

So Great a Cloud of Witnesses:

A Survey of Church History

Scope & Sequence

Unit 1

This unit introduces the students to the course as the story of God’s people—the church—with the story of faith as found in the book of Hebrews. The unit goes on to explore the beginnings of the church under the Roman Empire including the persecutions and establishment of Christianity as the state religion under Constantine in 313. The unit then follows the growth of the church, its struggles with heresies and split from the Byzantine churches. The unit also looks at the church in the Middle Ages including the crusades and factors that lead up to the Reformation.

- Session 1. The Great Cloud of Witness
- Session 2. The Fledgling Band of Believers
- Session 3. A Dangerous Sect
- Session 4. The Establishment of Christendom
- Session 5. Councils and Canons
- Session 6. Apart and Alone with God
- Session 7. As Rome Goes, So Goes Christianity?
- Session 8. Christianity in New Places
- Session 9. Byzantine Christianity
- Session 10. Christianity and Islam
- Session 11. Pilgrimages and Crusades
- Session 12. Medieval Theology in Stone and Glass
- Session 13. The Mystics
- Session 14. A Chasm Comes to Christianity
- Session 15. A Glance Backward: Review

Unit 2

This unit looks at the leaders of the Reformation movement including Martin Luther, John Calvin and John Knox. Worship practices and beliefs about the sacraments that came out of the Reformation are also reviewed. The unit then moves to the history of the church in North America including the part faith played in the Revolutionary War and over the issue of slavery. Other sessions look at the events of the 20th century that had an impact on the church including the theory of evolution, World War II, civil rights, women’s rights and social justice. The unit concludes with an overall review, a session on finding out the history of the particular church, and optional sessions for use at Christmas and Easter.

- Session 16. Here I Stand
- Session 17. The Lawyer Pastor
- Session 18. Three Styles of Worship

- Session 19. The Sacrament of Communion
- Session 20. From Reformation to Reformations
- Session 21. John Knox, A Fiery Reformer
- Session 22. A Westminster Assembly
- Session 23. Protestantism Crosses the Atlantic
- Session 24. Revolution, Revival, and Rebellion
- Session 25. To the Ends of the Earth
- Session 26. Those Who Answered the Call
- Session 27. The Line in the Sand
- Session 28. The Church during World War II
- Session 29. The Church and Protests after World War II
- Session 30. For Justice Today
- Session 31. The Church around the World
- Session 32. The Church, Yesterday and Today: Review
- Session 33. Your Congregation Today

- Session 34. Christmas
- Session 35. Easter