

# The Church Grows

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Unit 1, Session 2**.

We celebrate the feasts of Saint Peter and Saint Paul on the same day. Jesus chose Peter to lead the Church in its earliest days. Paul was the greatest missionary to the Gentiles.

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Peter had a vision in which God showed him that it was wrong to call anyone profane or unclean. He believed that everyone should be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

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Paul was a Jewish intellectual raised as a Pharisee, a sect known for its adherence to the Law. He was blinded by a light, which taught him that he had been blind to Jesus' true identity. Paul realized that Jesus is alive and present in the Church. When Christians suffer, Jesus suffers.

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Peter understood that God shows no favorites. The message of Salvation is for all.

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Paul's message was that in Jesus Christ, God has given Salvation to all who believe. Paul taught us that through the Holy Spirit, we can live in love with all people.

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The Council of Jerusalem resolved that Jewish laws would not apply to Gentile Christians.

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God's gift of grace gives baptized Christians the help they need to overcome the temptations that are a result of Original Sin. Baptism gives us this help, or grace.

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*Eucharist* means "thanksgiving" and is the Christian prayer of blessing for all that God has done for us in Jesus Christ. The Eucharist is a celebration of Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross.

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In his preaching, Paul emphasized that Jews and non-Jews were equal members of the Church.

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When the priest prays the words of Consecration during the Eucharist, the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of the risen Christ.

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