

Get Ready!

God's House

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Text

I Samuel 1:20-28; 2:11, 18-21, 26; 3:1-21

Key Quest Verse

“Let us go to the house of the Lord.” Psalm 122:1

Bible Background

The church was established to evangelize, teach and baptize (Matthew 28:18-20). Paul taught that the church is Christ's body (I Corinthians 12) and Jesus is our head (Colossians 1:18). When we all get together, we are members of Christ's body working together to get His business done in the church. We are partners in the business of reclaiming a lost world.

“The Christian church is not a static institution. It is men and women who flesh out in daily life the meaning of faith, the reality of the risen Christ” (Myron S. Augsburger). It is God's desire that His church meet regularly to grow in relationship with Him and His Son, and to encourage one another, spurring each other on toward love and good deeds.” (Hebrews 10:23)

Get Ready!**Lesson Quest**

What I want my students to:

Know: It is important to go to church

Feel: Love for their church

Do: Show respect for their church

Leader's Devotion

In a certain mountain village in Europe several centuries ago (so the story goes), a nobleman wondered what legacy to leave his townspeople. At last he decided to build them a church. Nobody saw the complete plans until the church was finished. When the people gathered they marveled at its beauty. But someone noticed something immediately. "Where are the lamps?" he asked. "How will the church be lighted?"

The nobleman smiled. Then he gave each family a lamp. "Each time you are here, the area in which you sit will be lighted. But when you are not here, some part of God's house will be dark." (adapted June Masters Bacher)

Today we live in a world of darkness, a darkness in which even our secular problem solvers (Dr. Phil, Oprah, etc.) are beginning to stumble. Where do people turn for the light and the warmth? Christians know who the Light of the World is! We know that it is our duty to carry the light into the world. Romans 2:19 tells us that we, as Christians, are "a light for those who are in the dark."

But the world is so big! And our lamp is so small! Yes, but we can light some small part each day! We live in a society where we feel we need to light a bonfire in order to be noticed or to make a difference. Have you ever noticed that the person who made a big difference in your life only had to light the fire, and most likely never realized that they did?

Don't worry about yesterday's ashes or where you will get the wood for tomorrow's fire. The world can't give you long lasting fuel. Join your church family on a regular basis and receive oil for your lamp by filling it with God's Word, worship, fellowship, and encouragement from one another.

Get Set!

Option A

Materials: None

Procedure: What are some of the different things we do when we come to church? (sing, pray, read the Bible, etc.) I am going to tell you a story today about a little boy who lived in God's house. Listen carefully as I tell you more about him.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

**Option B**

Materials: None

Procedure: Teach the classic finger play, "Here is the church." The motions are as follows:

Here is the church Place hands out in front of you with backs together, intertwine the fingers and bring your hands down and around with your thumbs up, closest to you.

Here is the steeple Put your first fingers up to form a steeple

Open the doors Move your thumbs to the side to reveal your fingers

And see all the people Flip your hands down so that the intertwined fingers are showing

That was fun wasn't it? What are some of the things we do in church? Our story today is about a boy who grew up in God's house, which is like our church. What do you think he did in God's house? Listen carefully as I tell you all about this little boy.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Get Set!**Bible Story**

Teacher Tip: Provide markers for students to highlight portions of the story in their Bibles

Materials: Glass, dust cloth, candle, scroll (These materials are optional, but would make the story more interesting to the students)

Our story today is about a little boy named Samuel. Can you say Samuel? (let them say it with you) **When Samuel was very young, he came to live in God's house. He lived there with a priest, who was much like our pastor, Pastor _____** (your pastor's name). **what do you think Samuel did in God's house?** (let them offer some guesses) **I think he probably helped the priest by filling his glass with something cool to drink.** (Bring out the glass from your story bag) **He may also have helped keep things clean in God's house by dusting them off.** (Bring out the dusting cloth and go through the motions of dusting things in the room.) **Since they did not have electric lights, Samuel may have helped light candles or lamps for them to see inside God's house.** (Bring out the candle from your bag.)

Living in God's house was a very good thing for Samuel. One thing Samuel could do was listen to God's Word being read every day. (Bring out the scroll) **Just think of how many things Samuel learned about God as he listened to God's Word. Samuel would talk to God in prayer everyday with the priest and by himself.** (Fold your hands together in prayer.) **I think Samuel got to know God very well while he lived there in God's house. The Bible tells us that Samuel grew up to be a very important leader of God's people. Samuel became a man who spoke God's Word to His people. God's house was a very good place for Samuel to learn about God and to grow up to serve Him.**

Go!**Our Church****FIELD TRIP****Materials:** None**Quest Connection**

In advance of your class, inform the other teachers that you are going to be taking your children on a field trip through the church. Tell the children that you are going to go on a field trip. Remind them that they need to be quiet because there are others who are in their classes learning about God's Word.

Procedure: Lead the children through the church, pointing out things that will help them understand the important things that take place at church, such as:

Other classrooms— Here otherwise learn important things about God and His Son, Jesus

Sanctuary:

Song books— We use these to sing songs of praise and worship

Offering Plate— We collect money so that we can have this nice church

Pulpit— This is where our pastor stands to teach us from God's Word

Bulletin Board— Point out some of the activities of the church

Kitchen— This is where we prepare food for dinners, parties, etc.

Nursery— this is a place for babies. It is good to come to church from the time you are born. Do you remember coming to the nursery?

Include any other areas that may be a part of your church. (library, fellowship hall, etc.)

Close

I am so proud of our church building! What are some of the things that you can do to help take care of it?

Go!**Three-D Church****ARTS AND CRAFTS**

Materials: Seven inch paper plates, worksheet “Three-D Church”, crayons, scissors

Quest Connection

Hold up worksheet. **Who can tell me what this says? Let’s say it together. “Let us go into the house of the Lord.” We are going to make something that you can take home to help you remember that it is important that we visit God’s house as often as possible!**

Procedure: Color and cut out the church and the circle scene. Glue the circle scene to the inside of a seven inch paper plate. Cut out the two strips of paper. Place the ends of the paper strip together as shown. fold one over the other. Repeat to ends to make the paper “spring” close ends of spring by gluing. Then glue one end of the spring to the back of the church. glue the other end to the middle of the scene. This makes the church stand out. Hole punch to holes and add yarn so that the students can hang the picture up.

Close

When you go home today, find a nice place to hang your picture. When everyone in your house sees it, they will remember how important it is to go to church.

Go!



Church Leaders

GUEST QUEST

Materials: Invite your pastor and one each of your church deacons, trustees, and elders to speak with your class

Quest Connection

In the lesson of the church body, Paul instructed the Corinthian church in how they all formed one body in Christ. Instead of being jealous of one another's talents, they were to recognize that we can each contribute to the body of Christ. In addition, he speaks about how God has appointed different roles throughout the church. Church leaders all have different roles to fulfill. Today, students will learn more about leadership roles in the church body.

Procedure: Before class, tell your guests the lesson text and key quest verse that your students have been studying. In addition, give them a copy of the following questions so that they have time to prepare for the class. In class, ask your guests to share the following information (also allow time for students to ask their own questions):

1. How did you become interested in becoming a pastor (deacon/trustee/elder)?
2. Is there someone who inspired you to become involved in the church?
3. How did you assume this position (appointed/voted/etc)?
4. What do you do in your leadership role?
5. How do the things that you do help the church body meet its goals?
6. What is your favorite thing about your role in the church?
7. What are ways kids can become involved in the church body?
8. Do you have a favorite Bible story or verse you would like to share with us?
9. What advice would you give to someone who wanted to become involved in the church body?

Close

Have the class recite the memory verse for the guest. Then, ask one of the guests to close with prayer.

*Go!***I Love Church****ARTS AND CRAFTS**

Materials: Worksheet “I Love Church”, straws, markers or crayons, tape

Quest Connection

Do you remember our story about Samuel and how he grew up in God’s house? Our church is just as important to you as well. Go around the class and have students finish this statement, “I love church because_____.” You should begin in order to give them an example. Examples: “I love church because I can learn about God and Jesus.”, “I love church because the people there are nice.”, etc. Give the students a chance to finish the statement.

Today we are going to make a banner that you can take home to remind you to always love church.

Procedure: Give each student a copy of the worksheet and let them color it. Attach the “banner” to the straw with tape.

Close

Let’s wave our banners as we say our special verse “Let us go into the house of the Lord.”

Pray with the class encouraging the children to say the following: **Thank you God for church where we can _____.** Fill in the blank with some of the things you said earlier.

Go!**Pretend Church****DRAMA****Materials:** None**Quest Connection**

Many people help God in His church. Can you think of someone who helps God? What does this person do to help God? Now let's play church.

Procedure: Use ideas according to the way your church is organized and the procedures during your worship service and/or Sunday School. Have a student play the minister, deacons, song leader. set up chairs like church pews or what ever is appropriate for your church. If your classroom is setup with centers, leave this activity up for free play.

Close

Someday you will be one of the people that we pretended to be. God is happy when we can find ways to serve Him in church. Which of the jobs you pretended to do did you like the most?

Go!**This Is the Way**

MUSIC

Materials: None

**Quest Connection**

We do so many different activities when we come to church. We are going to sing a song about them. I want you to help me make up some verses!

Procedure: Sing to the tune of “This Is The Way We Wash Our Clothes”

This is the way we go to church (march in place)

go to church

go to church

This is the way we go to church

every Sunday morning!

Add other verses such as: pray in church, sing in church, read our Bibles, etc.

Close

We do so many different activities when we come to church. which is your favorite?

Share with the class your favorite activity. this would be a good time to review about the proper way to take of our church and the way to behave while we are in worship service.

Draw your family going to church.

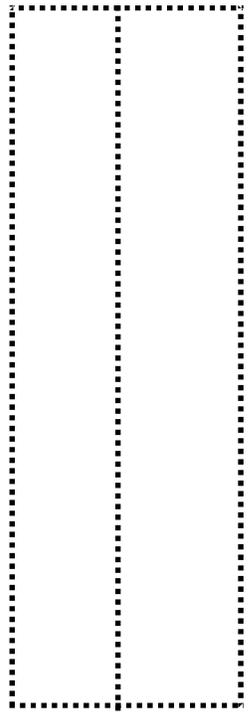


“Let us go to the house of the Lord.” Psalm 122:1

Let us go into



the house of the Lord,





Journal Page

**When I grow up, I would like to
serve God by . . .**

