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A Discipleship Program For 1st -- 4th Graders



YEAR 3, LESSON 14

Bible Lesson: What is the Church? (One Body, Many Parts)

First, ask your group to define the word "church." Write their responses on the board. Come back to this later.

Next, you will illustrate "isolation" with your group. Have everyone take a place along the wall, facing the wall with plenty of space between each child. Challenge them all to be perfectly silent for a minute. Then, let them all out things that separate them from friends, family, church and God. (Such as: distractions, television, disagreements, different interests.)

Finally, you will illustrate "belonging." Have the kids walk around the room calling out their interests (*favorite sport, hobby, movie, music, etc.*) Tell them to form groups of people who share the same interest. Stop and

discuss why it was difficult or took time to find common ground.

Now, have everyone sit back down and explore with them how we can be part of Christ's body, the church. Say, in many ways, our similarities and differences are the trademarks of the church. We share common beliefs about Christ, but we build our relationships with Christ in different ways, using different gifts. We are learning that whatever our unique backgrounds, personalities, and abilities, we can be an indispensable part of Christ's body, the church.

Assign huddle groups 2 or 3 Scripture passages. They are to discover Bible definitions for "church" & report back to the group.

Drama: "The Interview"

Summary

An average kid wants to join 4X4 and is forced to undergo a humiliating interview.

Characters

A boy and a girl. The girl is the interviewer and the boy is the applicant. The boy wants to become a member of the 4X4 group. The girl acts very

serious and professional. The boy acts a little nervous. The stage is set with a small table and 2 chairs on either side of the table.

Girl's name: Miss Grimes
Boy's name: Jeremy Jones

(See the full script in attached supplement)

HUDDLE GROUP

Understanding the Church

Acts 2:42-47

1 Corinthians 12:27-31

2 Corinthians 6:4-10

Ephesians 2:22

Colossians 1:18

1 Thessalonians 4:9-10

1 Timothy 3:14-15

1 Peter 2:4-5

MEMORY VERSES:

Romans 12:4-5
"Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ, we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."



**You can be part
of Christ's
body, the
church.**



Skit: “The Interview” By Sammy Jamison

Summary

An average kid wants to join 4X4 and is forced to undergo a humiliating interview.

Characters

A boy and a girl. The girl is the interviewer and the boy is the applicant. The boy wants to become a member of the 4X4 group. The girl acts very serious and professional. The boy acts a little nervous. The stage is set with a small table and 2 chairs on either side of the table.

Girl's name: Miss Grimes

Boy's name: Jeremy Jones

Script

(The girl is seated at the table, looking over a folder of information.)

Girl: *(Clearing her throat and speaking in a very professional tone)* Ah...next boy, please...

(Boy enters quickly from opposite side, smiling, but acting nervous.... girl stands and goes around the table to greet boy, they shake hands)

Girl: Hello, Mr.....?

Boy: ...Jones, Jeremy Jones. You can call me Jeremy, if you like. *(smiling)*

Girl: Ah, Mr. Jones, we address each other with our last names here at 4X4. We have found that it creates a more 'noble' atmosphere.

Boy: *(Cringes)* Oh, sorry, Miss.....

Girl: *(Speaking in a very proper voice)* Grimes. Please be seated, Mr. Jones.

(Both sit; Girl opens and appears to study the folder; boy sits on edge of his seat, fidgeting, leg shaking, tapping side of chair, etc.)

(After a short pause.)

Girl: *(Still looking at the folder)* Mr. Jones. *(she is cut short by boy)*

Boy: *(eagerly)* YES?....

Girl: *(Lowering folder)* Mr. Jones, I see here that you are interested in joining our group, 4X4 *(emphasize)*. Is that true?

Boy: Yes, it is. I have attended your church several times, and I think this would be a good group for me.

Girl: *(In a condescending tone)* WHY?

Boy: *(Surprised)* Well,...I guess,. I'd like to memorize the Bible and the church is close to my home.

Girl: *(condescendingly)* No, no, that will not do. You must meet our criteria for church membership. Did you not read the letter that was sent to you by our W.A.G. committee?

Boy: A letter from the **what** committee?

Girl: The W.A.G. committee. Wall Ball Acceptance Group. WAG for short. We must make certain your wall ball skills are up to our standards.

Boy: *(Disbelieving)* Oh.

Girl: Yes, don't want our group growing rapidly at the

expense of the 'QUALITY' of our wall ball games.

Boy: Really?

Girl: Yes, really. *(pause to look at folder)* Now, let's see...the first criteria.....Bible knowledge. *(Passes an index card to boy)* Please write on the card all the Bible verses you know by heart.

Boy: Bible verses? But, I thought I'd learn those here.

Girl: Oh yes, if you had read carefully our letter from the WAG committee, you'd know we have a BUG standard here.

Boy: *(Jumps up from chair)*...Are you kidding me? And, what in the world is BUG?

Girl: Mr. Jones, please calm yourself! We cannot have these types of emotional outbursts here! BUG stands for Bible Understanding Group. We want people who already know at least a hundred Bible verses in our group.

Boy: Sorry, but.... I'm just a beginner with the Bible.

Girl: Do not worry Mr. Jones, we have a way for you to still become a member of 4X4. If you don't meet criteria #1, you can always meet criteria #2. You can serve on the C.R.U.D. committee for six months. That's the Church Revitalization and Utility Detail, the CRUD committee.

Boy: You're serious? The CRUD committee?

Girl: Yes. The CRUD committee was set up for people like yourself who wish to become members of 4X4, but fail to meet all the requirements. We have found that beginners like you need a year or two of service before they can qualify for membership status.

Boy: What does this committee do?

Girl: Oh, various jobs such as cleaning bathrooms, taking out trash, cooking church dinners, *(continues to talk as the boy talks)*

Boy: Wait a minute...

Girl:.. mowing the grass, vacuuming the carpets and other sorts of maintenance items. In fact we have a special shirt for you with the name of the committee emblazoned across the back. We have begun to call them our little 'cruddies'.

Boy: Stop, stop. Exactly how many "cruddies" do you have right now?

Girl: Well, to be perfectly honest, none. But we have had a number of inquiries lately...

Boy: I'll tell you what...I'm not as interested as I thought I was.

Girl: We get that a lot from beginners. Good day Mr. Jones.

(Boy silently turns and walks slowly to exit. and stops at end of stage)

(Lights down on girl. Lights remain up on Boy)

Boy appears to read the letter; then looks up for a moment. After a pause, boy tears the letter apart slowly and drops it to the ground.

A Discipleship Program For 1st -- 4th Graders



YEAR 3, LESSON 15 (EASTER LESSON)

Bible Lesson: Jesus Rose from the Dead (The Case of the Empty Tomb)

Give each group a chance to meet in a corner of the room to discuss their debate strategy and put on their paper towels.

Round 1 — Say: Rumor has it that Jesus' body was stolen from the grave. We will now hear arguments from a representative of each group.

Ask each group: Would stealing Jesus' body help your group? Why? Or Why not?

Round 2 — Say: Somebody may or may not have stolen Jesus' body from the tomb. Maybe Jesus wasn't really dead when he was buried. We will now hear arguments from a representative of each group.

Group Activity: Pharisees, Romans, & Disciples

Say: We're here to solve a mystery! A few weeks ago, Jesus of Nazareth was arrested, beaten, and nailed to a cross. He supposedly died and was buried in a tomb carved from solid stone. But now the body is missing.

To get to the bottom of this mystery, all of you—Pharisees, Romans, and Disciples—will debate the possible reasons for Jesus' disappearance. Each of you will get a paper towel to

Ask each group: Do you think Jesus fainted or was buried alive? Why? Or Why not?

Round 3 — Say: In this next round, we'll find out if Jesus really was killed. Maybe the Romans killed the wrong guy! We will now hear arguments from a representative of each group.

Ask each group: Do you think the sightings of Jesus were a case of mistaken identity? Explain.

Conclusion:

Say: Since we can't prove that anyone took Jesus' body or faked his resurrection, perhaps we should conclude that Jesus Christ really rose from the dead.

wear. (See instructions & discussion cards in the lesson supplement)

We will divide you into three groups. Look at the notes on your cards for what to say during the debate. We'll have three rounds of discussion. Choose a person to speak for your group. Who knows? Perhaps we'll discover that Jesus really rose from the dead.

QUIZ QUESTIONS

Q: Which group had the job of crucifying Jesus?

A: The Roman soldiers

Q: What was the name of the group of Jewish leaders that wanted Jesus crucified?

A: The Pharisees

Q: What does "disciple" mean?

A: A follower

Q: How much did the stone in front of Jesus' tomb weight?

A: At least a ton.

MEMORY VERSE:

1 Corinthians 15:3,4
"...that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures."



**Jesus was
REALLY raised
from the dead.**



Pharisees

Paper towels: Drape paper towels over your heads to represent prayer shawls.

You are well-educated, important teachers who people respect and ask for guidance. You never liked Jesus. He challenged and insulted you in front of your followers, and then he did all those miracles and gained his own following. He was dangerous.

So, you had Jesus arrested and set up so the Romans killed him. But now his body is missing. Jesus predicted he'd rise from the dead; his disciples may claim Jesus' disappearance as proof that he was the Messiah. Bad news.

Your Answers for the Debate:

Round 1 — Blame Pilate! He set this up. He didn't want to kill Jesus in the first place.

Round 2 — Blame the Roman soldiers! They didn't break Jesus' legs on the cross. Maybe Jesus didn't really die.

Round 3 — Blame the Disciples! Maybe they just saw a ghost.

Romans

Paper towels: Tuck paper towels in your shirt collar to represent Roman capes.

The Roman legion is one of the world's greatest armies. You're tough, and you don't make mistakes following orders. Pilate commissioned you to guard Jesus' tomb, and because Jesus' crucifixion was political, you took special care standing guard. But now the body is gone. It looks bad for you be-

cause Roman soldiers who fail to follow orders are often executed.

Your Answers for the Debate:

Round 1 — Mention the crowd at the cross. We KNOW Jesus was dead! The people around the cross knew it too.

Round 2 — Blame the Pharisees! If Jesus is alive now, they must have sent the wrong man to be crucified.

Round 3 — Blame the Disciples! They haven't seen Jesus. They've only seen somebody in a robe in bad light; perhaps a ghost.

Disciples

Paper towels: Tuck paper towels into the front waist of your pants to represent servant aprons.

A few days ago your world collapsed—Jesus was dead. You saw it all, from his arrest to his burial. Only John was brave enough to be out front; but you hung in the shadows. And there were hundreds of other witnesses. Then the women dragged you out to the cemetery, where the stone was rolled away and Jesus' tomb was empty! And later you were in the room when he appeared. So you know—he's alive again!

Your Answers for the Debate:

Round 1 — Mention the burial process! If Jesus had been alive, he couldn't have seen or moved wrapped in all those cloths and spices.

Round 2 — Mention the stone! Jesus' body was trapped behind a stone estimated to weigh at least a ton. The strongest person in the world couldn't have gotten out of that cave.

Round 3 — Mention Jesus' real body! Jesus appeared to his disciples in a real body. He ate food. They touched him. He was not a ghost.



A Discipleship Program For 1st -- 4th Graders

YEAR 3, LESSON 16

Bible Lesson: First Apostles (*We are all on the same team.*)

All of the twelve apostles that Jesus chose were eyewitnesses of His life, His miracles, His death, and His resurrection. One of those apostles, John (*not John the Baptist*), wrote the life story of Jesus so we wouldn't be confused about the fact that Jesus is really God.

All the Gospels tell you that Jesus is the Son of God. But John emphasizes that Jesus is the God of the Old Testament, the God who loved you enough to come to earth to be with you and to save you from your sins.

You are a member of a very special group: the church of Jesus Christ. The people in this group care about you. They will support you

when you're down and help you when doing right seems hard. They love you, and you love them. You're family.

The book of Acts tells how this family began and grew. Some people think "church" is just a building where people go to worship. In fact, for nearly 300 years there were no church buildings! The church is (and always has been) people, people who love Jesus and care about each other.

So, as we learned in our game of "Electric Fence": From the first apostles until today, we are all on the same team. We are all in the Kingdom of God.

Team Builder: "Electric Fence"

Ideal team building obstacle task. Use two poles and piece of string or rope tied between the poles about 4 feet high from the ground. The object is for the entire team to get over the "electric fence" (the string or rope) without getting "electrocuted" (touching the rope). No going under either!

Only one team member can go over at a time, but can be helped by team-mates. Other team mem-

bers can help any way they want, but once a person is over the fence, they must stay over the fence. They may not come back around to help anyone, but they CAN help from the other side.

This game requires lots of teamwork and cooperation.

Say: From the first apostles until today, we are all on the same team. We are all in the Kingdom of God.

QUIZ QUESTIONS

Q: Name one of Jesus' twelve apostles.

A: Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James, Simon, Judas, & Judas Iscariot

Q: Did John the Baptist write the Gospel of John?

A: No, it was John the disciple.

Q: How long did the church exist without buildings?

A: 300 years

MEMORY VERSE:

Ephesians 2:19, 20
"...you are...God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ himself as the chief cornerstone."



The church is not a building, but a family of believers in Jesus Christ



A Discipleship Program For 1st -- 4th Graders

YEAR 3, LESSON 17

Bible Lesson: Paul the Apostle/Missionary (Don't Quit!)

The Apostle Paul has an exciting story and lived a life that was a spiritual adventure. But, did you know that it took a friend believing in him to get him started on that journey?

When Paul came to Jerusalem he was more than an outsider. He'd been an enemy, and everyone was suspicious of him. Only Barnabas was willing to risk acting like a friend to Paul, bringing this out-sider in. Barnabas brought Paul to his church in a town called Antioch. Believers were first called Christians at Antioch.

Paul went on to be the apostle that God used to bring other "outsiders" into His kingdom: the Gentiles. We played a game of "everybody's it." When the Apostle Paul looked at his world, everyone

was "it." Jesus wanted Paul to share his faith with everyone, even gentiles.

God warned Paul that he faced prison and hardship in Jerusalem. But he said, "I am going" (Acts 20:22). Paul had confidence, not only that God was sending him, but also that he'd be able to see hard times through. There is only one way to develop that kind of confidence in yourself. **Don't quit!**

So, if you join a soccer team or football team and want to quit after the first set of calisthenics, **don't quit**. If you get a difficult assignment at school, **don't quit**. If you promise to read your Bible the first thing each morning and you are tempted to hit the snooze button and sleep longer, **DON'T QUIT!**

Game: Everybody's "It"

This game is like regular tag only everyone is 'it'. Everyone runs around trying to tag everyone else. When you're tagged, you sit down. The object is to be the last person left standing.

After having fun with the game, have everybody be seated and

explain to them: *When the Apostle Paul went on his missionary journeys, everybody was "it." Everybody in the world needed to hear about the Gospel of Jesus Christ.*

QUIZ QUESTIONS

believers first called Christians"?

A: In the city of Antioch (Acts 11:26)

Q: What was the name of the first believer to be Paul's friend?

A: Barnabas

Q: When faced with hardship, what was Paul's secret to success?

A: He refused to quit.

MEMORY VERSE:

Acts 20:35 "In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"



God helps us to see hard times through.



A Discipleship Program For 1st -- 4th Graders

YEAR 3, LESSON 18

Bible Lesson: Work of the Church (Win the Lost)

Have everyone read aloud in unison Matthew 7:7-8. (prepare an overhead) Say: God will help you represent him well—all you have to do is ask him to help you. When you face temptations, ask Jesus to help you resist them. When you are scared or anxious, ask God for courage and peace. When someone treats you badly, ask God to help you love that person.

S.H.O.H.E.E.

I now call to order the first meeting of S.H.O.H.E.E. or Several Habits of Highly Effective Evangelists. Listen as I read Matthew 28:16-20. (read) Say: Jesus is tell us to make disciples, but all of us know how difficult

that can be. That's why we need this meeting. Our goal is to learn to effectively share our faith.

First, share with your class "Why We Should Share our Faith." (see supplement to Lesson 16)

Next, have your class discuss what they would do in the situations listed in "Opportunity Knocks." (see supplement to Lesson 16)

Close by saying: God loves and values each person, no matter what. We represent God, and he will help us represent him well.

Object Lesson: Hundred Dollar Bill

Objects needed: A straight, clean, crisp dollar bill or a \$100 dollar bill (*it has more of an affect with the class*).

Take the dollar and show it to the class. Ask if anyone knows what it is. Then ask how much is it worth? What can I buy with it? (*You will get many different answers. One of my kids said a bicycle [I used a \$100], so I went with that idea. You can choose something from their answers to use.*)

Ok, so I'm going to buy a bike with my 100 dollars. (*Crumble up the money. Make it really wrinkled.*) Then

ask, "Will you still except my money now that it's all wrinkled? well yes."

"Hmm", (*put three small tears around the money.*) Ask, "Will I still be able to buy my bike with this? Yes, I will, (*as you drop the money on the floor and squish it*) say, 'This money has been crumpled up, stepped on, torn and ripped, but its value remains the same. This is the same with God. No matter how torn, ripped or stepped on you are, you are still just as valuable and as precious in his eyes.' "

QUIZ QUESTIONS

Q: When do we represent God?

A: Everywhere and all the time.

Q: Why should we share our faith?

A: see supplement for answers.

Q: How valuable was the hundred dollar bill after it was wrinkled and torn?

A: Still the same value.

Q: Jesus tell us to ask, seek and knock in what Bible passage?

A: Matthew 7:7,8

MEMORY VERSE:

Mt. 28:19 "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."



**God helps you
talk about your
faith.**



Why We Should Share Our Faith

Jesus told us to tell others about him. But why? What are the benefits?

- **Drawing others toward a relationship with God.** Christ came to seek and save what was lost (Lk. 19:10) and we are to do the same.
- **Helping us live as children of God.** As Christians, we are to set an example of Christ for others. When we do, our own faith is made stronger.
- **Building a community of believers.** When several believers embrace a new Christian or a non-Christian, everyone's faith moves to a higher level.

Ten More benefits:

1. Learning to be good role models.
2. Bringing meaning to others' lives.
3. Deepening our personal faith.
4. Studying the Bible
5. Seeing our friend's faith grow.
6. Developing leadership skills.
7. Exploring life's tough questions.
8. Learning to love others.
9. Listening to God.
10. Building friendships.

Opportunity Knocks

Situation 1

In the lunchroom, you hear a group of kids at the next table talking about evolution. You hear one person say, "Only idiots think a god was in charge of creating this place."

Situation 2

A new kid just came to your school. She seems pretty nice, but she's very shy. She's not really an outcast, but it doesn't seem that she has any real friends.

Situation 3

You read in the newspaper about a family whose house burned down. The newspaper quoted the father as saying, "We lost everything. Why did this happen to us?"

Situation 4

A few weeks ago, your best friend got a bad report card and his parents "grounded" him from TV, the phone, and his computer (except for homework). He keeps saying, "Nothing matters anymore."



A Discipleship Program For 1st -- 4th Graders

YEAR 3, LESSON 19

Bible Lesson: Encourage One Another

(Leader, consider breaking your class into huddle groups at the beginning of your lesson. Have enough play dough for each child to have a lump. See supplement P2 for huddle group assignments.)

After the huddle groups, have everyone come back to their seats and say:

- **What different kinds of people were mentioned in your groups?**
- **How many of the people who were shapers did some of that shaping through encouragement?**

It may be hard to believe, but many kids in your school or

neighborhood know next to nothing about the Bible or Christianity. We all need to be ready to tell how Jesus has changed our life.

Say: As we are thinking about all of those God has used to shape our lives, the Bible is telling us in our memory verse (Heb. 10:24) that we can also be a “shaper” in someone else’s life. By encouraging others, you can make a difference!

One last thing to remember: . “I can do everything through him who gives me strength.” (Phil. 4:13) This verse reminds us that we can never do God’s work in our own strength and ability. However, WITH God’s help kids can really make a difference!

Skit: “A Higher Calling”

Summary

Two MickeyD’s workers talk about their jobs. The problem is their understanding of what their purpose in life is.

(Ham it up, take your time and improvise. How would you feel if you worked at MickeyD’s?)

Props

2 stools, 2 MickeyD hats and MickeyD bag and drink.

Set: One worker seated on stool drinking a MickeyD drink. She is wearing a MickeyD hat.

(See lesson supplement for sample script.)

QUIZ QUESTIONS

Q: Quote Hebrews 10:24

A: “And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds”

Q: Quote Phil. 4:13

A: . “I can do everything through him who gives me strength.”

Q: What is one way kids can make a difference?

A: By encouraging others.

MEMORY VERSE:

Hebrews 10:24
“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds”



By encouraging others, you can make a difference.



Skit: “A Higher Calling”

By Fred Lane

Summary

Two MickeyD's workers talk about their jobs. The problem is their understanding of what their purpose in life is.

(Ham it up, take your time and improvise. How would you feel if you worked at MickeyD's?)

Props

2 stools, 2 MickeyD hats and MickeyD bag and drink.

Set: One worker seated on stool drinking a MickeyD drink. She is wearing a MickeyD hat.

Script

(Second worker walks up with bag and cup in hand and sits on second stool...)

W2: Wow. What a night. I think I must have sold a 1000 hamburgers myself!

W1: Yeah...I feel like a french fry myself: deep fried and ready for the bag!

(Both kind of snicker)

W1: I had this one lady that must have changed her order 5 times after I punched it in. You know, how hard can it be? It's not like we've got a hard menu!

W2: You know, I've watched people stand back from the counter and read the menu back and forth, back and forth. I mean, Duh, how many times have you been to MickeyD's?

W1: Yeah...(pause)...I dropped a whole tray of cheeseburgers on the floor one time. It was dinner time and everybody was really moving fast, and I turned around with the tray in my hands, and WHAM...Deidre hit the tray...burgers everywhere! Of course, the customers didn't care whether I dropped them or not. They just expected to get their orders just as fast.

W2: Did the manager know about it?

W1: Did the manager know???? Deidre WAS the manager! She acted like I was a complete idiot, dissed me, and sent me out in the parking lot to pick up trash. (pause) Actually, she did me a favor (chuckling). I'd rather be in parking lot picking up paper than inside dealing with idiots like her!

(pause and eat or drink a second or two)

W1: You know, I really hate it here. My dad keeps telling me that I'll need to have a job to learn what it's like in the real world. My dad never worked at MickeyD's, I can tell you! He had it made: he went to work

right after high school and has worked the same job ever since. He goes in every day and has a nice desk and a computer and doesn't have anybody bothering him. (speak in a man's voice, shaking head side to side) I'd like to 'Super-size' that report, Mr. Harris.

(both laugh)

W2: I agree. It's stinky working here sometimes...

W1: (cuts W2 off) SOMETIMES? It stinks all the time! You talk like you're new here, or something.

W2: No way...I've worked here for...(pause, counting in her head)...wow, a year and half.

W1: You've worked here a year and half? I've been here 6 months and it feels like 6 years!

W2: Well, I don't plan on staying here...It's just...I've met some really nice people here, too.

W1: (sarcastically) Yeah, like who?

W2: Well, (shrugging shoulders and motioning to W1)...you, for instance...

(W1 takes a drink and looks at W2 puzzled)

W2: (continuing)...and some of the others, too.

W1: Yeah, well,...you know, you're alright, too.

But we're all here only because we have to be.

As soon as I get my degree, I'm on the job hunt. I want to get a nice, good paying job, so I can get my own place and do the things I want to do.

W2: I want to do that, too. But...(pause)... I want my life to count for something. I don't want to just make money and spend it.

W1: Mine will count for something...me!

W2: But don't you want to...I don't know...do something that makes a difference in the way things are?

W1: Sure, but what's the use? I can't change things in the world, and no one cares if I could.

W2: Well, maybe I won't be able to either, but I feel like I have to try...(pause, looks at watch)...Hey, we need to get back to work (starts to get up).

W1: (Sighs) Yeah, I guess it's time to get back to the grease mine. (looks at W2, asks sincerely) Are you serious about this 'making a difference' thing? Do you really feel like you can change things?

(Freeze until room is dark)

Movers and Shapers



Huddle Group Assignment

(As kids arrive in your group, give each person a lump of play dough.)

Say: Think of the different people who have influenced you in some way. Then mold your lump to show a way that God has used other people to shape your life. For example, you might shape your play dough into a house to show the influence your family has had on you. A play dough basketball could represent the influence of a special coach.

Or maybe you'd rather show how you react to that influential person: Using hard jabs to mold your lump could show how you deal with difficult people, or gentle molding could represent the gentle prodding of someone else. How the final product looks doesn't matter; just be sure you can explain what it means.

As kids finish molding their lump, say: "Take turns explaining what you shaped and what it represents in your life." Then go around your circle and have each person pray for the person on his or her right, thanking God for the "shapers" God has brought into that person's life.

Hebrews 10:24-25

(Have four kids read this passage from the following translations.)

"Let us think about each other and help each other to show love and do good deeds. You should not stay away from the church meetings, as some are doing, but you should meet together and encourage each other. Do this even more as you see the day coming." (New Century Version)

"We should keep on encouraging each other to be thoughtful and to do helpful things. Some people have gotten out of the habit of meeting for worship, but we must not do that. We should keep on encouraging each other, especially since you know that the day of the Lord's coming is getting closer." (Contemporary English Version)

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." (NIV)

"In response to all he has done for us, let us outdo each other in being helpful and kind to each other and in doing good. Let us not neglect our church meetings, as some people do, but encourage and warn each other, especially now that the day of his coming back again is drawing near." (The Living Bible)



A Discipleship Program For 1st -- 4th Graders

YEAR 3, LESSON 20

Bible Lesson: Legends of the Faith (Two Famous Foursquare Leaders)

Our Founder

Aimee Semple McPherson

The person who started the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel was Aimee Semple McPherson. She was born near Ontario, Canada.

Her mother, Minnie Kennedy, gave her little girl to God and, when she was a teenager, God made Himself very real to Aimee.

She went to be a missionary in China with her husband, James Semple. James died only 3 months later. After Aimee and her daughter returned home to the United States, God asked her to preach His Word. She said "yes."

She traveled, preached, built Angelus Temple and a Bible College. She never gave up and God helped her do what others thought impossible.

Note: Leaders from other denominations of churches, consider teaching about another famous Christian leader.

Our President

Pastor Jack Hayford

A former president of the Foursquare Church was Pastor Jack Hayford. Dr. Hayford founded The Church On The Way, located in Van Nuys, California, a suburb of Los Angeles. He pastored there for 30 years.

Dr. Hayford was also Founder and Chancellor of The King's Seminary. He authored almost three dozen books and has composed over 500 hymns, songs, and choruses, most noted of which is the classic "Majesty," written in 1978.

Pastor Hayford became an acknowledged "bridge-builder," helping to forge healthy bonds among all segments of the Church.

QUIZ QUESTIONS

Q: Name the founder of the Foursquare Churches.

A: Aimee Semple McPherson

Q: Name a president of the Foursquare Churches.

A: Pastor Jack Hayford

Q: Where was Aimee McPherson born?

A: Near Ontario, Canada

Q: What church did Jack Hayford pastor for 30 years?

A: Church on the Way in Van Nuys, Calif.

MEMORY VERSE:

Psalm 133:1
"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"

Story: A Legend in Your Own Time

Just for fun, have the kids help you make up a story. They will supply some of the adjectives, adverbs, nouns, and verbs for the story. (See the supplement for this lesson for a template you may photocopy)

Let each child insert their own name for the main character and so the story will be about them.

After you have written their responses in the blanks, read the "legend" back to them. Have fun.



God has a special plan for your life.



Legend in Your Own Time

Not too many people have heard of **(say your name)**, but soon they will. You just wait and see! For one thing, they can _____

_____ **(action word)**
_____ better than any person in the **(sports equipment)** world.

And you should see them _____! **(action word)**

They can take their _____ and _____ **(one upper body part)**
_____ very large _____s. **(action word)** **(thing)**

When asked about their favorite food, they said they liked _____ **(main dish)** _____ **(method of cooking)**
until it was _____ and _____ **(color)** **(texture)**

A favorite way to relax in the _____ **(season)**

is to get involved in extreme _____ing. **(hobby)**

When asked what movie star they looked most like, they said _____ **(famous movie animal)**

We know **(say your name)** will become a legend in their own time because they _____ **(action word)**
they _____, and they have _____ **(action word)**

_____ **(description word)** _____ **(body part)**
They already get paid \$ _____ **(large number)**
per _____ just for _____ **(unit of time)** **(action)**

All we can say is:
This person is a legend in their own time!

Word List (*Write one suggestion from the crowd for each*)

Action word:

Sports equipment:

Action word:

Upper body part:

Action word:

Thing:

Main dish:

Method of cooking:

Color:

Texture:

Season:

Hobby:

Famous movie animal:

Action word:

Action word:

Description word:

Body part:

Large number:

Unit of time:

Action word:



A Discipleship Program For 1st -- 4th Graders

YEAR 3, LESSON 21

Bible Lesson: Foursquare? (What Does THAT Mean?)

The Foursquare Gospel

The Foursquare Gospel comes from the Bible. That means it is based on the Word of God. The name "Foursquare" originated with God as it is used ten times in the Bible:

- Six times in Exodus
- Once in 1 Kings
- Twice in Ezekiel
- Once in Revelation

Four Main Teachings

The four main teachings of the Foursquare Gospel are taught in the entire Bible. The four major phases are:

1. Jesus Christ, the Savior (Ro. 3:23)
2. Jesus Christ, the Baptizer with

the Holy Spirit (Mt. 3:11)

3. Jesus Christ, the Great Physician or Healer (Mt. 8:17)
4. Jesus Christ, the soon Coming King (1 Thess. 4:16)



Four Gospels

The first four books of the New Testament are called the Gospels and each one presents Jesus differently.

- **Luke** presents Christ as the Son of Man.
- **Mark** presents Christ as Healer.
- **John** presents Christ as the Baptizer with the Holy Spirit.
- **Matthew** presents Christ as the King soon to come again.

Object Lesson: Foursquare Symbols of Faith

Note: Friends from other denominations, teach about YOUR church.

A symbol is something like an object, a picture, or a drawing which we can see, but it reminds us of something wonderful that we cannot see. The four symbols of our faith are: a cross, dove, cup and crown. Each one represents a different part of Jesus' ministry. (prepare an overhead of

these four symbols to show class)

Cross = Savior
Dove = Holy Spirit
Cup = Healer
Crown = King

(See the lesson supplement for more material on these symbols.)

QUIZ QUESTIONS

Q: The Foursquare Gospel meets the needs of people for _____, _____, and _____.

A: body, soul, and spirit

Q: What are the four major doctrines?

A: Jesus Christ, Savior, Baptizer in the Holy Spirit, Healer, and Coming King

Q: Where does the word "foursquare" come from?

A: The Bible

MEMORY VERSE:

Hebrews 13:8
"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."



**God doesn't call the qualified,
He qualifies the called.**

The Foursquare Symbols of Faith

What Do They Mean?



A symbol is something like an object, a picture, or a drawing which we can see, but it reminds us of something wonderful that we cannot see. The four symbols of faith are a cross, dove, cup and crown. Each one represents a different part of Jesus' ministry.



Cross = savior

The symbol of the **cross represents Jesus, the Savior**. The cross represents our "salvation" or safety in Jesus from the punishment of sin. Romans 6:23 tells us that the wages or (consequences)

of sin is death. The real meaning of death is that a person is eternally separated from God, if he refuses to accept Jesus as his Savior. If it were not for Jesus dying on the cross, we could not be Christians now. Whenever we see a cross, we should remember that Jesus died for each one of us.



Dove = Holy Spirit

The symbol of the **dove represents Jesus, the Baptizer with the Holy Spirit**. We read about the dove in Mark 1:9, 11 when Jesus was baptized in water by John the Baptist. When Jesus came up out of the water the Holy Spirit, in the

form of a dove, came down on Him. A dove is gentle, pure and easily hurt. It is harmless and defenseless. It is not cruel or cunning. A dove loves to live where people are. When they are carried away, they will return many miles back to their home and owner. The dove only eats pure seed and drinks pure, clean water. The Holy Spirit is much like a dove. The Holy Spirit is gentle, pure, and easily hurt. If you tell the Holy Spirit to go away, He will not be angry, just hurt. Instead of hurting Him, we should ask Him to come and fill us with Himself. The Holy Spirit also loves to live in and around the people of God. He is kind and loving. The Holy Spirit will never hurt anyone, but is ready to help people. The Holy Spirit wants to live in a heart that is clean, free from hatred, dishonesty and deceit.



Cup = Healer

The symbol of the **cup represents Jesus, the Great Healer**. When Jesus prayed in the garden of Gethsemane on the night He was betrayed, He said these words: "O My Father, if it is possible,

let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will." (Matthew 26:39) Following this prayer, the suffering that Jesus experienced was very great. What did Jesus mean by the "cup"? He meant that He was to take our suffering, our sadness, our sin, our pain and sickness upon Himself. Even though He was Jesus, He suffered like a human being would if he were nailed to a cross. Jesus did not deserve to suffer, but because of His love for us, He took our punishment. It was a hard and painful experience; but He was willing to do this for you and for me.



Crown = King

The symbol of the **crown represents Jesus, the Coming King**. Kings and queens usually wear crowns. When Jesus was on earth He was crowned, but not

with a crown of gold. It was a crown of thorns. But when He comes to earth again, he will come as the King of kings and the Lord of lords. Jesus is more important than any other king in the whole world. On the day when Jesus comes back to earth, everyone will know and will have to admit that Jesus is the King of kings (Philippians 2:9-11).



A Discipleship Program For 1st -- 4th Graders

YEAR 3, LESSON 22

Bible Lesson: You Have a Gift to Give (Understanding Spiritual Gifts)

Tell (or read) the following story:

There is a story of a kingdom where three servants are each granted one wish. The gardener, knowing that the king loved roses, wished that all the gardens in the land would only grow roses from then on. The baker, knowing that the king loved bread, wished that all the ovens in the land would only bake bread from then on. The head teacher, who knew that the king loved education, wished that the children would only be allowed to attend school or do homework in the land from then on.

Ask the class: What is going to

happen in this kingdom?

After some discussion, tell your students that you want them to listen as somebody reads 1 Peter 4:10-11.

Ask: What does this Scripture say about what we should do with our gifts? Why do you think it's so important for us to use our gifts?

Say: God gives us gifts so we can use them to serve others and build up the church. Our gifts are worthless if they go unused. You have a gift to give, and you can start using it right now.

Huddle Groups: Four "committees" will be needed. (See lesson supplement for details.)

Activity: Invisible Phone Booth (up to 5 min.)

Procedure:

Using masking tape, make several squares on the floor (about two feet square). Form groups of no more than ten. Have groups each try to fit as many people as they can inside the square they have been given without anyone touching the floor outside of the square.

Allow several tries, and applaud the group that gets the most people inside its square.

Then ask:

- How easy was it to get everyone into the square?
- How did you work together?

Say: In this activity, you really had to work together as a team. The people in God's church also need to work together to accomplish his will in the world. Today we're going to discover how spiritual gifts can affect the church and learn ways we can put our gifts into action.

QUIZ QUESTIONS

Q: What does "evangelism" mean?

A: Sharing my faith with someone else.

Q: Name one thing the Bible says came by faith.

A: Anything the Bible says. For example: Heb. 11 (whole chapter)

Q: Name one gift that Christians can have.

A: Faith, Serving, Teaching, Evangelism (or others).

MEMORY VERSE:

Romans 12:6 "We have different gifts, according to the grace given us."

Further reading:
Ephesians 4:1-7;
Eph. 4:11-14



All Christians fit into the big picture of the "church."

Evangelism Committee

1. Read Acts 8:26-40.
2. Discuss these questions:
 - What does “evangelize” mean?
 - How can we use it to build up the church?
3. **Situation:** Pretend our church hasn’t had anyone new join in ten years.
 - What can we do to change this situation?
4. Draw a picture of what you would do.

Faith Committee

1. Read Hebrews 11:1-6.
2. Discuss these questions:
 - What does “have faith” mean?
 - How can we use faith to build up the church?
3. **Situation:** Pretend people in our church are beginning to doubt whether God really cares at all.
 - What can we do to change this situation?
4. Draw a picture of what you would do.

Service Committee

1. Read James 2:14-17.
2. Discuss these questions:
 - What does “serving” mean?
 - How can we use it to build up the church?
3. **Situation:** Pretend that no one in our church has remembered to visit the sick for six months.
 - What can we do to change this situation?
4. Draw a picture of what you would do.

Teaching Committee

1. Read Acts 18:24-28.
2. Discuss these questions:
 - What does “teaching” mean?
 - How can we use it to build up the church?
3. **Situation:** Pretend that the Bible confuses people in our church and on Sundays they read the comics in the newspaper, but not the Bible.
 - What can we do to change this situation?
4. Draw a picture of what you would do.



A Discipleship Program For 1st -- 4th Graders

YEAR 3, LESSON 23

Bible Lesson: Sometimes Christians Disagree (Understanding Conflict)

To begin with, let's consider the following questions:

Q: What is the difference between concerned disagreement and conflict?

A: Conflict is a disagreement that keeps decisions from being made or the group from moving forward after the decision has been made.

Q: What is the difference between reconciliation and resolution?

A: Resolution means finding an answer. Reconciliation means bringing the folks in the conflict together. Some issues will never be resolved, but people can still be reconciled.

Q: What is the difference between being peaceful and being a peacemaker?

A: Peacemakers do not sit on their hands but often are in the middle of conflict, seeking to reconcile people.

Next we are going to break up into three huddle groups: 1st graders, 2nd graders, and 3rd & 4th graders. Each group will have a scenario to read. Then your group will create a short skit that shows what happens next. Your skit should have two possible endings: one that ends peacefully and one that ends improperly with yelling, verbal attacking, or avoiding and walking away.

(See lesson supplement for scenarios)

Opening Skit: The Big Fight

Before the meeting, ask two students to stage an argument.

After everyone has arrived, give the two actors you talked to before the study the signal to begin their argument.

After they have argued for about a minute, say: Break it up. Please calm down and sit in your chair.

Ask the group: How does it make you feel when others argue? Have you ever been in a conflict like this? If so, what happened?

Today we are going to look at the feelings surrounding conflict and discuss ways to deal with it.

QUIZ QUESTIONS

Q: When Christians disagree, what should they do?

A: work through conflict

Q: What is reconciliation?

A: Bringing people together.

MEMORY VERSE:

Matthew 18:15, "If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over."



When Christians disagree they should work through conflict.

Conflict Scenarios

(Group Leader Role)

- Identify a couple of kids in your group who are strong leaders.
- Read your group's scenario out loud.
- Allow your two leaders to brainstorm with the group about ideas for a skit and who could play each part.
- Guide them to decide quickly on one plan and begin working on it.
- If a conflict should arise in your group, use it for a "teaching moment" and help the group get back on task.
- Once you have a rough idea of your skit, have the actors go over it once or twice before presenting it to the whole class.

Scenario 2

Second Graders

Brenda is having a hard time in school. There are two girls in her class who never want her to play in their group at recess. She confided in Mark, a boy from her class who lives on her block, about the trouble she is having. The next day at lunch, Mark told another person in the class about what Brenda had said.

Your Assignment: Create a short skit that shows what happens when Brenda and Mark meet after Brenda discovers the he let her secret out.

Give two possible endings:

- Ends peacefully
- Ends in a disagreement

Scenario 1

First Graders

You and your sister are riding with your parents after church. As you are going to a restaurant, your sister begins to hit you with her seat belt. You respond by throwing one of your shoes at her. After a while, the disagreement escalates into both of you throwing punches, pulling hair, and pummeling each other.

Your Assignment: Create a short skit that shows what happens when you and your sister are at the height of your argument.

Give two possible endings:

- Ends peacefully
- Ends in a disagreement

Scenario 3

Third/Fourth Graders

Marcus had studied all evening for the spelling test. During the test, Rick whispered to Marcus to get help on a tough word. Marcus ignored Rick, so Rick whispered again. Mrs. Kirch has a zero-tolerance policy for cheating. After hearing Rick's second whisper, Mrs. Kirch ripped up both Marcus' and Rick's tests.

Your Assignment: Create a short skit that shows what happens when Marcus explains to Mrs. Kirch what happened.

Give two possible endings:

- Ends peacefully
- Ends in a disagreement

Additional Resources for Leaders

Understanding Conflict (*From Focus on the Family*)

These Five A's can resolve conflict. (*These simple steps will almost always lead to peace.*)

Children, like adults, can learn to confess their wrongs in a way that demonstrates they are taking full responsibility for their part in a conflict.

- **Admit what you did wrong.** Include both wrong desires and bad choices.
- **Apologize for how your choice affected the other person.** Express the sorrow you feel.
- **Accept the consequences for your wrongdoing** without argument or excuses.
- **Ask for forgiveness.**
- **Alter your choice in the future.** Think over and plan how you are going to act differently next time.

Notes on Being a Peacemaker:

Escape Responses: These responses are used to get away from a conflict instead of trying to resolve it. They delay healing.

- Denial – Pretending that a conflict does not exist or refusing to do what we can to work it out
- Blame Game – Blaming others for the problem, pretending we did nothing wrong, covering up what we did, lying
- Run Away – Prolonging the problem by running away from the other person

Attack Responses: These are wrong attempts to win a fight rather than resolve it. They damage a relationship further rather than repairing it.

- Put Downs – Attacking others with harsh and cruel words, stirring up anger in others
- Gossip – Talking about others behind their backs
- Fight – Using physical force to get our way

Work-It-Out Responses: These are the only good ways to respond to a conflict.

- Overlook an Offense – Dealing with an offense yourself by simply deciding to forgive a wrong
- Talk-It-Out – Going directly to the other person to talk out your disagreements
- Get Help – Asking a parent or teacher to help you decide how to handle the conflict you are involved in

Why conflict is an opportunity: By handling it right, we get a chance to glorify God, serve others and become better people.

Conflict is not necessarily bad or destructive. Even when conflict is caused by wrongdoing and causes a great deal of stress, it can lead to good. You can use conflict to:

- **Glorify God** (by trusting, obeying, and imitating him)
- **Serve other people** (by helping to bear their burdens or by confronting them in love)
- **Grow to be like Christ** (by confessing wrong and turning from attitudes that promote conflict)



A Discipleship Program For 1st -- 4th Graders

YEAR 3, LESSON 24

Bible Lesson: Secrets of Serving (Investing in the Eternal)

Jesus told us to be treasure hunters. In Matthew 6:19-34 he exalts spiritual "treasure." Then, in Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 he explains the story of the seed and the four soils.

We want to discover that rather than investing our time in pursuits that eventually fade away, we can commit our lives to God and invest in something eternal.

(Prepare a week ahead of time by cutting a sponge into the shape of a heart. Flatten it out by letting it dry under something very heavy.)

Show the dried sponge and ask: How is this dried sponge like somebody's real heart? How might busyness make a person's heart hard?

Now dip the sponge into water. Say: Sometimes when we allow our lives to become so busy that we

have no time to reflect or relax, our hearts become hard like this sponge. How was the way the sponge changed like the way God can change our hearts when we commit to him?

Yes, God can soften our hearts, and when he does, we can grow spiritually. Jesus used a story about four soils to represent different people's relationship to God. We are going to break up into our huddle groups for you to explore Jesus' story. See what you can discover in your group and we'll all report back in a few minutes.

(See the lesson supplement for huddle group discussion questions.)

Treasure Hunt: "Hidden Secrets of Serving"

In this unique treasure hunt, your class will follow clues that lead them to discover ways to serve. Divide the class up into four teams. Give them creative names. For example, you could name each one a color, such as, red team. And then, you COULD use "Spies," "Detectives," "Investigators," and "Agents." Plant

"clues" around the room. The clues for each team should be on their own color of paper. Lead each group to discover such things as: board needs cleaning, overheads need alphabetizing, floor needs vacuuming, or art table needs rearranging. Summarize with a discussion of ways we all can serve that show God's love to others.

QUIZ QUESTIONS

Q: Jesus told a story about four soils. Name the four types of soil.

A: The path, rocky places, among thorns, good soil.

Q: How much fruit did Jesus say the good soil produced?

A: 100, 60, or 30 times as much.

Q: In Jesus' story, what does the seed stand for?

A: God's word (the message about the Kingdom)

MEMORY VERSE:

Matthew 13:23 "But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty, or thirty times what was sown."



With God's help, we can all improve our serve.

“The Hard Ground”

(Matthew 13:1-4)

1. What does Jesus say the hard ground represents (Verse 19)? What eventually happened to the seed?
2. Read these Bible passages about people who fit into this category: Pharaoh (Exodus 10:24-29) and King Agrippa (Acts 26:24-28)
3. Based on these passages, what are three qualities of this type of person?
4. How might living a busy life contribute to someone being like hard ground?
5. Do you know anyone who fits this description? Have you ever fit it? When?

“The Thorny Ground”

(Matthew 13:1-4)

1. What does Jesus say the thorny ground represents (Verse 22)? What eventually happened to the seed?
2. Read these Bible passages about people who fit into this category: King Solomon (1 Kings 10:23-25) and the rich man (Luke 18:18-25)
3. Based on these passages, what are three qualities of this type of person?
4. How might living a busy life contribute to someone being like thorny ground?
5. Do you know anyone who fits this description? Have you ever fit it? When?

“The Rocky Ground”

(Matthew 13:5-6)

1. What does Jesus say the rocky ground represents? (Verses 20-21) What eventually happened to the seed?
2. Read these Bible passages about people who fit into this category: King Saul (1 Samuel 15:17-23) and Judas Iscariot (Luke 22:1-6).
3. Based on these passages, what are three qualities of this type of person?
4. How might living a busy life contribute to someone being like rocky ground?
5. Do you know anyone who fits this description? Have you ever fit it? When?

“The Good Ground”

(Matthew 13:8)

1. What does Jesus say the good ground represents (Verse 23)? What eventually happened to the seed?
2. Read these Bible passages about people who fit into this category: Daniel (Daniel 6:1-5) and Joseph (Genesis 39:21-23)
3. Based on these passages, what are three qualities of this type of person?
4. How might living a busy life contribute to someone being like good ground?
5. Do you know anyone who fits this description? Have you ever fit it? When?



A Discipleship Program For 1st -- 4th Graders

YEAR 3, LESSON 25

Bible Lesson: The Tabernacle (OT Church) *God's Idea*

Sacrificial Worship

When you give a gift to someone you love, a family member or a friend, you would like to give them something they like right? Because you want to make them happy and tell them you love them.

Explain: When we give to God, we also want to bring something that pleases Him. What do you think God like to receive from us? (allow answers)

The O.T. Tabernacle was all about worship. Part of the worship was praise and thanksgiving through singing and dancing, but also a big part of the worship in the tabernacle happened through sacrifices.

The Israelites brought animals (*hold a toy lamb*) and different types of food to the tabernacle as offerings and sacrifices to God.

Apply:

Though we do not bring animal sacrifices anymore, part of our praise is still to give to God. When we come to worship we must always bring thanks to God, and that is the only appropriate way to approach our King. But we can always give other things to God.

Why does God want us to give to Him if He doesn't need it? God is interested in our hearts, and He wants us to love Him more than anything else.

QUIZ QUESTIONS

Q: Why does God want us to give to Him?

A: He wants our heart to be fully His.

Q: What does giving do to our worship?

A: By action we show that we mean what we say.

MEMORY VERSE:

Psalm 86:12, "I will praise you, Lord my God, with all my heart; I will glorify your name forever."



Object Lesson: Drink Lemon Juice

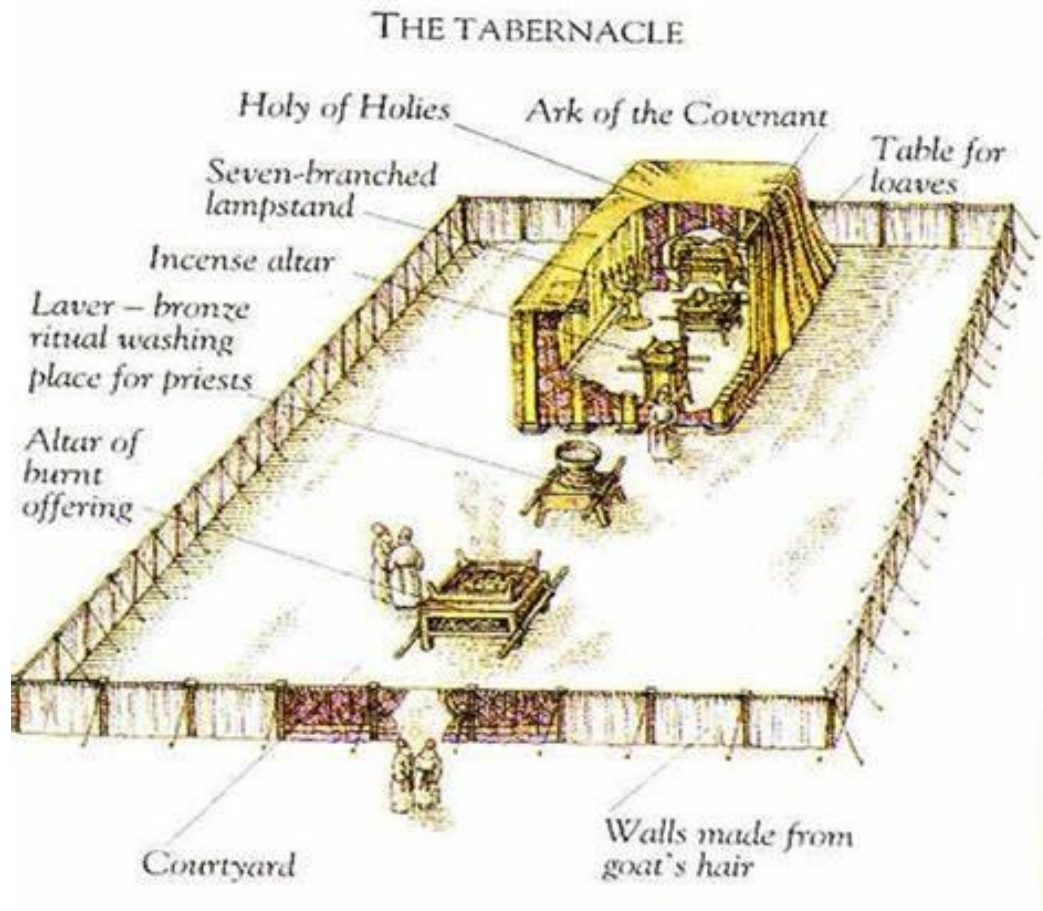
Before the session, buy a bottle of pure lemon juice and have two small bathroom cups. To illustrate how the sacrifice that Jesus made was for our benefit, ask for two

volunteers who will come up and drink pure lemon juice with no sugar added. If they drink it, they will get a piece of candy, but they have to give the candy to a friend. This will demonstrate how one person's sacrifice benefits someone else.

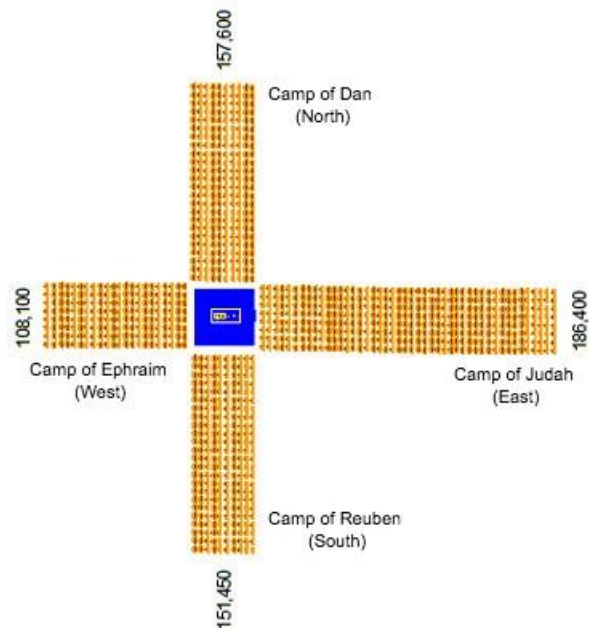
**God wants
our heart to
be fully His.**

Year 3, Lesson 25 Supplement

Use these illustrations as you teach your class about the Tabernacle. The animal sacrifices were symbolic pictures of Jesus' death on the cross.



Explain to your class that the Israelites were instructed by God to camp in tribe groups North, South, East, and West of the Levites (*who camped around the Tabernacle*). This means that an aerial view of their camp would look like a cross.





A Discipleship Program For 1st -- 4th Graders

YEAR 3, LESSON 26

Bible Lesson: Communion (*Luke 22:17-20*)

Jesus' Idea

Communion is a very important tradition for Christians. Jesus introduced this idea to the disciples right before he went to the cross. They were all sitting down for a meal when Jesus told them a story. He used food and drink from the table to teach the lesson. Jesus picked up some bread and broke it into smaller pieces and said, "This is my body that will be broken for you." Then he picked up the drink and said, "This is my blood that will be spilled for you."

Key Points:

- Communion is when Christians eat bread and drink grape juice at church.
- Jesus invented communion all the way back in the New Testament times.
- In communion, the bread stands for Jesus' body and the drink stands for His blood.
- Communion helps us remember that Jesus is the center of it all.

Have a Communion Service

Before the session, prepare in prayer. (Ask your pastor if the church allows you to serve communion to the children & ask him to pray for the event)

Prepare the table: You could serve communion picnic style on a cloth or blanket with the elements in a wicker basket. Serve pita bread on a plate. Have small plastic cups for the juice. (ask kids to wash their hands before sitting down.)

Approach: Serve communion after the regular worship time. Have music playing quietly in the background. Ask a few children to read the communion passage. Lead them in prayer. Break the bread into small pieces and pass it to the children to eat. (remind them what it stands for)

Serve the grape juice and pass the cups. (remind them what it stands for). Talk about worshipping Jesus.

QUIZ QUESTIONS

Q: Who invented communion?

A: Jeus-back in the New Testament.

Q: What does the bread and juice stand for?

A: Bread = His Body

Joice = His blood

MEMORY VERSE:

**Luke 22:19b,
"This is my body,
which is given for
you. Do this in
remembrance of
me."**



**With
Communion
we remember
what Jesus did
for us on the
cross.**

Photocopy this page on stiff paper for your class. Cut out the bookmarks and let your students color them and take them home to help remember today's lesson.

