

What Churches Do

by Robert and Evelyn Bolton

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the Global University Staff*

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The *King James Version (KJV)* and *New International Version (NIV)* are also quoted.

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First, Let's Have a Talk

A Word From Your Study Guide Authors

Have you ever wondered what churches are for and why people go to church? What does it really mean to “get baptized,” to “take communion,” and to “dedicate babies”? Or perhaps you have heard someone ask, “Do I need to go to church? Why can't I just worship God in nature or in my home?” What would you answer?

Whether you attend church services regularly or just occasionally, or even if you have not yet entered a church, this course will interest you. We will follow the experiences of Mary, a new convert, and her fiancé, Timothy. Timothy is a church member who suddenly takes a new interest in spiritual things because of Mary's questions.

The modern method of teaching yourself will help you to learn easily. As you understand more fully what is being done in the church, you can take part more meaningfully. You will then not only *gain* more blessing, but also *be* a greater blessing.

Your Study Guide

What Churches Do is a workbook that you can take with you and study whenever you have some free time. Try to set aside some time every day to study it.

You will notice that objectives are given at the beginning of each lesson. The word *objective* is used in this book to help you know what to expect from your study. An objective is something like a goal or a purpose. You will study better if you keep in mind your objectives.

Be sure to study carefully the first two pages of each lesson. This prepares your mind for what follows. Next, study the lesson section by section and follow the instructions under the title *For You to Do*. If there is not enough room to write your answers to the study questions in the study guide, write them in a notebook so you can refer back to them when you review the lesson. If you are studying this course with a group, follow the instructions of your group leader.

How to Answer Study Questions

There are different kinds of study questions in this study guide. Following are samples of several types and how to answer them.

A *MULTIPLE-CHOICE* question or item asks you to choose an answer from the ones that are given.

Example of Multiple-Choice Question

- 1 A week has a total of
- a) 10 days.
 - b) 7 days.
 - c) 5 days.

The correct answer is *b) 7 days*. In your study guide, make a circle around *b)* as shown here:

- 1 A week has a total of
- a) 10 days.
 - ⓑ) 7 days.
 - c) 5 days.

(For some multiple-choice items, more than one answer may be correct. In that case, you would circle the letter in front of each correct answer.)

A *TRUE-FALSE* question or item asks you to choose which of several statements are TRUE.

Example of True-False Question

- 2 Which statements below are TRUE?
- a The Bible has 120 books.
 - b** The Bible is a message for believers today.
 - c All of the Bible authors wrote in the Hebrew language.
 - d** The Holy Spirit inspired the writers of the Bible.

Statements **b** and **d** are true. You would make a circle around these two letters to show your choices, as you see above.

A *MATCHING* question or item asks you to match things that go together, such as names with descriptions or Bible books with their authors.

Example of Matching Question

3 Write the number for the leader's name in front of each phrase that describes something he did.

- | | | |
|--------|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| .1.. a | Received the Law at Mt. Sinai | 1) Moses |
| .2.. b | Led the Israelites across the Jordan | 2) Joshua |
| .2.. c | Marched around Jericho | |
| .1.. d | Lived in Pharaoh's court | |

Phrases **a** and **d** refer to *Moses*, and phrases **b** and **c** refer to *Joshua*. You would write **1** beside **a** and **d**, and **2** beside **b** and **c**, as you see above.

Your Student Report

If you are studying to earn a certificate, you will need to complete the Student Report. The Student Report and answer sheets are located at the end of the book.

There are two units in this course. In the Student Report there are questions for each unit. There is also an answer sheet for each of the two units. Your study guide will tell you when to answer the unit questions and to fill out the appropriate answer sheet.

Follow the instructions given in your student report for sending the answer sheets to the ICI office in your area. The address should be stamped at the top of the copyright page. When you do this, you will receive an attractive certificate. If you have already earned the certificate, you will receive a seal to affix to it, indicating that you have completed another course in this unit of study.

About the Authors

The authors of this course are Robert and Evelyn Bolton, both the children of missionary parents. The Boltons are the parents of two daughters. Robert was born in mainland China, the son of Ada and Leonard Bolton, who ministered for over 37 years by pioneering churches in China, Myanmar, Bangladesh, and Jamaica. Evelyn is the daughter of Lydia and Frederic Burke. Mr. Burke is the founder of the All Africa School of Theology, a leading correspondence school for African leaders.

Robert and Evelyn Bolton are graduates of Central Bible College, Springfield, Missouri. Robert received his M.A. in missions from the School of World Mission and Institute of Church Growth

at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California. Beginning in 1955, the couple engaged in evangelization, church planting, and Bible training among the Minnan-speaking Chinese in the large cities of Taiwan, as well as among the tribespeople in the mountains.

After 39 years serving under the Assemblies of God World Missions, the Boltons retired from missionary ministry overseas. In 1994 they were appointed by the Division of Home Missions to serve in Intercultural Ministries, specifically Chinese ministries. Currently, they are pioneering a Chinese assembly in Philadelphia. In 1996 Robert received his Doctorate in Missiology at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School (Trinity International University), Deerfield, Illinois.

Additional Helps

Other materials are available for use with this study guide, including supplemental audiocassettes, an Instructor's Guide, and an Instructor's Packet (for instructor's use only). Consult the Evangelism, Discipleship, and Training Manual.