The Fifth and Sixth Centuries
History: The Early Church

Theme: Five Highlights of the Fifth and Sixth Centuries

1. The Fall of Rome
    - The Invasion of Modern Northern Europe: *Mongol Huns*
    - The Invasion of Modern Italy, France and Spain: *Visigoths*
    - The Invasion of Modern NW Africa: *Vandals*
    - The Invasion of Modern Italy: *Ostrogoths*
    - The Invasion of Modern France: *Franks, Burgundians, and Lombards*
    - The Invasion of Modern Britain and Ireland: *Angles, Saxons, and Jutes*

2. The Rise of Missions
   - Evangelism of Ireland: *Patrick*
   - Evangelism of Germany: *Boniface*
   - Evangelism of England: *Augustine of Canterbury*
   - Evangelism of France: *Clovis*

3. The Rise of the Pope
   - Political Factors
     - The Prominence of Rome as Original Imperial Capital
     - The Prominence of Roman Church as "Mother Church"
     - The Need for Unity Amidst a Crumbling Western Empire
   - Theological Factors
     - So-called Apostolic Succession
   - Biographical Factors
     - The Influence of Leo the Great (400-461)
     - The Influence of Gregory the Great

- Contradicting Factors
  - Contradicts Jesus' Teaching on Leadership: Matthew 20:16
  - Contradicts Biblical Wisdom on Leadership: Plurality
  - Contradicts New Testament Church Government: Local Church Elders
  - Contradicts New Testament Profile of Peter: Far From Exemplary
  - Contradicts Peter's View of Himself: 1 Peter5:1, "A Fellow Elder"
  - Contradicts New Testament's Profile of Rome: Never Exalted
  - Contradicts New Testament's Profile of Apostles: Ephesians. 2:20, John 16:13
  - Contradicts Christ as Foundation of the Church: Matthew 16:18

4. The Rise of New Heresies
    - Pelagianism**:** *Is God Actually Sovereign?*

    - Nestorianism: *Can Jesus, Who Has Two Natures, Really Be One Person?*

    - Eutychianism: *Can Jesus, Who Is One Person, Really Have Two Natures?*

5. The Rise of Eastern Christianity
    - Theological Drift
        - How God Saves You**:** *Legal vs. Mystical Language*

        - How God Is Worshipped**:** *The Use of Icons*

- **Political** Drift
  - Began with **Emperor Constantine:** *Founding of Constantinople as the "New Rome"*

  - Accelerated with Emperor Justinian: *Byzantine Christian Culture*

- Organizational Drift: *Papal vs. Patriarchal Authority*

The Fifth and Sixth Centuries:
A Timeline

- 400 Jerome's *Latin Vulgate* Published
- 410 Rome Sacked by Alaric and Visigoths
- 430 Augustine of Hippo Dies
- 431 Council of Ephesus
- 432 Patrick Begins Mission to Ireland
- 440 Leo the Great Consecrated as Bishop of Rome
- 449 Second Council of Ephesus
- 451 Council of Chalcedon
- 453 Leo Before Attila the Hun
- 455 Rome Sacked by Vandals
- 476 Fall of Western Roman Empire; Romulus Augustus Deposed
- 496 Clovis I, King of the Franks, Baptized
- 529 Benedict of Nursia Establishes First Monastery
- 553 Second Council of Constantinople
- 589 Filoque Clause Added to Nicene Creed of 381
- 590 Gregory the Great Elected Pope