in a church? What are you supposed to do as a member of a church?

| <b>Lesson</b><br>(click below for on-line preview)  | <b>PDF file</b><br>(click below to download) |
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| <b>What is a Church?</b><br><br>Everyone involved in prison ministry knows that the most important thing a Christian inmate can do when he gets out is to get involved with a solid Christian fellowship in his Community. What should he look for? First of all, a church that preaches the gospel of Jesus Christ, as Paul outlined it in <i>1 Corinthians 15:3-6</i> .   | <b>Church.pdf</b>                            |
| <b>Scripture</b><br><br>The first main requirement in finding a good church is making sure that its teachings and practices are solidly based on biblical teachings. The pastors and teachers in the church should use the scriptures as their primary foundation, and the members of the church should be involved in regular Bible studies. This lesson looks at how scriptures should be used in the church, according to <i>2 Timothy 3:16-17</i> . | <b>Scripture.pdf</b>                         |
| <b>Spiritual Gifts</b><br><br>The Holy Spirit gives every believer a spiritual gift to be used to help others grow in faith and in their relationship with God. This lesson explores some ways to find out what our spiritual gifts are and how we can use them as part of a local church. Romans 12 is the primary text.   | <b>Gifts.pdf</b>                             |
| <b>Body of Christ</b><br><br>God wants the church to work together in unity, like the various parts of a healthy human body. This lesson explores Ephesians 4:11-13 to emphasize this key concept. It explains that God's purpose for the church involves the leaders prepaing the member for ministry, so that the whole church may be brought to spiritual maturity and Christlikeness.   | <b>Body.pdf</b>                              |
| <b>Ministry to Ex-prisoners</b><br><br>God expects us to be ready to tell others about how He rescued us from the power of sin, and to help one another avoid sin. This lesson focuses on some practical problems faced by prisoners and ex-prisoners -- how (and when) to help other people trapped in sin without becoming entangled themselves. The primary text is Galatians 6:1-5.   | <b>ExPrisoners.pdf</b>                       |