

Gentiles Became Part of the Church

The Gospel Project: Unit 32 Session 3

Acts 11

Midweek Bible Lesson

Week of February 16th, 2025

Christ Connection: Even though some people tried to stop it, the gospel spread throughout the earth- not only to Jews but also to Gentiles. The good news about Jesus is for everyone. God calls us to celebrate when others believe and help them know and love Jesus more.

Big Picture Question: PS: What is the church? The church is all Christians everywhere. Elem: What is the church? The church is all Christians everywhere, who gather together in their communities to worship and serve God.

Memory Verse: PS: Like a body has many parts, the church has many people who work together. 1 Corinthians 12:12; Elem: Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. 1 Corinthians 12:12

Spiritual Discipline: Fellowship

Leader Bible Study: This week we enter our third session on fellowship. We will be helping kids as the question: Where do we fellowship? Fellowship can happen anywhere that believers are gathered. The Bible does not require us to be in a special place or have a special routine to talk about the things of God.

However, we also want kids to understand that God intends for the church to gather together, fully committed to worshipping, serving, and learning about Him with others. We want kids to understand that church buildings and meeting spaces can and will

look different, and that's great. The important part is that people are regularly gathering together for the purpose of growing in their faith through worship, Bible study, and service.

As we teach kids about fellowship, it's important to realize that our culture prizes individuality. The world does not value the community of the church. Prioritizing gathering together as the church won't happen if we all just go with the flow of our day. We want to help the kids we lead understand that God's encouragement to take part in a church community is not a legalistic requirement, but rather a gift that results in fellowship and growth.

Read Colossians 3:16. Church is a place where "the word of Christ dwell(s) richly among you." Church is a place where we remind one another of the gospel. Church is a place where we sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God with gratitude in our hearts. Is it the only place these actions occur? No. But isn't it wonderful to have a set-apart location that we can enter knowing that these expectations will be met? As you prepare to lead this week, thank God for the gift of His church and ask Him to help you pass on the truth of its beauty and importance to its youngest members.

[Welcome](#)

Sing Worship Songs

Guess the Drawing

Materials: paper, pencils, and scissors

Give each kid three slips of paper and something to write with. Lead them to write a person, place, or object from the Bible on each slip. Guide them to fold the pieces of paper and place them in the cup. Pick one person to be *it*. She will grab a piece of paper from the cup, read it to herself, and then have one minute to draw it out either on a large piece of paper or a dry erase board. As she is drawing,

everyone is free to shout out answers until someone calls out the correct answer. She will keep drawing objects from the cup to illustrate until the minute is up. Continue until everyone has a turn.

Plan a Party

Materials: none

We are learning about fellowship during this unit and one way to practice fellowship is to throw a party! Gather the kids in a circle. Explain that you are going to play an alphabet game to find out what everyone is bringing to the party. The first person will say his name and an item that begins with the letter *A* that he will bring to the party. He will finish by saying, “*I’m inviting (another person in the circle).*” Whoever he names will go next. So, the whole turn would sound like, “*My name is Liam. I’m bringing apples, and I’m inviting Mia.*” Then it would be Mia’s turn, and she would name an item beginning with the letter *B*. Continue until kids complete the alphabet. For an added challenge, instruct players to repeat all of the items that have been said leading up to their turn.

Stop the Bus

Materials: paper and pencil

Give each kid a piece of paper and something to write with. Lead kids to draw five columns on their paper and label them with the headings: *game, sport, hobby, food, and place*. One person will think through the alphabet silently until another says, “stop the bus!” The letter the person was thinking of becomes the first letter for the words in each category. Give 30 seconds for everyone to write their answers. For every correct answer, award 5 points. If a kid has more than one answer per round, he scores double points. Whoever has the most points at the end of the game wins.

[Learn About Fellowship](#)

Review Spiritual Disciplines

Materials: none

Ask, ***“Who can tell me why we gather together during this time each week?”***

Say, ***“Those are great answers! We gather together for a few different reasons. We use this time each week to learn more about spiritual disciplines. Spiritual disciplines are habits and actions that help us grow closer to God and grow in our love for Him. Secondly, God instructs us to ‘consider one another in order to provoke love and good works, not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing...’ (Hebrews 10:24-25). This means we should gather with one another to learn more about God and encourage each other in our walk with Him. Keep this verse in mind, because we’re going to be learning more about it later today.”***

Ask, ***“That reminds me of the spiritual discipline we’re focusing on right now, does anyone remember the word for it?”***

Say, ***“That’s right, we are focusing on the discipline of fellowship, or gathering together with other believers. Let’s get started!”***

Review the Discipline of Fellowship

Materials: none

Ask, ***“What question did we ask about fellowship last week?”***

Say, ***“Each week we are asking a different question to learn about fellowship and last week our question was: Why is fellowship important?”***

Ask, ***“Who can throw out a few reasons why we might want to fellowship, or gather together, with other believers?”***

Say, ***“We learned that fellowshiping with other believers can lead us to be unified which is important in imitating Jesus and spreading the gospel. Today we will explore the question: Where do we fellowship? While we certainly can fellowship anywhere in the world, what space was created for us to gather in? (Allow responses.) The church! God created the physical church as a meeting place for people to fellowship, pray, worship, serve, and learn together. What do you think a church building looks like? (Allow responses.) Those are a lot of great thoughts! And there’s really not one answer to this question. While the church is a special place and has a special purpose, it doesn’t have to look a specific way. Some churches have big buildings, some have small buildings, some meet in schools, some meet in homes, some meet in coffee shops, some churches even meet outside without a building at all! The important part of what makes a church a church is that believers are gathering together with the purpose of worshipping, serving God, and encouraging one another.***

Church is not just a place where we meet up, talk about our weekend, and then go home. What are some activities that take place in church? (Allow responses.) We pray together, sing songs together, share meals, study the Bible, meet new friends, ask lots of questions, and serve together. There are many times in the Bible where we see churches being plated so that as the number of believers grew, they had a place to meet together and fellowship with one another. Romans 15:14 says we will always benefit from mutual instruction, encouragement, and correction.”

Group Game: Robots and Machines

Materials: none

Form groups of four or five kids. Instruct them to come up with a machine or robot that accomplishes a task. It can be a sandwich-making robot, a cleaning robot, and so forth. The groups will then use their bodies to create that robot or machine. For example, if they create a sandwich-making robot, one kid may pretend to open a bread bag, the next kid pretend to take slices of bread out, and so on. The requirements are that every kid in the group must be a part of the robot or machine and have a specific task within the creation. After several minutes, give each group a chance to show its creation to the larger group.

Say, ***“Wow! Those are some amazing robots and machines. I love that each robot got a job done and that everyone had a part in getting that job done. What would happen to the robot if I took each kid from that group and put them in opposite corners of the room? Would the job get done? (Allow responses.) No way! What if everyone had the exact same task or responsibility within the machine? Would the ultimate goal be accomplished? (Allow responses.) Nope. The robot is strongest when the pieces are all connected, working together, and focusing on their specific task.”***

Ask, ***“How can this remind us of fellowship and the church?”***

Say, ***“The church is strongest when we stay connected to each other through fellowship and each commit to performing the task or responsibility that God has given us within the church.”***

Follow Up on Weekly Challenge

Materials: none

Say, ***“Last week your challenge was to read and discuss the Bible three times with your family.”***

Ask, ***“How did it go? Did anyone learn something new?”***

Read the Bible

Materials: Bibles

Read Hebrews 10:24-25.

Ask, ***“What does this verse say we should do to spur each other toward love?”***

Say, ***“In Bible study this week, we learned that the gospel is for everyone. Jesus is the reason that we can experience fellowship with one another. We should not give up meeting together. Not only does meeting together on a weekly basis help us stay disciplined, it keeps us on the right path, teaches us more about God, and creates community. When we stray away from meeting at church with other believers, we are more likely to get distracted by sin, feel discouraged, and be less inclined to fellowship. When we take time to meet with other Christians, we learn accountability and become closer to being unified in mind and spirit with one another.”***

Group Activity: Pray for One Another

Materials: none

Remind the kids that when we gather together in church, part of fellowshiping is participating in different spiritual disciplines together. One discipline we can practice together is prayer. Lead the kids to line up from youngest to oldest. Once everyone is lined

up, start with the oldest kid in the class and ask him to pray for the kid next to him, then the kid who was just prayed over will pray for the person next to her. Continue this pattern until the youngest person in the room has prayed for the oldest kid from the front of the line. Students can pray for anything, but it may be helpful to have a few examples of what to pray for before the activity begins. You can also ask kids to share one praise or prayer request before prayer begins.

Say, ***“While we certainly can pray and worship God alone and in private, we can also come together with other believers at church to fellowship through prayer. God invites us to participate in prayer in both ways.”***

Christ Connection

Materials: none

Say, ***“When we pray with each other, we are being open with others about what is going on in our lives. We can confess what is difficult or sad for us, we can encourage each other to seek God, and we can thank God for the other believers in our lives. This leads us back to why we fellowship: to become unified in Christ, which is only possible because of His death on the cross and resurrection back to life.”***

[Love God by Practicing Fellowship](#)

Pray for Each Other

Materials: paper cups, stickers, markers, craft sticks

As a reminder to fellowship with others, the kids will create prayer cups. Give each kid a cup to decorate with stickers, markers, and so forth. Once they have decorated their prayer cups, give each kid the same number of craft sticks as there are kids in the group (For

example, if there are 10 kids in the group, then each kid will get 10 craft sticks). Guide them to write their own name on each craft stick. Once they've written their name on each stick, ask them to walk around the room and drop one of their craft sticks into each of the other group member's prayer cups. Encourage the kids to take their prayer cups home and set them somewhere they will see each day. Challenge them to pull a name out of the prayer cup every day and pray for one of the other group members, and when they pull out their own name, encourage them to say a prayer for themselves.

Weekly Challenge

Materials: none

Challenge kids to write a letter to a minister in your church, thanking that leader for following God's call and guiding the congregation.

Close in Prayer

Materials: none

Use the scripted prayer below, pray in your own words, or ask a student to pray.

Say, "Dear God, thank You for giving us the church with which to meet together. Thank You for bringing other believers together who all have different strengths and roles in the church. Thank You for providing ministers and elders to lead the church and give them strength and wisdom as they seek to guide us in fellowshiping with one another. Amen."