

A STUDY FOR CHILDREN ON THE FAMILY OF GOD



I Will Build My Church

JILL NELSON

I Will Build My Church: A Study for Children on the Family of God

by Jill Nelson

Our vision at Truth78 is that the next generations know, honor, and treasure God, setting their hope in Christ alone, so that they will live as faithful disciples for the glory of God.

Our mission is to inspire and equip the church and the home for the comprehensive discipleship of the next generation.

We equip churches and parents by producing curriculum for Sunday School, Midweek Bible, Intergenerational, Youth, and Backyard Bible Club settings; vision-casting and training resources (many available free on our website) for both the church and the home; materials and training to help parents in their role in discipling children; and the Fighter Verses™ Bible memory program to encourage the lifelong practice and love of Bible memory.

Truth:78

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A Note to Parents

When most children hear the word “church” the first thing that usually comes to mind is a particular place—a building. Church is a place where they go for a weekly worship service, Sunday school classes, and more. However, as the Bible defines it, the church is something much more beautiful, wonderful, and profound.

According to the Bible, the church of Jesus Christ is the preeminent institution in all this world. The church is God’s gift to his children for provision, protection, and growth. The church is the vessel for the display of God’s glory, not only on earth but also in the heavenly realm. To love Christ is necessarily to love his church. To be saved is to leave the world and enter into the church. Indeed, John Calvin spoke with biblical warrant when he wrote, “He would have God for his Father must have the Church for his mother.”¹

In other words, the church is a very special people—God’s chosen, blessed, redeemed, and holy people, who are called to a very special purpose to worship God, love and build up one another into Christlikeness, and proclaim the gospel to the lost. This is the three-fold purpose of the church that will be explored in this study. On a very practical level, we want children to understand the basic workings of their own local church, such as why we gather for corporate worship, the preaching of the Word, baptism, communion, etc. We want them to see and be grateful for the God-ordained leadership of their pastors, elders, and teachers. Also, we want to explore how believers are to relate to one another within the church in order to build up and encourage one another in love and how that love is intended to spill out into their neighborhoods, cities, and even the world.

Our hope and prayer are that, through this study, the children will grow to love the church and want to be full participants within the church. For children who are already trusting in Christ for their salvation, we want to further their love for the church and encourage them to see themselves as an important part of the body of Christ in which they begin to discover the unique gifts and abilities given to them by the Holy Spirit. For unbelieving children, our prayer is that we present such a beautiful picture of the church that, by the presentation of the gospel and through the transforming power of the Holy Spirit, they are drawn into the true community of believers.

Using the Parent Pages

Parents, by proximity, opportunity, and God’s design, bear a unique responsibility for nurturing their children’s faith (see Deuteronomy 6:4-9). Therefore, Christian discipleship should not be seen primarily as a classroom experience, but rather as a consistent weaving of spiritual truth with everyday life in the context of the home. Consider these words by R. C. Sproul:

I don’t think there’s a mandate to be found in sacred Scripture that is more solemn than this one. That we are to teach our children the truth of God’s Word is a sacred, holy responsibility that God gives to His people. And it’s not something that is to be done only one day a week in Sunday school. We can’t abdicate the responsibility to the church. The primary responsibility for the education of children according to Scripture is the family, the parents.²

To assist parents with this endeavor, Parent Pages are provided with each lesson of this study. Each Parent Page includes the lesson’s main idea/s, memory work, and Scripture references, as well as an “As You Walk By the Way” section with suggestions for further discussion, personal application, and additional activities. Please take advantage of these pages during the week to further instruct your child’s mind with the Word of God, engage the heart to genuinely respond in faith, and influence the will to walk in Jesus’ ways.

1 Richard D. Phillips, Philip G. Ryken, and Mark E. Dever. *The Church: One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic*. (Phillipsburg, N.J.: P&R Publishing, 2004), x.

2 R.C. Sproul. “The Most Solemn Mandate in the Bible for Parents,” *Tabletalk Magazine*, Sep 8, 2016, ligonier.org

A Special Note Regarding the Apostles' Creed

In lessons 1-14, your child will be encouraged to memorize the Apostles' Creed. The version provided in this curriculum is as follows:

*I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried.
The third day he rose from the dead.
He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.*

It is important to note that the phrase “descended into hell,” which often follows “was crucified, dead and buried,” has not been included. An explanation for this change from the traditional language can be found in the following resources:

- “Did Jesus Spend Saturday in Hell”—article by John Piper, found at desiringGod.org
- “He Did Not Descend into Hell: A Plea for Following Scripture Instead of the Apostles' Creed”—article by Wayne Grudem, found at waynegrudem.com

However, your church may decide to forego this version and use another version for memorization.

I Will Build My Church Buttons

The children will be working to earn four *I Will Build My Church* Buttons this year. There may be some time available in class to work on button requirements, but your child should do most of this work at home. The four buttons and their requirements are as follows:



Worship God!—Memorize a hymn. Your child's teacher will provide suggestions.



Love One Another—Complete a service project for someone in your church family.



The Apostles' Creed—Memorize the Apostles' Creed.



Proclaim the Gospel—Participate in a project to reach people who aren't Christians.

Parents, we look forward to partnering with you this year, to the end that the next generation may put their trust in God! If you have any questions or suggestions, or if we may be of help to you in any way, please do not hesitate to call. Any of us would be glad to talk with you.

Teacher: _____

Helper/s: _____

I Will Build My Church

Scope and Sequence

- Target Grade: 4th
- Intended Use: Midweek Bible
- Lessons: 28
- ESV



I Will Build My Church is a Midweek Bible study for children on the family of God. The curriculum communicates the essence and purpose of Jesus' church. The church is God's chosen, blessed, redeemed, and holy people, who are called to worship God, to love and build up one another into Christlikeness, and to proclaim the gospel to the lost. The lessons develop these themes as the study progresses and build up to the glorious triumph of Jesus' church for all eternity.

Lesson 1: Jesus Is Building His Church

Key Scriptures: Matthew 16:18b; 1 Peter 2:4-5a

Jesus is building His church. The church is like a spiritual house that includes everyone who is trusting in Jesus for salvation.

Memory Work: The Apostles' Creed

Lesson 2: The Church—God's Plan from the Beginning

Key Scriptures: Ephesians 1:3-4; Genesis 12:1-3; 1 Peter 2:9

The church is the chosen, blessed, redeemed, holy people of God and is the fulfillment of God's promises to His people.

Memory Work: The Apostles' Creed

Lesson 3: The Cornerstone of the Church

Key Scriptures: Ephesians 2:3b, 5, 8, 19-20

Jesus is the cornerstone of the church—He is the first and most important part. The only way to become part of Jesus' church is by grace, through faith in Jesus.

Memory Work: The Apostles' Creed

Lesson 4: The Foundation of the Church

Key Scriptures: Ephesians 2:19-20; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Ephesians 3:4-6

The apostles and prophets, filled with the Holy Spirit, spoke God's Word with Jesus' authority. Their work is now finished because their words and teaching are written in Scripture, completing the New Testament.

Memory Work: The Apostles' Creed

Lesson 5: The Spirit-Filled Church

Key Scriptures: John 14:25-29; Acts 1 and 2 (Various Passages)

Throughout the Old Testament, God was progressively pointing toward the arrival of a Spirit-filled people to be His church. The Holy Spirit filled the church on the day of Pentecost.

Memory Work: The Apostles' Creed

Lesson 6: The Holy Spirit Dwells within All Members of the Church

Key Scriptures: Ephesians 2:22; 1 Corinthians 3:16; John 14:16

The Holy Spirit dwells within each member of Jesus' church and provides the means for the church to grow in maturity.

Memory Work: The Apostles' Creed

Lesson 7: Jesus Appoints Leaders to Equip His Church

Key Scriptures: Colossians 1:15-18a; Ephesians 4:11-12, 15-16

Jesus is the head of the church, its sovereign Ruler. Jesus has appointed different roles and positions in the church so that God's people would grow in maturity.

Memory Work: The Apostles' Creed

Lesson 8: God's People Gather to Worship

Key Scriptures: Psalms (Various Passages); Ephesians 5:18b-20

The most important gathering of the church is the weekly worship service. Singing during the church's weekly gathering is a means of expressing heartfelt worship of God.

Memory Work: The Apostles' Creed

Lesson 9: God's People Gather to Hear the Word

Key Scriptures: 1 Timothy 4:13; 2 Timothy 4:2

The Bible is necessary for Christian growth and should be read and preached from when God's people gather together to worship.

Memory Work: The Apostles' Creed

Lesson 10: God's People Gather to Pray

Key Scriptures: Acts 12:5-11

Prayer is the means by which Jesus' church has intimate access to the heavenly Father. When the church prays together, God always listens and responds according to His will.

Memory Work: The Apostles' Creed

Lesson 11: God's People Gather to Welcome New Believers (Baptism)

Key Scriptures: Acts 8:26-38; Romans 6:3-4

Jesus instituted the rite of baptism as a special observance for His church. Baptism is the public entrance into the membership of Jesus' church.

Memory Work: The Apostles' Creed

Lesson 12: God's People Gather to Remember and Receive

Key Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 11:23-29

Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper as a special observance for His church. When the people of the church celebrate the Lord's Supper, they receive spiritual blessing.

Memory Work: The Apostles' Creed

Lesson 13: God's People Gather to Give

Key Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 9:13-14; 2 Corinthians 9:6-8, 10-12

Jesus has designed that the financial needs of His church are met through the offerings of His people, who are to give from the heart—freely, cheerfully, and generously,

Memory Work: The Apostles' Creed

Lesson 14: God's People Love and Care for One Another

Key Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 12:12-22, 24b-26; John 13:34-35

The church is like one body with many parts—every member is important. Jesus commands His church to love and care for one another.

Memory Work: The Apostles' Creed

Lesson 15: God's People Build Up and Encourage One Another

Key Scriptures: 1 Thessalonians 5:11a; Ephesians 4:11-13

The members of the church are to grow in maturity by becoming more like Christ. We are to encourage and build up one another toward maturity.

Memory Work: John 13:34; 1 Thessalonians 5:11a

Lesson 16: God's People Serve One Another

Key Scriptures: 1 Peter 4:10; Philippians 2:3-4; Galatians 5:13

The members of Jesus' church are to look to the needs of others, and not just our own needs. Every Christian has been given gifts and abilities in order that they might serve one another.

Memory Work: 1 Peter 4:10

Lesson 17: God's People Watch over One Another

Key Scriptures: John 10:11-12, 27-28; Acts 20:28

Jesus has appointed shepherds to watch over and protect His church—men who are pastors and elders. Jesus wants all the members of His church to lovingly watch over one another.

Memory Work: 1 Peter 5:8

Lesson 18: God's People Teach One Another

Key Scripture: Colossians 1:28

Teaching the Scriptures is to be an ongoing activity of Jesus' church, for all ages. The shepherds, pastors, and elders are to carefully guard the teaching of the church.

Memory Work: 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Lesson 19: God's People Submit to One Another

Key Scriptures: Ephesians 5:21; Hebrews 13:17a

The members of the church are to have a submissive attitude toward one another. Jesus has established positions of authority within His church, and the members are to submit to the godly leadership of the church.

Memory Work: Hebrews 13:17

Lesson 20: God's People Live in Harmony with One Another

Key Scriptures: Romans 15:5-6; 2 Corinthians 13:11b

Jesus wants His people to live in peace and harmony with one another. When conflict arises, in love and humility we are to seek to be reconciled to one another.

Memory Work: Romans 12:16a

Lesson 21: God's People Show Hospitality to One Another

Key Scriptures: 1 Peter 4:9; Romans 15:7

Jesus commands His people to show regular and joyful hospitality to one another.

Memory Work: 1 Peter 4:9; Romans 15:7

Lesson 22: God's People Proclaim the Gospel to the Lost

Key Scriptures: Matthew 28:18-20; Matthew 5:16; 1 Peter 3:15

Jesus commands that His church go out and proclaim the gospel to lost sinners. Proclaiming the gospel involves good works, evangelism, and missions.

Memory Work: Matthew 28:19-20

Lesson 23: The Persecuted Church

Key Scriptures: John 15:18-20a; Hebrews 13:3; 2 Corinthians 1:3-4a; 2 Corinthians 11:32-33

Jesus foretold that His church would be hated and persecuted. The church should remember, pray for, comfort, and sometimes rescue those who are persecuted.

Memory Work: Hebrews 13:3

Lesson 24: Jesus Will Guard and Defend His Church

Key Scriptures: Romans 3:23-24; Ephesians 2:8-9

Throughout history, Jesus has guarded the purity of His church. Martin Luther was an important leader in the Protestant Reformation.

Memory Work: Five Solas of the Reformation

Lesson 25: The Victorious Church

Key Scriptures: Matthew 13:31-32; Matthew 16:18; 1 Corinthians 15:57-58

The gospel is like a small seed that is planted and matures into a strong and beautiful tree producing much fruit. Jesus has promised that His church will prevail over all difficulties.

Memory Work: Matthew 16:18b

Lesson 26: One Church, One Faith

Key Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Ephesians 4:1-6

There is one true church of Jesus that is characterized by the teaching, belief, and practice of certain essential truths of the Christian faith.

Memory Work: Review the Apostles' Creed and the Five Solas of the Reformation

Lesson 27: Jesus Will Return for His Church

Key Scriptures: Revelation 19:6-9a; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Ephesians 5:25-27

The Bible describes Jesus as a bridegroom who will someday return for His bride—the church—so that the church might be with Him forever.

Memory Work: John 14:2-3

Lesson 28: Being a Member of Jesus' Church

Key Scriptures: John 1:12; Ephesians 1:4-5a

The church is God's family, living in loving fellowship with one another, with every member having special responsibilities and privileges.

Memory Work: John 1:12

Please visit Truth78.org to find more information about I Will Build My Church, review curriculum samples, see the entire line of curriculum from Truth78, or place an order for your church or home.



Jesus Is Building His Church

MAIN IDEAS

- Jesus is building His church.
- The church is like a spiritual house that includes everyone who is trusting in Jesus for salvation.

MEMORY WORK

*I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
(from The Apostles' Creed)*

SCRIPTURE FOR THE LESSON

1) Matthew 16:18b
2) Acts 11:22a

3) Acts 15:4a
4) Acts 11:26b

5) Acts 12:5
6) Acts 16:5a

7) 1 Peter 2:4-5a

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

Review Matthew 16:18 and then read 1 Peter 2:4-5a. Ask your child: *Who is the "him" being mentioned at the beginning of verse 4?* [Jesus] *What does it mean to "come to him," or to "come to Jesus"?* [to come to Him in faith, trusting in Jesus for salvation] *Who are the "living stones"?* [everyone who is trusting in Jesus, every Christian] *When Peter says that Christians are like "living stones," who "are being built up as a spiritual house," what does he want us to understand about Jesus' church?* [It's not a physical building, but a group of people.]

Have your child imagine inviting a friend to church. What if the friend asked: "What is your church like?" *Would you tell your friend how wide and tall the church building is? Would you tell your friend how many bricks it took to build it? Would you talk about how many windows it has? Why not? How would you really describe our church? What things would be most important to tell your friend? Why?*

ACTIVITY


Use your Bible to look up each passage listed on the next page. Fill in the missing words. How do these verses demonstrate that Jesus' church is a "spiritual house" made of "living stones"—people who are trusting in Jesus?



 **Acts 11:22**—The report of this came to the _____
of the church in Jerusalem...

 **Acts 11:26**—For a whole year they met with the church and
_____ a great many people.

 **Acts 12:5**—So Peter was kept in prison, but earnest
_____ for him was made to God by the church.

 **Acts 15:4**—When they came to Jerusalem, they were
_____ by the church...

 **Acts 16:5**—So the churches were strengthened in the
_____...



The Church—God’s Plan from the Beginning

MAIN IDEAS

- God planned the church from before the world began.
- The church is the chosen, blessed, redeemed, holy people of God.
- The Old Testament progressively reveals God’s plan for His chosen people.
- Jesus’ church is the fulfillment of God’s promises to His people.

MEMORY WORK

*I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
(from the Apostles’ Creed)*

SCRIPTURE FOR THE LESSON

1) Ephesians 1:3-4
2) Genesis 12:1-3

3) Genesis 35:10-11
4) Exodus 6:6

5) Leviticus 11:45
6) Isaiah 1:4

7) Ezekiel 36:26
8) 1 Peter 2:9

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

Read the verses listed above in the order in which they appear. Explain that the church was God’s plan from the very beginning. The Old Testament provides a type of blueprint for the coming of Jesus and His church. The church is the fulfillment and completion of the promises God made to His chosen people. The coming of Jesus brought God’s chosen people the heart redemption they so desperately needed. The church is the true Israel, the true people of God.

Review Leviticus 11:45 and ask your child: *Why does God expect His people to be holy? What did God give to the people of Israel to show them how to live as holy people? [His law, the Ten Commandments] Did they succeed in being holy? How do we know they failed? What about the church? Does God expect His people to be holy? (Review Ephesians 1:3-4.) How has God provided a way for His people to be truly holy? What did Jesus do that Israel, or you and I could never do? [Jesus perfectly obeyed God’s holy and righteous law. Jesus never sinned.] Are you trusting in Jesus to save you and make you holy? If you are, how is this shown in your life?*

ACTIVITY

On the next page, use the key to complete the list of some “excellencies” of Jesus.



But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.—1 Peter 2:9

Some excellencies of Jesus: He is...

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KEY

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The Cornerstone of the Church

MAIN IDEAS

- Jesus is the cornerstone of the church—He is the first and most important part.
- Jesus is the perfect cornerstone because of who He is, what He has done, and all that He has promised to do.
- The only way to become part of Jesus' church is by grace, through faith.

MEMORY WORK

*I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
(from the Apostles' Creed)*

SCRIPTURE FOR THE LESSON

- | | | |
|----------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| 1) Ephesians 2:19-20 | 4) Hebrews 4:15b | 7) John 6:40 |
| 2) Matthew 1:21 | 5) Matthew 5:17 | 8) Acts 4:12 |
| 3) Colossians 1:19 | 6) 1 Peter 2:24a | 9) Ephesians 2:3b-5, 8 |

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

Read Ephesians 2:19-20. Ask your child: *What does it mean that Jesus is the "cornerstone" of the church? Why is He the first and most important part of the church? Can you recall some events in Jesus' life that prove Him to be a perfect, strong, and unshakable foundation? Because Jesus is fully God, what is Jesus able to do that no other thing or person can do? (See Colossians 1:15-19.) Why is it important to know this about Jesus? Could the church exist apart from Jesus? Why not? Can anyone become a member of Jesus' church apart from Jesus? Why not?*

Now read Ephesians 2:3b-5, 8. Ask your child: *What does it mean to "by nature" be "children of wrath"? What does this tell us about ourselves and how God views sin? Why is verse 4 so amazing? Why is salvation a gift? Why can't it be earned? Do you ever act as if you need to behave in a certain way in order to earn salvation? Will this work? Why not? What does it mean to be saved through faith in Christ? Are you truly trusting in Jesus for the free gift of salvation? What is one way you can show thanks and praise to Jesus this week? If you are not trusting in Him, is there anything that is hindering you?*

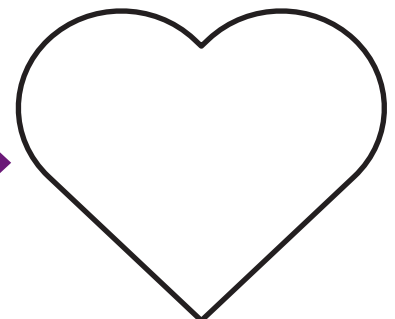
ACTIVITY

On the next page, write the word "Jesus" and draw a cross within the cornerstone box. Color the blank heart red and label it "living stone." Use the Word Key to complete each statement about Jesus.

- Jesus is the promised _____ of God's people.
- Jesus is _____ God.
- Jesus was without _____.
- Jesus perfectly obeyed God's _____.
- Jesus died on the _____ to make God's people righteous.
- Jesus gives God's people _____ life.
- _____ is found in _____ alone.

Word Key

cross	eternal	fully	Jesus
law	salvation	Savior	sin





The Foundation of the Church

MAIN IDEAS

- Jesus chose apostles and prophets at a specific time as the foundation of His church.
- The apostles and prophets, filled with the Holy Spirit, spoke God's Word with Jesus' authority.
- The work of the apostles and prophets is now finished because their words and teaching are written in Scripture, completing the New Testament.

MEMORY WORK

*I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried.
(from the Apostles' Creed)*

SCRIPTURE FOR THE LESSON

1) Ephesians 2:19-20

2) Matthew 16:18

3) 2 Peter 1:16-21

4) Ephesians 3:4-6

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

Read Proverbs 30:5 and explain that this is true of both the Old and New Testaments. Explain that when we read the New Testament, we can be confident that all the words that the apostles and prophets wrote are the true words of God, spoken with the authority of Jesus. That is why the church is to pay close attention to what the apostles and prophets teach in the Scriptures. Everything that God's chosen people need to live as blessed, redeemed, holy people has been included. It is the absolute, unchanging truth of God. It makes an everlasting, almighty, unshakable foundation for Jesus' church. Ask: *Because this is true, how should we view the Bible?*

Next, read and talk about 2 Timothy 3:15-17. Ask: *In what ways are you becoming acquainted with the Bible? What are the Scriptures meant to make you wise for? How does the Bible make a person wise for salvation? How does Scripture equip God's redeemed people for good works? Can you give an example from your own life?*

ACTIVITY

On the next page, look up each Bible passage describing something the apostles did in the early church. Write a brief summary in the box provided.

Acts 2:42-43

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Acts 4:8-12

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Acts 4:31-33

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Acts 9:36-41

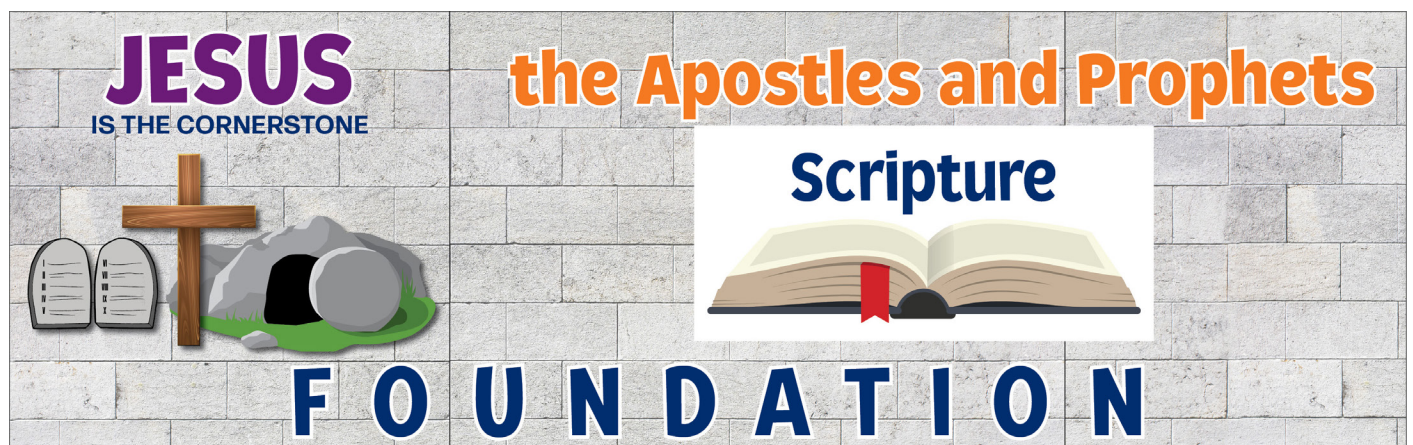
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Acts 10:42-43

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Acts 13:47-48

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The Spirit-Filled Church

MAIN IDEAS

- The church was God's plan from the very beginning.
- Throughout the Old Testament, God was progressively pointing toward the arrival of a Spirit-filled people to be His church.
- Jesus carefully prepared His disciples for the coming of the Holy Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit filled the church on the day of Pentecost.

MEMORY WORK

*I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried.³
The third day he rose from the dead.
(from the Apostles' Creed)*

SCRIPTURE FOR THE LESSON

1) John 14:25-29

2) Acts 1:4-5, 8-9

3) Acts 2:1-4, 42-47

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

Read Acts 1:4-5, 8-9 together and point out that the 11 apostles in this group were all Jewish—they were descendants of Abraham and men of Israel. Ask: *But what did Jesus say they would do once the Holy Spirit came upon them? How do we know that they actually did this? How far are we from the city of Jerusalem? Are there Christians here in our city and country? Why is that good news for the world? Are Christians today still proclaiming the gospel by the power of the Holy Spirit? Are sinners still coming to salvation in Jesus? Is there someone we could be praying for this week?*

Read Acts 2:1-4 and ask: *Who is the Holy Spirit, and why is He so powerful that He could enable people to speak a language that they have never learned?* (The Holy Spirit is almighty because He is fully God. Recall that God is three persons in one God, the Trinity—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.) Explain that, after this happened, the crowds were amazed. Peter then preached the gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit and many people were saved (Acts 2:14-41).


ACTIVITY

Use your Bible (English Standard Version) to fill in the missing words of the text. Answer the questions in the box. (Note: If you don't have an ESV Bible, you can find it online at ESV.org.)

³ The phrase "descended into hell" has been removed. Please see Wayne Grudem's explanation at waynegrudem.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/he-did-not-descend-into-hell_JETS.pdf (accessed 4/29/21).

 Acts 1:8—“But you will receive _____ when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my _____ in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the _____.”



 Acts 2:1-4—When the day of _____ arrived, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly there came from _____ a sound like a mighty rushing _____, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³And divided tongues as of _____ appeared to them and rested on each one of them. ⁴And they were all filled with the _____ and began to speak in other _____ as the Spirit gave them utterance.

What happened next? (verses 14-40)

What was the result? (verse 41)



The Holy Spirit Dwells within All Members of the Church

MAIN IDEAS

- The Holy Spirit dwells within each member of Jesus' church.
- The Holy Spirit provides God's people with the means for the church to grow in maturity.

MEMORY WORK

*I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried,
The third day he rose from the dead.
He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
(from the Apostles' Creed)*

SCRIPTURE FOR THE LESSON

1) Ephesians 2:22
2) 1 Corinthians 3:16

3) John 14:16, 26
4) John 16:13a

5) Acts 1:8a
6) 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

7) Ephesians 1:14

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

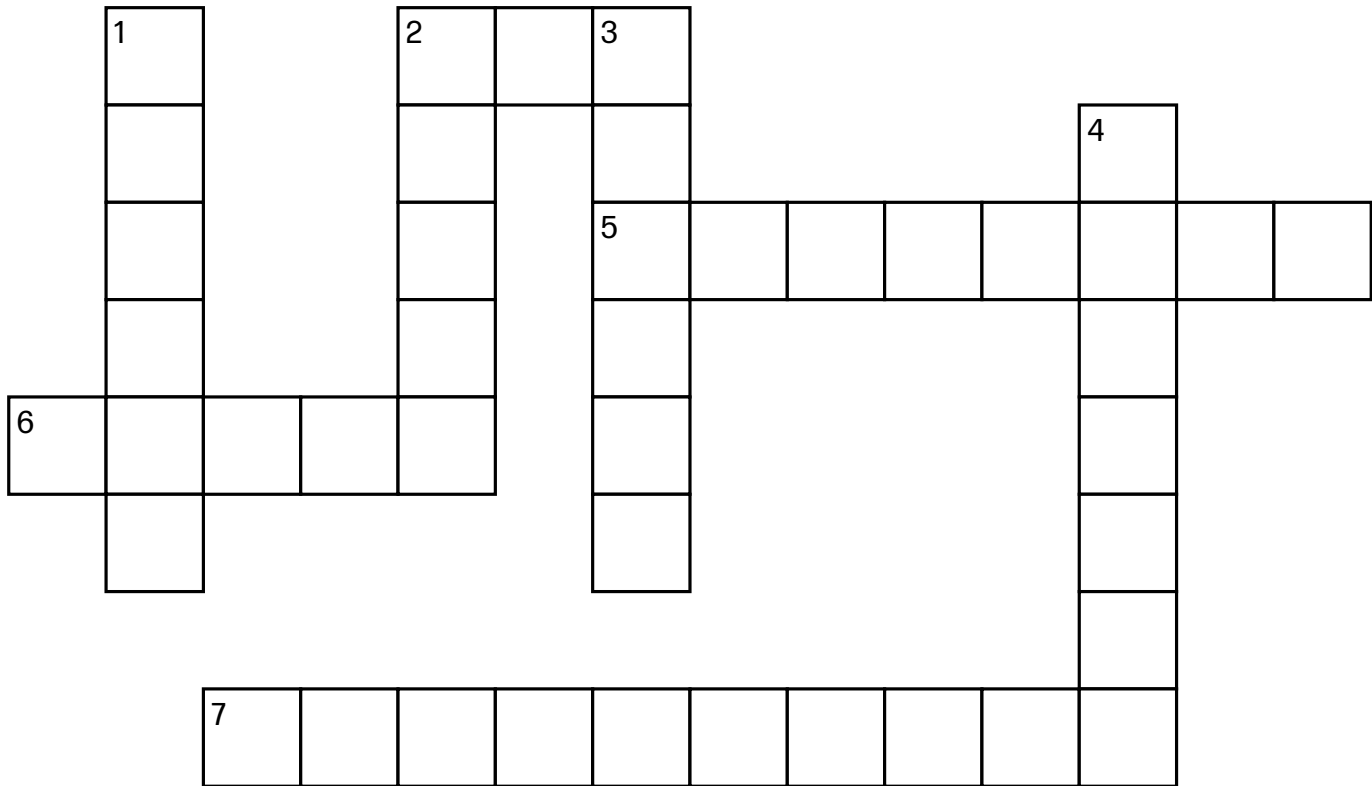
Review the verses listed above. Emphasize that the Holy Spirit dwells within every Christian to help, teach, guide, and empower them to become more and more like Jesus. The Holy Spirit also gives special gifts—abilities—to Christians for serving one another, and He serves as a guarantee that God will keep His promise of eternal life. Ask: *How should knowing the truth about the Holy Spirit make a Christian feel? Do you ask for His help and guidance when you read the Bible? If you have the Holy Spirit living within you, how should that change how you think, feel, and act in any given situation? For example, what if there is a huge storm outside? A big test coming at school? A situation where you're tempted to sin?*

Ask your child to recall a task that seemed beyond his or her ability to do. Next, read and talk about John 14:15. Ask: *Does this seem like something beyond your ability to do on your own? Why? Does Jesus understand our weakness?* Now read and talk about verses 16-17 and ask: *What does this tell us about Jesus' care for His people? What does He know that we need in order to love and obey Him as we should?*

ACTIVITY

Complete the crossword puzzle about the Person and work of the Holy Spirit. Then use your Bible (English Standard Version, which you can also find online at ESV.org) to fill in the missing words from John 14.

Who is the Holy Spirit and what does He do for Christians?



Down:

1. shows the way and leads
2. special abilities for service
3. 1 Corinthians 3:16 - "Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit _____ in you?"
4. educates and instructs

Across:

2. The Holy Spirit is the third member of the Trinity—along with the Father and Son. Therefore, the Holy Spirit is fully and truly _____.
5. gives strength to
6. assists and gives aid to
7. makes sure something will happen



John 14:15-16—"If you love me, you will keep my _____.
²And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another _____,
 to be with you _____,"



Jesus Appoints Leaders to Equip His Church

MAIN IDEAS

- Jesus is the head of the church, its sovereign Ruler.
- Jesus has appointed different roles and positions in the church so that God's people would grow in maturity.

MEMORY WORK (REVIEW FROM LESSONS 1-6)

*I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried.
The third day he rose from the dead.
He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
(from the Apostles' Creed)*

SCRIPTURE FOR THE LESSON

- | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 1) Colossians 1:15-18a | 3) Acts 20:28 | 5) Ephesians 4:15b-16 |
| 2) Ephesians 4:11-12 | 4) Romans 12:10 | |

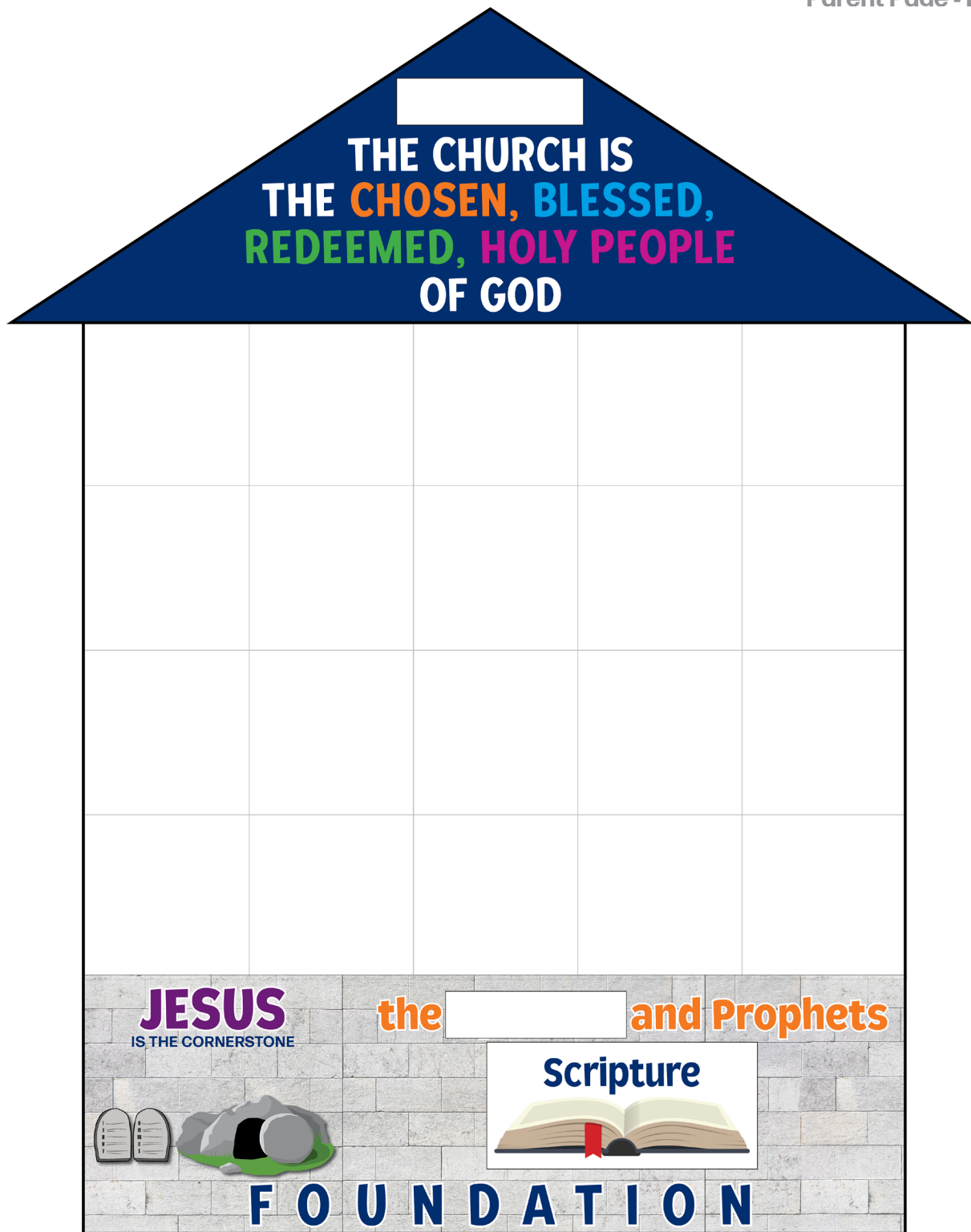
AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

Read Colossians 1:15-18a. Ask: *Who is the "head" of the church? What does it mean that Jesus is "preeminent"?* *Why is it good that Jesus decides the special qualifications for the men who lead the church?* (See Titus 1:7-9.) Ask your child if he or she can name the pastor/s and elders of your church and any specific roles/titles they hold. Then, read and talk about Ephesians 4:11-12 and Acts 20:28. Ask: *How do these men equip the members of our church? Can you think of specific ministries in our church? Why are these important for building up the church? How do the leaders of our church care for us? In what ways do they watch over us? Why should we be praying for them on a regular basis?*

Read and talk about 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13a. Ask: *What might this look like? Can you give a specific example of how you could show respect and honor to a pastor or elder? Do you think he would be encouraged by this? Why? What action steps could you take this week to show honor and thanks to one or more of our pastors/elders?*

ACTIVITY

Follow the instructions to fill in the missing words and symbols on the picture.



Instructions

1. Fill in the missing words in the blanks.
2. Draw a cross under the words "Jesus is the Cornerstone."
3. Draw a heart within each square to represent "living stones"—members of Jesus' church.
4. Within the hearts, write the names of all or some of the men who are pastors/elders of your church.



God's People Gather to Worship

MAIN IDEAS

- God's people are to regularly gather together in order to worship God, love one another, and proclaim the gospel to the lost.
- The most important gathering of the church is the weekly worship service.
- Singing during the church's weekly gathering is a means of expressing heartfelt worship of God.

MEMORY WORK

*I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried.
The third day he rose from the dead.
He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead.
(from the Apostles' Creed)*

SCRIPTURE FOR THE LESSON

- | | | |
|---------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| 1) Psalm 30:4 | 3) Psalm 98:1a | 5) Psalm 147:1 |
| 2) Psalm 95:1 | 4) Psalm 100:2 | 6) Ephesians 5:18b-20 |

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

Read and talk about Hebrews 10:24-25. Ask your child: *Do you look forward to going to church and participating in the worship service on Sundays? Why or why not? Do you desire to be with God's people more than you desire to sleep in late, play sports, or do other things? What will be more helpful to you now and in the future? Why?*

Talk about the typical elements practiced in your church's worship service (e.g., singing, reading Scripture, listening to a sermon, giving offerings, praying, and celebrating the Lord's Supper and baptisms). Ask: *Why do we sing when we gather together for the weekly worship service?* Read and talk about the verses listed in the Scripture section. Ask: *Do you have a favorite worship song? What do you like about it? Does it tell us great things about God and what He has done? Does it tell about salvation in Jesus? How do others singing in the worship service encourage you? Are you an encouragement to others?*

ACTIVITY

Read the words of the hymn, "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty." Follow the instructions below the hymn.

God's People Gather Together to Sing!

**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, now to his temple draw near,
Join me in glad adoration.**

**Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been
Granted in what he ordaineth?**

**Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee!
Surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee;
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
If with his love he befriend thee!**

**Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before him.
Let the Amen sound from his people again;
Gladly for aye we adore him.**

("Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation" words by Joachim Neander, translation by Catherine Winkworth. Public Domain.)

Instructions

1. Read the words to the hymn "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation," and ask your parents to help with any unfamiliar words.
2. Choose a colored marker, pen, or crayon and underline words or phrases that describe special things about who God is, what He is like, or something He has done.
3. Choose a different colored marker, pen, or crayon and underline words or phrases that describe a right heart response to God—a response of worship.



God's People Gather to Hear the Word

MAIN IDEAS

- The Bible is necessary for Christian growth.
- Scripture should be read when God's people gather together to worship.
- The preaching of God's Word provides God's people with spiritual food for growing in the Christian life.

MEMORY WORK

*I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried.
The third day he rose from the dead.
He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
(From the Apostles' Creed)*

SCRIPTURE FOR THE LESSON

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| 1) Ephesians 4:15b | 3) 1 Timothy 4:13 | 5) 2 Timothy 3:15-17 |
| 2) 1 Peter 2:2 | 4) 2 Timothy 4:2 | |

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

Read the verses listed above. Ask: *How does the reading of God's Word when we gather together encourage us to see God's Word as precious, important, powerful, etc.? In what ways does the preaching of God's Word train a person for righteousness and serve to equip us? During the sermon, do you really listen, think about, and respond to the message? What can distract us from doing this? Are there things that you can do to help you listen better? How could you prepare your heart for hearing and responding to God's Word being read and preached?*

Read Ephesians 4:11-16 and ask: *Can you think of an example of something from a recent sermon—something the pastor said and explained—that helped you? How does he help us to have more knowledge of Jesus? Why is the reading of the Bible and the preaching the Bible necessary for the church? Review 2 Timothy 3:15-17 and the other verses listed above. (Also, compare a steady diet of junk food to that of healthy food. What will be the difference in a person's well-being?)*

ACTIVITY

The next two times you are in the weekly worship service, use the next page to take notes on the sermon.

My Sermon Notes

What is the title of today's sermon?	
What is the main verse or what are the main verses that the pastor is preaching from?	
What key words does the pastor use?	
Is there a word or phrase that he has repeated often?	
Does the pastor use a picture illustration to help you understand something from the Bible? Draw a simple picture of this.	
Did you learn something new about God?	
Did the pastor challenge you to think about doing something in response to God's Word?	

My Sermon Notes

What is the title of today's sermon?	
What is the main verse or what are the main verses that the pastor is preaching from?	
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Does the pastor use a picture illustration to help you understand something from the Bible? Draw a simple picture of this.	
Did you learn something new about God?	
Did the pastor challenge you to think about doing something in response to God's Word?	



God's People Gather to Pray

MAIN IDEAS

- God wants His people to pray when they gather together.
- Prayer is the means by which Jesus' church has intimate access to the heavenly Father.
- When the church prays together, God always listens and responds according to His will.

MEMORY WORK

*I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried.
The third day he rose from the dead.
He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
(From the Apostles' Creed)*

SCRIPTURE FOR THE LESSON

1) Acts 12:5-11

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

Explain that when the church prays it is a means of speaking directly to God. Prayer gives God's people constant access to Him. Prayer allows the church to speak personally to God. It is a very special privilege that He has given to His chosen people. God is always attentive to the prayers of Jesus' church. Ask: *Do you pay attention when the church prays during the worship service? What kinds of things do you hear being said to God? Is God being adored and praised? Is sin confessed? Is God being thanked for certain things? Is God being asked to provide something for His people?*

Review the story found in Acts 12:1-11 and ask: *What does it mean that the church was "earnest" in prayer? Have you ever heard earnest prayers being made to God during the weekly worship service? What were they for? (If possible, give examples of this.) How can public prayers said when the church gathers encourage the members of Jesus' church to worship God? What should we be reminded of?*

ACTIVITY

In the Bible, we see four basic things expressed in the prayers of God's people. One way to remember these is to use the acronym "ACTS." Use the clue and the meaning found in the box to discover (or remember) each word discussed in the lesson. Then, listen carefully to the prayer/s during the next worship service in order to complete the statement in the box.

Jesus' Church Gathers to Pray

A _____
Clue: 1 Chronicles 29:10-11



This word means to express our highest love, honor, and praise to God.

C _____
Clue: Nehemiah 1:5-6



This word means to humbly acknowledge our sins to God.

T _____
Clue: Philippians 4:6



This word means to express true gratefulness for God's goodness to us.

S _____
Clue: Philippians 4:6



This word means to earnestly ask God to supply our needs.

Our Church is Praying for:



God's People Gather to Welcome New Believers (Baptism)

MAIN IDEAS

- Jesus instituted the rite of baptism as a special observance for His church.
- Baptism is an outward picture of the saving work of Christ in a person's heart—a dead sinner is brought to newness of life in Christ.
- Baptism is the public entrance into the membership of Jesus' church.

MEMORY WORK

*I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried.
The third day he rose from the dead.
He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
(From the Apostles' Creed)*

SCRIPTURE FOR THE LESSON

1) Acts 8:26-38

2) Romans 6:3-4

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY


















Read and talk about Romans 6:3-4. Explain that during a baptism ceremony, a person being immersed in water and then being brought up out of the water is a symbol of spiritual realities. A person is making a public profession: "Jesus has saved me. My old sinful life has been 'put to death' on the cross. My old life is dead and buried." (The person is immersed in the water.) Then, "Jesus has saved me and, just as He rose from the dead to new life, I am living a new kind of life as His child. I am a new person who is trusting in Jesus, and I want to walk in His ways." (The person is brought up out of the water.)























Talk about how your church performs a baptism, including how someone is prepared for baptism.⁴ Why is it important that the church carefully prepare and examine a person who wants to be baptized? When Jesus' church gathers together to witness the baptism of new Christians, it is a time for the whole church to remember and celebrate what Jesus has done in the life of people who were once dead sinners. It is a time to welcome these new believers into membership as "living stones," who have now been added into Jesus' church. (Make sure to emphasize that baptism is NOT a requirement for salvation, so a child who is truly a Christian need not worry if his parents and church want him to wait a while before being baptized.)

















ACTIVITY

Use the decoder box to complete the verses.

⁴ The Truth78 booklet *Established in the Faith: A Discipleship Guide for Discerning and Affirming a Young Person's Faith* by David Michael is an excellent resource for parents and church leaders. See Truth78.org for details.

Acts 2:38—An  Pete  sai  to them, “ epent an  e   aptize 
every one of you in the name of Jesus  h  ist fo  the fo  giveness of
you  sins, an  you will  e  eive the gift of the Holy Spi  it.”

Romans 6:4—We we  e  u  ie  the  efo  e with him by  aptism into
 eath, in o   e  that, just as  h  ist was  aise  f  om the  ea 
by the glo  y of the Fathe , we too might wa  k in newness of  ife.

Matthew 28:19-20a—“Go the  efo  e and make   is  ip  es of a  
nations,  aptizing them in the name of the Fathe  and of the Son an  of the
Holy Spi  it, teaching them to o  serve a   that I have  ommanded you...”

d	r	c	l	b
				



When the church baptizes someone, it's very important because baptism acts like a type of door through which new Christians visibly and publicly enter Jesus' church and are welcomed by the church.



God's People Gather to Remember and Receive

MAIN IDEAS

- Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper as a special observance for His church.
- The bread and the wine represent the broken body and shed blood of Jesus.
- During the Lord's Supper, God's people remember Jesus' death on behalf of His people and the promise of His return.
- When the people of the church celebrate the Lord's Supper, they receive spiritual blessing.

MEMORY WORK

*I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried.
The third day he rose from the dead.
He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
(from the Apostles' Creed)*

SCRIPTURE FOR THE LESSON

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| 1) 1 Corinthians 11:23-29 | 3) Hebrews 9:22b |
| 2) 1 Peter 2:24 | 4) John 14:1, 3 |

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-29 and ask: *What are Christians to remember through this celebration? What did Jesus do for His people by His death on the cross? Why is it important for Jesus' church to regularly celebrate the Lord's Supper? How does it remind the church of how they became God's people? Who is the focus of the Lord's Supper? Why should celebrating the Lord's Supper be reason for God's people to be thankful and hopeful? How can it serve as an invitation for people who are not yet trusting in Jesus?*

Read verse 27 again. Ask: *What is the warning in this verse? What guidance does verse 28 give?* Talk about the seriousness of participating in the Lord's Supper. Emphasize the role of parents and church leaders in deciding when a child is ready to participate. Being cautious and not participating does NOT necessarily mean a child is not a true believer. Rather, waiting until the child is older is a safeguard for a child.⁵

ACTIVITY

Draw the missing elements of the Lord's supper in the boxes. Then use your Bible (English Standard Version, or you could look it up at ESV.org) to write in the missing words.

⁵ Many churches believe that the Lord's Supper should only be observed by baptized believers and that "they who have been baptized upon a personal profession of their faith in Jesus Christ and repented from dead works" are the "proper subjects" of the Lord's Supper (Baptist Catechism, Q. 103).



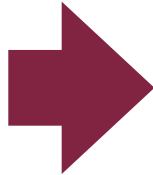
The Lord's Supper

BREAD



JESUS' BODY WAS BROKEN FOR US

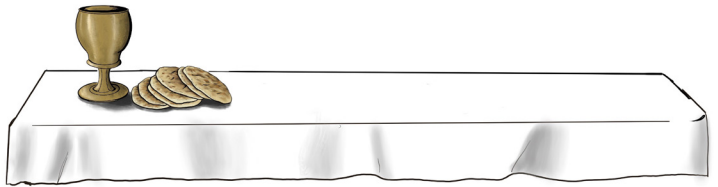
& WINE




JESUS' BLOOD WAS SHED FOR US

**GOD'S PEOPLE RECEIVE
"SPIRITUAL FOOD"**

Experiencing the satisfaction of
being a child of God



 "This is my _____ which is for you. Do this in _____ of me." ²⁵In the same way also he took the _____, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my _____. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's _____ until he comes. ²⁷Whoever, therefore, _____ the bread or _____ the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸Let a person _____ himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup.—1 Corinthians 11:24b-28



God's People Gather to Give

MAIN IDEAS

- Jesus has designed that the financial needs of His church are met through the offerings of His people.
- The members of the church are to give from the heart—freely, cheerfully, and generously.

MEMORY WORK

*I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried.
The third day he rose from the dead.
He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
(From the Apostles' Creed)*

SCRIPTURE FOR THE LESSON

1) 1 Corinthians 9:13-14

2) 2 Corinthians 9:6-8, 10-12


AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

Read and talk about the Scriptures listed above and ask questions, such as: *How has Jesus designed for the pastors and other staff at our church to be paid? What other things at our church need to be paid for? In what ways do we benefit from the offerings of our church? Do you ever thank God for these blessings? What does God promise to do through the generosity of His people? Can you think of things that our church gives money for beyond our own needs?* Point to your church's giving to support missionaries, mercy ministries, etc.

Explain that giving your money during the weekly worship service is a good habit to practice when you are young. Although the New Testament does not require tithing—giving 10 percent of your income—it is still a good place to begin a habit of regular giving. Ask: *Even if your "heart" is not yet in it, how does the habit of giving train you to understand important things about God? Important things about your heart? Important things about Jesus' church? Do you think about and pray about how much you should give? Do you give freely and cheerfully? What steps could you take to become more regular, cheerful, and generous in your giving?* If you haven't already done so, help your child develop a plan to become more intentional and regular in his or her giving.

ACTIVITY

Look up 1 Chronicles 29:12-14 in your Bible (English Standard Version, or look it up at ESV.org) and fill in the missing words. How should these truths shape your attitude toward giving? Next, draw symbols in the boxes to represent the underlined words from 2 Corinthians 9:7, 11.

 Both _____ and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your _____ are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. ¹³And now we _____ you, our God, and _____ your glorious name. ¹⁴“But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to _____ willingly? For all things _____ from you, and of your own have we _____ you.”—1 Chronicles 29:12-14

How Should God’s People Give?

(Use 2 Corinthians 9:7, 11.)

Each one must give as he has decided in his <u>heart</u> .	Each one must give... <u>not reluctantly or under compulsion</u> .
Give from the heart, ...God loves a <u>cheerful</u> giver.	Give freely. You will be enriched in every way to be <u>generous</u> in every way,
Give cheerfully.	Give generously.



God's People Love and Care for One Another

MAIN IDEAS

- The church is like one body with many parts—every member is important.
- Jesus commands His church to love and care for one another.

MEMORY WORK

*I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried.
The third day he rose from the dead.
He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.*
(The Apostles' Creed)

SCRIPTURE FOR THE LESSON

- 1) 1 Corinthians 12:12-22, 24b-26 2) John 13:34-35


AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

Review 1 Corinthians 12:12-22, 24-26 and ask the following types of questions: *Why is it a good thing that God designed His church to be this way? Who is "important" in the church? Just the pastors and elders? Or everyone, even the youngest, oldest, or weakest member? Why is it good for us to remember that the members are like different parts of one body? Do you "feel" pain and have compassion when someone else in the church is hurting? How could our family love and care for someone from our church in a specific way this week?*

Review Jesus' words from John 13:34-35. Ask: *In what ways did Jesus love His disciples? What did His love look like? Why would loving one another like Jesus loves His disciples stand out to the world? Can you give some examples of special ways that you have experienced love and care from the members of our church? If a non-Christian were to spend a month coming to our church and living with different families from our church, do you think that he or she would notice that something is "different" among us? How could we grow in our own family in loving one another like Jesus loves?*

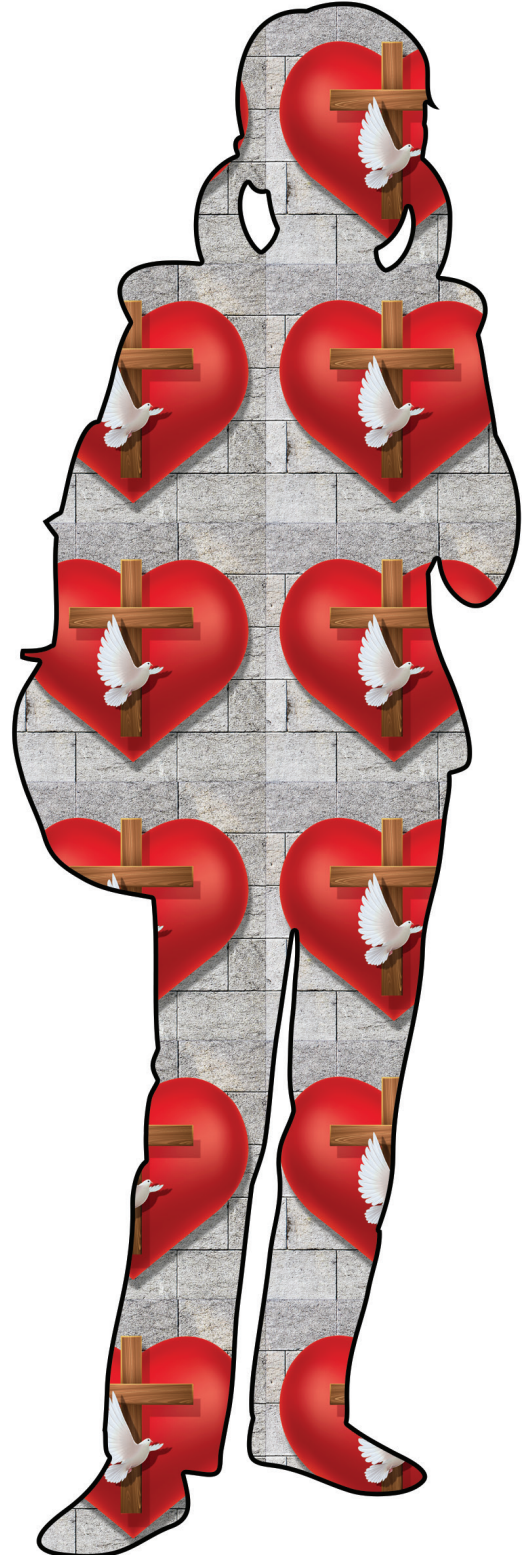
ACTIVITY

Fill in the missing words to John 13:34 (from the English Standard Version, or find it online at ESV.org). Then, with your parents' help, answer the questions in the boxes.

 A new _____ I give to you, that you _____
one _____: just as _____ have loved _____, —John 13:34

How have the members of Jesus' church
loved and cared for you?

How could you love and care for members of
Jesus' church?





God's People Build Up and Encourage One Another

MAIN IDEAS

- The members of the church are to grow in maturity by becoming more like Christ.
- The members of the church are to encourage and build up one another toward maturity.

MEMORY WORK

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another."—John 13:34

Therefore encourage one another and build one another up,—1 Thessalonians 5:11a

SCRIPTURE FOR THE LESSON

- | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1) John 13:34 | 4) Ephesians 4:15 | 7) Colossians 1:9-10a |
| 2) 1 Thessalonians 5:11a | 5) 2 Timothy 3:14-15 | 8) 1 Timothy 4:12 |
| 3) Ephesians 4:11-13 | 6) Hebrews 10:24 | 9) Philippians 1:6 |

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

Have your child think of an example of a team sport and ask questions such as: *Is the team more or less likely to do its best if the individual team members encourage one another and help one another train and practice well? What about the role of the coach? How can this example help us to understand the importance of members of Jesus' church encouraging and building up one another to grow and become more like Jesus? How is the church like a team? How are pastors and other leaders like coaches? Why is being encouraged and built up to become more and more like Jesus much, much more important than being encouraged to do well in school? Or more important than striving to build up and strengthen your body for your favorite sport? Etc.*

Share examples from your own life about specific ways in which you have been encouraged and built up in your faith by members of the church. Then point out ways you are seeking to encourage and build up others in faith—especially your child. Ask: *How have other Christians encouraged you? How do you respond to this kind of encouragement? Do you readily respond when another Christian tries to "build" you up—pointing you to trust in Jesus and grow in faith? Do you also seek to encourage and build up other people in their faith? Can you give an example? How could you encourage and build up someone this week?*

ACTIVITY

Using your best penmanship, write out 1 Thessalonians 5:11a on the lines provided. Next, read the verses and see if you can find the underlined words in the word search.



—1 Thessalonians 5:11a

Build Up and Encourage One Another

- ...speaking the _____ in love, we are to _____ up in every way into him who is the head, into _____,
—Ephesians 4:15
- And let us consider how to stir up one another to _____ and _____ works,—Hebrews 10:24
- ...we have not ceased to _____ for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰so as to _____ in a manner _____ of the Lord, fully _____ to him...—Colossians 1:9-10a
- Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an _____ in _____, in _____, in love, in _____, in _____.—1 Timothy 4:12

R Y E F F T Y M T M D E N L K
 M W A T C H R I S T C X M N G
 S V X Z Y N W U D H D A P E R
 M P Q V O I O D T L U M U V O
 H W E Z A C R J L H Y P R K W
 W A A E N F T C X A T L I U Z
 A W R S C I H D C S D E T B E
 Z B F G D H Y P O D V Z Y U B
 G N A U N O B L N I N F F H D
 O P R A Y A M E D W T K F F Y
 O A V H Z W Q A U A Q O A W D
 D I P R H Z B S C L R X I N R
 C Z W Z L J A I T K W H T S P
 Z Y D Q Z M A N E B U S H B W
 V L O V E C Y G E D S V J I Q



God's People Serve One Another

MAIN IDEAS

- The members of Jesus' church are to look to the needs of others, and not just our own needs.
- Every Christian has been given gifts and abilities in order that they might serve one another.

MEMORY WORK

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:—1 Peter 4:10

SCRIPTURE FOR THE LESSON

1) 1 Peter 4:10

2) Philippians 2:3-4

3) Galatians 5:13

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

Read 1 Peter 4:10. Talk with your child about some specific ways that people in your church serve the members in various ways. Be sure to include both highly visible roles and more "hidden" roles. Ask: *Do each of these types of service have the same qualifications? Why not? But are all important? Why?* (Recall 1 Corinthians 12:21-22.) *In what ways could a child serve the church?*

Recall that Jesus had a last supper with His disciples on the night that He was arrested. One of the things that He did was wash His disciples' feet. Read and talk about John 13:12a-15. Point out that, in Jesus' time, washing the feet of your dinner guests was a very lowly, icky job that you had your servant do. *What does Jesus want us to understand about serving one another? Do you look for ways to serve in the church based on how "special" the job is or appears to others? Why is having a humble spirit important for serving others in a way that is pleasing to Jesus?*

Read and talk about Philippians 2:3-4. Give your child examples from everyday family life of what this looks like. Ask: *Do you like to "be served" by others? Why? Do you express thanks to those who serve you, or do you simply expect others to serve you? Do you seek to serve others? Can you give some examples?* Next, read and talk about verses 5-7. Ask: *In what ways do you need to grow in having the attitude of Jesus? What would help you to grow in this way?*

ACTIVITY

Fill in the missing words from Galatians 5:13b. Then follow the instructions in the boxes.



...through _____ one another.—Galatians 5:13b

Name at least five ways members of the church have served you.

What is at least one way you could serve the members of the church this month?

What are at least two ways you could show thankfulness to those who have served you?



God's People Watch over One Another

MAIN IDEAS

- Jesus has appointed shepherds to watch over and protect His church—men who are pastors and elders.
- Jesus wants all the members of His church to lovingly watch over one another.

MEMORY WORK

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.—1 Peter 5:8

SCRIPTURE FOR THE LESSON

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1) 1 Samuel 17:34-35 | 3) Acts 20:28 | 5) 1 Peter 5:8 | 7) Galatians 5:15 |
| 2) John 10:11-12, 27-28 | 4) 1 Peter 5:1a, 2a | 6) Matthew 7:15 | 8) Luke 17:3 |

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

Read and talk about Acts 20:28 and 1 Peter 5:1a, 2a. Ask: *In what ways do our pastors and elders—our shepherds—watch over us? Have other members of the church also watched over you in some way? Can you give an example? Why might younger children and newer believers need special protection? How do you respond to their care for your soul? In what ways could you pay more attention to their care?*

Point out that not only does the church have appointed leaders who shepherd the flock, but God has placed a kind of shepherd in the family. God intends for fathers to watch over their children and lead them in God's ways. Ask: *In what ways does a good father protect his child from dangers? Are physical dangers the most important things to watch out for?* Read 1 Peter 5:8; Matthew 7:15; Galatians 5:15; and Luke 17:3. Then talk about how fathers, mothers, and children can apply these verses in the home. Next, talk about the importance of using God's Word in the fight of faith by reading and explaining Ephesians 6:10-11, 13-18a.

ACTIVITY

Without looking in your Bible, see if you can unscramble the letters in the brackets [] in order to correctly complete each verse. Then, check your answers by looking up each verse in your Bible.

✚ Pay careful _____ [eotttnnai] to yourselves and to all the _____ [lockf], in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.—Acts 20:28

✚ So I exhort the _____ [dreels] among you...² _____ [heredpsh] the flock of God that is among you...—1 Peter 5:1a, 2a

✚ Be sober-minded; be _____ [uflathwc]. Your adversary the devil _____ [owrlsp] around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. —1 Peter 5:8

✚ “Beware of false _____ [shepport], who come to you in _____ [peshes] clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.”—Matthew 7:15

✚ But if you _____ [tieb] and _____ [uroved] one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.—Galatians 5:15

✚ “Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother _____ [niss], _____ [kreube] him, and if he repents, forgive him,”—Luke 17:3





God's People Teach One Another

MAIN IDEAS

- Teaching the Scriptures is to be an ongoing activity of Jesus' church, for all ages.
- Teaching toward Christian maturity involves instructing the mind and encouraging transformation of the heart and will.
- The shepherds, pastors, and elders are to carefully guard the teaching of the church.

MEMORY WORK

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.—2 Timothy 3:16-17

SCRIPTURE FOR THE LESSON

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1) Deuteronomy 4:1a | 7) 1 Timothy 4:13, 16a |
| 2) Psalm 25:4; 78:5 | 8) 2 Timothy 3:16a |
| 3) Matthew 9:35a; 11:1; 28:19-20a | 9) Titus 2:1 |
| 4) Mark 6:34 | 10) 1 Peter 2:24 |
| 5) Acts 2:42a; 18:11 | 11) Proverbs 23:12 |
| 6) Colossians 1:28 | 12) James 1:22 |

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

Read together several of the verses listed above. Emphasize that biblical instruction has always been an important activity for God's people. We cannot love, trust, honor, and obey God as we should without instruction from His Word. Ask: *Can you name some of the teaching activities of our church? What is your responsibility when you are being taught the Bible? Can you recall something you have recently learned from a sermon or one of your classes? What is biblical teaching meant to "do" in your life?* Read and talk about 2 Timothy 3:15-17; James 1:22; and Proverbs 23:12. Ask: *Can you "do" these verses apart from trusting in Jesus? Why not? How could you "apply your heart" to something you have learned recently?*

Read and talk about 2 Timothy 2:15. Point out that good teachers give their students tools and guidance about how to study the Bible so that, as you grow and mature, you are able to read a passage of Scripture and understand more about it. Even the oldest and most mature Christians in the church need to continue to be taught by others. Ask: *Do you enjoy being taught God's Word? What do you find enjoyable? Is it also difficult sometimes? In what ways? Can you think of ways that we could help you more?*

ACTIVITY

With your parents' help, if needed, follow the instructions in each box.

1. Giving Information

Read Ephesians 4:31-32.

3. Equipping

By carefully reading the verses and by defining important words, you have been given “tools” to better understand God’s Word.

4. Illustrating

Use an example to show what the verses mean.

- How could you use a trash can and dirty garbage to show what verse 31 means?
- How does the story from Matthew 18:21-33 illustrate Ephesians 4:32?

2. Providing Explanation

Define these words and phrases:

- Bitterness _____

- Clamor _____

- Slander _____

- Malice _____

- Tender-hearted _____

- Forgiving _____

- As God in Christ forgave you _____

5. Encouraging Transformation

How does Ephesians 4:31-32 challenge and encourage any changes in my thoughts, feelings, words, and actions?



God's People Submit to One Another

MAIN IDEAS

- The members of the church are to have a submissive attitude toward one another.
- Jesus has established positions of authority within His church.
- The members of the church are to submit to the godly leadership of the church.

MEMORY WORK

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account.—Hebrews 13:17a

SCRIPTURE FOR THE LESSON

1) Ephesians 5:21

2) Hebrews 13:17a

3) 1 Corinthians 11:27-29

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

Have your child imagine that someone removed all of the traffic signs and signals. *Would that be a good thing? Why not?* Now have your child imagine there were no appointed leaders in the church. *What might happen? Why is it a good thing that Jesus has appointed leaders for His church? How is the church helped when the members submit to godly leadership?* (A helpful example is drivers yielding to traffic signs/rules for the good of everyone.)

Talk about a time when your family or child was given an important warning to heed (e.g., severe weather approaching, railway crossing lights, etc.). *Why was heeding the warning important?* Now read Hebrews 13:17a and ask: *When our pastors and elders act for our good and protection, how should that shape our willingness to submit and obey? Is this always easy to do?* If possible, give your child examples of pastoral oversight concerning things such as requiring specific instruction before someone is baptized or receives the Lord's Supper, is married, is allowed to teach children, etc.

Read Ephesians 6:1 and James 4:7a. Ask: *How can practicing submission and obedience to parents, leaders, and one another help us to submit to God Himself? Why is this good for us? What is it meant to teach us? Are there things that make it difficult for you to submit to and obey those who have been placed in authority over you? What are those things? How could you grow in this area?*

ACTIVITY

Look up each verse and fill in the missing words. Then give one or more examples of steps you could take this week to walk in obedience to each command. [Submission to: 1—Parents; 2—Pastors; 3—Teachers]



Ephesians 6:1—Children,
_____ your
parents in the Lord, for this
is _____.



This week, I could demonstrate a submissive heart by...



Hebrews 13:17a—
Obey your _____
and _____ to
them, for they are keeping
_____ over
your souls,



This week, I could demonstrate a submissive heart by...



Ephesians 5:21—
submitting to
one another out of
_____ for Christ.



This week, I could demonstrate a submissive heart by...



God's People Live in Harmony with One Another

MAIN IDEAS

- Jesus wants His people to live in peace and harmony with one another.
- Conflict in the church arises from our own sinful desires.
- In love and humility we are to seek to be reconciled to one another.

MEMORY WORK

Live in harmony with one another.—Romans 12:16a

SCRIPTURE FOR THE LESSON

- | | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1) Acts 6:1 | 3) 2 Corinthians 13:11b | 5) James 4:1 |
| 2) Romans 15:5-6 | 4) Galatians 5:15, 26 | 6) Colossians 3:12-15 |

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

Talk about a conflict your child has recently experienced. What does he or she think was at the *root* of the conflict? Read and talk about Galatians 5:15, 26 and James 4:1. Give your child an appropriate example of a conflict within your own church. Ask: *Why is it pleasing to Jesus and beneficial to the members of the church to live in harmony with one another? What does it show to the world?* Read and talk about Romans 15:5-6. *Whose strength do we need to live in harmony with one another? Why is this important to know?*

Explain that God's Word is necessary for resolving conflict in a way that is pleasing to Jesus. It provides us with a heart-check as to what is truly wrong and also provides correction. Refer to a recent conflict and then read Colossians 3:12-15. *What wrong attitudes and actions are listed? What do these verses say we should do?* Also, talk about how Christians need the help of the Holy Spirit to convict us of sin, guide us in the right thing to do, and then give us the power to do it. Ask: *Is there a conflict with someone you need to resolve? How should these verses guide your next steps?*

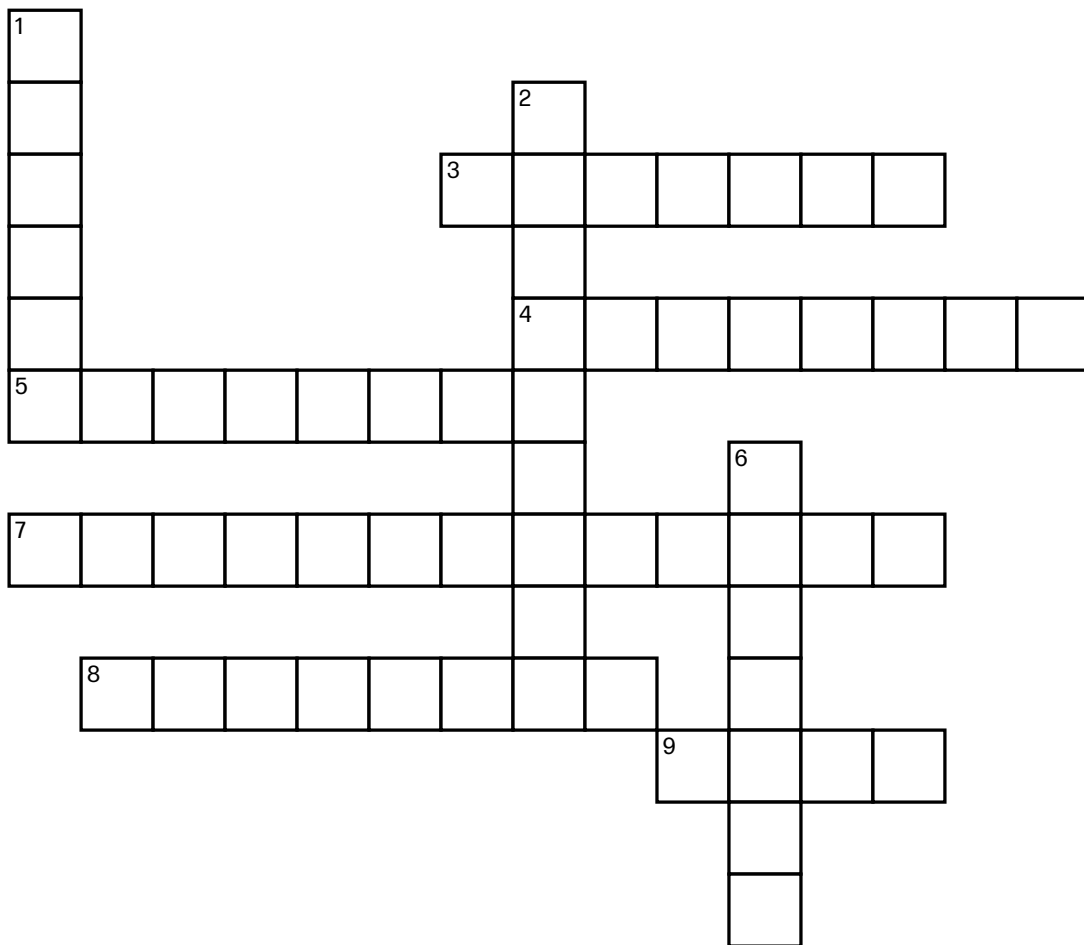
ACTIVITY

Complete the crossword puzzle.

Living in Harmony with One Another



Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.—Colossians 3:12-15



Down:

1. Who we need in order to truly live in harmony with one another
2. Having something against someone—finding fault
6. To be at peace with one another

Across:

3. To not hold something against someone anymore
4. The opposite of being quickly angered or frustrated
5. To feel gratitude
7. To be kindhearted and tender
8. The opposite of pride
9. To be set apart and blameless



God's People Show Hospitality to One Another

MAIN IDEAS

- Jesus commands His people to show hospitality to one another.
- Hospitality is to be done joyfully.

MEMORY WORK

Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.—1 Peter 4:9

Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.—Romans 15:7

SCRIPTURE FOR THE LESSON

1) 1 Peter 4:9

2) Romans 15:7

3) Titus 1:7-8

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

Review and talk about the Scriptures listed above. Five aspects of Christian hospitality were discussed in the lesson: 1) joyfully welcoming others; 2) opening your home; 3) sharing your provisions; 4) giving your time and attention; and 5) being an encouragement as you are gathered together. Talk about ways your family has received and also shown hospitality to other Christians. Next, pose the following: *Suppose we invited a new family at church over for lunch after the worship service. They have three small children who are getting into everything—even some of your things. How can you demonstrate hospitality in this situation? Are there parts of hospitality that are sometimes difficult for you? [e.g., meeting new people, sharing your home or toys, having to clean the house, etc.] How can you overcome these hindrances? What could you do this week to grow in this area?*

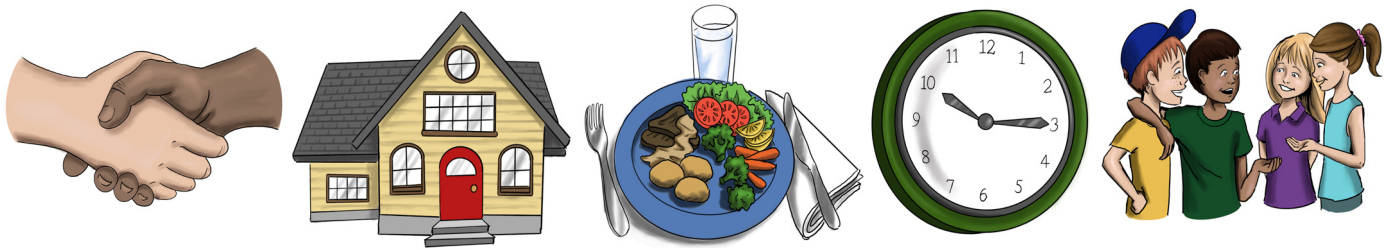
Pastor John Piper talks about Christians needing to turn on their “Post-Worship Hospitality Radar,” or “PWHR.”⁶ *What do you think he means by this?* Explain that he is talking about the time after the weekly worship service on Sundays. Members of Jesus’ church should be looking for people in need of hospitality—a visitor, someone who seems unhappy, someone who looks lonely, etc. *How could you have a “Post-Sunday School Hospitality Radar?” What might this look like?*

ACTIVITY

Think about ways in which other Christians have shown you or your family hospitality. In the box on the next page, describe what happened. Next, with your parents’ help, make a plan to show hospitality in the next week or two.

6 See: desiringgod.org/messages/strategic-hospitality?

Describe a time when you or your family were shown hospitality by other Christians.



Make a plan for showing hospitality.

1. Who will be involved?
2. When will it happen?
3. Where will it happen?
4. What do you plan to do?



God's People Proclaim the Gospel to the Lost

MAIN IDEAS

- Jesus desires that the church grow to include more and more people.
- The church is to intentionally go out and proclaim the gospel to lost sinners.
- Proclaiming the gospel involves good works, evangelism, and missions.

MEMORY WORK

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.—Matthew 28:19-20a

SCRIPTURE FOR THE LESSON

1) Matthew 28:18-20

3) Mark 5:19b

5) 1 Peter 3:15

7) Revelation 5:9

2) Matthew 5:16

4) Romans 10:17

6) Acts 1:8

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

Talk about the different ways your church goes about proclaiming the gospel to lost sinners. Ask: *In what ways could our family be more involved in doing good works, evangelism, and missions? Why should every Christian care about those who do not know, trust, and love Jesus? What does Jesus' command to "go and make disciples" show us about Jesus' heart for the lost? What are one or two simple things we could do this week to show concern for lost sinners?*

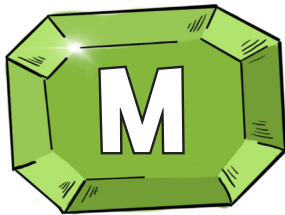
Point out that you must know the gospel before you can share the gospel with someone. Ask: *What do you think are the main and most important truths of the gospel?* (See the 10 Essential Gospel Truths handout or, if you didn't receive this handout after this week's lesson, you can find it online at: Truth78.org/media/wysiwyg/10_Essential_Truths.pdf) Point out that witnessing to others does not necessarily mean that we have to present the entire gospel to them—every single truth all at once. Sometimes we might only have an opportunity to share one important truth and pray that God would bring other opportunities at another time.

Review Matthew 28:18-20. Emphasize that Jesus has commanded His church to go out to the ends of the world and proclaim the gospel, urging everyone to respond in belief. But we cannot cause people to believe. Only God can do this by His power (1 Corinthians 3:5-7). *Why is this important to keep in mind? Why is this comforting for God's people? How does knowing this encourage us to pray for the lost? Who could we specifically pray for this week?*

ACTIVITY

Fill in the missing letters to complete the "GEM" visual. Then complete the sentences. (Hint: See the main ideas above.)

Proclaim the Gospel to the Lost



Show JESUS to the World!

Our church proclaims the gospel to the lost by...

I can be involved by ...



The Persecuted Church

MAIN IDEAS

- Jesus foretold that His church would be hated and persecuted.
- The church should remember, pray for, comfort, and sometimes rescue those who are persecuted.
- Jesus will uphold His church through persecution.

MEMORY WORK

Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body.—Hebrews 13:3

SCRIPTURE FOR THE LESSON

1) John 15:18-20a
2) Acts 8:1-3

3) Hebrews 13:3
4) Acts 12:5

5) 2 Corinthians 1:3-4a
6) 2 Corinthians 11:32-33

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

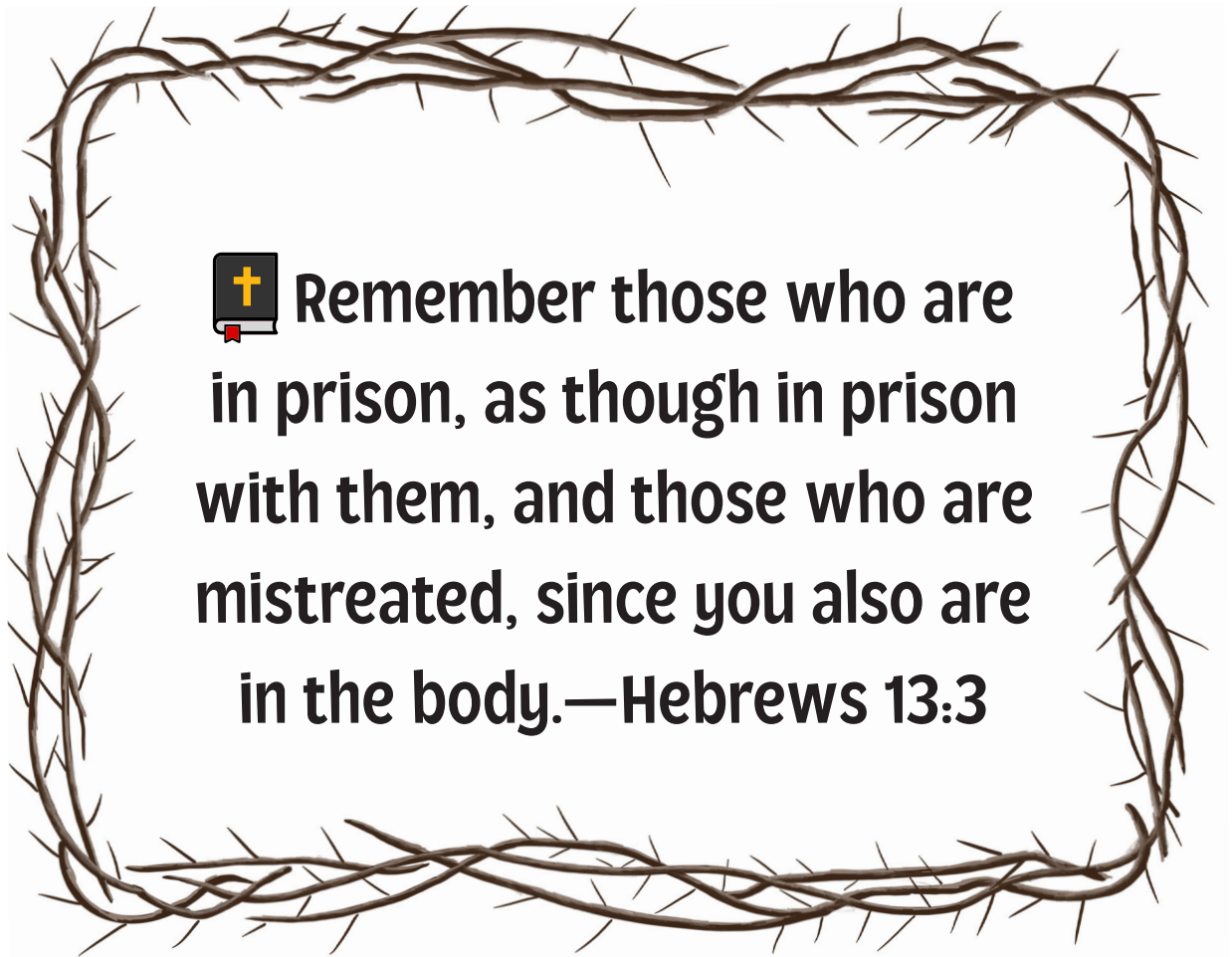
Read the verses listed above and talk about the various ways that people suffer for being Christians. Point out that, in some countries, it is even “illegal” to be a Christian, have a Bible, tell another person about Jesus, or gather together with other Christians. In some of these places, people take away Christians’ jobs and homes, or even throw them into prison. In some places, Christians are killed for their faith in Jesus. Ask: *How can we remember and pray for these Christians? Are there any ways in which we could comfort them? How might the church be able to actually rescue some of them?*

Recall Acts 8:1-3 where we are told of Saul persecuting Christians in Jerusalem. Ask: *Do you remember what eventually happened to Saul?* [Jesus saved him, and he became Paul, one of the apostles.] Paul went on to spread the gospel and start new churches in places far beyond Jerusalem. For doing this, Paul was hated and persecuted. The persecutor had now become the persecuted, and the church grew and spread because of it. Ask: *What can we learn by this example? Should we also pray that those who are presently persecuting Christians become saved?*

Ask: *How might persecution serve to make the church stronger? How does suffering serve to help us focus on what is most important in life? How can this strengthen us?* Read and talk about 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 or 1 Peter 1:6-7.

ACTIVITY

With your parents’ help, learn more about the persecuted church in a specific country. Helpful websites include: persecution.com (Voice of the Martyrs), joshuaproject.net, and opendoors.org. Then write about what you learn and how you can pray for the church.



- Name of the country: _____
- Some interesting things this country is known for: _____

- About how many people live there? _____
- About how many Christians live there? _____
- In what ways are Christians being persecuted? _____

- This week I will pray for... _____



Jesus Will Guard and Defend His Church

MAIN IDEAS

- The true church holds fast to the foundation of the apostles and prophets.
- Throughout history, Jesus has guarded the purity of His church.
- Martin Luther was an important leader in the Protestant Reformation.

MEMORY WORK

Salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, on the authority of Scripture alone, for the glory of God alone. (the Five Solas of the Reformation)

SCRIPTURE FOR THE LESSON

1) Ephesians 1:7

2) Romans 3:23-24

3) Ephesians 2:8-9

4) Matthew 7:15

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

Read Romans 3:23-24 and Ephesians 2:8-9 and ask: *Why is it important to understand the truth about how a person is saved? If you try to be saved a different way than what God says, will it work? Why not?*

Explain that the apostles had to guard Jesus' church from many false teachers. They had to guard the truth that had been given to them by Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, the truth of the Bible, and the message of salvation. The true church of Jesus, in every generation since that time, is to guard and defend that sure foundation. Read Titus 1:9 and ask: *Why would holding firm to the trustworthy Word of God be an important qualification for the leaders of local churches? Do you think it is easy to guard and defend God's truth today? Why might defending the truth be unpopular?* If possible, give an example of a biblical truth that has been addressed and defended by the leadership of your church.

Review the five "solas" or slogans of the reformation. ("Sola" is Latin for "alone.") Martin Luther and many others established new "Protestant" churches to set themselves apart from the Roman Catholic Church. The term "reformation" simply means to be changed back to its true form. In other words, Luther and others returned the church to its foundation of the apostles and prophets as taught in the Bible. *How have we as a church benefited from the Protestant Reformation? Why is it still important to remember the five "solas"? How can these serve as important reminders to your own life? Are any of these hard for you to understand or accept/believe?*

ACTIVITY

Use the Symbol Key to complete the names of men who, throughout the past 2,000 years, have guarded and defended the truth of the Bible. Then, see if you can guess which symbol best represents each one of the "solas": Draw the symbol in the box.

Defenders of the Faith

th n s s



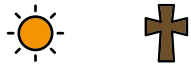
g st n



Wycl ff



L th r



Kn x



C lv n



w n



W rf ld



Sp rg n



M ch n



Symbol Key



_____ Salvation is by grace alone,

_____ through faith alone,

_____ in Christ alone,

_____ on the authority of
Scripture alone,

_____ for the glory of God alone.



The Victorious Church

MAIN IDEAS

- The gospel is like a small seed that is planted and matures into a strong and beautiful tree producing much fruit.
- Jesus has promised that His church will prevail over all difficulties.

MEMORY WORK

...I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.—Matthew 16:18b

SCRIPTURE FOR THE LESSON

1) Matthew 13:31-32

2) Matthew 16:18

3) 1 Corinthians 15:57-58

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

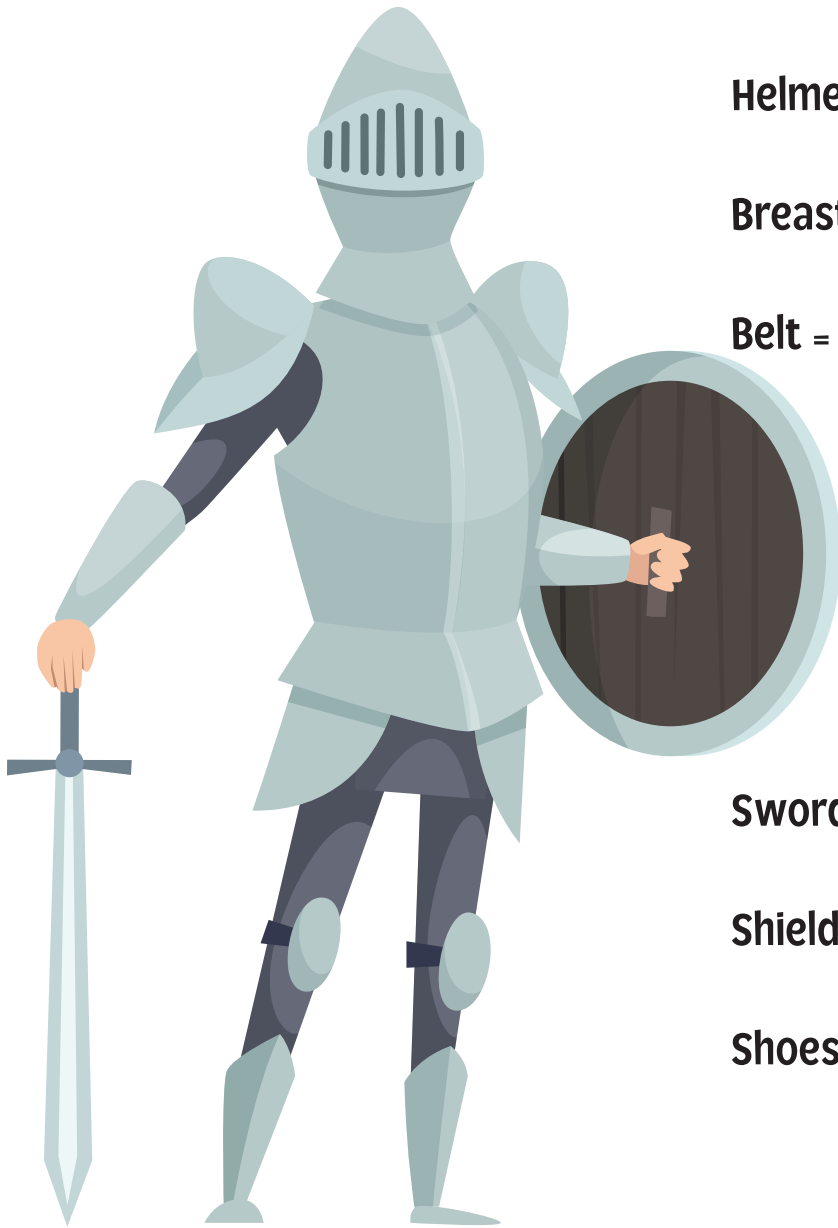
This lesson recalled the story of Adoniram Judson who, in the year 1813, went to Burma (now called Myanmar) with his wife. At that time, there were no churches or any known Christians in Burma. Adoniram's goal was to translate the Bible into the Burmese language so the people of Burma could read and hear the gospel in their own language. Through many trials, hardships, suffering, and persecution, the gospel took root in the hearts of many Burmese, and Jesus' church grew strong. There are now more than two million Christians in Myanmar!

Point out that Jesus said something very important before He gave the Great Commission. Read Matthew 28:18 and ask: *Why is this important to know? Why should this give the church confidence?* Now read verses 19-20. *What promise is at the end of the Great Commission? Why is this important for the church to know? Do you sometimes feel as if the church is weak or insignificant compared to the rest of the world? Why might we be tempted to think that way? But is that the way things really are?* Read and talk about portions of Ephesians 1:18-23. *What is God doing right now—unseen to the eyes of the world? Who is ruling over every nation and power? Who will bring His church to completion? How should these verses give Christians confidence and hope? Do you have this hope?*

ACTIVITY

Look up Ephesians 6:10-18 and write about the "armor" that Jesus has given so that His church might be victorious in its mission. Then, look up the words and music to the hymn, "O Church, Arise" (by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend). How does this song point to the final victory of Jesus and His church?

The Armor of the Church



Helmet = _____

Breastplate = _____

Belt = _____

Sword = _____

Shield = _____

Shoes = _____

The mission of the church...

1. Worship God

2. Love One Another

3. Proclaim the Gospel to the Lost



One Church, One Faith

MAIN IDEAS

- There is one true church of Jesus.
- The true church is characterized by the teaching, belief, and practice of certain essential truths of the Christian faith.
- Creeds and confessions help the church to remember these truths.

MEMORY WORK

(Review the Apostles' Creed)

*I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried.
The third day he rose from the dead.*

*He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge the living and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.*

(Review the Five Solas of the Reformation)

Salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, on the authority of Scripture alone, for the glory of God alone.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE LESSON

1) 1 Corinthians 15:3-4

2) Romans 10:9-10

3) Ephesians 4:1-6

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY


Read and talk about the Scriptures listed above. As the church has grown and spread across the whole world, many different church “denominations” have come about. But the true measure or test of whether or not someone is a member of Jesus’ true church is whether or not he or she believes, teaches, and practices what is essential. Scripture is always the final authority for what is essential. But “creeds” that are based on Scripture, like the Apostles’ Creed, can also help us. Statements such as the “Five Solas of the Reformation” can remind us of the essential truths regarding salvation. Ask: *Why is it important that you know these essentials? Do you believe and embrace these truths? Is there anything you are unsure about?*

Review Ephesians 4:1-6. Ask: *When Christians differ on certain practices, why are verses 2-3 so important to live out? What might this look like if you have a friend who goes to a church that practices baptism differently? Can you think of other situations in which you need to apply these truths?*

ACTIVITY

See if you can find the underlined words in the word find.

Word Find

 Ephesians 4:4-6—There is _____ and one _____—just as you were _____ to the one _____ that belongs to your call—⁵one _____, one _____, one _____, ⁶one _____ and _____ of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

C	I	U	V	M	H	A	T	G	Y	U	Y	I	R	B
F	Z	Z	K	G	O	J	W	F	P	X	L	D	H	F
L	A	G	T	O	P	G	O	L	M	X	Z	H	D	H
B	V	I	C	D	E	F	A	N	F	G	L	O	R	Y
A	N	V	T	F	X	F	P	F	E	A	W	U	X	L
P	H	V	A	H	B	Y	X	B	J	B	T	W	H	O
T	S	A	L	V	A	T	I	O	N	N	O	H	R	R
I	G	C	K	W	K	Z	Z	K	J	I	Z	D	E	D
S	X	H	D	S	C	P	J	X	E	B	Y	G	Y	R
M	C	R	B	H	P	S	C	R	I	P	T	U	R	E
A	A	I	B	S	I	I	T	C	N	H	O	B	Y	W
L	L	S	B	R	B	E	R	E	J	O	C	O	I	N
O	L	T	D	X	A	W	D	I	G	R	A	C	E	W
N	E	A	U	T	H	O	R	I	T	Y	S	R	X	N
E	D	M	G	G	T	K	M	Z	L	I	U	I	B	K

The Five Solas of the Reformation

_____ is by _____ alone, through faith _____, in _____ alone,
on the _____ of _____ alone, for the _____ of God alone.



Jesus Will Return for His Church

MAIN IDEAS

- Jesus is like a bridegroom and the church is His bride.
- Human marriage is meant to help us understand the special relationship that Jesus has with His church.
- Jesus will someday return for His church so that we might be with Him forever.

MEMORY WORK

"In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also."—John 14:2-3

SCRIPTURE FOR THE LESSON

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1) Revelation 19:6-9a | 3) 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 |
| 2) John 14:2-3 | 4) Ephesians 5:25-27 |

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

Read the Scriptures listed above and talk about the reality of Jesus returning for His church. Ask: *Are you looking forward to Jesus' return? Why or why not? How do you think that a real bride gets herself ready? (Consider sharing your own wedding day experience with your child.) How should God's people be preparing for Jesus' return? How should you be preparing?*


Have your child recall an exciting event he or she has experienced. Next review Revelation 19:6-9a. Point out that the celebration described here will be millions of times more thrilling than anything else. Read and talk about Psalm 16:11. Ask: *Why would being in the presence of the LORD bring fullness of joy? Is anything or anyone greater than God? What is the "path" that leads to enjoying God forever? [trusting in Jesus]*

Read and talk about 2 Peter 3:9 and ask: *Why does it sometimes seem as if Jesus will not return? Do you have doubts? Why or why not? If you do, can you look to other promises that God has made and then fulfilled? Can He be trusted to keep all His promises? Why? If you are not yet trusting in Jesus, what is He giving you time to do? Why must a person repent and believe? What does it mean to "perish"? How should these truths motivate us to pray for others and share the good news of the gospel?*

ACTIVITY

Look up the passages listed on the page and fill in the missing words. Then decorate the page to make it look as special as possible.

Revelation 19:6-9a

 Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the _____ of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of _____, crying out, “Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the _____ reigns.

⁷Let us _____ and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the _____ has come, and his _____ has made herself ready;

⁸it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure”—for the fine linen is the _____ deeds of the saints.

⁹And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are _____ to the marriage supper of the Lamb.”





Being a Member of Jesus' Church

MAIN IDEAS

- The church is God's family, living in loving fellowship with one another.
- Every member of the church has special responsibilities and privileges.
- When the church gathers, people—both believers and unbelievers—experience a glimpse of family life.

MEMORY WORK

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,—John 1:12

SCRIPTURE FOR THE LESSON

1) John 1:12

2) 2 Corinthians 6:18

3) Ephesians 1:4-5a

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

Talk about the privileges and responsibilities that your child experiences as a member of your own family. Next talk about family life within your church. Ask: *How have you been given a glimpse of what life is like in God's family? Have you watched and experienced things within this church family that make you want to be part of God's family? What? Is there anything that hinders you? What? Do you have expectations that are unreasonable? Are you looking just for privileges but not any responsibilities? Is "family life" in the church always pleasant and perfect?* Point out that God's family will not become completely holy and blameless in all our thoughts, feelings, words, and actions until Jesus returns.

Have your child describe a few things he or she enjoys most about your family. Ask: *What do you think would be the most important and enjoyable part of God's family?* Read and talk about Psalm 16:11 and Philippians 3:8. Explain that the greatest joy is found in Jesus—God Himself. *What is the one and only way to become a true member of God's family?* Review John 1:12. *Are you a true member of God's family or a type of "neighbor"?*

ACTIVITY

Draw pictures or symbols to help you complete the statements. Then, with your parents' help, find the words and music to the hymn, "Oh, How Good It Is" by Keith and Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend, and Ross Holmes.



THE CHURCH IS THE **CHOSEN**, **BLESSED**, **REDEEMED**, **HOLY PEOPLE** OF GOD

Jesus' church is like a...

a building _____, a body _____, a bride _____.

Jesus' church is God's family.

John 1:12—But to all who did _____ him, who _____
in his name, he gave the right to become _____ of _____,

Privileges I have enjoyed living among God's family:

JESUS
IS THE CORNERSTONE



the Apostles and Prophets

Scripture



F O U N D A T I O N