



3rd -5th

May 25-26, 2013

DATE

I Timothy 2:4-5 (Pg.1324); Acts 2:43-47
(Pg. 1200)

WHERE TO FIND IT

Our Part in God's Story: The Church

LESSON TITLE

The church is the body of Christ (our job is to
act like Jesus)!

MAIN POINT

schedule

Hang out with kids (10 minutes): Ask kids about their week. Get kids into groups and play games together.

Large Group (30 minutes): Model what it looks like to be engaged in large group. And don't be afraid to redirect kids who aren't!

Small Group (20-30 minutes): Keep kids in small groups until parents arrive. *If you all have extra time at the end, you can review the video and songs together.*

tips

As soon as kids walk in the door, find a way to connect with them by asking what they did today, what their favorite movie is, or even who brought them to Kids' Club today.

check-in/out

As kids leave, remind them to tell their parents about what they learned about church.

large group heads up

Today is all about church...not Crossroads, but the whole body of Christ and our mission as Christ-followers. Read Acts 2:42-47 (Pg.1200) to begin thinking about it before the weekend.



instructions

Goal: to help kids explore the idea of church as it's presented in the Bible

Why? Sometimes we think of the church as “a church”—a building we attend on weekends. That's not the biblical definition at all!

Tip: If you think your group needs help focusing, give the kids **markers and a piece of paper** on question #5. As you read, have them jot down things they hear that they would/would not want to be part of.

small group

CONNECT

1. What was the best part of your week? (If you've already connected before large group, move directly to question #2.)
2. What did you hear that confused you? Surprised you? (If kids say “nothing”, ask them to share the best thing they heard.)

REVIEW/RELATE

3. Tell me about the church.
 - a. It's people who follow Jesus
 - b. It's the body of Christ
4. What does it mean to be the body of Christ? (It means we act like Jesus and show Jesus to the world)
5. Would you guys have wanted to be a part of the early church? Why or why not?
(Read Acts 2:42-47 again)
6. If the early church existed today, what do you think it would be like? (no poor people, you'd get to be with your friends every day, you'd eat meals and play together, everyone would share, new people would always be wanting to follow Jesus with you, you'd always feel that God was near)
7. You might not be able to move next to your friends or eat meals together, but how can you act like that church today? (Give to those in need, share with each other, work together, etc.)

ACTIVITY

Each person (or 2) gets a **piece of a puzzle ball** (each puzzle has 4 pieces, so don't mix and match between small groups).

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE:

- Does anybody have the exact same piece? (even if shape is the same color, they will be different) Let the kids hold them up.
- On the count of three, find the people who you think have similar shapes and see if you can put these puzzles together. First team to finish wins! 1-2-3!
- Let kids compete. One group will be struggling.
- Debrief:
 - Would you have been able to finish if you were missing a part?
 - Why do you think the church needs all the parts of a body?
 - What do you think your gifts might be?

***Pray together, thanking God that you get to be a part of the church—the body of Christ!**

...Extra time? Switch puzzles and race again, this time with all the pieces. It's harder than it looks!

***MAKE SURE YOU COLLECT PUZZLE BALLS AT THE END, SO EACH SMALL GROUP HAS ALL THE PARTS NECESSARY.**

LARGE group

special notes

Today, we're learning about the church: (1) that it's made up of a bunch of different people who function like a body, (2) that its job is to act like Jesus, and (3) how the early church acted like Jesus. Help kids understand that the church isn't just the Crossroads building.

presenter tips

Use Mr. Potato Head for an interactive component, but keep in mind that kids will have to sit with something in their hands for a couple of minutes. Choose kids that won't get too distracted!

script

***BEFORE YOU BEGIN, GIVE OUT THE MR. POTATO HEAD PARTS: 2 HANDS, 1 SET OF EYES, 1 PAIR OF SHOES, 1 NOSE, 1 MOUTH, 2 EARS and 1 HAT=9 TOTAL)**

Hi kids! Welcome to Kids' Club. It's great to see you all here. Turn to the person next to you and give them a high five. (Let kids respond.)

INTRO: WHAT IS CHURCH?

Wow, I noticed some of you have a plastic thing in your hand... I'll need you guys in a minute. But first, I want everybody to squeeze your eyes shut tight. No peeking. (Let kids close eyes.) Okay, think in your head of the *first* thing you picture when I say: church. Keep your eyes closed, but raise your hand when you have a picture. (Once hands are raised, continue):

Now open your eyes. (**Show churchy slide.**) Stand up if you pictured something on this screen. (Let kids stand.) Wow, a lot of you! We've got Crossroads, which is our own church... some other buildings with crosses... a Bible. These are all pretty "churchy" things right? For those of you who aren't standing, what did you picture? (Let kids share. If they share "people", use it as a segue.)

Everybody have a seat now. Stand up if you pictured something like this: (**show slide of people** and let kids stand.) Did you guys know that *people* who believe in Jesus are the church? That means there's really only one church—and it's not a building. It's the group of people all over the world who believe in Jesus. (Let kids sit.)



script continued

THE CHURCH = THE BODY OF CHRIST

(Explain how Christ-followers are different from one another) Now, Jesus knew that people would believe in him all over the world—people who were totally different. For example, some people would be awesome at meeting new people who hadn't heard about him yet. Other people would be really good at explaining who Jesus is and how he rescued us. Other people would be really good at taking care of people who were sick or hurt. And those are just a few examples. All those people would be different, but everybody would get help from the SAME Holy Spirit, so everybody is important!

To help us understand how we can be so different yet important, Jesus gave us a picture. We're going to look at that picture, but to do that I need people with plastic pieces in your hand to stand up. What do you guys have? (Let them share hand, ear, eyes, etc.) Come up here and help this guy out (hold up **the Mr. Potato Head** and let kids assemble the parts, then sit.)

Jesus gave us a picture of this—of a body (hold up Mr. Potato Head). Hands and ears do different things, but they're both a part of a body. A mouth and nose do different things but they're both important. Jesus told us that the church—all the people who believe in him—is like one body with many different parts. Here's what the Bible says in I Corinthians 12:12-13:

SLIDE: I Corinthians 12:12-13: There is one body. But it has many parts. Even though it has many parts, they make up one body. It is the same with Christ. We were all baptized by one Holy Spirit into one body.

That means that no matter how different we are, we all believe in the same Jesus and we have help from the same Holy Spirit, so we are all ONE body of Christ! We're one big family—God's family!

THE JOB OF THE CHURCH

Now, as God's family, we have a special job to do. To think about what it means to be the body of Christ, think about me for a second. I'm the body of _____ (your name) and I act like me! That means I _____ (*describe yourself briefly—kids will love the personal story!*)

If I was the body of Joey Votto and acted like Joey Votto, I would probably play...what? (Let kids say: baseball!) Yep, and if I was the body of Liam from One Direction, I would probably ...what? (Let kids say: sing/dance) Right! (*Use any example*)

So, if all together (motion around the room and to the **slide still up**), we are the body OF CHRIST, who will we act like? (Let kids say: Christ or Jesus) Yes! It's our job to be Jesus and show the world what Jesus is like. What kinds of things will we do to show what Jesus is like? (Let kids say: love, be kind to people, etc.)

THE FIRST CHURCH'S JOB

To really understand how to act like Jesus, let's look at the first church in the Bible and see what kind of an example they set for us. I'm going to read you a few verses about the first church. As I read, see if you can figure out ONE way the church acted like Jesus. If you hear something, stand up! (Read it once or twice for kids; emphasize certain parts to help them out)



script continued

SLIDE: Read Acts 2:42-47: The believers studied what the apostles taught. They shared life together. They broke bread and ate together. And they prayed. Everyone felt that God was near. The apostles did many wonders and miraculous signs. All the believers were together. They shared everything they had. They sold what they owned. They gave each other everything they needed. Every day they met together in the temple courtyard. In their homes they broke bread and ate together. Their hearts were glad and honest and true. They praised God. They were respected by all the people. Every day the Lord added to their group those who were being saved.

So what are some ways the first church acted like Jesus? (Let standing kids say things like: shared everything, ate together, prayed, learned about God, felt God was near, gave each other everything they needed, met together every day, were joyful and honest, praised God, were respected by others, invited new people to join them)

(Sum that up for them in your own words, adding important elements to help them understand it. Something like): So the first people who were the body of Christ shared everything. They sold what they had and gave it to people in the church who needed it. That meant nobody was poor. They met every day, not just on weekends. They worshiped God together but they also had fun together and ate food. People thought highly of them. New people were always joining, wanting to follow Jesus with them!

And you know what? It was a lot harder for them than it is for us. We're going to watch a short video that shows us what it was like for the people in the church, for the body of Christ in the Bible.

Video: Context: Catacombs

Whew--who here is glad that we can worship God wherever we want and even come to a place that gives us free soda and loves it when we bring our friends? (Let kids respond.) Do you think we should be able to act like Jesus in a city like this if the early church as able to act like Jesus in a city like THAT, that didn't even want them to follow Jesus? (Let kids say: yes!)

OUR JOB TODAY

Definitely! And we can show the world what Jesus looks like...and join with other friends who follow Jesus and are part of the church. Not just friends who go to this church building but friends who go to another church building...because we are ALL the church! We can also tell people about God's Story and what it means to be a part of God's family.

WORSHIP

Let's think about some ways we can show people what Jesus looks like this week and be the body of Christ. But first, let's worship together!

Song: Grow Up Like Jesus (hand motions and lyrics are on-screen)

Song: Bravery (hand motions and lyrics are on-screen)

PRAY

Ask somebody to come and thank God that we get to be Jesus' body!



script continued

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name



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PREP needs



small group supplies

Per small group:

- 3-4 puzzle balls (OT: IN-12/1801)
- 1 Adventure Bible (pp. 1200, 1324)
- A few extra pieces of paper with markers

large group supplies

- 1 Adventure Bible (pp. 1200, 1324)
- 1 Mr. Potato Head with the following: 2 hands, 2 ears, 1 set of eyes, 1 nose, 1 mouth, 1 pair of shoes, 1 hat

a/v needs

- | | |
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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Image: churchy photos (put all "churchy" jpegs onto one slide in any order/pattern)2. Image: crowd (jpeg in curriculum folder)3. SLIDE: I Corinthians 12:12-13: There is one body. But it has many parts. Even though it has many parts, they make up one body. It is the same with Christ. We were all baptized by one Holy Spirit into | <ol style="list-style-type: none">4. one body.5. SLIDE: Acts 2:42-47 (exact wording in script)6. Video: Context / Catacombs7. Song: Grow Up Like Jesus (version with lyrics and person doing hand motions)8. Song: Bravery (version with lyrics and person doing hand motions) |
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special room set-up

none

connect questions

Tell me about church.
How can we act as the body of Christ?

parent page

Sometimes we forget that "church" isn't a building we go to on weekends. In fact, Jesus had a very different definition. We talked about how everybody who follows Christ is the church, or the body of Christ. Ask your kid about it. And read about the very first group of Christ-followers in Acts 2:42-47.