

THE CHURCH, GOD'S FAMILY

Text: Paul Reid
Artwork: Tim Shirey

PLEASE NOTE!

The visuals for this series can be purchased from most CEF offices and online shops. For a list of CEF offices and online shops in Europe, please visit www.teachkids.eu and click on "Locations".

Text published by: European CEF®
Kilchzimmer
4438 Langenbruck
Switzerland



Copyright © 2010 European Child Evangelism Fellowship®
All rights reserved worldwide. May be reproduced for
personal, nonprofit and non-commercial uses only.
Visit www.teachkids.eu for full details of permission.

Table of contents

Lesson		Page
Introduction		3
Overview		8
Lesson 1	The church is alive The body of Christ, a building, the bride, the family of God	9
Lesson 2	The church in Jerusalem Worshipping, caring, praying	19
Lesson 3	The church in Antioch Reaching out with the Gospel	27
Lesson 4	The church in Troas Remembering the Lord's death, studying, having fellowship	35
Lesson 5	The church at war Persecution, false doctrine, divisions	45
Anagram - our church (lessons 2, 3 and 4)		54
Summary of steps for counselling the child who wants to come to Christ		56

Introduction

These five lessons were written specially for boys and girls who have come to know the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour through hearing the Gospel, but are still not integrated into a local church.

There is quite a lot of teaching given, so the lessons will be most useful in teaching older children, from the ages of nine to twelve. Younger children will also enjoy and benefit from these lessons, but you might have to shorten some.

Maybe the children heard the good news in a club, in an open-air meeting or a camp. One of your responsibilities now as a teacher is to give instruction to these babes in Christ on the doctrine of the church. You will need to teach them the importance of attending the Sunday school and the services of a local church, where they can worship God, hear His Word, have Christian fellowship and serve Christ.

Practical suggestions

I would like to make a few practical suggestions that may help you to channel these saved, but unchurched, children into the fellowship of a local congregation that is true to God's Word.

1 Be convinced in your own mind that it is Biblical and necessary for the children to attend church and Sunday school

The teaching of the Scriptures is quite clear on this point. We have the **example of the early Christians** who worshipped, prayed, witnessed and worked as a church, not as isolated individuals.

The majority of the **New Testament epistles** are written to a body of believers - in Rome, in Colosse, in Corinth. Even letters to individuals (like 1 and 2 Timothy, and Titus) are written in a church context, as these men were leaders of churches.

There are **specific exhortations** as in Hebrews 10:25a - "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some." It is clear that children who have been saved need the fellowship of the local church, if they are to grow into strong, mature Christians.

Each Christian child has also some gift or gifts from the Holy Spirit with which to enrich, and serve the church of Christ. Not only do children need the church, **the church needs children** who know the Lord.

2 Pray specifically and faithfully for unchurched children that they will be integrated into your home church, or into some other good church that is true to God's Word

3 Teach children what the Bible says about the church

You can use the five lessons in this book. Evidently they do not by any means exhaust the subject even at a child's level. You can teach other aspects of this theme from what you glean from God's Word.

4 Get to know the parents of the children

It is quite probable that the parents will be reluctant to let you take their children with you to church, unless they have become well acquainted with you and have confidence in you. Call at their

homes, introduce yourself, tell them how much you enjoy helping and teaching their children. Take the opportunities that God gives you to cultivate their friendship.

5 *Seek to be a real friend to the children*

It will be easier to take the children with you on Sunday to church, if you have gained their friendship in other ways, and they enjoy your company, not just as the teacher of the club, but as a good friend. For example, you could take them out occasionally for a trip on a Saturday, or have some over for tea to your home from time to time. Make sure this is in groups and that other adults are present.

6 *Take the children with you to church*

Obviously if you take them with you on Sunday morning, it is far more likely that the children will attend, than if you just encourage them to go to church on their own initiative. You could call for them in your car, or walk with them, or accompany them on the bus, as the case might be. Some churches run minibuses that go round and collect children and then take them home again after Sunday school and church. (Be careful to comply with the child protection policy of your church or of CEF® in your country.)

A clarification: If your children's class is under the auspices of Child Evangelism Fellowship®, remember that it is an interdenominational organisation that works with believers from different denominations. These lessons have been written specially with unreached children in mind. If your pupils are already attending a church or Sunday school, do not persuade them to leave that one and attend another. Be careful not to criticise any church in your city or to arouse a spirit of negative criticism on the part of the children.

7 *Involve other people in taking the children to church and Sunday school*

It may not be possible for you to take each of the children that you would wish to, when you go to church. Other people, for example young people, could help in calling for the children, accompanying them and taking them home - maybe even having them occasionally for Sunday lunch. That would be a real ministry.

8 *The parents may want to go to church with their children*

Unfortunately many parents have little interest in going to church. Be sure to invite them, however - not just once, but from time to time, especially when there is something of particular interest to them in the Sunday services.

9 *Help the children to make new friends at church and Sunday school*

Once they begin to attend, introduce them to other children of their own age, and help them to make friends. It would be good to organise some activities for a little group of children from the church, together with some of the new ones, so that they can get to know each other better and make new friends. For example, take them swimming, or for a picnic, or to your home for a snack, etc. (Again make sure that other adults are present). Also encourage other adult Christians to greet the new children and make them feel welcome.

10 *If you are a leader in the church or teacher in the Sunday school, do what you can to ensure that there is a good, interesting programme available for the children*

If they are bored by a dull routine at church, it will be very difficult indeed for them to be enthusiastic about attending each week.

The content of the lessons

Please read these pages before giving the first lesson. You will have a better idea of your plan for the next weeks. It would be good to take a sixth week for review (see further on for ideas). A map is included at the back of the book to show the various locations of the early church.

Scripture passages

At the end of each lesson is a list of verses quoted in the lesson. You might like to make photocopies of these pages of scripture quotations so that your pupils will be able to read the relevant verses as the lesson unfolds. If you would prefer a different version you could type the verses out again. If the children all have Bibles and can easily find the references, extra pages may not be necessary.

Quite a lot of verses are used in the lessons. To hold the attention of the children, have them participate by reading some of the verses and by answering short questions about what they have read.

If the children are younger, leave out the reading of some of these verses.

Lesson 1

The church is alive - the body of Christ, a building, the bride, the family of God.

Lesson 2

The church in Jerusalem - worshipping, caring, praying.

A brief study of Acts 2:40-47, Acts 6:1-7 and Acts 12:1-19 that brings out three aspects of the activity of the church in Jerusalem - worshipping God, caring for the needy, praying for others (in this case, Peter in prison).

Lesson 3

The church in Antioch - preaching, giving, sending out missionaries (Acts 11:19-30 and Acts 13:1-4).

Lesson 4

The church in Troas - remembering the Lord's death, studying, having fellowship (Acts 20:6-12).

In lessons 2, 3 and 4 an anagram is used. At the end of this introduction we have printed two diagrams of the church - one with the anagram as you would show it to the children at the beginning of these chapters, and the second, when you have completed the three chapters. You could make photocopies of the first diagram for the children to fill in the missing words over these three weeks. The themes are dealt with more or less in historical order, as we see them in some portions of the book of Acts. For that reason the words are not filled in according to the order of the letters in the anagram.

Alternatively, you might want to copy the diagram on to a board or sheet of card. In that case, if you wish, you could use the letters of the words "our church" to stick on the card one by one at the appropriate moments.

Lesson 5

The church at war - the attacks of Satan against the church through persecution, false doctrine, divisions (Acts 19:1-41 and Acts 20:15-20,27-38).

One of the purposes of this lesson is to warn children that the church is not perfect, as it is made up of imperfect human beings. There can be false teaching, strife or other shortcomings. At the same time we

want to supply criteria for choosing a good church to attend when they are a little older, and have to make this very important choice.

Lesson 6 - review

After you have given these lessons, I would encourage you to take a sixth session before you begin some other series of lessons. There is a lot of teaching in the five lessons. In this sixth session, you might like to teach some aspects you have not had time to deal with in the previous weeks.

Even if you covered the contents of the five lessons, it would be good to review some aspects of the teaching. Here are some further suggestions for this final session.

- 1 Use the review questions that are provided after each lesson, to make a longer quiz than usual.
- 2 Take time to answer questions that the children have put into the "question box." From the beginning of this series encourage the children to put their questions in the box for you to answer after the five lessons have been taught. To encourage the children to think of questions, you might even have to write the first few questions yourself and read them out (not telling that you had put them into the box). For example, you could ask,
 - ◆ Should I go to church and Sunday school, or just Sunday school?
 - ◆ Why do some church buildings have steeples and bells?
 - ◆ Should you kneel to pray in church?

Make sure you read the questions beforehand and find adequate answers. The questions in the box may need sorting a little as they will probably fall into various groups dealing with different topics.

- 3 Have a little party with a few refreshments and prizes for memory work, or for other activities that the children may have handed in.

It may be useful to have a questionnaire, in which the pupils write down the answers to the questions. This activity could help you to know more of the situation of the children with regards to church attendance. It could also guide you in giving them the help that they would need. This activity would be effective with older children.

Take time in the class to read the answers and discuss them with the children. For the questionnaire you could use questions like these:

- ◆ Do you attend church? If so, which one?
- ◆ Were you there the last two Sundays? Yes/No
- ◆ Were your parents there the last two Sundays? Yes/No
- ◆ If you do not go to any church, would you like to go with me (in the car) to our church? (Of course, I would talk to your parents about this.) Yes/No
- ◆ Did you enjoy these lessons on the church? Yes/No
Say why.
- ◆ Which part did you enjoy most?

Memory work

During the weeks that you teach this series, the children can learn the following three key verses.

Ephesians 5:25 “... Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her.”

Ephesians 5:23 “... Christ is head of the church; and He is the Saviour of the body.”

Hebrews 10:25 “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some ...”

The importance of personal counselling

These lessons were written primarily for saved children, with the aim of teaching them something of the doctrine of the church, and helping them to begin attending a good, sound church.

Some teaching is also included for unsaved children. You could include more evangelistic teaching in other parts of the programme - for example, in a missionary story or even during the singing. You could introduce and explain choruses that present the Gospel.

You should also make yourself available to talk to any child who has doubts or questions or wants spiritual help. It does not matter if the child is saved or unsaved, he should feel that he will be welcome if he comes to you, his teacher, for personal counselling.

At some point in the lesson, or in another part of the programme, you could say something like this. “If you know the Lord Jesus as your Saviour, but you have a special problem that you would like to share with me, I’ll be very happy to talk with you. After the class, I’ll be at the back saying good-bye to the other children. You can come over to me and tell me that you would like a little talk.”

You could also say, “There are some boys and girls in this class who, as far as I know, still have not asked Christ to be their personal Saviour. Maybe during these past weeks, you have realised that you are not part of God’s family, that your life is not founded on the Lord Jesus Christ. Are you thinking really seriously about turning to the Lord and asking Him to save you? I hope you are, but perhaps you are not quite sure how to take that step that is so important. I would be very glad to talk to you on your own. Don’t be afraid! As the other children go out after the class, come and sit in one of these chairs at the front. If I see you sitting there, I’ll come right away and talk to you about this very important matter of how to be saved and become a member of God’s family.”

Structure of the lessons

For those accustomed to lessons published by Child Evangelism Fellowship, we would like to point out that these have a slightly different structure and outline. Each is not built on one Bible story, but on several passages of Scripture. Consequently there is not a developing of interest towards one climax. Various activities to stimulate learning have been included. These are particularly applicable when teaching older children.

PowerPoint® visuals

If you are using the PowerPoint version of this lesson, you can choose from two options on the CD.

- 1 The first version contains the flashcard images and lesson cover slides only.
- 2 The second contains the extra features of the central truth, applications and memory verse.

At the bottom right side of each slide you will see a small image (such as a Bible, a cross or a crown) which contains a hyperlink. If you click on this image, it will take you to the central truth for that lesson, thus allowing you to use the central truth at any stage in your teaching. Clicking on the arrow on the central truth slide will take you back to the slide you were previously showing.

Some slides also have the letters “CTS” at the bottom left corner. Clicking on the “CTS” will allow you to show the application of the central truth for the saved child. Clicking on the arrow will return you to the previous slide.

Overview

Lesson	Central truth	Application	Memory verse
<p>The church is alive (The body of Christ, a building, the bride, the family of God)</p> <p>Ephesians 5:22-32 Romans 12:4-8 1 Cor. 12:12-31 Ephesians 2:19-22 1 Corinthians 3:11 Revelation 19:7-9</p>	<p>All who trust in Christ for salvation are members of the true church</p>	<p>Unsaved: Trust in Christ so that you too may become a member of His church</p> <p>Saved: You should love and obey Christ, the Head of the church</p>	<p>“... Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her”</p> <p>Ephesians 5:25</p>
<p>The church in Jerusalem (Worshipping, caring, praying)</p> <p>Acts 2:40-47 Acts 6:1-7 Acts 12:1-19 Ephesians 5:18-21</p>	<p>God wants His children to go to church</p>	<p>Unsaved: Ask Jesus to be your Saviour then you will be in His family, the church</p> <p>Saved: Attend church and take part in what the church does</p>	<p>“... Christ is head of the church; and He is the Saviour of the body”</p> <p>Ephesians 5:23</p>
<p>The church in Antioch (Reaching out with the Gospel)</p> <p>Acts 11:19-30 Acts 13:1-4 1 Corinthians 16:1 2 Corinthians 9:6-7 2 Corinthians 6:2</p>	<p>As part of the church, God's children should share the Gospel with others</p>	<p>Unsaved: Listen to and receive the Gospel that is taught</p> <p>Saved: Attend church and share the Gospel with others</p>	<p>Review Ephesians 5:23</p>
<p>The church in Troas (Remembering the Lord's death, studying, having fellowship)</p> <p>Acts 20:6-12</p>	<p>Believers grow through fellowship with the Lord and His people</p>	<p>Saved: Make plans to attend church to have fellowship</p>	<p>“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some ...”</p> <p>Hebrews 10:25</p>
<p>The church at war (Persecution, false doctrine, divisions)</p> <p>Acts 19:1-41 Matthew 16:16-18 Acts 20:15-20,27-38 1 Corinthians 3:1-7 Hebrews 13:3</p>	<p>Satan attacks the church and tries to bring false teaching and division</p>	<p>Unsaved: Don't heed Satan who tries to turn you away from the truth</p> <p>Saved: Choose to attend a church that stands firm for the truth despite Satan's attacks</p>	<p>Review Ephesians 5:25</p>

Lesson 1

The church is alive

The body of Christ, a building, the bride, the family of God

Scripture for teachers

Ephesians 5:22-32

Romans 12:4-8

1 Corinthians 12:12-31

Ephesians 2:19-22

1 Corinthians 3:11

Revelation 19:7-9

Central truth

All who trust in Christ for salvation are members of the true church

Application

Unsaved: Trust in Christ so that you too may become a member of His church

Saved: You should love and obey Christ, the Head of the church

Memory verse

“... Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her” Ephesians 5:25

Visual aids

◆ Flashcards: 1-1, 1-2, 1-3, 1-4, 1-5, 1-6, 1-7 and 1-8

Or

◆ PowerPoint slides: 1-1, 1-2, 1-3, 1-4, 1-5, 1-6, 1-7 and 1-8

And

◆ Wordstrips: “All who trust in Christ for salvation are members of the true church” and “You should love and obey Christ, the Head of the church”

Suggestions for involving the children in learning

◆ There are a number of questions in the text. Please use them and others that you may think of. Remember to give the children time to think about them and reply.

◆ Key verses are read throughout the lesson. Although you, as the teacher, could read these verses out loud by yourself, it might be better if some of the older children or helpers read them.

You need to give the children the references beforehand so that they can look up the verses and be prepared to read them aloud. Be careful not to cause embarrassment to children with reading difficulties.

You could even prerecord children reading the verses on a cassette tape, and at the appropriate moment in the lesson press the on-switch. The novelty or surprise element will help the class to listen well.

- ◆ Towards the end of these lessons there is a little “game” of associated words. These words could be written on a board (or card with markers). If you choose to have the words written on a board, let one of the pupils write the words beforehand.
- ◆ A selected older child (or children) could read out the review questions and mark the teams’ scores.

Lesson outline

Introduction

When we see a lot of sheep together, we talk about a “flock” of sheep

Progression of events

Flashcard 1-1 The church is like a **body**

Flashcard 1-2 Christ is the Head of the body
- He controls and guides

CTS

Flashcard 1-3 The church is like a **bride**

CTS

Flashcard 1-4 Christ is the Bridegroom Who loves the church

CTS

Flashcard 1-5 The church is like a **building**

CTS

Flashcard 1-6 Christ is the foundation of the building

CTS, CTU

Flashcard 1-7 The church is like a **family**

Conclusion

Flashcard 1-8 Game of association of words

CTS

Lesson

When we see a lot of sheep together, we talk about a “flock” of sheep. When there are a number of cows together we talk about a _____. (A herd.) And fish? (A school.) And football players? (A team.) And what about Christians? What is the name we give to a group of Christians when they meet and work together? We call it a church. For the next few weeks we are going to talk about this very important subject - the church. And we'll learn a little of what the Bible teaches about it.

Today we are going to think about the question, “What is the church?” I expect that if I asked you to answer that question you would say, “Oh, it’s the big brick building that we go to on Sundays.” Well, that’s one answer, but the Bible answers the question in a different way, giving us four lovely illustrations or word-pictures of the church.

Let us read two verses from the Bible and I want you to listen carefully. See if you can discover what is the first thing that the Bible tells us about the church. It is like a ...

Read (or have an older child read) the verses from your Bible.

Read Romans 12:4-5. Give time for the children to answer.

“For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.”

Flashcard 1-1

PowerPoint 1-1

Yes, it is like a **body**.

What is a body? A better question might be, what makes up a body?

Wait for answers. You are looking for responses like feet, hands, legs, arms, head, elbows, hips, knees.

That’s right. These are parts which make up a whole body.

So what does it mean in Romans 12:4-5? What kind of a body is Paul talking about? Is it a human body? No. Let me explain. As we have seen, the body is made up of hands, legs, heart, lungs and many other parts. In the same way, people who have trusted in Christ and love Him are like parts of a great body. You cannot see it, but we all fit and belong together in the same way that parts of a human body belong together.

Do you think that all the parts of the body do the same job? Let’s listen again to God’s answer to that question.

Read (or have an older child read) the verses from your Bible.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:14-16.

“For in fact the body is not one member but many. If the foot should say, ‘Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body,’ is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear should say, ‘Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body,’ is it therefore not of the body?”

That's right. Is your foot important to you? Is your ear important to you? Each part of the body is very important and has a special job to do. And just as the foot and the ear are important in the human body, each person in the church is important. We all need each other and have a work to do.

Flashcard 1-2

The head of a physical body is where the brain is. It's the brain that gives the orders to the legs, arms, feet and hands. If your body wants to sit down, for example, the brain has to send a message to the muscles of your legs and your back to make them move and bend in the right way, so that you can sit down. The brain also directs the eyes to look where you are going, so that you won't fall over. What would happen if your eyes were looking in one direction and your feet were going in another? You would soon take a tumble, wouldn't you?

Now, Who is the Head of the body of the church and Who gives the orders to Christians, so that they know what to do and where to go? Let's read the answer from the Bible. Listen carefully and discover Who it is.

Read Ephesians 5:23b.

“Christ is the head of the church; and He is the Saviour of the body.”

Yes, the Lord Jesus is the Head of the body. He is the One Whom all the members of the body must obey. If you are a true Christian, then you are a member of the body of Christ, the church. Do you listen each day to hear what Jesus Christ, the Head, is saying to you? Do you take time to read His Word and listen to His instructions so that you can obey Him? I hope you do that every day - it is so important.

Be sure to have Bible reading notes available and show children how to use them.

A Christian man called Jonathan, who really loved to tell others about the Lord Jesus, was travelling one night in a car. The driver was very tired and he fell asleep. The car swerved across the road and crashed into a truck coming in the opposite direction. In the accident Jonathan was very badly injured. His spine was damaged. Ever since that happened, Jonathan has not been able to walk but has to use a wheelchair.

As he sits in that chair, sometimes his legs jerk in an uncontrollable way. Jonathan explains, “They don't do what I want them to do because the connection between them and my brain through the spinal cord is damaged. That is just what happens when a Christian does what he wants to, without listening to the orders of Christ the Head of the body.”

PowerPoint 1-2a

PowerPoint 1-2b

Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.

CTS

Show card with central truth: “All who trust in Christ for salvation are members of the true church”.

PowerPoint hyperlink
(bottom right of screen)

Be sure that you listen to the Lord Jesus Christ so that you will do what He says and not be like a leg or foot or hand jerking out of control.

The Bible not only compares the church to a living body, but also to something else. Listen to this verse and you'll find the next word-picture.

Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.

Read Revelation 19:7.

“Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.”

Flashcard 1-3

PowerPoint 1-3a

PowerPoint 1-3b

Yes, the church is like a **bride**, waiting for the wedding day when the Bridegroom or husband will come to take her to live with Him in His home.

Now, Who do you think is the Bridegroom? Yes, the Lord Jesus Christ. In the verse that we read He is called the Lamb. That is one of the names given to Christ because He died like a lamb for our sins.

When you think of a wedding (of a bride and groom getting married) what is the word that comes to your mind almost at once? Confetti? Wedding cake? Wedding ring? Even more important is the word “love.” These two people really love each other, they want to get married and live together, care for each other and make each other happy.

A young man called John had fallen in love with a girl called Clara whom he wanted to marry. John was not earning very much money but he wanted to show Clara how much he loved her. He saved and saved his money for months. One day he was able to go to the jeweller and buy a lovely present for his future bride. On her birthday he gave it to her. Imagine her delight when she opened the little parcel and found inside a lovely pearl necklace! That's how John proved he loved Clara.

How did the Lord Jesus prove that He loved the church? Today's memory verse tells us how He proved His love. Let's repeat it again.

Say the memory verse (Ephesians 5:25) together.

That's right, He died on the cross for our sin. Why? Because you and I deserve to be separated for ever from God. We have disobeyed God, we have broken God's laws and God says we must be punished. So why did Christ die? If Christ had not died for us, we could never be forgiven by God. Is Christ's love for the church as strong today as it was when the New Testament was written, hundreds of years ago? Yes. He loves you as much today as He loved the people in Ephesus. He is the Bridegroom of the church and He loves the church. He loves you. If you have trusted Christ and your sins have

CTS |

been forgiven, He also wants you to love Him in return, just as a bride loves her husband and wants to please him.

Flashcard 1-4

Where is the home of the Lord Jesus Christ, the heavenly Bridegroom? Of course, you know that answer! In Heaven! That's right. That's where He is now, but we have His promise that one day He will leave that beautiful home to come back to Earth. What for? He will come this time to meet His bride, the church - that is all of us who belong to Him, and who love Him. Then He will take us back with Him to His glorious palace in the sky. When all of us who love Him get to Heaven, the Bible tells us there will be a great wedding feast - like a wedding reception, but much more wonderful and happy (Revelation 19:7).

We don't know when the Lord Jesus is coming back to Earth. But He has told us to be ready. How can we be ready? By loving Him, obeying Him, doing the things that please Him. A bride wants to please her bridegroom. A bride is always waiting to see her bridegroom. Are you loving the Lord Jesus and doing His will? Are you looking forward with joy to seeing Him?

So far we have thought about two Bible pictures of the church. What are they?

Allow the children to answer.

Yes, the body and the bride. Now, we are going to look at the third picture. See if you can discover it as we read from the Bible.

Read Ephesians 2:20-21.

"[You have] been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord."

Yes, the church, the body of believers, is compared here to a **building**.

Flashcard 1-5

What kind of building is meant here in the Bible? Is it a building made of stones, bricks and mortar? No, it is not. The verse that we read tells us that the Lord Jesus Christ is the "chief cornerstone." A "cornerstone" is a large stone in the foundation where two walls join at right angles. A tremendous weight rests on it. Without a cornerstone a building would collapse. It teaches us that the Lord Jesus Christ is the One in Whom all Christians trust and on Whom we all depend. If it were not for the Lord Jesus Christ and His death on the cross for our sins, there would be no church.

Show card with application for the saved child: "You should love and obey Christ, the Head of the church".

PowerPoint hyperlink (bottom left of screen)

PowerPoint 1-4

CTS

Read (or have an older child read) the verses from your Bible.

PowerPoint 1-5a

PowerPoint 1-5b

Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.

But who are the “stones” that make up the building? You, I, and all those who are trusting in the Lord Jesus for salvation are the “stones.” Of course we are not dead stones but living stones, all fitting into their place in the church.

What kind of a building is it? Let’s read verse 21 again. Did you see the answer to my question? It is a “holy temple.” Why does God call it that? The answer is in verse 22. See if you can understand. It says, “In whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.” That means that God lives in this building through His Holy Spirit.

Isn’t it wonderful that God lives in each and every believer who makes up the church? No wonder that God wants us to be holy and pure, if He is living in us, His church. Really the building of bricks and mortar, that we call “church,” is not the real building that God sees! He sees a holy temple or a building, made up of people.

Many years ago the king of a certain country had to make a journey. On the way he decided that he would stay in the homes of ordinary people to see how they lived.

All along the route that the king was to travel, the people were told, “The king is coming this way and he will be staying in the homes of his people.”

When the men and women who lived in those towns heard that, they all began to prepare their homes in case the king would decide to stay with them. They painted the doors and windows, brushed and cleaned the floors and the furniture. Curtains and table cloths were washed and all was made ready. Not all would have the privilege of entertaining the king, but all wanted to be ready, just in case they got the chance to have him in their home.

CTS

The King of kings lives in the heart of **all** believers, not just a chosen few. He is not just passing through for a day, but he **stays** with them always. Is your heart like a holy, clean temple where he can feel comfortable and at home?

Flashcard 1-6

However, this building is still not finished. In Ephesians 2:21 we read that it “grows into a holy temple in the Lord.” As more and more people hear the Gospel and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, they become “living stones” in the church. You and I can help the church grow as we spread the good news of salvation and help people come to know and love the Lord Jesus. Could you share the Gospel with a friend, like this boy in the picture?

CTS

PowerPoint 1-6

CTU

I know that there are some boys and girls here who perhaps have never really asked Christ to be their own personal Saviour and Lord. You have never put your trust completely in Him. Maybe up to

now you have thought that if you go to church occasionally on Sundays, that is all that matters. No, what really matters is that you believe in Christ, that you ask Him to be your Saviour and Lord. Then you will know that your life is built on Him, and you will be safe. Take Him as your Lord and Saviour today! Then Christ will be the solid foundation for your life and you will belong to the church of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now for the fourth picture of the church. Let's read a verse and see if you can spot it.

Read Ephesians 2:19.

“Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.”

That's not too easy, but if you think of the last words - you are “of the household of God”. It teaches us that the church is like a big **family**. If we are the children of God, then we are His family.

Flashcard 1-7

There is no Christian who is a stranger or foreigner to God. He knows us all so well and loves us as a part of His family. And if we love the Lord Jesus Christ, we will also love other Christians, who are in the church. They are like brothers and sisters in the same family, with God as our Heavenly Father.

Boys and girls, it really is like that. Wherever you travel in the world, when you meet another Christian, it is like meeting a brother or sister. You have the same Father, you both love God's Word, you both want to please God day by day and you are both looking forward to being in Heaven one day. It really doesn't matter if the Christian you meet is from Africa, Europe, or America - he is part with you in God's family. It does not really matter all that much if he calls himself a Baptist, Presbyterian, Methodist, or a Pentecostal. The important thing is that he has put his trust in Jesus Christ as his own personal Lord and Saviour and that his sins have been forgiven. That makes him a child of God as well.

Isn't it great to belong to such a big family, with people from all over the world who belong to it?

Flashcard 1-8

The little exercise that follows is a pleasant way to review and apply what you have taught. However, if your children are young, and restless, you might want to skip it and finish with the four application questions at the end.

Now we have thought of different ways the Bible pictures the church. What are they? The church is like a ____, a ____, a ____ and a ____ (a body, a bride, a building and a family).

Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.

PowerPoint 1-7

PowerPoint 1-8a,b,c,d

I am going to give you some words and you can tell me which of these four pictures best fits the word. For example, if I said, "Love," you might reply, "That fits best with 'bride' because Jesus loves the church like His bride." Or you might say, "'Love' goes best with 'family,' because God loves His church like children in a big family." Or you might say, "'Love' goes best with 'family' because we as Christians should love all other Christians, because we are all part of the same family."

Do you understand? Well, here are the words. Put up your hand, as you answer, and give me your reason for fitting the word to one of the pictures of the church.

- ◆ Obey Possibly "body" (the members must obey the "Head") or "family" (the children must obey the Father).
- ◆ Grow Possibly "body" (it is living and therefore growing) or "building" (as it is still incomplete and growing towards completion).
- ◆ Work Possibly "body" (every member has some work to do).
- ◆ Holy Possibly "building" (it is a holy temple in which God lives).
- ◆ Teamwork Possibly "body" (all the members have to work together for a single purpose) or "family" (as all the members have to live and work well together).

Now let's do it the other way round. I'll give you the picture word and you give me two words that go with it.

- ◆ Body
- ◆ Bride
- ◆ Building
- ◆ Family

Good! I enjoyed that!

CTS

Now, here are four questions to end with. Think about them!

- 1 As a part of the body of the church, do you obey Jesus the Head?
- 2 As part of the bride, do you love the Lord, as you should?
- 3 As part of the building, are you a holy place for God to live in?
- 4 As part of the family, do you show friendliness and understanding to other Christians as your brothers and sisters?

You could explain the idea of the question box to the children and encourage them to put in questions that they would like answered during week 6.

Show card with application for the saved child.

PowerPoint hyperlink (bottom left of screen)

Some verses quoted in this lesson

You could make photocopies of this page, so that the older children at least could easily find the verses and take part in reading them.

- ◆ Romans 12:4-5
“For as we have many members in one **body**, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.”
- ◆ 1 Corinthians 12:14-16
“For in fact the **body** is not one member but many. If the foot should say, ‘Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body,’ is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear should say, ‘Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body,’ is it therefore not of the body?”
- ◆ Ephesians 5:23b
“... Christ is the **head** of the church; and He is the Saviour of the **body**.”
- ◆ Revelation 19:7
“Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.”
- ◆ Ephesians 5:25
“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her.”
- ◆ Ephesians 2:20-21
“[You have] been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole **building**, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.”
- ◆ Ephesians 2:22
“In whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.”
- ◆ Ephesians 2:19
“Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the **household** of God.”

Review questions

- 1 What were the four word-pictures that we found in the Bible describing the church? (A body, a bride, a building and a family.)
- 2 Name three parts of a human body and tell why each one is important. (Answers will vary.)
- 3 Why is it so important that members of the body obey Christ the Head? (The head of a physical body is where the brain is and it is the brain that gives the orders to the other parts of the body. The Lord Jesus is the Head of the body and the One Whom all the members of the body must obey.)

- 4 In your opinion, why does God compare the church to a bride? (The Lord Jesus loves the church, just as a bridegroom loves his bride. Just as a bride waits for her bridegroom, so the church is waiting for Jesus to come back to take the church, His bride, to live in His home.)
- 5 Where is the beautiful home to which Christ the Bridegroom will take the church, His bride? (Heaven.)
- 6 How does a person become a “living stone” in the temple of God? (By trusting in the Lord Jesus for salvation.)
- 7 Is everyone a member of God’s family? Why or why not? (No - only those who have trusted Jesus for salvation are God’s children and part of His family.)
- 8 What lovely discoveries do you make as you talk to a Christian that you have never met before? (Answers will vary, but those given in the text include: you both have the same Father; you both love God’s Word; you both want to please God day by day; you both are looking forward to being in Heaven one day; you have both trusted in Jesus Christ as your own personal Lord and Saviour and your sins have been forgiven.)

Lesson 2

The church in Jerusalem

Worshipping, caring, praying

Scripture for teachers

Acts 2:40-47
Acts 6:1-7
Acts 12:1-19
Ephesians 5:18-21

Central truth

God wants His children to go to church

Application

Unsaved: Ask Jesus to be your Saviour then you will be in His family, the church

Saved: Attend church and take part in what the church does

Memory verse

“... Christ is head of the church; and He is the Saviour of the body” Ephesians 5:23

Visual aids

♦ Flashcards: 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5, 2-6, 2-7 and 2-8

Or

♦ PowerPoint slides: 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5, 2-6, 2-7 and 2-8

And

♦ Wordstrips: “God wants His children to go to church” and “Attend church and take part in what the church does”

Suggestions for involving the children in learning

♦ Children may read verses out loud as they did in lesson 1

Lesson outline

Introduction

What do you like to do when you get together with your friends?

Progression of events

Flashcard 2-1 Early Christians in Jerusalem meet together to worship (Acts 2)

Flashcard 2-2 God wants us to praise Him and worship Him as a church today **CTS, CTU**

Flashcard 2-3 The early church in Jerusalem included many needy people (Acts 6)

Flashcard 2-4 The choosing of the seven deacons

Flashcard 2-5 The care of the needy today through the church **CTS**

Flashcard 2-6 The church in Jerusalem meets to pray for Peter (Acts 12)

Flashcard 2-7 The angel delivers Peter

Conclusion

Flashcard 2-8 God wants us to pray as a church **CTS, CTU**

Lesson

When you get together with your friends, what are some of the things that you like to do with them?

Let children reply. They may suggest things like talking, playing, listening to music, going for walks, etc.

Do you remember that in our last lesson we were thinking about the church? What (or who) is the church? It is made up of people who love the Lord Jesus Christ. These people often meet together on Sundays and some other days of the week. Today we are going to learn why the church meets together.

For English-speaking children you can use the anagram "our church" (pages 54 and 55), but the words will not be added in that order.

Flashcard 2-1

Why do Christians meet together as a church? We find one of the reasons when we read about the very first church. This church began after the Lord Jesus died, rose again, and went back to Heaven. Though Jesus had left His disciples to go back to His heavenly home, He had given to them the Holy Spirit, so that they would not feel so lonely without Him. They were full of joy and they gathered often in Jerusalem with others who also loved the Lord Jesus Christ. What did they do? Well, let's read Acts 2:47 and see.

"Praising God and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved."

Do you know what this verse means? What were the Christians doing? Praising God. And what was God doing? Adding to the church daily. Let's look more closely at what the Christians were doing. What does it mean to "praise God"? It means to think about God with love and respect (reverence) and to thank Him for how good and kind He is. It means to say, "I love you God, because you are so good, you are so strong, so powerful." Do you know another word that means the same thing? Let's look at our anagram here. The word has an "H" in it and it is seven letters long. What do you think? Do you need a clue? It begins with "W". That's right, the word is "**worship**". The most important reason that Christians come together is to worship God.

How do you worship God? Ephesians 5:19 answers this question. One way to worship God is to sing songs that tell about Who God is and what He has done. The first Christians at the time of the New Testament probably sang the Psalms. Someone put the Psalms to music and they sang about Who God is and what He has done.

Flashcard 2-2

When you go to church on a Sunday morning, you will notice that a part of the time is spent in singing - just like we do here in our club.

PowerPoint 2-1a

Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.

PowerPoint 2-1b

Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.

PowerPoint 2-2a

Singing is not meant to fill in time between prayer and lessons, but to let us really thank and worship God from our hearts. As you sing hymns you need to remember that you are singing to God. Did you notice when we read Ephesians 5:19b a moment ago it said, "Singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord"? God loves to hear your praise, if it is really coming from your heart. Sometimes though, God must be sad when He sees men and women, boys and girls singing lovely words of praise, but not meaning them. They are not even thinking about God. Maybe they are looking around, or just mouthing the words and thinking about something completely different like what's for dinner or the game they want to play in the afternoon. When you go to church you need to remember that you are there to "give" something to God and one thing to give Him is worship.

So the next time you sing hymns or choruses ask yourself, what do the words mean? Do I really believe them and do I really want to say them? Then sing the songs gladly and from your heart. By doing this you are telling God you love Him and worship Him.

Maybe you are here today and you don't go to church because you do not know and love the Lord Jesus as your Saviour. Maybe you want to have your sins forgiven but don't quite know what to do. Please come and talk to me at the end of the class. I would be very happy to help you.

Singing hymns on Sunday mornings is not the only part of the church service, there is usually a time of prayer as well. Sometimes it is the minister or pastor who leads in prayer, and other times a number of people will pray. Nearly always, part of these prayers is worship - just thinking about God and telling Him how wonderful He is. He is all-powerful and wise, eternal and perfect. Do you worship the Lord during the prayer time? If you do, God will gladly accept your praise and worship. How sad He must be when His children do not respect Him and daydream at this time. Now, let's go on to look for another reason the church comes together, and we will be able to fill in another word.

In Jerusalem the disciples of the Lord Jesus (the apostles) preached the Gospel at every opportunity. The Holy Spirit worked through their words and thousands and thousands of people were saved. The church had grown very large by now, with more being added to it every day. Among the new Christians were wealthy people, and poor people. The rich people were so thankful to the Lord for all that He had done for them - in saving them and making them His children. They wanted to show their love to God by helping other Christians who were poor.

PowerPoint 2-2b

CTS

Show card with application for the saved child: "Attend church and take part in what the church does".

PowerPoint hyperlink (bottom left of screen)

CTU

Read (or have an older child read) the verses from your Bible.

PowerPoint 2-3

Flashcard 2-3

Let's read what the Christians did.

Read Acts 2:44-45.

“Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as everyone had need.”

These people were especially concerned about widows and orphans. Can you tell me why they would be concerned about widows and orphans?

Let the children answer.

Yes, because the father of the family had died, and there was no-one who could work and earn money, so that they could buy food, clothing and other necessary things. It was the apostles' job to make sure that the money given for the poor, the widows and the orphans got to the right people. However, the church had grown so quickly and there were so many needy people, that the apostles did not have the time to organise the work properly and to be sure that everyone who needed help got it. It seemed that some of the widows were being left out.

Flashcard 2-4

So what do you think the church did about this problem? Let's read Acts 6:3 and we will find the answers to two questions.

What solution was found for the problem?

After the solution was found, how were the apostles able to spend most of their time?

Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.

“Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business” (Acts 6:3).

Answer the questions.

PowerPoint 2-4

Seven men were chosen and their work was to help the needy - the widows, the orphans, the poor and sick.

Flashcard 2-5

There are men who do this kind of work in most of the churches today too, though not every church has seven. Some churches have more than seven, if they are very big, but if the church is smaller, they'll have less than seven. Part of their job is to see that the church is caring for those in need.

Let's look at our anagram. What word could summarise this job of the church? Have you spotted the word here that begins with a “C”? Yes, it is to “care”. Another reason a church comes together is to care for one another. Those of us who are Christians are thankful

CTS I

that God cares about us. We know that God loves us so much that He sent His beloved Son to die for us, so that our sins could be forgiven and that we could have eternal life. Day by day God also cares for us, giving us health, strength, food, clothing, parents and good friends who love us. Therefore because God loves and cares for us, we must care for those who are poor, needy, and have less than we do. That is one of the reasons why we want our church to help all those who have problems and needs. How does a church today help people who have problems or needs?

One way is, when people from the church do the shopping for an older lady who lives by herself. Another way is to visit sick people in hospital. Others help by sending poor children to camp for a good holiday. Then there is the opportunity to give presents to needy families at Christmas.

Sometimes we hear of terrible disasters like war, earthquakes and famines. At these times the church might take up special offerings of money or clothes, food and medicines to send to the people in that country, who are now homeless and starving.

When Christians in a church work together in this way, they can do so many good things and care for many needy people. God tells us that the church should give - praise, worship, and care for others. But, if a Christian is on his own and does not bother to go to church, how can he care for those in need? How can he even know who is in need? It is so much harder to help others.

Flashcard 2-6

Now, let's look for a word with the letter "R" for our anagram. The letter "R" comes near the start of this word, but it is not the first letter. Any guesses? We mentioned it briefly before. Let's go on and see if you can work it out.

In Acts 12 we read the story of how Peter was put in prison for preaching the Gospel. King Herod had planned to put him to death very soon. Peter was being guarded by sixteen soldiers away inside a prison in Jerusalem. This prison had strong stone walls and iron gates so that it was impossible for anyone to escape.

But outside the walls of this prison something very important was taking place in a house in Jerusalem. The church had come together in that house and they were doing this very important thing. Can you guess what it was? Remember that there is an "R" in the word! Let's read Acts 12:5.

"Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church."

Yes, the word is "**prayer**". The Christians had met together to pray. They kept on praying to God and asking Him to set Peter free from

PowerPoint 2-5

PowerPoint 2-6a

Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.

PowerPoint 2-6b

prison and not allow King Herod to execute or kill Peter. Herod planned to do that the very next day.

Flashcard 2-7

God heard their prayers and He answered them in a wonderful way. During the night when Peter was sleeping in his cell, he was suddenly awakened by an angel. A great light shone in the prison but the soldiers who were guarding Peter slept on. Peter's chains fell to the ground.

The angel said to Peter, "Stand up and put on your sandals," and he began to lead Peter through the corridors of the prison. Finally they came to the big iron gate that led out to the city street.

Peter must have wondered, "What will happen now?"

But the big iron gate swung open by itself, and the angel and Peter passed through it. Peter was free! He was able to escape and go and tell his friends what had happened. He was not put to death by Herod, but continued to preach the Gospel for many more years.

When did God do that wonderful miracle? When the whole church came together to pray to Him. God wants the church to pray. God even gave a special promise in the Bible for Christians who pray together. Let's read Matthew 18:20.

"For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."

Flashcard 2-8

Often Christians go to church once a week to pray together. In the prayer meeting they sing a hymn or two, read a little from the Bible and then spend the rest of the time praying to God.

During the prayer time they thank God for all His goodness and love. They pray for people who have needs and problems - those who are weak, old, poor, as well as for those who are sick and in hospital. They pray for those who are not saved and for all those who preach the Gospel in this land and abroad.

It is wonderful how God answers the prayers of His church.

Leave the next paragraph out, if it is not appropriate to the needs of your children.

CTS

Maybe sometime when you do not have too much homework you would like to go to the prayer meeting in your church. If you know Jesus Christ as your Saviour, then you belong to God's church and He wants you to come together with other believers and pray. Maybe you would like to go to our church's prayer meeting. I would be very happy to take you, if your parents allow you to come with me. We meet together on ___ evening (*supply the appropriate day*). Boys and girls are very welcome and those of you who love the Lord Jesus can certainly take part also in prayer.

PowerPoint 2-7

Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.

PowerPoint 2-8

Show card with application for the saved child.

PowerPoint hyperlink (bottom left of screen)

If you're a Christian, the Lord would like you to go to church on Sundays. He does not want you to go out of habit or to just sit there. He wants you to go, ready to give, just like the Christians in Jerusalem did. They gave to God in worshipping Him, in caring for others, and in praying for others. Will you be at church this Sunday? I hope you will ask God to make it possible for you to be there.

As you are learning, the church is a family - a family made up of men and women, boys and girls who have asked Jesus Christ to be their Saviour. This is a family who cares, loves, and prays for one another.

Are you a part of God's family? If you have not trusted in the Lord Jesus as your Saviour, you are not. Turn from your sin today and put your trust in Christ. He will forgive you and accept you as His child. He says in His Word that to as many as believe in His Name, He gives them the right to become the children of God (John 1:12).

Some verses quoted in this lesson

You may want to make photocopies of this page to give to your pupils for use during the class.

- ◆ Acts 2:47
"Praising God and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved."
- ◆ Ephesians 5:19
"Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord."
- ◆ Acts 2:44-45
"Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as everyone had need."
- ◆ Acts 6:3
"Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business."
- ◆ Acts 12:5
"Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the church."

Review questions

- 1 What does "worship" mean? (To think about God with love and respect/reverence and to thank Him for how good and kind He is.)
- 2 There are at least two things that Christians should do when the congregation is singing a hymn. What are they? (Think about what they are singing, and sing to God.)
- 3 Name two things that Christians should not do when the minister is leading in prayer. (We should not be disrespectful to God, or daydream.)

Show card with central truth: "God wants His children to go to church".

**PowerPoint hyperlink
(bottom right of screen)**

CTU

- 4 What did the wealthy Christians in the church of Jerusalem do to help the poor? (They sold what they had and gave the money to the apostles to distribute among the poor, the widows and the orphans.)
- 5 How many men were appointed to help the poor people? (Seven.)
- 6 While these men were making sure that the needy were cared for, what two things did the apostles concentrate on? (Prayer and teaching the Word of God.)
- 7 Give me three examples of how the church cares for the needy today. (Answers in the text include: shopping for an older lady who lives by herself; visiting sick people in hospital; sending poor children to camp for a good holiday; giving presents to needy families at Christmas; taking special offerings of money or clothes, food, and medicines to send to the people affected by war, earthquake or famine.)
- 8 Where was Peter when the church was praying for him and why was he there? (In prison for preaching the Gospel.)
- 9 How did God answer their prayers? (God sent an angel to set Peter free.)
- 10 In a church prayer meeting, what kind of people are prayed for? (Those who are weak, old or poor; those who are sick and in hospital; those who are not saved; those who preach the Gospel in this land and abroad.)

Lesson 3

The church in Antioch

Reaching out with the Gospel

Scripture for teachers

Acts 11:19-30
Acts 13:1-4
1 Corinthians 16:1
2 Corinthians 9:6-7
2 Corinthians 6:2

Central truth

As part of the church, God's children should share the Gospel with others

Application

Unsaved: Listen to and receive the Gospel that is taught

Saved: Attend church and share the Gospel with others

Memory verse

Review Ephesians 5:23

Visual aids

♦ Flashcards: 3-1, 3-2, 3-3, 3-4, 3-5, 3-6, 3-7 and 3-8

Or

♦ PowerPoint slides: 3-1, 3-2, 3-3, 3-4, 3-5, 3-6, 3-7 and 3-8

And

♦ Wordstrips: "As part of the church, God's children should share the Gospel with others" and "Attend church and share the Gospel with others"

Suggestions for involving the children in learning

After you have presented the teaching, the class could act out the following scene. Some children invite a friend who is a new Christian to come with them to church. He is a bit reluctant to go, and makes some excuses, but they tell him how important it is to go to church and be involved in it. They will go over some of the reasons given in the last two lessons.

If the class is quite large, divide the children into two or three groups. Each group acts out the same sketch and at the end all vote to decide which group did the best job of persuading the new Christian child to go with them to church.

Lesson outline

Introduction

How the wind tried to make a man take off his overcoat

Progression of events

Flashcard 3-1 Early Christians preach in Antioch (Acts 11)

Flashcard 3-2 God wants the church today to **preach** the Gospel

CTU, CTS

Flashcard 3-3 Illustration of the power of the Gospel **CTU**

Flashcard 3-4 Prophets in Antioch predict famine (Acts 11)

Flashcard 3-5 The church in Antioch **gives** for Christians in Jerusalem

Flashcard 3-6 Some of God's instructions about giving

Flashcard 3-7 The church in Antioch **sends out** Paul and Barnabas as missionaries (Acts 13)

Conclusion

Flashcard 3-8 God wants the church of today to be involved in missions **CTS**

Lesson

Have you heard the story or fable of how the wind decided one cold day to try and make a man take off his overcoat?

The wind began to blow as hard as he possibly could. However, the man did not take off his coat. So the wind blew harder and harder at the poor man. But the harder the wind blew, the more the man held on to his coat and pulled it around him. The more the cold wind howled, the more determined the man was to keep his coat on.

That's a bit like what was happening to the Christians in Jerusalem. Suffering was coming to the Christians like a cold wind, but the stronger and colder it blew, the more determined they were to live for the Lord Jesus and to tell others about Him.

About the same time as Peter was in prison in Jerusalem, other Christians were also suffering. Some of them were beaten and put into prison, while others were even put to death. For example, a man called Stephen was stoned to death and James (one of the disciples) had his head cut off. Why were these Christians being treated so badly? It was because they loved the Lord Jesus Christ and were preaching the Gospel.

See Acts 7:59-60 and Acts 12:2.

Flashcard 3-1

However, other Christians wanting to escape the persecution, fled to other cities. There they preached the Gospel and lived for the Lord Jesus. That is how the Gospel spread into the surrounding cities and countries.

Some of these Christians travelled a long distance and arrived at a big city to the north of Jerusalem. The name of the city was Antioch. Though they had been cruelly treated for serving the Lord Jesus in Cyprus and Cyrene, these men did not stop talking about Him and preaching God's Word to the people of Antioch, who had never heard it before. Do you think that the people of this wicked city listened to the Gospel? Let's read Acts 11:21.

“And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord.”

How wonderful! Many people did listen and were saved. In fact, so many people were saved and the church was growing so quickly, that two important preachers had to come to help. They were called Barnabas and Paul. These two men continued to preach and teach in that city. Can you imagine them preaching in the squares, streets, people's houses and wherever people would listen to the Gospel? Barnabas and Paul used every opportunity to teach about the Lord Jesus Christ.

PowerPoint 3-1

Show Antioch and Jerusalem on a map. You may also want to point out Cyprus and Cyrene.

Although Paul is first referred to by this name in Acts 13:9 (instead of Saul) we will use the one name in this lesson for the sake of simplicity. Saul is his Hebrew name and Paul is his Roman name.

Flashcard 3-2

From these men we learn another important job that Christians do as a church. The word we are looking for has a “C” in the middle of it. Can you think of what it might be? It is “**preach**”.

“Preach” just means to announce or tell out the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. God has given to the church the job of preaching the Gospel to men, women, boys and girls so that they may come to know the Lord Jesus Christ and trust in Him for salvation.

Usually the Gospel is preached on Sunday during the church services. At other times churches have special one or two weeks of evangelistic meetings called “missions”. Another way to preach the Gospel is when Christians sometimes go out to the streets or parks and hold an evangelistic meeting.

Before you share the Gospel message with others, you need to be sure that you have understood it and obeyed it. God tells you in the Bible to turn from your sins and trust in the Lord Jesus to be your Saviour. If you do that, God promises to blot out (or wipe out) your sins (Acts 3:19). Why do we need to have our sins blotted out? Why are they so bad? The sins we do (lying to mother, copying answers from someone else’s maths homework and giving it as your own, wishing your brother or sister was in someone else’s family) are sins against God. God has given us His commands. When we do not obey God we are telling Him, “I want my way, not Yours.”

The punishment for sin is separation from God. We **all** have sinned and gone our own way. We were even born sinners, wanting our own way. However, God is loving and merciful. He knew there was only one way that we could have our sins taken away. The Son of God, the perfect One, had to die for our sins and to rise again from the dead (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). The Bible tells us to “repent ... and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out” (Acts 3:19). “Repent” means to own up to your sin and to be willing for the Lord to change your life. “Be converted” means to turn from your sin and turn to the Lord trusting Him to save you from your sin. When you do that, the Lord Jesus Christ forgives your sins and takes them away. Then you will no longer be separated from God. He makes you His child and helps you to obey Him. Have you ever asked the Lord to save you? Do it today. He will save you.

If you are saved, then you will have a desire that your unsaved friends and family members will hear the Gospel. You can bring them to church or to a special evangelistic meeting. Wouldn’t it be wonderful if the Lord used you to help bring one of them to Christ!

Some years ago in the land of Poland lived a boy called Czeslaw. His parents were true Christians who loved God, but Czeslaw was not. He had often heard the message of the Gospel because his

PowerPoint 3-2

CTU

Read (or have an older child read) Acts 3:19 from your Bible.

CTS

Show card with central truth: “As part of the church, God’s children should share the Gospel with others”.

PowerPoint hyperlink
(bottom right of screen)

parents told him about Christ's love. Czeslaw's mother prayed on her knees many, many times for her son to come to know the Lord and to be saved from his sin. Czeslaw's parents even had meetings on Sundays in their own home where the Gospel was preached and the people of the town came together to praise the Lord. That made Czeslaw very angry. In fact, he became so angry that he decided to put a bomb in the house one Sunday.

At school, Czeslaw had learned some chemistry and he decided to make a home-made bomb. He carefully prepared it and put it in the basement ready to explode when the Christians met there. The bomb did explode, but it was not powerful enough to do anyone harm. When Czeslaw returned to his house he found that the bomb had caused some damage to the house, but he certainly had not been able to stop the Christians meeting to worship the Lord.

Some years later Czeslaw went to a summer camp. He did not realise it, but it was a camp for young people run by Christians. At that camp he heard the Gospel presented clearly again. Something wonderful happened. God softened his hard heart and Czeslaw asked God to forgive him for his sin and rebellion. He trusted in Christ and became a child of God. Since that day, many years have passed. Czeslaw is now a missionary, taking the Gospel to boys and girls in Poland and other countries of eastern and central Europe. He is just as enthusiastic now to tell about the Lord Jesus, as he was opposed to the Gospel before.

Flashcard 3-3

Here in our club, we have been presenting the same Gospel to you that Czeslaw heard and that changed him. Will you turn from your sin today and come to the Lord Jesus asking Him to be your Saviour? He is here to save you too if you will come to Him.

We who teach you and help you here in Good News Club® are members of the church too. We share the Gospel with you each week. Our greatest desire is that those of you who do not know Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour will be saved.

Just as Barnabas and Paul preached to the people in Antioch, we want to give you the same message, "Turn from your sin and trust in Christ." Without Him you are just as lost as the people of that pagan city of Antioch long ago.

Flashcard 3-4

The Lord continued to bless the church at Antioch and it grew big and strong. Many, many people who had never heard the Gospel put their trust in Christ as their Saviour and Lord and began to serve Him in the church.

PowerPoint 3-3

CTU

In those days some men came down from the church in Jerusalem and spoke to the Christians in Antioch. By His Holy Spirit, God gave one of these men special power to tell something which was going to happen in the future. We can't do that. We can't tell, for example, what is going to happen three years from now. When Paul and Barnabas were living, however, God sometimes told people what would happen in the future. God helped this man to be able to do that.

PowerPoint 3-4a

He was called Agabus and he told the church in Antioch that there was going to be a time of great famine. (A famine is when there would not be enough food for everyone.) So the church at Antioch decided to take up some special offerings to help the Christians in Judea, the area around Jerusalem.

PowerPoint 3-4b

Flashcard 3-5

Let's read Acts 11:29 and we'll see how much the disciples and Christians gave.

"Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea."

Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.

Yes, it says, "each according to his ability." That means everyone gave as much as he was able to.

PowerPoint 3-5

And how did the offering get up to Judaea? Barnabas and Paul were the special messengers taking the offering to God's people in Jerusalem and Judaea.

Now can you spot the word that has an "R" in the middle? It has to do with giving money. Yes, it is giving an "**offering**" to God. We have already talked a little about this, but the Bible teaches us a lot about offering our money to God. Here are some simple but important rules that God tells us about giving money to Him.

Flashcard 3-6

1 **Give what we are able to give** (Acts 11:29). We saw how that the church people in Antioch gave as each one was able. God does not expect us to give much if we have only a little. We can't give a euro if we only have 50 cents. But if God has given us a lot of money, then He is very pleased if we give more to Him.

God tells us in the Bible to give at least a tenth of what we earn to Him (Leviticus 27:30-32). If you love Him and want to obey Him, would you like to start doing that? That means if you receive 5 euros, you give 50 cents to the Lord. If you earn or are given 20 euros, you give 2 euros to God.

2 God wants us to **give regularly**. Later on the Apostle Paul wrote, "On the first day of the week let each one of you lay

CTS

PowerPoint 3-6a

PowerPoint 3-6b

Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.

PowerPoint 3-6c

Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.

something aside, storing up as he may prosper” (1 Corinthians 16:2a). So every Sunday we are to set aside money for the Lord. We don’t just give him whatever money is left over from last week, but at the very beginning of every week we should first set aside what money we want to give to Him.

- 3 God wants us to **give generously**. Let’s read what God says in 2 Corinthians 9:6b. “He who sows bountifully [generously] will also reap bountifully.” Do you understand what that means? It is like sowing corn - the more you sow, the bigger your harvest will be. When we give to God, it is like sowing good seed. The more we give, the more good results there will be, and the more God’s work will go forward.

Can you imagine a farmer looking at the sacks of corn in his barn one spring? He knows that it is time to get the tractor out and begin to sow. But he has had a bad year. His crops have not done very well. So he says, “This year I am only going to sow half of the corn that I usually sow. I am going to save money by only sowing six bags of corn instead of twelve.” What would happen when the harvest time came and he went out to reap the crop? Naturally he would have a much, much smaller harvest than normal.

God tells us that the same is true as we give to God. If we give little, we will receive little - there will be little blessing. God’s work will be hindered. If we give generously, we will receive so much more. We will receive the joy of knowing that we are doing what God wants us to do. We will receive the pleasure of knowing that we are helping other people. We will receive many other blessings from God.

PowerPoint 3-6d

Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.

- 4 Let’s read 2 Corinthians 9:7b. “God loves a cheerful giver.” God wants us to **give cheerfully** - not because we have to or because it’s a habit, but because we want to give to God and to His work. We should give with joy. When we think of all the love and goodness that He has shown to us, then we will want to give cheerfully to Him what we can.

Flashcard 3-7

The Christians in Antioch gave their money joyfully for the poor people in Judaea, but very soon there would be another important work they would be involved in through their giving.

They felt so happy that the Gospel had come to them through those brave Christians from Jerusalem. How they must have praised God for men like Paul and Barnabas who preached the Gospel so faithfully. But they began to think of all the other countries around them where the people had never heard the Gospel. How will those people learn of God? God guided the Christians in Antioch to make

a very important decision. They decided to send out two men to preach the Gospel in other cities and countries. That's what missionaries do.

God wanted the church in Antioch to send out these two missionaries. Do you know who they were? Paul and Barnabas!

Maybe the church thought, "We can't let these two great men go! We need them here in Antioch for there is so much to do."

No, they sent out the very best people they could to be missionaries, to take the Gospel to other lands. Let's write the word "**missionaries**" here in our anagram.

Flashcard 3-8

God still wants the church of today to send out missionaries who will spread the Gospel. These are men and women who will take the news of the Lord Jesus to people who have never heard of Him - people who live in big cities, on mountain plateaux, in tents in desert lands, or who live by the sea on some tropical island. All people need to hear the good news of how the Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross to save them from their sin.

I am sure that the Christians in Antioch who could not go with Paul and Barnabas, prayed for them as they travelled and gave them money to help pay for their passage on the boats which they would take across the Mediterranean Sea. What part will you have in missionary work? Wouldn't it be wonderful if God called you, like He called Paul and Barnabas, to preach the Gospel in some needy land? What a privilege! Even if God doesn't call you to go to another country, you can be helping missionaries by your prayers and your giving.

As you grow up to be a teenager and then a man or a woman, you will no longer be attending this club. Maybe some of you will be helpers or teachers. That would be great! But others will not. But will you be a busy member of your church? Will you help it to do the jobs that the church in Antioch did so well long ago - preaching, giving and sending out missionaries?

Remind the children about the question box, that will be opened during week 6.

Here review the roles of the church from lessons 2 and 3. Then explain the sketches that could be acted out now, or possibly next week.

Some verses quoted in this lesson

- ◆ Acts 11:21
"And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord."
- ◆ Acts 3:19a
"Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out."

PowerPoint 3-7

PowerPoint 3-8

CTS

Show card with application for the saved child: "Attend church and share the Gospel with others".

PowerPoint hyperlink
(bottom left of screen)

- ◆ Acts 11:29
“Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea.”
- ◆ 1 Corinthians 16:2a
“On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper.”
- ◆ 2 Corinthians 9:6b
“He who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.”
- ◆ 2 Corinthians 9:7b
“God loves a cheerful giver.”

Review questions

- 1 To which city did some of the Christians, who were persecuted in Jerusalem, travel? (Antioch.)
- 2 Who were the two great Christian workers who came to preach in Antioch? (Barnabas and Paul.)
- 3 What did the church in Antioch do when they heard the news that there would be a famine in Jerusalem? (They took up some special offerings to help their brothers in Judaea.)
- 4 Give me two out of the four rules that we studied to do with giving to God. (Two from: give what we are able to give; give regularly; give generously; give cheerfully.)
- 5 As well as giving to God, what was the next important job that the church in Antioch got involved in? (They sent out two missionaries, two men to preach the Gospel in other cities and countries.)
- 6 In a way, why might it seem a little strange that they sent out Paul and Barnabas as missionaries? (They sent out the very best people they could to be missionaries.)
- 7 Are missionaries needed today? Why? (Yes, because all people need to hear the good news of how the Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross to save them from their sin.)
- 8 How can we help missionary work? (By your prayers and your giving.)
- 9 Give me the three activities of the church that we studied last week and that we wrote into the words “our church”. (Worship, care, prayer.)
- 10 Give me the three activities we have studied this week. (Preach, give, send out missionaries.)

Lesson 4

The church in Troas

Remembering the Lord's death, studying, having fellowship

Scripture for teachers

Acts 20:6-12

Central truth

Believers grow through fellowship with the Lord and His people

Application

Saved: Make plans to attend church to have fellowship

Memory verse

“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some ...” Hebrews 10:25

Visual aids

♦ Flashcards: 4-1, 4-2, 4-3, 4-4, 4-5, 4-6, 4-7 and 4-8

Or

♦ PowerPoint slides: 4-1, 4-2, 4-3, 4-4, 4-5, 4-6, 4-7 and 4-8

And

♦ Wordstrips: “Believers grow through fellowship with the Lord and His people” and “Make plans to attend church to have fellowship”

Suggestions for involving the children in learning

- ♦ At the end of the lesson you could give out photocopies of the anagram “Our church” and let them fill in the words and take the work home.
- ♦ Continue to encourage the children to put questions into the “question box” for week 6.

Lesson outline

Introduction

Imagine that you have been invited to a birthday party ...

Progression of events

Flashcard 4-1 The church in Troas meet together on Sunday evening, to “break bread”

Flashcard 4-2 The institution of the **Lord's supper** by Christ, before His death

Flashcard 4-3 God wants His people to **remember** Christ's death by the Lord's supper **CTS**

Flashcard 4-4 Paul preaches in Troas until midnight, and Eutychus falls out of the window

Flashcard 4-5 It is very important to gather on Sundays to **study** God's Word **CTS**

Flashcard 4-6 The Christians in Troas stay until daybreak enjoying **fellowship**

Flashcard 4-7 Christian **fellowship** is very important **CTS**

Conclusion

Flashcard 4-8 Illustration of the fire that goes out when burning sticks are separated **CTS**

Teaching for the unsaved child is not developed in this lesson. Include teaching for these children in another part of the programme, by talking about the "Roman road".

Gospel presentation

The Roman road

The Romans built many roads, leading from their capital to different parts of Europe. These roads led to Rome.

In the book of Romans in the Bible, God shows us the way that leads to Himself, so that we can be together with Him.

There are four main steps to follow. If you want to take those steps today and need some help, will you come and sit in one of these front seats after the meeting?

Step 1 - Our need

"... All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

The way to God begins by your seeing your need. The first three chapters of Romans speak about how every person, whether or not he tries to be good, has not obeyed God's commands as he should. Your life and mine is not what it should be. You have sinned, done wrong, and you need to have your sins forgiven. You need God to change your life. Have you come to that first step? Do you want God to forgive you and make you what He wants you to be?

Step 2 - The only Saviour

"... God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

The next step is to know that Jesus Christ alone can take away your sin. He died on the cross and took the punishment for sin in our place. As He hung there on the cross, God put all our sin on the Lord Jesus. Three days after He died, God raised Him from the dead to show that He was His Son and that He had paid in full for all our sin. Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the only Saviour, that because He died and rose again, He can take your sins away?

Step 3 - God's gift

"... The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

It is necessary for us to see that nothing we can do will make us right with God. We deserve to be separated from God for ever, because of our sin, but God offers us as a gift a new life together with Him. Do you recognise that you can do nothing to save yourself? Do you see that God wants to give you as a gift this new life with Him, with all your sins forgiven?

Step 4 - What to do

“... Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Romans 10:13).

The final step is to ask the Lord to save you and to trust Him to do it. If you fell into a deep hole and couldn't get out, you would need someone to rescue you. If a man looked down into the hole you would cry out to him to help you. It is like that with the Lord Jesus. You are deep in your sin and only He can rescue you. You need to say to the Lord in prayer, “Lord, save me from my sin. Help me to turn away from the things that do not please You.” The Bible gives us a wonderful promise if you do that and really mean it - you “shall be saved.” The Lord always keeps this promise; you can count on Him. Will you ask Him to save you from your sin? You can do that right now. If the Lord is speaking to your heart, don't put it off. Listen to what God says to you in the book of Romans. Ask the Lord to save you and your sins will be forgiven; you will be together with God.

Lesson

Can you imagine that you have been invited to the birthday party of a very special friend. You are invited for the whole day to your friend's house and part of the fun is the great meal that is provided. There is fried chicken, chipped potatoes, salad and macaroni for the main course. Then there is a lovely dessert with cake and ice-cream.

At the end of the meal you wonder, "What was the best part of that meal? What did I like best?" It is very hard to answer, because it was all good!

When we start to think about the church, we sometimes feel a bit like that. We ask, "What are the most important things about the church? Which of these things that we are learning makes me feel happiest?" Well, they are all wonderful and all important. Let's learn some more about the church.

Flashcard 4-1

We will go back to the book of Acts, to chapter 20. Paul, the great missionary, after he had set out from Antioch, had been travelling for many years preaching the Gospel where the name of the Lord Jesus was not known. As a result many people believed in Christ and small churches began in many cities.

One day Paul came by boat to the port of Troas. He had been there before, but he was returning to visit and help the Christians. He made his way up from where the sailing boat was moored and came to the room where the Christians met together. What day of the week was it? Let's read Acts 20:7a.

"Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them."

Yes, it was the first day of the week. Which is that? Sunday, of course. And why had the disciples met together? Yes, to break bread.

They passed round a piece of bread and each one of them in turn broke off a piece and ate it. Why were they doing that? Well, they were doing what the Lord Jesus had taught His disciples to do.

Flashcard 4-2

The night before the Lord Jesus died, He gathered His disciples together for a last supper in an upstairs room in Jerusalem. He took a loaf of bread, gave thanks to God for it and broke it in pieces.

He then said to His disciples, "Take, eat; this is My body" (Matthew 26:26).

He meant, "This bread reminds you of My body," and as He broke the bread in pieces, He was telling His friends in a very clear way

PowerPoint 4-1

Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.

PowerPoint 4-2

Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.

that the next day His body was going to be broken and wounded on the cross. He was going to die for their sins and for ours.

Then the Lord Jesus took a cup of wine, gave thanks and passed it to His disciples saying, "Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins" (Matthew 26:27-28).

Again He was teaching them that the wine that He was pouring out reminded them of His blood that would be poured out on the cross the following day, making it possible for all those who would believe in Him to be saved from their sins.

The Lord Jesus wanted His disciples to eat the bread and drink the wine, not just on that occasion, but at other times when they met together. That's what the Christians at Troas were doing. Do you think they were sad or glad as they did so? Well, they were really glad because through the death of the Lord Jesus, they had eternal life. At the same time as they were glad about what Christ's death meant to them, they were very reverent and thoughtful, as they remembered all that Christ had suffered for them.

Flashcard 4-3

In our churches today we also meet together to eat the bread and drink the wine as the Christians in Troas were doing. Today we call this special meeting the "Lord's supper" or "taking communion." We do it to remember the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus Christ for us long ago. The Lord's supper, communion, is only for those who really know and love Jesus Christ. Only true Christians should take part in this special service. And as the bread and wine is passed round, each Christian should sincerely thank the Lord for His great love in going to the cross hundreds of years ago for our sins. Of course you can thank the Lord for dying for you, when you are in your room, or at school, or anywhere. In the communion service, however, we are reminded in a very special way of the death of the Lord Jesus for us.

There are differences in how often churches have the Lord's supper. In some churches the Christians take the Lord's supper every Sunday, while in others it is less often.

Let's write the words "**Lord's Supper**" in our anagram. There are still some words missing from our chart. Let's see what else we can learn from Acts 20.

Flashcard 4-4

As well as meeting together to take part in the "Lord's supper", the Christians in Troas had another important reason for coming together. Let's read Acts 20:7b.

Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.

PowerPoint 4-3

CTS

Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.

PowerPoint 4-4a

“Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight.”

They had met together to listen to the apostle Paul teach them from God's Word. It was so interesting and it helped them all so much that they went on listening and studying God's Word for hours. Did you notice when Paul finally finished his sermon? Yes, at midnight! He wanted to teach them all he could, because next morning his ship would sail out of the harbour and he would have to move on to another city.

Among the Christians who were at that meeting, was a young man called Eutychus. He fell asleep as Paul preached. Maybe he had been working hard all day and he was very tired. The room was full, with many people packed in to hear Paul. The Bible also tells us that there were many oil lights burning and probably the room was hot and full of smoke, and of course Paul did preach a very long sermon. Let's not be too quick to blame Eutychus!

PowerPoint 4-4b

However, the problem was, he was sitting on a windowsill and the room was up on the third floor. Can you guess what happened when he nodded off to sleep? Yes, he fell out of the window and fell to the ground three floors below. He was killed. Paul immediately hurried down to the street and put his arms around him.

Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.

God did a wonderful miracle and Paul was able to call out, “Do not trouble yourselves, for his life is in him” (Acts 20:10).

Eutychus was alive again! After making sure that the young man was fine, Paul went upstairs again to be with the other Christians.

I wonder can you think of a word that has a “U” in it, that would fit into our anagram. Let me help you a little. We are looking for another reason for going to church. It's not to go to sleep, nor to fall out of windows! It has to do with listening very attentively to God's Word like the people in Troas. They were prepared to give up a night's sleep just so that they could listen to Paul, as he preached the Word of God. What is the Word? “**Study**” - study God's Word. That is one of the most important reasons for going to church, isn't it?

Flashcard 4-5

PowerPoint 4-5

We certainly can and should study God's Word on our own, but it is also necessary for Christians to be in church to study God's Word together. Every Sunday morning the minister or some other person who loves God's Word, gets up in the pulpit and explains some part of the Bible to the congregation. Before he does that, we should pray and ask God to help us understand the message from His Word. While the minister is talking, we need to listen very carefully and think to ourselves, “What does God want me to learn this morning and what does He want me to do after hearing this message?” As

CTS

we study the Bible together, God works in us, so that we continue to grow as Christians.

Many of you are still young and you may not understand all that the minister says. In fact some of you may go out for Junior Church before the sermon begins. However, even if you go out to Junior Church, you are being taught God's Word and you should pay attention and listen carefully. When you do stay in for the sermon, even if you do not understand everything, God still has something He wants to tell you. Ask Him to help you to listen and to understand what is being preached. It is sad to see young people, boys and girls writing notes to each other or yawning during the sermon. These kind of things must displease God, for it shows disrespect for His holy Word. A good way of using your pen or pencil would be to take a few notes to help you remember what the minister preached about!

Our preachers today do not preach as long as Paul did in Troas. He preached until midnight! That would be a long time to sit still and listen. Usually the sermon today lasts about thirty minutes. If we love the Lord we should be able to pay attention for that length of time, shouldn't we? That's one of the main reasons why all those of us who love the Lord need to go to church - to hear and study God's Word. Of course, we have to make the effort to get up on Sunday morning and get to church, but it certainly is worthwhile and does us so much good. When you tune into your radio or television, you listen for the special signature tune of the particular programme that you want to listen to. When that programme starts, you listen with special attention. Tune into God's Word in church.

Now, we have one last word to fit into "our church." Let's look for it, going back to our story of Troas.

Flashcard 4-6

After Eutychus had been restored to life, Paul went back up to the meeting room on the third floor. Remember it was after midnight. Do you think Paul stayed any longer? Let's find the answer in Acts 20:11.

"Now when he had come up, had broken bread and eaten, and talked a long while, even till daybreak, he departed."

The Christians spent the whole night together! What were they doing? They broke bread (we have already thought about that) they had a meal and they "talked a long while [a long time]."

They just loved being together. No wonder! They had so much to talk about for they all loved the Lord Jesus and they knew that their sins had been forgiven. They were like brothers and sisters in one big family.

Show card with central truth: "Believers grow through fellowship with the Lord and His people".

**PowerPoint hyperlink
(bottom right of screen)**

PowerPoint 4-6a

PowerPoint 4-6b

Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.

How different it was to being with those who did not love the Lord Jesus. Some Christians in Troas were probably slaves and were treated harshly; they had to work long hours. Many were working with people who simply had no interest in God and His Word, whose only interest was in making money. Even the neighbours and families sometimes thought that the Christians were strange people, because they liked getting together so much to talk, pray, sing and study God's Word. Some people really disliked the Christians, because they would talk to them about the Lord Jesus and tell them that they must turn from their sinful ways. Yes, people did not understand the Christians and made life difficult for them. That is why it was so good to be back together with other Christian friends. They could enjoy real fellowship with them. What does "fellowship" mean? It is that special friendship which only Christians can enjoy one with another.

Paco was a boy in Spain who heard the Gospel and trusted in the Lord as his Saviour. Nobody in Paco's family, however, was a true Christian. They made fun of him and did all that they could to stop him from reading his Bible. They took it from him and hid it. They made it very difficult to go to church.

When Paco did manage to get to the meetings in the church, how he enjoyed being there. He specially enjoyed being with the other young people who loved the Lord Jesus. He would stay for hours and hardly wanted to go home.

His parents sent him away to another town to keep him away from the other Christians. So before he left, Paco asked the pastor for the address of a church in the town to which he was being sent. The first thing that he did when he arrived there was to start attending the meetings of that church. Fellowship was so important to him.

Now, you probably have spotted the word that we are looking for that has an "F" in the middle of it. This word is another reason why Christians meet together in church. The word is "**fellowship**" - the special friendship that Christians have for each other, as members of the same family of God.

Flashcard 4-7

CTS

We have really good times of fellowship here in our club, don't we? It is nice to get together to sing, learn, and share. In a few years' time you will be too old to come to club (apart from those who are teachers and helpers). What will you do then? You will still need Christian friends your own age, with whom you can learn from God's Word. You can pray together and talk about the Lord. You will find this kind of friends in a church, where the young people love God, listen to His Word and pray. There you will enjoy fellowship with other Christians. We all need good Christian friends. It is hard to be a Christian on your own.

PowerPoint 4-7

Show card with application for the saved child: "Make plans to attend church to have fellowship".

**PowerPoint hyperlink
(bottom left of screen)**

Flashcard 4-8

Let's imagine that you have a nice campfire going and the sticks are burning well. It is so warm and pleasant. But what happens if you separate those burning sticks and spread them out on their own, with nothing around them to burn? Very quickly the fire will die down, the sticks will stop burning and the glow will go away. You are left with some black sticks instead of a pleasant, glowing fire.

Unfortunately, that sometimes happens to Christian boys and girls. When they are together in Christian fellowship, their love for the Lord Jesus burns brightly. But when they are separated and do not have Christian fellowship their love gets cold, and it seems the fire of interest and enthusiasm for God's Word dies down. Boys and girls, you need Christian fellowship! Let's read what the Lord says in Hebrews 10:25a.

"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some."

Some Christians don't meet together with others who love the Lord as much as they should. You should make plans to attend church and get to know other Christians of your own age. That will help you to go on burning brightly for the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now, I am going to give each of you a copy of the anagram "our church" and see if we can fill in the missing words that we have been thinking about over the last three weeks.

Give each child a copy of the anagram "our church" so that they can fill in the words and take the work home.

Some verses quoted in this lesson

- ◆ Acts 20:7a
"Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight."
- ◆ Matthew 26:26
"Take, eat; this is My body."
- ◆ Acts 20:7b
"Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight."
- ◆ Acts 20:11
"Now when he had come up, had broken bread and eaten, and talked a long while, even till daybreak, he departed."
- ◆ Hebrews 10:25a
"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some."

PowerPoint 4-8

CTS

Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.

Show card with application for the saved child.

**PowerPoint hyperlink
(bottom left of screen)**

Review questions

- 1 In what seaside town was the church that Paul visited? (Troas.)
- 2 What was the room like where the church was meeting? (The room was up on the third floor; there were many oil lights burning in the room; it was full, with many people packed in to hear Paul.)
- 3 We read that the disciples met together to “break bread”. What does that mean? (They passed round a piece of bread and each one of them in turn broke off a piece and ate it. This helped them to remember the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus Christ.)
- 4 As well as eating bread, what else did they pass round, and why? (A cup of wine, reminding them of Jesus’ blood that would be poured out on the cross, making it possible for all those who would believe in Him to be saved from their sins.)
- 5 Why do we call eating the bread and drinking the wine the “Lord’s supper”? (The night before the Lord Jesus died, He gathered His disciples together for a last supper in an upstairs room in Jerusalem. We do it to remember the death of the Lord Jesus Christ for us.)
- 6 How long did Paul preach? (All night - we do not know when he started, but he preached until midnight, then performed the miracle on Eutychus and continued preaching until daybreak.)
- 7 We thought today of three reasons for going to church. Give me two of them. (Two from: Lord’s supper; study; fellowship.)
- 8 What does “fellowship” mean? (The special friendship that Christians have for each other, as members of the same family of God.)
- 9 Can you name the three reasons that we studied for going to church last week? (Preach, give, send out missionaries.)
- 10 Over the last few weeks we have been thinking specially of three New Testament churches. Which were they? (Jerusalem, Antioch, Troas.)

Lesson 5

The church at war

Persecution, false doctrine, divisions

Scripture for teachers

Acts 19:1-41

Matthew 16:16-18

Acts 20:15-20,27-38

1 Corinthians 3:1-7

Hebrews 13:3

Central truth

Satan attacks the church and tries to bring false teaching and division

Application

Unsaved: Don't heed Satan who tries to turn you away from the truth

Saved: Choose to attend a church that stands firm for the truth despite Satan's attacks

Memory verse

Review Ephesians 5:25

Visual aids

◆ Flashcards: 5-1, 5-2, 5-3, 5-4, 5-5, 5-6, 5-7 and 5-8

Or

◆ PowerPoint slides: 5-1, 5-2, 5-3, 5-4, 5-5, 5-6, 5-7 and 5-8

And

◆ Two or three toothpicks (or little slivers of wood, or cocktail sticks), a nail and a few inches of red wool (or thread)

◆ Wordstrips: "Satan attacks the church and tries to bring false teaching and division" and "Choose to attend a church that stands firm for the truth despite Satan's attacks"

Lesson outline

Introduction

What have we learned about the church so far?

There is someone who really hates the church - it is Satan

Progression of events

Flashcard 5-1 Paul preaches at Ephesus and many people turn to God

Flashcard 5-2 Satan uses Demetrius to stir up persecution against the church **CT**

Flashcard 5-3 Satan is still stirring up **persecution** against the church in many lands **CT**

Flashcard 5-4 Paul teaches and prays with the Ephesian elders, and warns of "wolves" who will bring false doctrines

Flashcard 5-5 Satan still uses the weapon of **false doctrine** today against the church **CTS, CTU**

Flashcard 5-6 Divisions in the church of Corinth

Flashcard 5-7 Satan uses the weapon of **division** against the church today **CTS**

Conclusion

Flashcard 5-8 Christ can give us the victory **now** over Satan - **one day** He will utterly defeat him

Lesson

What have we learned about the church so far? What is it like? (A body, a building, a bride, a family.) What should the church be doing? (Caring, praying, helping, witnessing, teaching the Word of God.) Who is the church? (A group of born-again believers.)

I expect that you have seen nature films on TV that show a lion stalking its prey - maybe a zebra or an antelope. The lion is so strong, so fierce and swift that he is a terrible enemy. The church too has a strong, fierce enemy. He is Satan. He is determined to make war against it and to stop it from growing and doing God's will. He attacks Christians and the church in many ways. Today we are going to see three ways that he makes war against the church. To see these three ways we need to think again about what happened in the book of Acts.

Flashcard 5-1

On one of his missionary journeys Paul came to the city of Ephesus, and, as always, he preached the Gospel. He stayed there for three years. Ephesus was a large and wicked city, where there was a great temple to a heathen goddess called Diana. The people of Ephesus worshipped Diana and in many homes they had little silver images of her and the temple that was built to honour her.

In spite of all this idolatry and wrong teaching, many people trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ alone to save them as Paul preached and taught the Gospel. The Bible tells us that the good news was spreading. How far? Let's read what it says in Acts 19:10b.

"All who dwelt in [the province of] Asia heard the Word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks."

And also in Acts 19:20.

"So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed."

I am sure Paul and his friends praised God for the way the Lord was saving people in Ephesus. However, Satan was not happy. When he saw how many people were turning away from their sin and idolatry, and trusting in Christ, he started to attack Paul and the church.

Flashcard 5-2

He used a man called Demetrius who made the little silver images and temples. Since many of the people had turned to the true and living God of the Bible, they no longer bought the images of Diana. Demetrius and the other silversmiths were losing money. So Demetrius called together all the silversmiths - the men who made the little images of Diana out of silver and sold them to the people. Demetrius explained to them how many people had stopped

PowerPoint 5-1

Read (or have an older child read) the verses from your Bible.

PowerPoint 5-2a

PowerPoint 5-2b

worshipping Diana and therefore were no longer buying the images that the silversmiths made.

What Demetrius said made the silversmiths so angry that they began to yell, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians!"

They went out and grabbed hold of some of Paul's friends and dragged them into the arena (the stadium). A big crowd followed them and they too began to shout out at the top of their voices.

"Great is Diana of the Ephesians! Great is Diana of the Ephesians!"

They kept it up for two hours!

Finally, the town-clerk, who was an important man in the town government, was able to quieten the crowd and convince them to go back to their homes. Who do you think was behind Demetrius and the silversmiths? Who was pushing them on to harm Paul and the Christians? It was Satan, the enemy of the Lord Jesus Christ and of the church. He was hoping that Paul and the Christians would be killed or that the preaching of the Gospel would be stopped. But the Lord is stronger than Satan. The enemies of the Christians were disappointed. As a result of what the town clerk said, the demonstration ended and the people went home quietly. Satan used the attack of Demetrius and the other silversmiths to try to keep the church of the Lord Jesus from growing. He does not want people to hear the Gospel and to trust Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord. In other cities Christians were beaten, put into prison, their belongings were taken or they were even killed. Yet through it all, more and more people were coming to trust in Christ. He is more powerful than Satan.

Flashcard 5-3

Even today Satan is still using the terrible weapon of persecution to try to stop the church of the Lord Jesus Christ. He does not want people today to hear the Gospel. In many countries, if you preach the Gospel, you can suffer a lot for it. Right now in some countries, there are many pastors and teachers who are in prison for preaching about the Lord Jesus. They are sent to prison for years of hard, hard work and they receive very little food to eat. They are often terribly hungry, tired, cold and lonely for the sake of the Lord Jesus. Around the world many Christians are still being put to death for being faithful witnesses for Christ.

Nevertheless, Satan cannot destroy God's church. The Lord Jesus said, "I will build My church, and the gates of Hades [hell] shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18b). The Lord is saving people all over the world each day. The church is growing. Satan cannot defeat God, nor destroy the church. Instead of Satan destroying the church, one day the Lord Jesus will destroy Satan.

CT

Show card with central truth: "Satan attacks the church and tries to bring false teaching and division".

**PowerPoint hyperlink
(bottom right of screen)**

PowerPoint 5-3

Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.

CT

CTS

Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.

We, who are Christians, should remember to pray often for our brothers and sisters in God's family who are suffering for the sake of the Gospel in other lands. The church is one family, one body. When one suffers, we all suffer. It is like that in your human family too - when your brother or sister is sick, you feel for them, you are concerned. If you are a member of God's family through trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ, pray for God's protection and help for your brothers and sisters in Christ who are suffering in other lands. The Bible says in Hebrews 13:3, "Remember the prisoners as if chained with them - those who are mistreated - since you yourselves are in the body also."

Flashcard 5-4

Satan does not just attack the church through persecution. He also attacks through wrong teaching (false doctrine).

PowerPoint 5-4

Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.

Do you remember I was telling you about Paul's visit to the church in Troas? A short time after he left Troas, his ship came into the port of Miletus. Paul had planned to meet the preachers and leaders of the church of Ephesus there. He left the boat, and they gathered together, probably right there on the beach in Miletus. Paul explained many things to the church leaders of Ephesus. He told them something that made him very sad. Let's read what he said in Acts 20:29.

"I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock."

Paul was not talking about wolves that eat sheep, the "wolves" he meant were men who would come and preach, but would not preach the true Gospel. These false teachers would do terrible harm to the Christians, who would be deceived by the false teaching. They were supposed to be shepherds feeding the sheep. Instead, like wolves, they were eating the sheep.

And this certainly did happen after Paul had died. Preachers came and told the people that before someone could be saved, they had to do many good things and that it was not enough just to trust in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation.

Of course that is wrong teaching. No-one can be saved or get to Heaven by trying to be good. It is only as we turn to the Lord Jesus, who died on the cross for us, that we can have forgiveness of sin and eternal life (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Flashcard 5-5

PowerPoint 5-5

There are thousands of preachers all over the world who really love God and preach the Gospel. The Gospel is that the Lord Jesus died for our sins and only through His death can we be made right in God's sight. However, in some church buildings the truth of the

Gospel is not being preached. The devil still attacks the church today through false teachers. The men may be very clever and very good speakers, but unless they are preaching the true message, their preaching is wrong and useless.

Even in our own city there are many people who go to church on Sundays, but they are not hearing the truth. As you grow up and decide which church you will attend and join as a member, be very careful that it is a church where the minister really teaches what the Bible says. Make sure they preach the Gospel that you have heard in the club. You could, for example, ask yourself ...

- ◆ Does this church meet together regularly for **prayer**?
- ◆ Do they send out **missionaries** to preach the Gospel in other places?
- ◆ Do they really worship God and **study** His Word?

Maybe you are attending the class today and Satan has been deceiving you into believing that you are good enough to please God. Has he made you think that you don't need the Lord Jesus as your Saviour? Has he said to you, "Don't think about God and sin and all those things now! You are still far too young!

Satan has been telling you lies, but listen to God's Word today. He tells the truth and He says that you are a sinner. You have done many wrong things, you have thought wrong things and said things that displease God. In these ways you have disobeyed God and your sin has separated you from Him. You cannot save yourself.

The good news is that God loves you so much that He sent His only Son to save you. He died for your sin on the cross. He came alive again and He is able to save you today. Turn from your sin. Stop listening to the lies of Satan. Turn towards God and call Him to save you today. He says, "Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13).

Flashcard 5-6

Satan uses persecution and false doctrine, but he uses another weapon too that I want to teach you about. Let me explain it to you.

God guided the apostle Paul to write many letters that are now part of the New Testament. In one of these letters, addressed to the church in Corinth (a city in the land of Greece), Paul writes because he is aware again of the attacks of Satan against that church. It made him very sad.

The Christians in the church at Corinth had divided into little groups. Some of them thought that Paul was the greatest preacher and they called themselves "Paul's group". Others thought that a man called

CTS

Show card with application for the saved child: "Choose to attend a church that stands firm for the truth despite Satan's attacks".

PowerPoint hyperlink (bottom left of screen)

CTU

Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.

PowerPoint 5-6

Apollos was the greatest teacher and they called themselves "Apollos' group".

In his letter Paul wrote to them not to be so silly. He compares the church to a garden. Paul said he was the one who planted the good seed of the Word of God in Corinth. Apollos came along after him to help and teach the Christians. He was like a man with a watering can caring for the plants.

But Paul asked, "Who makes the seed grow?"

Is it Paul? No! Is it Apollos then? Of course not! Let's read the answer to that question in 1 Corinthians 3:7.

"So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase."

It is only God Who gives eternal life and growth. And He gives it to all those Who trust in Him. God had given life to all the church in Corinth. Why then did they allow divisions to creep into the church? Because Satan had used the weapon of **division** to weaken them and make them quarrel with each other, rather than being united to praise the Lord and to serve Him.

Flashcard 5-7

Satan continues to use this powerful weapon in churches today. Instead of Christians worshipping God, praying and studying His Word, sometimes they quarrel and argue about things which are not really important. Christians can be proud, they can gossip about other Christians and they can say hurtful things. Satan uses that to stir up ill feelings and trouble between Christians, so that they do not love each other as they should. Let's remember that the church is the body of Christ. In a human body all the parts work together in unity and harmony. So also in the body of the church we need to work together peacefully.

CTS

Churches are not perfect because Christians sin and do wrong things. If you see problems happening among Christians don't let that stop you going to church to worship God and to listen to His Word. At the same time be on your guard, so that you do not fall into Satan's trap and cause divisions and problems with other Christians. If you know of other Christian boys and girls or young people who argue or stop being friends, or even stop coming to church because of a quarrel or problem, try to encourage and help them. Above all, pray for them that God will give them the victory over Satan, and that they will get back into fellowship soon with the Lord and with the other Christians.

We have talked quite a lot about Satan and his attacks against us and all Christians who belong to the church of the Lord Jesus Christ. He certainly is a strong and cunning enemy who does much damage

Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.

PowerPoint 5-7

with his weapons of persecution, false teaching, divisions and pride. He is stronger than we are, but he is not as strong as Christ Who is all-powerful. So trust Christ to give you the victory over Satan when he attacks and tempts you to sin. Ask God to help you to do what is right.

Flashcard 5-8

One tremendous fact I want you to know is that one day the Lord Jesus is going to defeat Satan completely, and put him in a special prison for ever. He will then have no power to attack and tempt us. Isn't that something wonderful to look forward to? Do you remember the verse we read earlier in the lesson? They are the words of the Lord Jesus Christ.

"I will build My church, and the gates of Hades [hell] shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18b).

That means that Christ's church will be victorious against Satan in the end. The church is like a great army beating at the door of Satan's castle. One day the devil will surrender and we will have a complete victory through our Captain, the Lord Jesus Christ.

But even before that glorious day comes when Satan will be completely defeated for ever, we can have victory over him day by day.

Demonstrate the little object lesson, with the toothpicks, the red thread (or wool) and the nail.

You and I are like this little toothpick. We are really quite weak. Look how easily I can break it.

Break the toothpick.

Satan can tempt us and defeat us, if we just count on our own strength. But the Lord Jesus is a strong, strong Friend and Defender. I am going to put this other toothpick beside this nail. I am also going to put other toothpicks there too, and I am going to wrap the red thread round all of them to keep them close. That is like us being near the Lord Jesus Who shed His precious blood to be our Saviour. Now one of you try and break the toothpick.

Let the children try.

You can't, as long as the toothpick is close to the nail and is together with the other toothpicks. The Lord Jesus can make you strong against the attacks of Satan. It is also very important for us as Christians to be together with others who love the Lord Jesus Christ.

The church is not perfect now, but one day it will be, when we are in Heaven with the Lord Jesus Christ. There will be no sin, no persecution and no sorrow in Heaven. In the meantime, let's keep close to the Lord Jesus, our Saviour and Defender against Satan.

PowerPoint 5-8

Read (or have an older child read) the verse from your Bible.

Some verses quoted in this lesson

- ◆ Acts 19:10b
“All who dwelt in [the province of] Asia heard the Word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.”
- ◆ Acts 19:20
“So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.”
- ◆ Matthew 16:18b
“I will build My church, and the gates of Hades [hell] shall not prevail against it.”
- ◆ Acts 20:29
“I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.”
- ◆ 1 Corinthians 3:7
“So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase.”

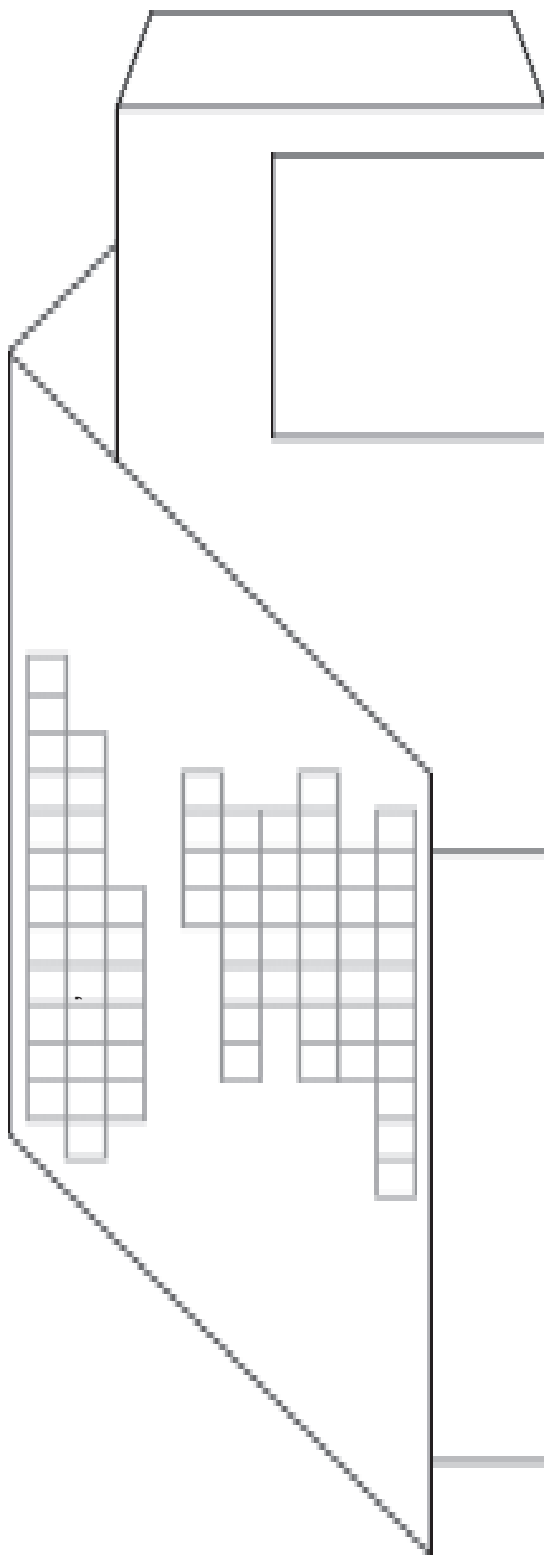
Review questions

- 1 How long did Paul stay in Ephesus preaching the Gospel? (Three years.)
- 2 Who was the heathen goddess who was worshipped by the people of Ephesus? (Diana.)
- 3 What was the name of the silversmith who stirred up trouble for Paul and his fellow-Christians in Ephesus? (Demetrius.)
- 4 How is Satan using the weapon of persecution nowadays? (In many countries you can be sent to prison or even put to death for preaching about the Lord Jesus.)
- 5 Why was Paul sad as he talked on the beach to the leaders of the church of Ephesus? (Paul warned about “wolves” who would come into the church - men who would come and preach, but would not preach the true Gospel.)
- 6 How does Satan use the weapon of false doctrine today? (Today there are still false teachers and they are not preaching the truth of the Gospel.)
- 7 When you are older and are choosing a good church to attend, you could ask yourself two or three questions about it, for example, “Do they really preach the Gospel?” Give me two more questions. (Two from: Does this church meet together regularly for prayer? Do they send out missionaries to preach the Gospel in other places? Do they really worship God and study His Word?)
- 8 Explain the divisions in the church of Corinth. (The Christians in the church at Corinth had divided into little groups - “Paul’s group” and “Apollos’ group”.)

- 9 Paul, in his letter compared the church to a garden. Can you explain that comparison a little? (Paul planted the good seed of the Word of God. Apollos came along after him to help and teach the Christians. He was like a man with a watering can caring for the plants. God made the seed grow.)
- 10 How does Satan use the weapon of division in churches today? (Satan stirs up ill feelings and trouble between Christians, so that they do not love each other as they should.)
- 11 Can you explain the words of the Lord Jesus, "I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it"? (Christ's church will be victorious against Satan in the end.)
- 12 Can you explain a little to me the illustration of the nail and the toothpick? (As long as the toothpick is close to the nail and is together with the other toothpicks it cannot be broken. As long as we stay close to the Lord Jesus and other Christians, we are strong against the attacks of Satan.)

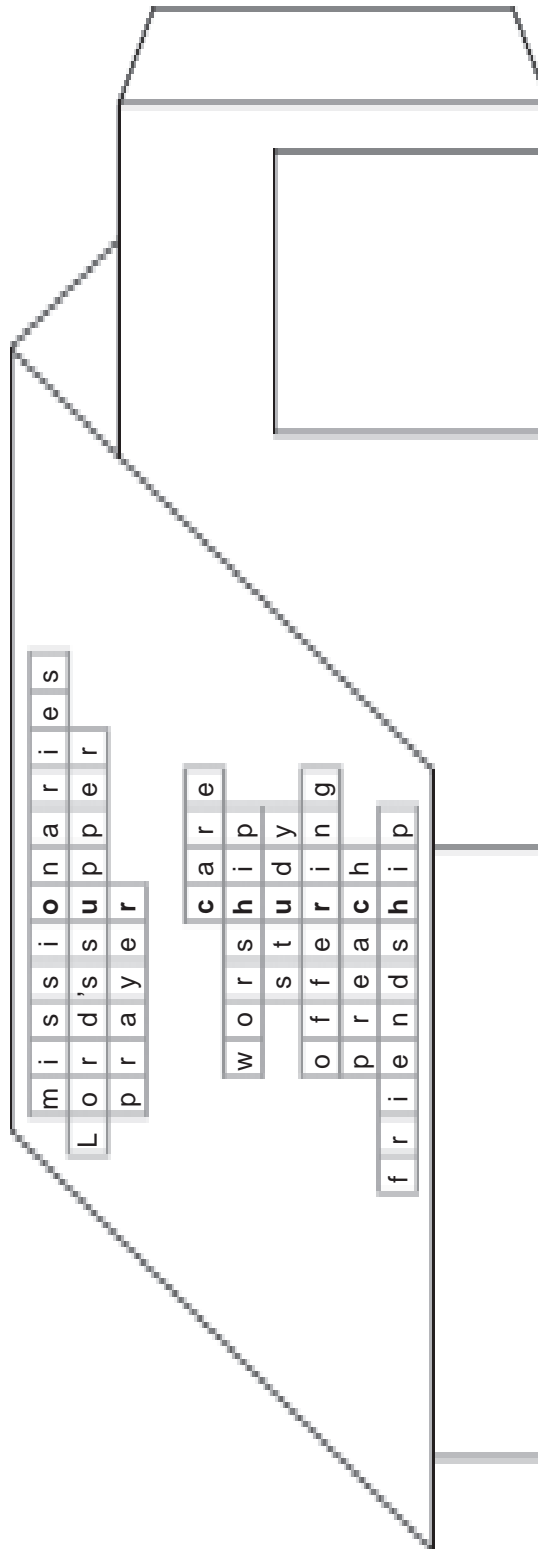
Anagram - our church

Lessons 2, 3 and 4



Anagram - our church

Lessons 2, 3 and 4



Copy, cut out and keep in your Bible



Summary of steps for counselling the child who wants to come to Christ

Make sure the child understands about

God

Who is God?
God made us. He speaks to us through the Bible.
God is holy and pure. He loves us.

Sin

What is sin?
Sin is disobeying God's commands. It is against God.
Speak about specific sins.
The child is a sinner by nature and act. (We sin because we are sinners.)
Sin deserves punishment.

The Saviour

Who alone can take away your sin?
God the Son died on the cross for sinners.
The Lord Jesus rose again from the dead.
He is Lord of all.

Explain how to be saved

Explain what the Lord wants us to do, and what He will do.
Use a Bible verse (*John 1:12; 3:16; 6:37; Acts 16:31; Romans 6:23 or 10:13*).
What does the Lord want you to do?
What will the Lord do?
Warn about difficulties.
Ask: "Do you want to trust Christ, or would you rather wait?"
Encourage the child to pray audibly (if ready).

Speak about assurance of salvation

Go back to the Bible verse you used.
Speak about a changed life.
Tell him what the person who is truly trusting in Christ can know.

Give (later) some advice about the Christian life

Read and obey your Bible.
Talk to God, our heavenly Father.
Tell others what the Lord has done for you.
Ask God to forgive you when you sin.
Meet with other Christians.
Remember the Lord promises: "*I will never leave you*" (*Heb 13:5*).