

# What Biblical Images Reveal about God's Relationship with His People

*The following biblical images have been used to describe the Church. Reflect on the meaning of each image, referring to chapter 1 of the student book for ideas. Then for each image, answer the question in bold. Write your answers on the back of this handout.*

**What does this image reveal about God's relationship with his people?**

- flock of sheep
- vine and branches
- Temple (Jesus is the cornerstone)
- ark (as in Noah's ark)
- People of God
- covenant for the people
- Kingdom of God

*You may be interested in Pope Francis's favorite image of the Church, and his understanding of God's relationship with us as revealed in the image of "People of God":*

The image of the Church I like is of the holy, faithful people of God. This is the definition I often use, and then there is that image from the Second Vatican Council's 'Dogmatic Constitution on the Church' (No. 12). Belonging to a people has a strong theological value. In the history of salvation, God has saved a people. There is no full identity without belonging to a people. No one is saved alone, as an isolated individual.

(Pope Francis, "A Big Heart Open to God" interview, September 20, 2013)

