

Teaching Children About the Church – Church is family

Jesus loved the church completely and was willing to die for it.

How important is it to teach children to love the church and understand that it is more than a building? Basically, the church should be as important to all of us as it is to Jesus.

A good beginning is to understand that the church is personal. It is made up of living and breathing people and is not simply an organization or a building.



On a large sheet of paper, draw the shape of a house. On another, draw the shape of a church. Draw lines right to the edge of the paper, so when the participants are asked to draw people, they will not be able to put them anywhere, but inside the building.

My Family

Have children or other participants draw their families inside the house. Remember, be careful to keep all of the drawing inside the outline of the house.

My Church

Next, have everyone think about who is in their church and draw some of those people inside the outline of the church building. Guide children to name different kinds of people-include not only people they know, but add: the Pastor, my Sunday school teacher, the people who hand out bulletins, etc. Fill the building with people of all ages and various backgrounds, keeping all figures inside the outline.

What is a Family?

Take some time talking about your family inside the drawing. What makes you a family? What do you like about your family? What makes your family special.? What do you like about the house you live in? What makes your house special? Then take scissors and cut away the outline of the house and leaving only the pictures of the family.

Discuss: Is our family is still a family even if there is no house? When we go to the park are we still a family? Yes. When we get in a car and drive to another place are we still a family? Yes. If you move to a new house, will you still be a family?



What is the Church?

Now talk about the church picture. Even adults may struggle to separate worship from formal buildings, but children especially may have a hard time with the idea that church is not just a place. Talk about what makes Church a church. What do you like about your church? What do you do there? Who do you see there? Why do you go there? What makes church a special place. Since you are holding the picture of the church, young children especially will associate the physical aspect of the building as church. Now cut away the building outline again, and discuss how only the building is missing and that

the Christians – the church family is still there. Talk about how it is the saved people who are the church...not the building. If the church decides to meet at the park instead of a church building are they still the church? Yes. If the church travels across town to deliver food to a family in need are they still the church? Yes. If we worship in our homes, is it still worshipping God, without the building? Talk about the Acts passage (Acts 2: 42-47) and how the people meeting together were the church, no matter where they were. They were the church because of their faith in Jesus, and they showed their faith by worshipping, being together and caring for each other.

Conclude with a reminder that every person in the church is loved. Christ was willing to give up his life for the church – the people who love and believe that He is their Savior. He did not die for buildings.