

Peace & Global Witness

Lesson Objectives

Children will understand the meaning of church, that Jesus, the apostles and the prophets are the foundations of the church and that Christ's church extends beyond walls and includes believers all over the world.

Resources needed:

Markers/crayons
Chalk
Bibles
Copies of "Build a Church" (Activity A)
A copy of "Foundation Trivia" (Activity B)
Copies of Messengers of Peace footprint templates (Activity C)

Opening Prayer

Gracious God,
Thank you for the various churches that are grounded in the belief of Christ, who is the living Word, Redeemer and Savior of the world. While church buildings may be made of stone or wood and come in different shapes and sizes, help us to remember that your church extends beyond our walls and includes believers around the globe.

Entry Activities

What do you need to have a church?

Ask the children: What do you need to have a church? (Expect various responses)

- Building
- People
- Missions, education for children and adults, a choir, etc.
- Bible
- Belief in Jesus

Children's Finger Game

Here is the church (clasp hands together with fingers inside)
Here is the steeple (touching your index fingers upward and together)
Open the doors (move thumbs apart to reveal fingers)
And see all the people (wiggle fingers)
Inside or out
The church is what it is all about.

How do you build a church?

Churches come in different sizes and shapes. Some have steeples, wooden pews and stained glass windows. Some churches have a large cross, chairs and clear windows that look out onto all of God's creation.

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Most important, however, churches are made up of people who believe and follow Jesus Christ. In fact, Christ reminds us when two or more are gathered in Jesus' name, Jesus is present.

Read Ephesians 2:19-22

According to Paul, the church or household of God is “built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.”

Discussion questions:

1. What is a foundation? Why is it important to a building?
2. What is a cornerstone?
3. What do you think Paul meant when he referred to “Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone”?
4. What do you think Paul meant when he said that the church is “built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets”?

For older children: You may also play the trivia game: Activity B. (It will test their knowledge of the prophets and apostles in the Bible.)