



Date: _____
Series: Aliens in a Strange Land
Fall Year 4 Lesson 27

You Are The Building of Christ

Primary Scripture: Ephesians 2:20-22, 4:15-16

Key Verse: Ephesians 2:22, "Through him you, also, are being built in the Spirit together with others into a place where God lives."

How does this address a need in our kids' lives?

Kids need to belong. They need to fit in. This is not only true of their school and family setting, but also true of church. They need to know that they are the church connected together with other believers. This connection is vital for spiritual growth. Without it, they would be, "*tossed and carried about by all different kinds of teachings that change like the wind.*" (Ephesians 4:14) With Christ as their cornerstone, however, kids are fashioned as part of the living temple of God on earth.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Through his forgiveness, we are connected to Jesus as our chief cornerstone and to one another.

Jesus in us: He gives us his spirit so that we can be built together as his church and filled with his presence.

Jesus through us: Jesus uses us as a church, working together to love the world in his name, as a powerful witness that makes the gospel come alive.

Stamp of Excellence:

Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.



Worship

Invocation:

Let kids bring forward the worship symbols, such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Attention Grabber:

Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.

Supplies: building tools such as a hardhat, hammer, nail bag, saw, brick, trowel, etc.

Come out with these tools and building materials and announce:

Let's build a church today. What do you think are some of the things we will need? I have some of those things with me. Can you list some for me?

Get participation from the audience.

Now we are ready to build the church, right?

Have another adult in the audience interrupt with the following:

That's not what you need to build a church.

Then say:

Does anybody know why? *(Possible answer: because we already have a church. Surprise them with another answer.)*

The church is not a building. The church is the people. Here is the church.

Pull several children onto the stage.

If I were to build a church, I would build these people spiritually. As they are filled with God's presence in their lives, the church becomes a mighty church. Can this church *building* sing? Of course not. Can this church *here* sing? Motion toward the kids. Of course it can. The church is you and me. Let's give God our worship and praise as his church.

Songs of Worship:

Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!

Your choice of music.

The Power of the Cross:

Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.

Have three kids come forward. Say:

I have three building units or parts of the church here. Take a good look at them and let me ask you this. Are these building blocks of the church perfect? True or false? Pause and answer: False. They are not perfect, just ask them.

Are these parts perfect for God's needs, wants and use? Yes, even though they have some faults or have made mistakes. This is because God takes us as we are and through the power of Jesus, who takes away our sin, he sees us as perfect in his eyes. We are just what he needs to build a church that will help reach other people with the message that God loves them.

Are you part of his church? Let's pray that he will use us even if we are not perfect.

Dear God, we remember ways that we have not been a perfect part of your church. We think of ways that we have disobeyed you or others. We think of ways we have not shown love or kindness to you by not showing love and kindness to others. Pause. We admit we are not perfect but we are thankful that you accept us even with our failures. Thank you that you accept us just as we are because of your Son Jesus. In Jesus' name, we ask your forgiveness. Now use us to serve you as your holy building where your Holy Spirit lives. Use us to connect together as your holy building, the church, a building of people. Then fill us with your Holy Spirit. Amen.

Song of Response:

Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.

Offering:

Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.

Use a hardhat or other building-related prop to collect the offering.

We bring our offerings to the Lord because a little bit of money from a few people does not go very far. But when all of us put our money together, we can do many wonderful things. For example, our money has gone to help others in...(list some of the mission projects.) This is how the building or church of Christ's people works together, by sharing their gifts with each other.

Safety and Security: Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.



The Word

Learning Game:

Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.

Supplies: heavy tape to mark the floor

Building Builders

In advance, use the tape to make a line in the center of the room.

This game is flexible. It can be done with a varying number of kids, depending on the space in the room and kids available. You will need at least two groups of four as described below (but there can be more) and several other kids on the other side of the line ready to be building parts that are retrieved.

Today you will all participate in moving buildings. These moving buildings are made up of groups of kids, locked together with elbows so that a circle is formed. But the people making up the circle are facing the outside. Do you think it will be hard to walk that way keeping everyone's arms still locked together? It is. I hope you can do it because you have a special mission.

We will start with groups of four, and when you link arms, you become moving buildings. These buildings need to get new parts so they can get bigger. The new parts are sitting on the floor scattered on the other side of the line.

When I say "go," the buildings, with arms linked and facing outward, move as a unit and surround the new building part. They must step over the new part to surround it, but must not break the link in their arms. Once the new part is successfully in the center of the circle, that part must stand up and move within the building, back over the line to where the building started.

Once this is done successfully, the center person then can join arms with those on the outside of the building. Now the building has

grown and can move back into the area to get another part or person and grow once again. The biggest building in the end wins.

If anyone falls down during the process, the rest of the group can unlink their arms and help them up, but then the group must leave the newest building part, go back across the line to the starting point, and return to pick up the dropped part.

After the game has gone on for some time and it is easy to distinguish natural leaders, appoint one voice in each circle to be the only voice that directs the group. This spokesperson will direct the group in ways to move that will be helpful. This voice reminds us of Jesus who is a guide for us as the one cornerstone. This is the one who is the strongest and everything must rest on him.

Teaching point:

Read Ephesians 2:20-22 and say:

In the building of Christ, we are all linked together. We have a very strong purpose and that is to invite other people into our building. When someone falls down, other people will stop and pick them up.

Bible Presentation:

Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.

Supplies needed: video clip from the film, Toy Story, produced by Walt Disney Video—order from: http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B0009MAO46/ref=pd_sl_aw_flat-hi_ush05dvd_12369473_2/104-6208527-3702329?n=130

Begin the clip 1:02 after the opening title when Sid is preparing to launch the rocket. He says, “Launch pad being constructed.”

For a short version:

Show video for five minutes until the end of the sequence of the toys scaring Sid. This concludes with Buzz shaking Woody’s hand and saying, “Woody, thanks.”

For the long version:

Let the scene continue for another five minutes when the rest of the toys use their talents to help in the rescue. This scene concludes when Buzz and Woody land in the seat next to Andy’s in the car and he says, “See, what did I tell you? Right where you left them.”

After the video, say:

Let’s list some of the different jobs the different toys could do while they all helped each other.

Let's take a tour around the church and think of the different jobs that people do to help represent Jesus to the world. Some of those jobs might be: praying, teaching, welcoming, ushering, music, and helping in the nursery.

Tour the church and take notes. Then read Ephesians 4:15-16 and continue with:

Other jobs that happen outside the church are just as important. Praying, encouraging others, inviting friends to church, and visiting nursing homes are some things people can be doing outside of the church. Things that people can do at home include helping neighbors when they need it.

Can you give me an example of what some of those helps might be?
(Collecting toys and giving them to people in need. Helping a friend with homework, standing up for a kid who's picked on, choose others.)



Witness and Tell:

Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.

Have kids share different ways they have helped the church grow through service or inviting others. You may elaborate by mentioning spiritual gifts some kids already demonstrate, like the gift of mercy, prayer, encouragement, evangelism, etc.

Prayer:

Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.

Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Line Option:** Kids line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone to speak their prayers briefly.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Adults or children with special prayer needs are invited to sit in the chairs. Kids gather around them, lay hands on their shoulders or knees and take turns praying.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and turns it toward kids who are raising their hands to pray. The kids speak their prayers into the microphone.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with you.

Blessing:

Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.

Song of Sending:

Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.

Supplies:

Attention Grabber:

- building tools such as a hardhat, hammer, nail bag, saw, brick, trowel, etc

Learning Game:

- heavy tape to mark the floor

Bible Presentation:

- video clip from the film *Toy Story*, produced by Walt Disney Video, ASIN: B0009MAO46—order from:
http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B0009MAO46/ref=pd_sl_aw_flat-hi_ush05dvd_12369473_2/104-6208527-3702329?n=130