



Lesson 7

Who is the Church?

Tips for Family Discipleship

- Adapt this content to meet the needs of your family
- Focus on Jesus
- Be a guide, not a general
- Feed your own growth
- Share personal stories/testimonies
- Pray with your child and for your child

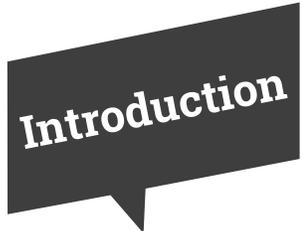
Families of younger children may want to focus on the main point that the Church is not just a building, it is the body of Christ, the people that love the Lord. Spend some time discussing the people your child regularly sees at church, such as friends and teachers. Look up pictures of the staff on the church website and discuss the different responsibilities. Then, share how you serve in the body of Christ. We bring glory to the Lord when we all work together to love Him, serve Him, and tell others about Him.

SUPPLIES NEEDED: your hands

ACTIVITY: Act out the finger play, "Here is the church, here is the steeple. Open the doors and here are the people."

DISCUSS: Unlike the words in this finger play, the real Church is not the building where we meet on Sunday mornings. The Church cannot be found at a street address. The Church is the body of Christ, the people who have Jesus as their Lord.

PRAY: Lord, help us to understand more about You through these Follow Me lessons.



The Church is not a building. The Church is the body of Christ. If you want to follow Jesus well, you must be connected to His body. Let's learn about the Church by looking at three different points.

Point #1 – The Nature of the Church

The Greek word for Church means "called out," which helps us understand that believers have been called out of the world to live for Christ. The church is not a place. It is a people.



Using a map of the United States (which can easily be found on a computer or phone), point to different states and discuss the name given to the residents (example: Georgians, Texans, etc.). One can be identified by where one lives.

The Church does not use location to determine identity. As followers of Jesus, we aren't identified by where we go to church (Tabernacle-ites??), but rather, we are identified by the One who lives in us (Christians).

If someone met you for the first time, would they know that you live in the South due to your accent? If someone met you for the first time, would they know that you are a Christian by your words and actions? We are called to be the body of Christ, the Church, which means “called out.”

**Stuff to
Talk About**

Point #2 – The Purpose of the Church.

To truly understand the full potential of anything, one must understand its basic purpose. The same is true for the church, however, many don't understand why the Church exists.



Using tools from your garage (hammer, screwdriver, etc.) or school tools (pencils, scissors, glue), explain the purpose for each item. What if you tried to write with scissors or cut with glue? Every tool has a purpose, just like the Church has a purpose. The purpose of the Church is to bring glory to God.

**OPEN YOUR
BIBLE**

READ Matthew 5:16

Have your child find the phrase “give glory.”

The Church exists to bring glory to God and to make Him famous. When Christ followers let their “light shine” by loving God, loving others, and sharing Him with others, they will naturally bring Him glory.

Point #3 – The Benefit of the Church.

Church is more than just meeting with God through worship; it is also about meeting with God's people. When we come together as the body of Christ, we get to experience life with other believers. There are four benefits to interacting with other believers.

A. Encouraging – When we try to live out our Christian faith in a world that doesn't share our faith, it can be discouraging. It's important to gather with those that share your faith so you can be encouraged.

What makes you feel discouraged? How can you tell if someone else is discouraged? What can you do to help them? How do you like to be encouraged? (Do you like it when someone helps you with homework, leaves a note for you, buys you a gift, or gives you a hug?) When we encourage others, we are showing love to them. The body of Christ, the Church, can help us when we feel discouraged in our faith or with difficult life events.

B. Energizing – It's so nice to spend time with others that think the same way we do! When we spend time with other believers, not only can we be encouraged, but we can feel energized!

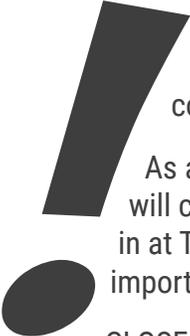
C. Building One Another Up (the adult lesson uses the word “edifying”) – Meeting with other believers can make us stronger in our faith.



Take some blocks (or books) and stack them. Discuss how blocks (or books) that are the same size and shape are easy to stack, so you can stack them (build them up) quite high. In the same way, when we spend time with others that have the same faith, we can build one another up. (See Romans 15:2)

D. Training (the adult lesson uses the word “equipping”) – When you meet together with the body of Christ, you receive training in truth that helps you grow in your faith. As you grow in your faith, your words, thoughts, and actions bring glory to God, which is the purpose of the Church.

**Stuff to
Talk About**



Some people feel like the Church isn't important. They might say that they can worship God anywhere. And although it is true that one can worship anywhere, there is value in being in the community and body of Christ.

As a parent, it is extremely important for your child to feel connected to other believers so that they will continue to seek connection when they become adults. If you need help getting your family plugged in at Tabernacle, please reach out to the church staff and we will gladly help you connect. You are an important part of the body of Christ.

CLOSE IN PRAYER

Follow Me Challenges

PERSONAL: Identify 2 areas of service in the church where God could use you.

PUBLIC: Host and invite folks to a Backyard BBQ. More information can be found at tabernaclebaptist.org/events.

PRAYER: Pray for:

- The people on your "My 5" list to get involved in church.
- The worship services on your own or join the War Room team Sunday mornings (for more info go to tabernaclebaptist.org/prayer).