

SABBATH SCHOOL

Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

Level 3 • Unit 3 • Week 2

THE CHURCH BEGINS

OBJECTIVE:

To review the beginning of God's Church, define the Church and show how children are a part of the Church.

ATTENTION GETTER:

Using a flannel board put a picture of the human body on the board without hands and feet.

Ask: This is human body. Do you see anything missing? [Wait for answers.]

Ask: Are hands important even though they are small? [Wait for answers.]
For what do we use hands and feet? [Wait for responses.]

Say: We can conclude that without our hands and feet there would be many things we could not do and we would have to learn to do things differently.

Ask: Can we all agree that our hands and feet are very important even though they are small?

Say: You, as children, are like our hands and feet. Even though you are small, you are very important to God's Church.

Say: Today's lesson is about the beginning of God's Church and how you as children are an important part of the Church.

BIBLE LESSON:

Ask: When you hear the word "church" what comes to mind? [Write responses on a dry eraser board.]

- Ask: When we say, "God's Church," what do we mean? [List responses on the board.]
- Ask: When did "God's Church" begin?
- Say: Let's read about its beginning in Acts 2:1-8.
- Ask: What makes a person a part of the Church?
- Say: Those who have received God's Holy Spirit are a part of the Church. The Church is made up of those who have God's Spirit. Children attending with their parents are also considered to be a part of the Church as well.
- Say: Now let's focus on God's Church and how each of you in this class is a vital part of the Church.
- Say: Let's look at Acts 2:38-39: "Then Peter said to them, 'Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.'"
- Say: This verse tells us that the opportunity to repent, be baptized to remove our sins and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit is a promise given to your moms and dads and to you as their children. The promise of eternal life in God's Kingdom can only be accomplished through Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 3:11).
- Say: Now let's see how you are a part of the Church.
- Say: Now let's look at 1 Corinthians 7:14.
- Say: This verse says that because your mom or dad, or both your mom and dad, is a part of the Church of God then God considers you holy.
- Ask: What does it mean to be holy?
- Say: It means to be set apart for a special purpose. You have been set apart for a special purpose by God. That special purpose is to repent of your sins, be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit which makes you a member of the Church of God. God has set you apart to become a part of His very family and live forever.
- Ask: Now let's think about how you are part of the Church of God. Can you give me an example of how you are a part of the Church? How do you or can you serve in the Church? (Write responses on the board.)
- Say: Remember, just because you are young doesn't mean you are unimportant to God's Church. You can serve God and the Church in many ways, as we have mentioned.

LESSON APPLICATION:

Prepare in Advance: Make a human body that is large enough to cut into pieces for the children to color. Cut the body into pieces. For instance, hands, forearms, elbows, feet, head, upper arm, neck, chest, stomach, legs, etc. Make enough pieces so each child has a part to color. Label the pieces: children, moms, dads, grandfathers, and grandmothers, etc. Jesus Christ is the head.

Say: Our activity today is to make a puzzle of God's Church. Here is what we're going to do.

Say: First, you are each to color the part of the body that you have been given.

Say: Next, we will use the various pieces to build the body, which is a type of the Church.

Ask: Which piece is most important? The head of the Church, which is Jesus Christ, is most important.

Do: Have each child contribute their part to the puzzle.

Ask: How much could the body do if it only had hands and feet?

Say: It couldn't accomplish much. All the parts of the body are needed for the body to do what it has to do. The same is true of the Church. All parts are needed for the Church to do its work. As children you are all an important part of the Church.

MUSIC:

Sing the first verse of "God is Calling Children," in the United Church of God hymnal (p. 51).

MEMORY VERSE:

Acts 2:39 "For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

family activity

THE POINT:

To review the beginning of God's Church, define the Church and show how children are a part.

ASK ME...

When did God's Church begin? Discuss Acts 2:1-8

What is the definition of God's Church? Those with God's Spirit.

Are children a part of the Church? Acts 2:38-39, 1 Corinthians 7:14.

How can a child be a part of the Church when they are so small?

FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:

Discuss how each family member serves in the Church.

Draw a human body. Discuss the following questions:

How is the Church like a human body?

How does each body part contribute to the whole body?

What part would different family members like to be and why?

Who is the head of the Church?

MEMORY VERSE:

Acts 2:39 "For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."