

What Is A Church?

Directions for Teachers

Lesson Prep:

Read through these directions ahead of time to get a clear idea of how to lead the class.

Print enough copies of the following pages so that each child in your class can have their own papers.

Getting Started:

As you hand out the worksheets to the kids, explain to the children a little about our team and the work that we are doing in Cameroon, West Africa. You might consider showing them on a map where Cameroon is.

Read the first page ("What is a Church?") together with the children, and talk a little bit about what it means to "plant churches".

Explain to the kids about how poor the people are in many of the villages where we are sending church planters. Help them to understand that it is not at all possible for these villages to build a church and furnish it with everything that an American church might have in it. For this reason, it is very important that we look through all the things we have in our churches and really think carefully about what things we can do without and which things are ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL in order for a church to exist.

Also explain to the kids that in some parts of the world it is dangerous to have a church. People can get arrested for going to church. So because of this, there are many churches in the world today that do not even look like a church, but it can still be considered a church, even if they don't have all the things on the list

Doing the Activity:

Once the kids understand our reasoning for questioning what is needed in order to have a church, now work with them to look through the page of pictures and to circle the items that they agree are the most important things to have in the church. At first they might be under the impression that EVERYTHING on that page is necessary. In this case, help them think through each item and question whether or not it is still possible to have a church without that item.

For example, they may think it necessary that a church has a pastor. Now you can ask them, "What if the pastor gets thrown into jail for preaching about Jesus? Does that mean the church is finished? Or can the people in the church still continue to have a church even without their pastor?

Another example might be if the kids think it necessary to have a piano in church. Then you might ask them what would happen if no one in the church knew how to play the piano, would they have to cancel church because there was no piano music? Or could they have church even without a piano?

Test each option and allow the kids to really think through it all and question each item thoroughly.

The Goal:

The goal for this illustration is not to end up with a "perfect list" in the end. The kids might decide that something is essential even if you yourself think otherwise. Or they might think something is NOT essential, when you know it is. But either way, it's okay, so long as they have given a great deal of thought and have discussed it and agreed together as a group. Your goal, as the teacher, is to get the kids thinking about what a church *really* is, and what it would take to plant a church in a poor village, or in an area of the world where there is persecution.

Conclusion:

Consider ending the class by reading some of the passages about the early church in Bible times, such as Acts 2:41-47, Hebrews 10:25, Ephesians 5:19-20, 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 1 Corinthians 14:26, etc.

What Is A Church?



Our team works to train people to go and plant churches among people who have never heard about Jesus. These people have never been to church before and do not even have a church near them.



When we think about planting churches it is very important to ask the question: What is a church?

Maybe you can help us! Look through all the pictures on the next page and circle all the things that are **ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL** to have in a church.

What Do We NEED In Order To Have A Church?



Ushers



A Church Building



Holy Spirit



Church Bell



Cross



Worship Team



Offering/Money



Flowers



Youth Group



Clock (Schedule)



Church Clothes



Sound System

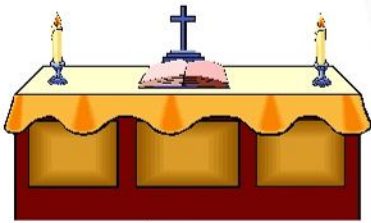
Pastor



Overhead Projector



Communion



Altar



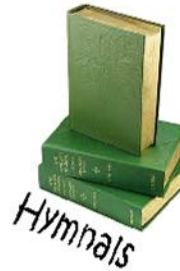
Music



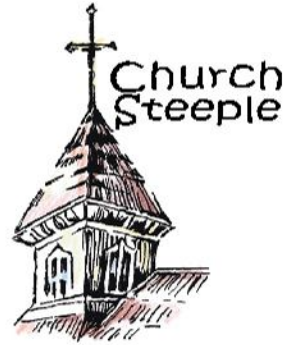
Pews



Sunday School



Hymnals



Church Steeple



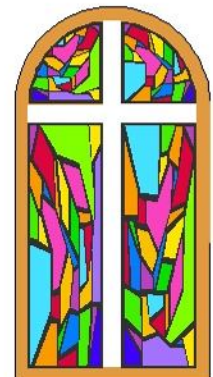
God's Word



People



Parking Lot



Stained Glass Windows



Chairs



Microphone



Prayer



Candles



Potlucks



Picture of Jesus



Piano/Instruments



Choir



Church Program (Bulletin)



Pulpit



Bible Studies