

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. It is a kind of "spiritual house" being built of "living stones"—everyone who is trusting in Jesus for salvation. This lesson uses the illustration of an actual building to help students understand important truths about the essence of the church, how Jesus goes about building His church, and the indestructible nature of the church.

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

God planned the church from before the world began. This lesson explores how the Old Testament progressively reveals God's plan for His chosen people, especially seen in the covenants made to Abraham and Israel, and how Jesus' church is the fulfillment of that plan. We will show how the church can therefore be described as the chosen, blessed, redeemed, holy people of God.

Memory Work: The Apostles' Creed

Lesson 3: The Cornerstone of the Church

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

In using the illustration of a building again, we explain the meaning of Jesus being the cornerstone of the church. Jesus is the first and most important part of the church because of who He is, what He has done, and all that He has promised to do. This lesson reviews the essential truths of the gospel, emphasizing that the only way for sinners 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

After addressing the “cornerstone” in the previous lesson, we now explain the need for a sure foundation for the church to be built upon. 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. 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 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 on the day of Pentecost. The Spirit’s presence was evidenced by miraculous signs and wonders. The gospel was proclaimed with boldness and power, and the church began to quickly grow and take shape.

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 God’s people with the means for the church to grow in maturity. The Spirit helps, teaches, guides, empowers, and equips believers for spiritual growth and gives a variety of gifts and abilities to be used for building up the church.

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 and has appointed different roles and positions so that God’s people would grow in maturity. This lesson will highlight and explain the positions of apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds, and teachers, with special emphasis on the ministry of pastors and elders (shepherds) within a local church.

Memory Work: The Apostles’ Creed

Lesson 8: God’s People Gather to Worship

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

God’s people are to regularly gather together in order to worship God, love one another, and proclaim the gospel to the lost. This lesson begins a series on the importance of the weekly worship service and its regular practices. The first practice is corporate singing, which is a means of expressing heartfelt worship of God. Toward that end, *what* we sing and *how* we sing will also be noted.

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

Because the Bible is necessary for people to be saved and for Christian growth, the church is commanded to read Scripture when God's people gather together to worship. Furthermore, the preaching of God's Word provides God's people with spiritual food for growing in the Christian life. This lesson also will lead students to the importance of listening to and applying truths learned from the sermon.

Memory Work: The Apostles' Creed

Lesson 10: God's People Gather to Pray

Key Scriptures: Acts 12:5-11

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. This lesson will also explain the basic elements of prayer—adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication, and show how the early church gave evidence to the power of prayer.

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. This lesson will carefully explain how baptism is an outward picture of the saving work of Christ in a person's heart and is also the public entrance into the membership of Jesus' church. (Note: This lesson is written from a credobaptist, "believer's baptism," position.)

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. The meaning and significance of the bread and the wine will be explained, along with the importance of God's people remembering Jesus' death on their behalf and the promise of His return. When the church celebrates the Lord's Supper, the people of the church receive spiritual blessing. It will also be noted that the pastors and elders of a local church often set guidelines for the age at which a young professing believer may begin to partake of the Lord's Supper.

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. God is a good and generous heavenly Father and supplies all the needs of His people. Therefore, Jesus wants the members of the church to give from their hearts—freely, cheerfully, and generously—resulting in blessing for the whole church and thanksgiving to God.

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

This lesson begins a series on the one-another commands, which highlight the second purpose of the church—to love and care for one another so that we might grow into Christlikeness. To help us understand this, Paul compares the church to a single human body, which consists of many parts. Every member of the church is important, and all the members are to see themselves as serving the whole.

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

One way the members of the church demonstrate love and care for one another is to encourage and build up one another toward maturity in Christ. The lesson will present various scenarios and illustrations of how this is practically lived out in the life of the church.

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 their own needs. Every Christian has been given gifts and abilities in order that they might serve one another. Examples will be given to encourage the students to use their various interests and abilities in order to serve the members of the church.

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 (men who are pastors and elders) to watch over and protect His church from dangers, such as Satan, false teaching, quarrelling with another, and His people's own sinful desires. But Jesus also wants all the members of His church to lovingly watch over one another. The students will be presented with everyday scenarios to show how they can do this with their own peers.

Memory Work: 1 Peter 5:8

Lesson 18: God's People Teach One Another

Key Scriptures: Colossians 1:28

Teaching the Scriptures is to be an ongoing activity of Jesus' church for all ages. Pastors and elders are to carefully guard that teaching by making sure it is biblically sound. Teaching is meant to bring about Christian maturity as it instructs the mind with the Word of God and encourages transformation of the heart and will. Members of the church should be eager and attentive learners as they sit under the teaching of the Bible.

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. The lesson presents a scenario in which the pastors and elders of a church establish certain criteria about when a young person can receive the Lord's Supper. These criteria are meant to protect the young person and should be submitted to.

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. But conflict in the church arises from our own prideful, sinful desires. This lesson begins by initiating a type of situation that often results in conflict. Then the lesson carefully walks the students through steps of biblical reconciliation.

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 hospitality to one another. True hospitality involves welcoming one another, inviting others into our homes, looking for ways to provide for the needs of one another, and giving our time and attention to one another. Hospitality is to be done regularly and joyfully. The lesson gives students concrete examples of how they can demonstrate hospitality.

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

This lesson focuses on the third purpose of Jesus' church. The church is to eagerly proclaim the gospel to the lost so that Jesus' church would grow and be established in every tribe, tongue, people, and nation. Proclaiming the gospel involves good works, evangelism, and missions. Specific ideas are presented for doing each of these with the goal of showing the greatness and worth of Jesus to all peoples so that they might find salvation in Him.

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. Examples of persecution in the early church are presented along with contemporary examples. The church should remember, pray for, comfort, and sometimes rescue those who are persecuted. Even through the fiercest persecution, Jesus has promised to uphold and preserve His church.

Memory Work: Hebrews 13:3

Lesson 24: Jesus Will Guard and Defend His Church

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

The true church holds fast to the foundation of the apostles and prophets. Throughout history, Jesus has guarded the purity of His church by raising up leaders who proclaim and defend that foundation. This lesson recounts the importance of the Protestant Reformation and the key role that Martin Luther played. The five “Solos” of the Reformation will also be emphasized and explained.

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

This lesson begins by comparing the gospel to a small seed that is planted and matures into a strong and beautiful tree producing much fruit. Next, the lesson recounts the story of Adoniram Judson taking the gospel to Burma (Myanmar) and how, even in the midst of hardship and persecution, God brought about much fruit—a vibrant church with many believers. 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

This lesson begins with a skit between two students—one from a Baptist church and one from a Presbyterian church. Their conversation highlights that there are differences regarding some practices within Jesus’ church. But there are things that serve to strongly unify Jesus’ church despite these differences—the teaching, belief in, and practice of certain essential truths of the Christian faith. Creeds, like the Apostles’ Creed, and confessions help the church to remember these truths.

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 presents Jesus as a bridegroom and the church as His bride in order to help us understand the very special relationship Jesus has with His church. This lesson will discuss elements of a wedding celebration in order for students to see how much more Jesus’ church should be excitedly awaiting His return so that all His people 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

This lesson begins by highlighting how special it is to be a member of a human family so that students can understand that 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. The lesson ends by encouraging students to ponder whether they are “neighbors” or true members of Jesus' church, and reminding them about how a person becomes a child of God and a forever member of Jesus' church.

Memory Work: John 1:12

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