

Green County Church of Christ Vacation Bible School – 2014

Lesson Three: The Truth About...

“The Church of Christ”



“You will know the truth and the truth will set you free.”

Jesus Christ - John 8:32

Primary Series Aim: Students will know what the Bible teaches about subjects necessary for a correct understanding of the Truth about them.

Secondary Series Aim: Students will demonstrate skill in their understanding of the Truth with a view toward defending it.

Lesson Three Aim: Students will understand what the Bible teaches about the nature and organization of the church of Christ He died for and established on Pentecost A. D. 33.

Lesson Plan:

First Session (30 minutes):

Discussion
Questions
Activities

Second Session (25 minutes):

Review
Testing
Crafts

Memory Verses for Today: “There is one body and one Spirit...”
“And He is the head of the body, the church...” – Ephesians 4:4;
Colossians 1:18.

SATAN WANTS YOU TO BELIEVE:

- “Church” is not important. It is something to do once in a while.
- There are all kinds of churches to pick from. God accepts them all.
- Being a member of a church has nothing to do with salvation. You can be saved and never be a member of any church.
- “Church” is all about people having fun, enjoying amusing worship and entertaining activities.

GOD WANTS YOU TO BELIEVE:

- Jesus died to purchase His church, so it is vitally important be part of it.
- The church of Christ is the One Body of Christ on earth. It is not, nor did He ever mean it to be, split into various denominations having differing teachings. Jesus meant it to be unified in all ways and in all things.
- When anyone is saved the Bible way, Jesus adds them to His church. No one joins anything. There is no personal choice involved.
- The church of Christ is to continue Christ’s work on earth by proclaiming the good news about Jesus’ love and sacrifice to the whole world and for its members to live according to God’s standards of righteousness. It was *not* meant to serve as a concert hall, amusement park, arcade, or circus.

Satan has clouded and confused the minds of many, many, people over the centuries through false ideas and teaching by those who claim to be Christians. He has led them to believe the church of Christ is something it is not. It has now become a way to draw people in to get money from them and power over them. They think church membership is not tied to salvation but is a matter of personal choice in joining one. Nothing could be further from the Truth!

The church of Christ is the “wife” of Christ so there can only be one! (Ephesians 5:23-32). If we are to be *Agents of Truth*, we must use the New Testament to identify it, then be saved to be added to it by Jesus (Acts 2:47), and then carry the Truth into the whole world (Matthew 28:19, 20).

TODAY'S TEXTS FOR STUDY: Matthew 16:18; Acts 2:47; Acts 11:26; Acts 14:23, 27; Acts 15:4, 22; Acts 20:17, 28 1 Corinthians 1:10; 1 Corinthians 12:27, 28; Ephesians 4:4; Colossians 1:18; 1 Timothy 3:15. Note: Some of these verses indicate 1) Jesus established only ONE church, 2) Churches are led by qualified men called "elders," and 3) the church is God's instrument for the salvation of the world through the work of its members. Please emphasize these.

- **Matthew 16:18** – Jesus would found HIS church.
- **Acts 2:47** – Jesus adds people to HIS church. Nobody joins it.
- **Acts 11:26** – People were first called 'Christians' at the Antioch church.
- **Acts 14:23, 27** – The Apostles placed "elders" in every church. This was a group of men qualified to pastor a church (**1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9**).
- **Acts 15:4, 22** – THE church in Jerusalem welcomed Paul and Barnabas.
- **Acts 20:17, 28** – THE elders of Ephesus met Paul at Miletus for him to warn and encourage them to remain faithful. Jesus' blood purchased the church.
- **1 Corinthians 1:10** – Paul urges Christians to be united, not splintered.
- **1 Corinthians 12:27, 28** – Christians are members of the body of Christ whom God has given different leadership roles and gifts.
- **Ephesians 4:4** – There is ONE body (of Christ); therefore ONE church.
- **Colossians 1:18** – Jesus Christ is the (only) Head of the church.
- **1 Timothy 3:15** – The church is the pillar and ground of the Truth.

SPECIAL WORDS IN THE TEXTS*

- CHURCH – ἐκκλησία (EKKLESIA) – "a calling out: assembly, church."
- ELDERS – πρεσβύτερος (PRESBUTEROS) – "older, a senior, presbyter."
- DIVISIONS – σχίσμα (SCHISMA) – "a split, division, rent, schism."
- CHRISTIANS – Χριστιανός – (CHRISTIANOS) – "follower of Christ"

*Definitions and images taken from Strong's Talking Greek & Hebrew Dictionary.

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS:

1. WHAT DID JESUS SAY HE WOULD BUILD? (MATTHEW 16:18)
____ A. BOAT
____ B. HOUSE
____ C. CHURCH ←

2. HOW MANY CHURCHES DID JESUS BUILD? (MATTHEW 16:18)
____ A. ONE ←
____ B. TWO
____ C. MANY

3. WHAT IS JESUS TO THE CHURCH? (COLOSSIANS 1:18)
____ A. ELDER
____ B. POPE
____ C. HEAD ←

4. WHAT CAUSED MANY CHURCHES TO APPEAR? (1 COR. 1:10)
____ A. ANGELS
____ B. DIVISIONS ←
____ C. GOD

5. WHAT GROUP OF MEN DID PAUL APPOINT IN CHURCHES? (ACTS 14:23)
____ A. DEACONS
____ B. REVERENDS
____ C. ELDERS ←

6. WHAT WERE BELIEVERS CALLED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT? (ACTS 11:26)
____ A. CHRISTIANS ←
____ B. CATHOLICS
____ C. PROTESTANTS

7. THE CHURCH IS WHAT IN RELATION TO THE TRUTH? (1 TIM. 3:15)
____ A. BEACON OF LIGHT
____ B. HERALD AND TRUMPETEER
____ C. PILLAR AND GROUND ←

ACTIVITIES

THE OBJECT USED IN THIS LESSON IS THE **FLASHLIGHT**. FLASHLIGHTS SHOW THE WAY THROUGH DARKNESS. THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IS THE MEANS BY WHICH THE LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL SHINES TO THE WORLD, SHOWING IT THE TRUE PATH TO GOD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST.

HIDDEN OBJECT

BEFORE CLASS BEGINS, HIDE AN OBJECT (A SMALL BIBLE, A FIGURINE, A KEY, ETC.) SOMEWHERE IN THE ROOM. TURN OUT THE LIGHT AND ONE BY ONE LET EACH STUDENT USE A FLASHLIGHT TO SEARCH FOR THE OBJECT. SET A TIME LIMIT ON IT (A MINUTE OR SO). WHOEVER FINDS IT GETS A BONUS (WHATEVER SPECIAL PRIZE YOU WANT TO GIVE).

Maze Game

CREATE SEVERAL MAZE PUZZLE SHEETS AND GIVE ONE OUT TO EACH STUDENT. GIVE EACH STUDENT A SMALL FLASHLIGHT AND A PENCIL. TURN OUT THE LIGHT. USING THE FLASHLIGHT TO SEE THEIR PAPER, THEY FIND THEIR WAY OUT OF THE MAZE. YOU CAN PRETEND THIS IS A TRAP OR ELSE THEY ARE LOST IN A HOSTILE PLACE AND NEED TO FIND THEIR WAY TO SAFETY.

TESTING

HAVE EACH STUDENT PREPARE AN 'EXIT SLIP' (A SLIP OF PAPER DESCRIBING ONE OR MORE THINGS THEY LEARNED FROM THE CLASS). WHEN THEY ALL ARE FINISHED, EACH ONE TAKES THEIR TURN READING IT TO THE CLASS AND MAKING COMMENTS (IF DESIRED).