

# 6 The Church—Jesus’ Friends Working Together

## Scripture

1 Corinthians 12:12-27 (NIRV); Galatians 6:10 (CEV)

## Memory Verse

“We should help people whenever we can, especially if they are followers of the Lord” Galatians 6:10 (CEV).

## Bible Truth

Jesus’ friends work together to help the Church grow.

## Important Words

**Christians**—People who love Jesus and have their sins forgiven.

**Church**—People who worship God and work together to tell others about Jesus.

**church**—A place where Christians meet to worship.

**Fellowship**—When friends enjoy doing something together.

**Worship**—Letting God know how much you love, honor, and respect Him.

## Teacher Bible Study

People who love Jesus and have their sins forgiven become part of God’s family and His Church. With Jesus as their Friend, they are part of the Church. The Church is all the people in the world who worship God and work together to tell others about Jesus.

Each Christian is a part of God's family and the Church. Christians come together to worship and fellowship at a church. A church can be a special building, a meeting place in a home, or a meeting outside.

When you are part of the Church, you have a job to do. In some ways, the Church and a body are alike. What are the different parts of your body? You have hands, eyes, nose, mouth, and feet. Try to think about your whole body as just a foot. How would you see, hear, or eat? Think of your whole body as an eye. How would you walk or talk?

Friends in the Church are like different parts of a body. Each person can do something well. Some people can sing. Some can clean and put things in order. Some can teach about Jesus. Some can cook food and take it to someone who is sick or hungry. Each one can be part of the Church.

The Bible says: "The body is not made up of just one part. It has many parts. Suppose the foot says, 'I am not a hand. So I don't belong to the body.' It is still part of the body" 1 Corinthians 12:14-15 (NIRV).

The Church is made up of Jesus' friends working together. Each person is important and needed in the Church. Each person has his or her job to do in the Church.

If people compare themselves with others, they may become jealous. They may complain they are not like someone else or someone has a better job than they do. They want to do other's jobs instead of their jobs. God made people the way they are, and He knows what each one can do. People need to work together happily. Then the Church will be the best it can be.

Christians help other Christians. They pray for one another and help each other. They tell others about Jesus. This is how Jesus wants the Church to be. He wants all Christians to work

together. He wants the Church to work like your body does. Each person has a job to do. When each person does his or her job, the Church grows.

**Teacher Help.** Don't teach in a hurry. You may take more than one class time to teach the lesson.

## Begin the Lesson

Choose the activities you need to begin the lesson. Use as many as you need. You do not have to use them all.

### The Body Game

YOU NEED room for the children to move around.

Have the children choose a body part. Suppose a child chooses to be a foot. That child can only hop. Suppose a child chooses to be a mouth. He or she can only talk, not move. Say, **It is silly to think that a foot or a hand or a mouth can work without the rest of the body.**

Let the children pretend to be the body parts they chose. Say, **If each of us was only one part of the body, we would not have all the body parts. Bodies work best when all the parts work together. Jesus wants the Church to work together like our bodies work together.**

### Visit from the Pastor

Have the pastor or a church leader talk to your class. Ask him or her to tell the children about his or her job as part of the Church, and how they can help. Ask the pastor or church leader to tell the children they are important to the Church and some of the jobs they can do.

## The Bible Lesson

Choose the activities you need to teach the Bible Lesson. You do not have to use them all. But be sure to tell the Bible story.

## Bible Memory Verse

Say the Bible verse a few words at a time and have the children repeat after you.

Say, **“We should.”**

Have the children say, “We should” after you.

You say, **“We should help.”**

The children then say, “We should help.”

You say, **“We should help people whenever we can,”**

The children say, “We should help people whenever we can,”

You say, **“We should help people whenever we can, especially if they are.”**

The children say, “We should help people whenever we can, especially if they are.”

You say, **“We should help people whenever we can, especially if they are followers.”**

(Children repeat)

You say, **“We should help people whenever we can, especially if they are followers of the Lord.”**

(Children repeat)

You say, **“We should help people whenever we can, especially if they are followers of the Lord” Galatians 6:10 (CEV).**

(Children repeat)

Everyone says together, **“We should help people whenever we can, especially if they are followers of the Lord” Galatians 6:10 (CEV).**

Have the children say the verse to someone. Have the other person say the verse with them.

Have everyone say the verse together again quietly. Then have them say it louder. Repeat this until the children know the verse. Then have them say it one more time quietly all together.

## **The Bible Story**

### **Jesus’ Friends Working Together**

The Bible tells us that the Church should work together to tell others about Jesus. It tells how the Church is like a body. Everyone has a body. There are different parts to the body. Can you name some of the parts of your body? (Possible answers: hands, feet, eyes, nose, ears, mouth) The body is made of many different parts. Each part is different from the others. Each part has a special job to do. The Church has many different people. Each one is different from the others. Each person has something he or she can do for Jesus.

What would happen if everyone wanted to preach, but no one wanted to visit sick people? What would happen if everyone wanted to take the offering, but no one would lead the singing? What would happen if everyone wanted to teach a Sunday School class? (Allow the children to come up with answers. Remind them of how hard it was for those who were just the foot to see where to go.) Some jobs would not get done.

Everyone has a part in the Church. God made each of us the way we are for a reason. God knows what each one of us can do. Look at your body. You have hands, feet, eyes, ears, mouth, and nose. What would happen if the eye said to the hand, 'I don't need you.' Or if the head said to the foot, 'I don't need you.' All the parts of the body are needed. This is true in the Church. All the people are needed. Each person has something to do for the Church. So if your job is to clean, do a good job. Do it just as if you were doing it for God. Do not be jealous of others who have jobs you think are more important.

1 Corinthians 12:12-27 (NIRV)

## **Build-a-Church Game**

YOU NEED two pieces of poster board (or paper) in different colors, if possible; scissors or something to cut with.

On the poster board draw two church shapes and cut them into 7 or 8 pieces. Have a place on the floor, table, or ground to place the church pieces.

Divide children into two teams. Give each team a set of game pieces (pieces of the church). A leader should ask the questions (See below.). If a team gives the wrong answer, let the other team try to answer it. Each time someone from a team gives the right answer, let him or her add one piece to his or her team's church. When a question is not answered right, give the right answer. (This helps the children learn the right answer. You can use the question again later.) The winner is the team who is the first to build its church.

### **Questions for "Build-a-Church" Game**

1. Does Jesus want His friends to work together? (yes)

2. What are some ways you can help at church? (give offering, help others, listen)
3. Who are some of the people who help in church? (pastor, Sunday School teacher, janitor (cleaner), music leader, person who reads the Bible, people who greet everyone who comes to church)
4. Is there a job in the church that is more important than another? (no)
5. What are some things we do at church? (sing, pray, thank God for what He has done, read the Bible, give offerings, talk to friends, learn about Jesus)
6. How can you talk to Jesus? (through prayer, singing)
7. What are some ways to praise God? (sing songs, pray, tell others what God is doing for you)
8. Who do you learn about at church? (Jesus, God)
9. How can you share about Jesus with your friends? (tell them what Jesus did for you, ask them to come to church with you, be nice to them)
10. Is everyone important to the Church? (Yes)

Other possible questions:

11. The Bible says the Church is like: • a house • an animal • (a body).
12. T/F If the whole body was a hand it would work right. (F)

## **This Is the Way We...**

Let the children act out these actions without talking. Let the rest of the group guess what they are doing.

- Go to visit a new family from church.
- Collect food and clothes to give to someone who does not have any.
- Visit someone who is sick.

- Help someone who is sad.
- Worship at church.
- Clean the church.

When each idea has been guessed, talk about how children can help. It is not just adults who do these things. Boys and girls are important parts of the Church. They have jobs to do in the Church.

## Learning to Share

YOU NEED enough of an item (rocks, sticks, pencils, candy, some type of snack) for only half of the class.

Divide the children into two groups. Give each person in one group the item you have collected before the lesson. Ask the children who did not receive anything how they feel. (Give them time to answer.) Ask the children who have the items how they feel. (Give them time to answer.)

Have the children with the items share what they have with those who do not have anything. Let them decide how they will share the items with the other group. Help children with ideas if they need it. (Some ideas: Give half of what you have with the other group. Break the item into two parts and give half to someone in the other group.)

When the items have been shared, ask the children in the group who shared the items how they feel. (Give them time to answer.) Ask the children who received the item how they feel. (Give them time to answer.)

**Say: Sharing is one way we can help in the Church. We can share what we have. We can also tell others about our Friend, Jesus.**



## **Jesus' Friends Work Together**

YOU NEED four pieces of construction paper or poster board, 6- x 12- inches (15- x 30-cm) for each child, transparent sticky tape, crayons or felt markers.

Let children talk about what we can do to work together at church. (Talk to our friends, play with our friends, pray, sing songs. Let the children come up with their own answers.)

Hand out four 6- x 12-inch (15- x 30-cm) construction paper pieces to each child. Have children follow the directions below.

- Fold each sheet of 6- x 12-inch (15- x 30-cm) paper in half.
- Unfold the paper squares.
- Draw a picture of ways we can work together at church on each piece of paper.
- After the drawings are finished, stand the four sheets in a circle with the pictures facing out.
- Tape the four edges to make a four-sided stand-up.

Make a sample before class. This will help the children to see how to do it.

## **Let's Have Church**

Have the children act out the different parts of a church service. Let one child be the pastor, another the music leader, and another the Scripture reader. Let two children take the offering. (Note: Let the children do what you do in your church services. If there are not enough children, let the children take turns doing different things.) Have the rest of the children be the people in the church service. If there is time, let children take turns doing each thing.

## End the Lesson

Choose the activities you need to end the lesson. Use as many as you need. You do not have to use them all.

## Jesus' Friends Help Others

Have the children help at church. Talk to the pastor before class to decide something the children can do to help at church. Some ideas: The children could clean the church and the area around the church. The children could help older people with jobs they need help with at their house. The children could help clean a street or open area in the area around the church. If the pastor or church has a car or van, the children could wash the outside and clean the inside.

## Church Service

Let the children plan a worship service for their class. Give children different jobs to do. Some of the jobs listed in “Let’s Have Church” would work for this service, also. Not all children will know what the parts of a worship service are. Tell the children **worship is letting God know how much you love, honor, and respect Him.**

Some of the possible parts of a worship service are:

- Call to Worship: This is to call the people together to worship. The children could sing songs.
- Songs: Let the children pick songs about God and Jesus.
- Prayer: Have the children thank and praise God. Let one or two children pray for the needs of their friends. Let the children tell God what they want Him to do for them.
- Offering: Let the children give an offering to God. (It does not matter if the children have a little or lot to give. God just asks us to give from what we have.)

- Special Music: Let children who are good with music sing with their friends.
- Bible Reading: Let one or two children read a scripture from the Bible.
- Message: Some of the children may want to act out a Bible story. The teacher could give the message as a Bible study for the children.
- Closing Prayer: Let a child pray to ask God to go with them at the close of the service.

Another option is for the children to help with or plan a church service. Talk to the pastor or church leader before class to decide what would be the best way children could help with the worship service. The children could help take the offering or prepare a special song and sing it. The children could read the Bible verse for the service or say The Lord's Prayer for the people in church. The children could share what Jesus has done for them.

## **Ways the Church Can Help You**

YOU NEED the student sheet and pens or pencils.

The student sheet tells ways the church can help children. Have the children work in groups or alone on pages 2 and 3.

On the sheet are little numbers and pictures. Use each number and picture to find the right letter in the chart. For 6 ♪ find the number 6 at the top of the chart. Then go down the column to ♪ to find the letter F. Print the letter F above the 6 ♪ on the empty line in the sentences.

Help the children print the right letters above the numbers and pictures on the empty lines. Let the children take turns reading the sentences.

Here are the sentences with the right answers.

**Fellowship**

In the Church you can enjoy FELLOWSHIP. Fellowship is when (friends) enjoy doing something together.

Christians have (fellowship) when they read the Bible, pray, and worship God together. They also have fellowship when they have fun or work (together) on a special job.

**Bible Study**

The Church helps you STUDY THE BIBLE. You learn at church what the Bible (says). Your Sunday School teachers and pastor (teach) what the Bible means. They show you how to do the things you learn.

**Worship**

WORSHIP is letting God know how much you love, honor, and respect Him. You can worship God by yourself. It is important to worship with the Church, too. There are ways you can worship with other friends of Jesus. You can (sing) (songs) of praise to God. You can (pray) to God. You can (tell) others how God has helped you. You can tell about your (love) for Jesus.

**Care and Help**

God wants the Church to CARE and HELP one another. Tell your church friends when you are (sick). Tell your church friends when you are having problems. Ask them to (pray) for you.

**Jesus' Friends Doing Their Part**

YOU NEED the student sheet, page 1, pens or pencils.

Have the children read the ways they can help the Church. Let the children talk about ways they can do their part in the church. Let them share or write other ways they can help the Church.

Have the children pray and thank God for letting them be part of the Church.

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