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Christian History Made Easy (Rose Bible Basics)

34. Chapter Three Discussion and Review Session (AD 247-420)

This is a leader's guide for a group session reviewing Chapter Three, not a teaching chapter itself. It lays out worship, a timeline-ordering activity, small-group study of two early hymns, and a discussion about how churches should think about growth. The central lesson: faithfulness to the truth matters more than numbers.

Key takeaways

- The session uses two early hymns to teach the Trinity against Arius, who denied that the Son is fully God. 'Of the Father's Love Begotten' calls Jesus the eternal 'source' and 'God'; 'Glory Be to the Father' gives equal glory to Father, Son, and Spirit.
- Under Constantine the church grew fast but its message became diluted as political acceptance drew in nominal converts.
- Growth is not proof of God's blessing. Sometimes faithful preaching shrinks a church by driving out those who were never truly Christian.

- The application: watch for the temptation to dilute God's message to win human approval or larger numbers.

Passages worth keeping

“In God's kingdom, faithfulness matters more than numeric growth.”

The session's main point about how to judge a healthy church.

How it connects

Ties the fourth-century fight over Arianism to a modern test: measure a church by faithfulness to the truth, not by attendance or budget.

Scripture referenced

- **Acts 2:41–42** -- Cited where genuine growth accompanies faithful preaching.
- **1 John 2:19** -- Cited where a church loses members who were never true believers.