

FOOTPRINTS

Leader's Guide for LESSON 17

For Kids

You and Your Church Family!

Welcome (7 Minutes)

As the parents/mentors and children arrive, give each a warm welcome. Encourage a young person to help you greet others as they arrive. Begin your group time by inviting the participants to share by asking, "Where have you seen God at work in your life this past week?" (Acknowledge all responses.)

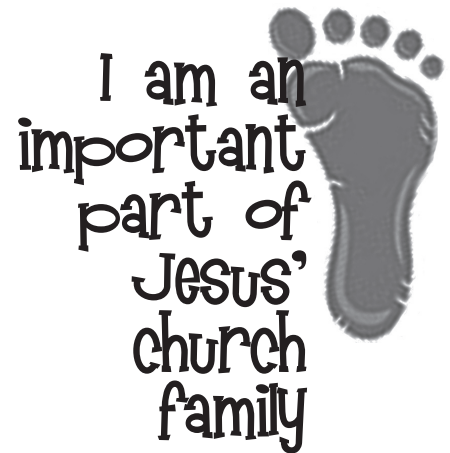
Say: Last week we learned about Jesus' second coming, and that He wants us to be with Him forever. Find someone who is not in your family to share with, and briefly tell what you did to show Jesus that you are excited about His soon coming and being with Him in heaven.

Use the "M.M." ball or the "T.A.G." ball (see Curriculum introduction for instructions) to ask the families about their use of *Mentoring Moments* for family worship at home **OR** to ask the participants to share something they have studied or learned during their T.A.G. time

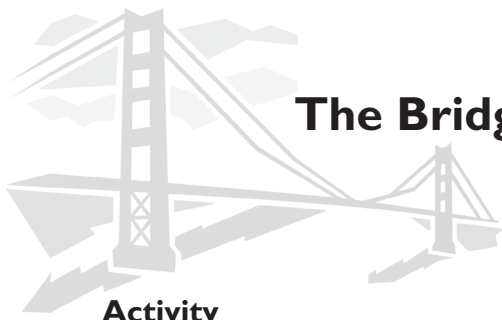
Goals for this lesson

By the end of this lesson, participants will:

- **Know** that they are an important part of the church family
- **Feel** excited about being needed by their church family
- **Respond** by taking responsibility for helping the church family grow



*A disciple of Jesus is someone who lives every day
to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*



The Bridge (10 Minutes)

Activity

Divide everyone into groups of three and assign each number 1, or 2, or 3.

Say: The goal of this activity is to work together as a single body and complete a simple task. When I say “begin” work together to tear your papers in half then tape each half together into one large sheet [they will have 6 half sheets]. You must follow the instructions printed on the marker board.

Signal “begin” when everyone is ready.

Debrief

Ask: How did it feel to be part of a body? (Acknowledge answers.) What would have happened if you did not have each person in your group? (You would not have been able to complete the task.) How does this activity show our need for each other in the church? (We need each person to do his/her part.)

Say: The activity could only be completed by working together because each person played a special role. We are all part of God’s family — the church — and each person in the church family has a special role.

Prayer: Pray or invite a volunteer to pray for the Holy Spirit to direct this meeting.

You need

- Marker board
- One tape dispenser for each group of 3
- One sheet of 8 ½ x 11 paper for each participant
- Blindfolds (optional)

Ahead

Write the following instructions on the board: “Throughout this activity...

1. All “1s” may only use your left hand, place your right arm behind your back. Keep your eyes closed. You may not speak.
2. All “2s” may only use your right hand, place your left arm behind your back. Keep your eyes closed. You may not speak.
3. All “3s” may not use either hand, place both arms behind back. You may keep your eyes open and you may speak.



Into the Word (25 Minutes)

Write this lesson's *Footprint* on the board:
I am an important part of Jesus' church family.

Activity

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-20, 27 around the circle with one person reading one text until all the verses are read.

Ask: What symbol is used for the church?
(A body.)

Distribute the slips of paper with the "challenges" to volunteers. Blindfold all the Number 1s; tie the hands of all the Number 2s; tie the feet of all the Number 3s; tape the mouths of all the Number 4s. One at a time ask them to stand in the center of the circle. Give simple instructions that cannot be carried out by that person, such as for Number 1, "Please read this verse"; for Number 2 "Please walk over to that table and bring (name item) to me," etc.

Debrief

Ask: How does this activity help us understand the importance of each member of the church family? (Without each member the church can't accomplish its job.)

Ask a volunteer to **read Colossians 1:18 (first part)**.

Ask: Who is the head of the church? (Jesus.) Why is it important for church members to know that Jesus is the head of the church? (Acknowledge answers – Jesus is the One who is in charge of the church.)

Write on the board: What Jesus wants for His church family

You need

- White board and markers
- Bibles
- Pens/pencils
- Blindfolds / rope / tape
- Slips of paper with "challenges"

Ahead

Write the following on slips of paper (Make sure you have one challenge for each child: 1) You cannot use your eyes, 2) You cannot use your feet, 3) You cannot use your hands, 4) You cannot use your mouth.

Write the Bible Discovery Scripture references on separate slips of paper for distribution among the families as they arrive. Be sure to include the number reference.

Bible Discovery

Distribute the Scripture texts to the families and instruct them to look up their verse and be prepared to read it to the class. Encourage family groups to assign a student to read the verse to the whole group when called.

- 1 Read John 17:23.** This passage in John records Jesus' prayer for His disciples. What does Jesus say His disciples must "be brought to"? (Complete unity.) Why is complete unity important according to this verse? (To let the world know that Jesus was sent from God.)

Write on the board: To experience unity

- 2 Read Hebrews 10:25.** Find two things that church members are to do. (Continue to meet together and encourage each other.)

Write on the board: To meet together

Write on the board: To encourage each other

- 3 Read Acts 12:5.** What did the church members do when Peter was in prison? (They prayed for him.)

Write on the board: To pray for each other

- 4 Read John 13:34, 35.** What command did Jesus give His disciples? (Love each other.)

Write on the board: To love each other

- 5 Read Galatians 6:1.** The Bible writer tells "spiritual" people to help someone. Whom does this verse say should be helped? (A person caught in sin.) How is this to be done? (Gently and with care to not fall to temptation.)

Write on the board: To gently restore those broken by sin

- 6 Read Acts 13:1-5.** What did the church send Paul and Barnabas to do? (Proclaim the word of God.) What do we call people like Paul and Barnabas who go to share the gospel with others? (Missionaries.)

Write on the board: To send missionaries to share the gospel

Say: Jesus has a dream for His church. He wants each member to be part of a fellowship of believers who care about each other and share the gospel with others. Jesus wants His church family to grow — closer to Him, closer to each other and closer to those who need to know about Him.

Review/Quiz

Steps to follow:

1. Review the summary points written on the board.
2. Cover or turn the board around and quiz the class by asking, "What does Jesus want for His church family?"
3. Encourage parents to allow students to answer the questions and assist only if needed.



My Choice (5-8 Minutes)

Leader Share briefly an experience you have had as a member of the church in one of the areas covered by the Bible study. How did this experience teach you the importance of being a member of Jesus' church family?

You need

- One copy of *My Choice* handout for each family
- Pens/pencils

Distribute one *My Choice* handout to each family group.

Say: Parents and mentors, move your chairs into a family circle and follow the instructions on *My Choice* with your child. When you are finished with *My Choice* turn the paper over and continue with *My World*.



My World (5-8 Minutes)

Leaders:

While the families are working together, the leader and co-leader pray for each of the parents/mentors and children.

You need

- One copy of *My World* handout for each family
- Pens/pencils

If some families finish early, as leader you can: 1) engage those families by asking them about their family circle time or 2) give a time “warning” to the other families such as, “Please finish in three more minutes.” Let them know they can finish their *My World* time together at home.



Closing (2 Minutes)

Call everyone back together as a large group.

Say the *Footprint* together: **I am an important part of Jesus' church family.**

You need

- One *Mentoring Moments* handout for each family

Say: Jesus needs you to help Him. He needs you to take your place as an important member of His church — to find ways right now to participate in church life and help other church members.

Ask: Did you think of someone to help this week and something specific to do for him/her? (Acknowledge responses.)

Grace Point — Say: Next week I will ask you to share what you did to help another church member.

Close with a prayer or invite a volunteer to pray:

- thanking Jesus that we each are an important part of His church
- asking Him to help us each find ways right now to help our church family

Distribute *Mentoring Moments* and instruct the families to use these at home to build on the concepts developed in this lesson.

My Choice

1. Say the *Footprint* together: **I am an important part of Jesus' church family.**
2. Parents/mentors **Review** with your child the points made in this lesson by going over the summary points one at a time and asking, "Do you understand what this means?" or "Do you have any questions about this one?" Clarify any points as needed.

Jesus wants each member of His church family to...

1. ...know they are important members of the church body.. 1 Corinthians 12:12-20, 27
2. ...know that Jesus is the head of the churchColossians 1:18 (a)
3. ...experience unityJohn 17:20-26
4. ...continue to meet together 1 Thessalonians 4:11
5. ...encourage each other..... 1 Thessalonians 4:11
6. ...pray for each other Acts 12:5
7. ...love each other John 13:34, 35
8. ...restore those broken by sin Galatians 6:1
9. ...send missionaries to share the gospelActs 13:1-5

3. Parents/mentors **Share** briefly a personal experience of encouraging another church member or of having a church member encourage you. What difference did this make? How did you see Jesus at work in this experience?
4. **THE CHOICE — Ask:** Would you like to find ways to help our church family? If your child says "Yes," affirm his/her decision. If your child is not sure or says "No" or "Not now," **Say:** It's all right if you need time to think about this or want to wait. **Ask:** Can you tell me why? Is it okay if we talk about this next week?
5. **Pray** together and thank Jesus that you are an important part of His church family. Ask Him to help you find ways to help others in the church.

*A disciple of Jesus is someone who lives every day
to love Jesus and bring others to Him.*

My World

1. **Brainstorm** for a list of people in your church family whom you could help in some way this coming week. Whom can you help? What can you do?

People we can help: Single parents with children Sick Elderly Widows/Widowers Other	What we can do:
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2. Select one person from your list. **Discuss** a time to help this person and what you need to make or buy in order to fulfill your plans.
3. **Brainstorm** for things you could do as individuals or as a family to contribute to church life, such as help in a Sabbath school division with preparation of materials or set up/tear down; write notes to church members who miss church; participate in music or scripture readings, help with pot-luck meals, etc.

Things we can do to help our church: Sabbath School Divisions Church Service Pot-luck Communication Other	
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4. **Discuss** Whom do you need to talk to at church in order to volunteer to help in the above areas? Which person(s) in your family will talk to him/her to volunteer your help?

Grace Point — Next week you will be invited to share what you did to help another church member.

Next Week Parents/mentors, you will be asked, if applicable, to share your baptism experience. When did you make the decision to be baptized? How did you feel before, during and after your baptism? What made this experience special for you?

You and Your Church Family!

Mentoring Moments for Lesson 17

Mentoring Moments are meant to extend the lesson you studied with your small group. Each *Mentoring Moment* choice contains a Scripture, an activity, discussion questions, and a prayer point grouped around a particular topic. They are perfect for use in family worship. If time does not permit the completion of the activity, using just the Scripture and discussion questions can provide a *Mentoring Moment* anywhere, even in the car.

Choice One

Scripture: Ephesians 4:16

Activity: Molly, a sixth-grader, said, “One of my favorite Sabbath activities is singing. One of the songs that I have sung at church is ‘We are His Hands.’ Singing is a fun way for me to worship and let God know how much I love Him.” Sing this beautiful song together. If you are not familiar with the tune then read it together alternating readers at each line.

We Are His Hands

We are His hands to touch the world around us.
 We are His feet to go where He may lead.
 And we are His light burning in the darkness.
 We are His love shining in the night.
 We are His eyes to see the need in others.
 We are His voice to tell of His return.
 And we are His light burning in the darkness.
 We are His love shining in the night.

—Jeff Wood

For Discussion: Who is the “we” referring to in the song? Be specific. In what ways does having a church family make it easier to “touch the world around us?”

Prayer Point: Thank God for giving you a church to belong to. Ask Him to show you where He needs your hands, feet, eyes and love to touch the world around you.

Choice Two

Scripture: Ephesians 4:3

Activity: Make a list of times when you may have been a little unhappy toward a member of your home or church family.

For Discussion: What effort could you have made to “keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace?” Is it harder to make the effort to keep the unity of the Spirit or to grumble and quarrel? Why?

Prayer Point: Ask God to make you willing to make the effort to stay unified, even if that means giving up something (like your pride). Ask Him to help you value unity over being right.

Choice Three

Scripture: Ephesians 4:11-13

Activity: Make a list of the reasons mentioned in these verses for God giving different talents to different people. Can you find four? Are you using your talents for these reasons?

For Discussion: Which of the jobs listed in these verses is the most important? The least? Why did you choose what you did?

Prayer Point: Thank God for His church, where you can be prepared for works of service and help build up the body of Christ. Ask that He will give your church unity and help you become a mature Christian.

Choice Four

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:12

Activity: Draw a simple outline of a body and label it with different people in your church who perform important functions.

For Discussion: To which part of the body would you compare yourself? Why? Which are the most important parts of the body of Christ? Are any parts unimportant? If you were to cut off a certain part of your body would it hurt more or less than another part? Why? How does that relate to members of your church?

Prayer Point: Thank God for giving you a body of believers to belong to. Ask Him to help you find your place in the body.

Choice Five

Scripture: John 17:20-23

Activity: Look up the word “unity” in the dictionary. Where does it come from? How many similar or related words can you think of?

For Discussion: Today’s Scripture comes from Jesus’ last prayer for His disciples before He died. Why do you think He prayed specifically for unity? Why did Jesus want them to have unity? What is the message for us today? How do we get unity?

Prayer Point: Ask God to help you put Him first in everything and to give you a mind like His.