

# BUILDING UP GOD'S HOUSE



**ONE SOUL AT A TIME**



**PRESCHOOL AGES 4-5  
TEACHER'S MANUAL**

## Matthew 16:13-19

When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi,  
He asked His disciples, saying,  
“Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?”

So they said, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and  
others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”

Simon Peter answered and said,  
“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Jesus answered and said to him,  
“Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood  
has not revealed *this* to you, but My Father who is in  
heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on  
this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades  
shall not prevail against it.”

Teachers: These materials are intended as a guide to teaching children about God's house. It is recommended that you do not simply read the materials to the children but rather talk to the children.

Construction-oriented coloring pages may be obtained at:

<http://www.freeprintablecoloringpages.net/category/Construction>

These may be used to fill in additional time as needed at the end of any lesson.

Building Up God's House

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# God's House, The Church

I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. 1 Timothy 3:15

**Lesson Goal:** To teach the children what God's church is and is not.

**Teaching Method:** Children of this age have a very short attention span and do not sit well for long periods of time. This lesson is set up to have short "talking" sessions interspersed with hands on activities. Some portions can be done in a floor area with everyone sitting with legs crossed. This serves to take care of the "ants in pants" problem with many rambunctious children and also to get the children on eye level with the teacher, rather than always looking up to the teacher.

**Visual Aids:** For this lesson, make a flip chart of types of houses. You can use the flip chart pages included with these materials or use photos from the Internet, magazines and other sources. You will want several types of houses, including some that look familiar to your students and some that look foreign.

The next to the last page should have one or more pictures of church buildings. If possible, use a photo of your own church building. The last page should have pictures of people. Again, if possible, use photos of members of your congregation. Affix one or more pictures on a piece of card stock. You may optionally laminate each page. Using a hole puncher, punch a hole in the upper right and left hand corners of each page. Place in order and secure together using key rings.



## **Lesson Outline and Suggested Text:**

You may optionally start the lesson with the following finger play. This will serve to introduce the lesson. This portion may be done in the floor.

### ***Finger Play***

This finger play is a doctrinally corrected version of the old finger play "This is the Church", which incorrectly teaches that the church is a building. Help the children do the finger play with you.



[Fold hands together, fingers outside] **Here is the building,**  
[Raise to and touch index fingers to make a point] **This is its perch.**  
[Open thumbs] **Open the doors,**  
[Turn hands up, fingers still intertwined, and wiggling] **and where is the church?**  
**They must still be asleep. Let's wake them up!** [Pull hands apart and shake]

[Fold hands together, fingers inside] **Here is the building,**  
[Raise to and touch index fingers to make a point] **This is its perch.**  
[Open thumbs] **Open the doors,**  
[Turn hands up, fingers still intertwined, and wiggling] **and see God's church!**  
**I see** [insert child's name] **and ...**

### **Teacher Talk**

**Do you have a house?** [Let the children answer. They will probably want to talk about their houses. Depending on the time, permit a small amount of chatter. Show the first page of the flip chart.] **A house is a place where we live. We put our special things there. Here are some of the kinds of houses we live in. Some people live in a building that is made for just one family. Some people live in houses that are stacked in rows. Other people live in apartment buildings.**

[Show "Other's Houses" page.] **People of the world live in many kinds of houses. Look, here's a house in Japan. And here's one in Germany. Do you see this? Who lives in a Teepee? How about this?** [pointing to the igloo] **What is it? Yes, it's a igloo. Who lives there?** [Show "Animal Houses" page.] **There are even houses for animals! See?** [Talk about each.]

[Show "Special Houses" page.] **There are some special houses too. Here is where a king and queen live. And this is where the president of the United States lives. We have lots of kinds of houses, don't we?**

**Did you know that God has a special house?** [Show the "God's House?" page on flip chart.] **Many people think that God's special house is a big and beautiful building. See these?** [pointing] **Have you seen big buildings like this before?** [Let the children answer. They will probably want to tell of their experiences.]

The Bible tells us that God's house used to be a building like these. It was called the temple. Help me say that word, "temple". A long time ago, the Israelites were God's special people and they worshipped God in the temple. God had a special room in the temple called "the most holy place" where only the high priest was allowed to go.

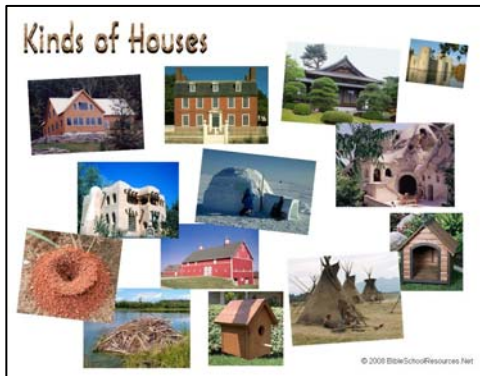
The Bible tells us that God's house today is the church. Many people call these buildings "churches." They believe these buildings are special because they belong to God. They build big, beautiful houses for God and decorate them with crosses and

## Building Up God's House



statues of Jesus and Mary. But guess what? These are NOT churches! [shaking head no] The Bible tells us that the church is something very different. What do you think the church is? [Show the "God's House!" page on flip chart.] The church is God's people! God's house is His people, not a building! [shake head] God lives in His people.

### Handwork: Kinds of Houses and Who Lives Here???



There are two pieces of handwork for this section. You may use one or both, depending on the amount of time you have.

"Kinds of Houses". Each child will need the "Kinds of Houses" blank page, 12-14 small photos of a variety of houses, and a glue stick. Suggested sources include homes-for-sale magazines, nature magazines, and the Internet. See the sample shown for ideas on the types of

houses you may wish to include. It is suggested that the photos be cut out before class. Help the children glue the photos on their papers.



"Who Lives Here???" Each child will need a "Who Lives Here???" page and a crayon or pencil. This is a matching exercise. Talk through each house on the left and discuss who from the right lives in each. Help the children draw a line matching the right house to the right occupant.

### Singing Activity

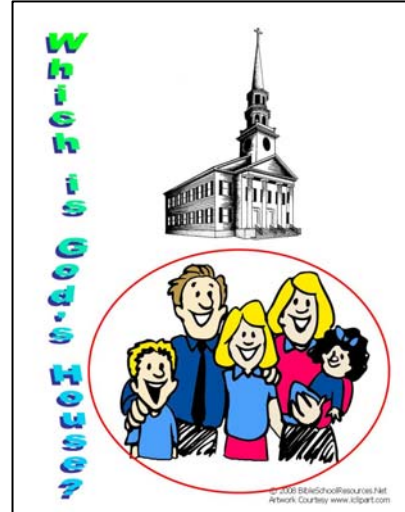
This song goes to the tune of the children's song, B-I-N-G-O!

The church is not a place you go  
the church is made of people  
c-h-u-r-c-h, c-h-u-r-c-h, c-h-u-r-c-h,  
the church is made of people.  
You take away the middle part  
and what is missing u-r  
c-h-u-r-c-h, c-h-u-r-c-h, c-h-u-r-c-h,  
the church is made of people



**Handwork: "Which is God's House?"**

Each child will need a "Which is God's House?" page and some crayons. Have the children color the picture of God's house. Tell them to be careful to not color the picture that is not God's house. They can circle God's house if they like.



**Teacher Talk: What's in a Name?**

You have a name, don't you? Names are very important. [Nod head] How would you know when your mother or father call you if you did not have a name?

A name is a special word we use to call somebody or something. Everyone has a name. Your parents gave you your name, and they call you by your name. You probably have a first name, a middle name, and a last name. Some people have two middle names. Your parents may have even given you a loving "nickname" that they sometimes call you. You would not like it if a stranger decided to call you by a name that you didn't know, just because they liked the name and thought it was better than your name. Your parents would not like that either. Most people would not like that. That's because your name is special to you.

Do you have a special stuffed animal or doll? Did you give it a name? [Let the children answer. They will probably want to tell of their special toy.]

Some people name things that are special to them, like cars, boats, and houses. [Show "Special Houses" page of flip chart.] The king and queen of England live in "Buckingham Palace", and the President of the United States lives in "The White House". God has given some special names to His house. Do you think God will be happy if we call His house by a different name? [Shake head no.] We should use the names that God gave to His house and not make up our own names.



# Architect and Builder

For he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker *is* God.  
Hebrews 11:10

**Lesson Goal:** To teach the children that God planned His church, and we must follow His plan when helping build it.

**Teaching Method:** This lesson is set up to be a "show and tell" session for the children.

**Visual Aids:** If at all possible, bring a simple model or Lego kit box and a sheet of instructions. If you do not have these, you may use the "Building Instructions" visual aid sheet instead. If you have some real blueprints, use these and a Bible. Alternatively, use "The 'Blueprints'" visual aid sheet. You will also need the Architect/Builder visual aid sheets.

## Lesson Outline and Suggested Text:

### *Teacher Talk*



Sometimes people build models of cars, airplanes, trains, and other things from kits. [Show model kit box.] Sometimes Legos come in kits to make houses and other things. Do you have any of these? [Open the box and take out the pieces and directions. Show to the children. Let them see how all the pieces and then the instructions showing how to put them together.] These kits come with directions on how to put the pieces together to make a copy of whatever is on the front of the box. Can you guess what would happen if you tried to build this model and did not read or follow the directions? You would probably not get a exact copy of the model! [Point to the picture on the box and shake head no.]

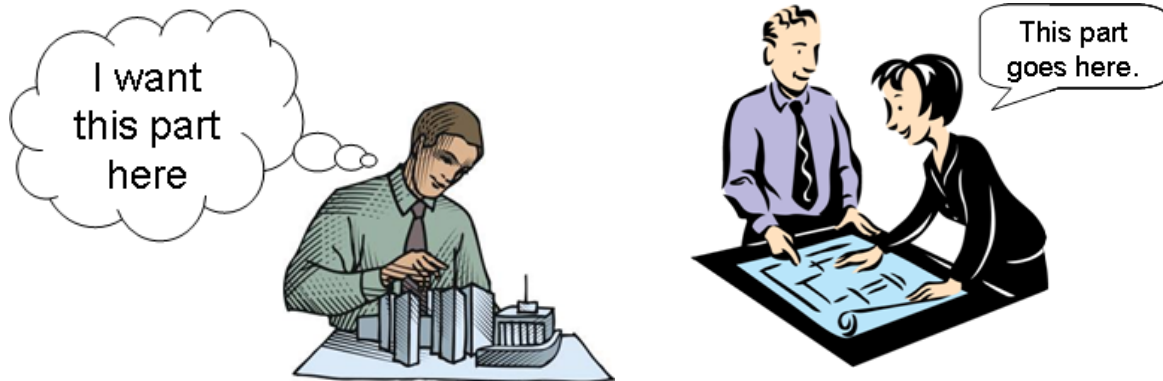
Did you know that houses are no different? Think about building a house with no directions. Each person cuts and nails wood in place where he thinks it should go. The finished house would probably be rather silly, don't you think? What if everybody built a kitchen? There would be no bedrooms or bathrooms. Where would we put your bed and clothes? Those don't go in a kitchen! How silly a house like that would be. Would you want to live in a house like that? I wouldn't. [Shake head no.]





Did you know that houses have instructions too? A special person called an "architect" draws pictures of a house on big paper called "blueprint". [Hold up "The Blueprints" visual aid or a real set of blueprints.] That's because they are blue! Then he writes directions for how to build the house. The blueprints tell people how to make a house exactly like the pictures that the architect drew, just like our model.

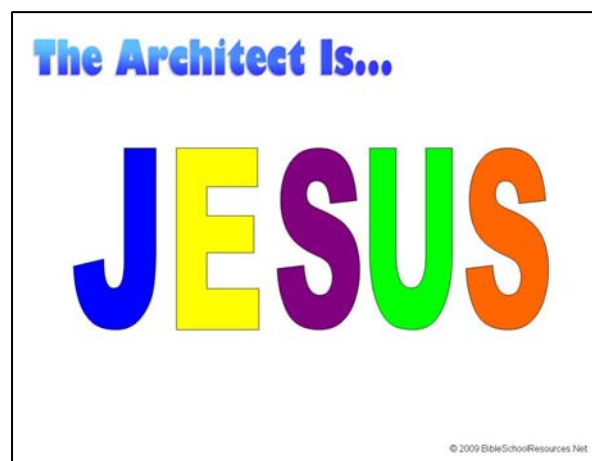
[Hold up the Architect/Builder visual aid.] See, here is the architect deciding where to put everything and here are builders who are reading the directions to they can build a house just like what the architect drew.



Jesus is the architect and builder of His own house. Jesus said, "I will build My church. Matthew 16:18" Help me say that. "I will build My church. Matthew 16:18" [Pause and let all the children say the phrase.] That means that Jesus made the directions for building His house. Jesus wants us to follow His directions and not make up our own directions. It makes Jesus sad when we do not follow His directions. Let's make Jesus happy, okay? [nod and smile]

**Handwork: "The Architect Is..."**

In advance, cut out the letters that spell "JESUS". Help the children glue or tape letters in place to spell "JESUS". Reinforce that Jesus is the architect of the church.







**Teacher Talk**

Jesus gave us directions so we can help build His house. Can you guess where the directions are? [Hold up a Bible.] That's right. The directions are here in the Bible. What is the Bible? [Let the children answer.] That's right, it's God's word. The Bible is where God tells us everything we need to know.

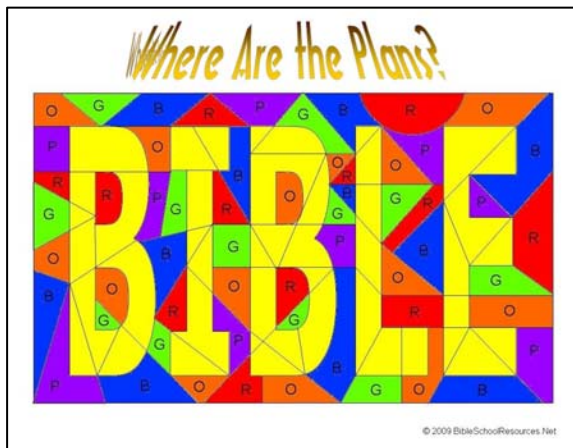
**Singing Activity: The B-I-B-L-E**

Oh the B-I-B-L-E,  
yes that's the book for me.  
We read and study and then obey,  
the B-I-B-L-E !

Oh the B-I-B-L-E,  
I'll take it home with me.  
I'll stand alone on the Word of God,  
the B-I-B-L-E !



**Handwork: "Where Are The Plans?"**



Help the children color or paint by number:

- O = orange
- R = red
- P = purple
- B = blue
- G = green
- Y = yellow

Help them spell "Bible" and reiterate that the Bible contains God's plans for His home, which is the church.

**Game Activity: Jesus, May I?**

This game is a take off on "Mother, May I?" Line the children up in front of the teacher. If possible, the teacher should sit in a chair in front of the children to be on eye level. Tell the children to do something (e.g., pray to God). Pick activities that can be easily acted out by the children (e.g., praying, singing, reading the Bible). When given permission to do something, have the children act out the activity. For example, if praying, have the children bow their heads and fold their hands momentarily. Be sure to pick some things the children are not to do!!!

Before proceeding, the children should ask, "Jesus, may I?" The teacher opens the Bible and pretends to read. She then looks up and says "Yes, you may" or "No, you may not", depending on what the children were told to do.



# STRUCTURAL PARTS

Behold I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious, and he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame. 1 Peter 2:6.

**Lesson Goal:** To teach the children the special parts of God's house.

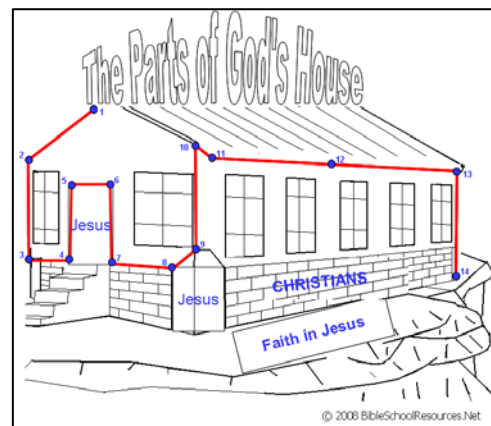
**Teaching Method:** This interactive lesson is set up so the children do some handwork and other activities while the teacher is speaking with them.

**Visual Aids:** For this lesson, you will need some building blocks and one block that has a noticeably non-square corner. Use "The Parts of God's House" Visual Aids.

## Lesson Outline and Suggested Text:

### Handwork: "Which is God's House?"

Each child will need a "The Parts of God's House" page, the four associated stick-ons, glue sticks, and some crayons (optional). Begin by helping the children complete the dot-to-dot exercise to complete the house. Help them glue on the parts in the right places as you talk below.



### Teacher Talk

Houses have many parts, don't they? [Show "The Parts of God's House" visual. Point out each part in the house by name.] See the big stone on the corner of the house? That's called the "cornerstone". [Build a square-shaped wall with a cornerstone out of building blocks.] See how it is square? It needs to be perfect so that the house will also be square. [Replace the block with a noticeably "non-square block" and then show how the walls move and are not square with the imperfect block.] It is very important that the cornerstone be perfect. Otherwise, the walls of the house will not be right.

God's house has a cornerstone too. Remember that God's house is made of people? Who do you think is the cornerstone of God's house? [Allow for some guesses and give some hints.] That's right, it's Jesus. Jesus is the CHIEF Cornerstone. Let's put Jesus' name here on the cornerstone. [Have the children glue the square "Jesus" paper on the cornerstone.]

This house has a foundation. [Point at the rock in the "Parts of God's House" visual aid.] "Foundation" is a big word that means what we build on. See. This house is built

## Building Up God's House



on a rock, so the foundation is a rock. Every house needs a good foundation, otherwise it will be knocked down when storms come.

### Singing Activity

Let's sing the "Wise Man" song.



The wise man built his house upon the rock.  
The wise man built his house upon the rock.  
The wise man built his house upon the rock,  
and the rains came tumbling down.

Oh, the rains came down and the floods came up.  
The rains came down and the floods came up.  
The rains came down and the floods came up.  
and the wise man's house stood firm.

The foolish man built his house upon the sand.  
The foolish man built his house upon the sand.  
The foolish man built his house upon the sand,  
and the rains came tumbling down.



Oh, the rains came down and the floods came up.  
The rains came down and the floods came up.  
The rains came down and the floods came up.  
and the foolish man's house went splat.

So, build your house on the Lord Jesus Christ.  
So, build your house on the Lord Jesus Christ,  
So, build your house on the Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the blessings will come tumbling down.

Oh, the blessings come down as the prayers go up.  
The blessings come down as the prayers go up.  
The blessings come down as the prayers go up.  
So, build your house on the Lord Jesus Christ.



### Teacher Talk

What happened to the foolish man's house? It went "splat" didn't it? He was foolish because he didn't build on the rock like the wise man did. God's house has a foundation too. Can you guess what the foundation of God's house is? It was in our song. We just sang about it. We sang, "build your house on the Lord Jesus Christ". The foundation is believing in Jesus. Do you believe in Jesus? [Nod head yes.]



Let's put "Faith in Jesus" here on the rock because that is the foundation we should build upon. [Have the children glue the rectangle "Faith in Jesus" paper on the rock.]

This house has stone walls. God's house has walls too. [Point at the walls in the "Parts of God's House" visual aid.] Can you guess what the walls are in God's house? The Bible tells us that Christians are the stones in God's house that make up the walls! Let's put "Christians" here on the stone walls. [Have the children glue the rectangle "Christians" paper on the stone wall.]

We have one last thing. It is something very important that all houses need. It is the thing that people use to go in and out of the house. Can you guess what it is? That's right, it's the door! The Bible tells us that Jesus is the door to God's house. When we believe in Jesus and obey Him, the door opens and we can go into God's house. Let's put "Jesus" here on the door because He is the door to God's house. [Have the children glue the rectangle "Jesus" paper on the door. If there is time, they can color the picture.]

### **Handwork: "Living Stones"**

Each child will need a "Living Stones" page and 32 face stickers. It would be best if you could make the stickers yourself, using photos of people in your congregation with whom the children are familiar. They will enjoy identifying the people, and in particular, their own parents. If you do not have photos to use, you may use the ones in the handwork package.

Use this as a time of review, reminding the children that Christians are "living stones" in the walls of God's house.







# The Tools of the Trade

For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Hebrews 4:12.

**Lesson Goal:** To teach the children the tools we need to build God's house.

**Teaching Method:** This interactive lesson is set up so the children do some activities while the teacher is speaking with them.

**Visual Aids:** For this lesson, you will need some real tools for use: a hammer, a saw, a shovel, and a tape measurer. You may alternatively use the "Tools of the Trade" visual aid. You will also need a tape measurer for each child. Oriental trading has toy tape measurers for purchase by the dozen at a reasonable price.

**Lesson Outline and Suggested Text:**

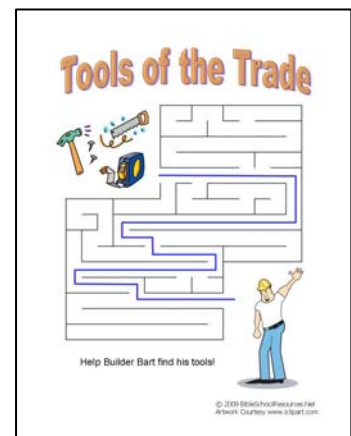
**Handwork:** "Tools of the Trade"

Help the children help Builder Bart to find his tools.

**Teacher Talk**

What do we need to build a house? Do you know? Tools! And we need lots of different tools – everything from large earth moving shovels to very small paint brushes. We use each tool to do something different. [Gather the children in a circle, standing up for the "pretend" activity. This will let them stretch and use some energy.] Let's pretend we are digging dirt. [Hand out tape measurers.] Now let's measure our wood. We need to saw the wood to get it to the right length! Help me saw some wood. Now let's measure again. Now we are ready to put the wood up. Let's hammer with nails and put the wood in place. If we don't have right tools, getting the job done is very hard. Let's pretend we are digging a hole with a hammer. Does it work? [Shake head no.]

Did you know that we need special tools to build God's house too? Let's learn about God's building tools. [Have the children sit down now.]



[Show "Tools of the Trade" visual aid. Point at the shovels.] What do we use shovels for? Does anyone know? [Let the children answer.] Right! We use them to DIG. We break up the bad rocks into dirt and remove those that we cannot break. These rocks keep us from having a smooth surface.



[Exaggerate "smooth" and make a smoothing motion with your hands.] We need a smooth surface to put a house on. Christians have a special shovel that helps break up the bad things. Can you guess what it is? [Hold up a Bible.] It's God's word, the Bible. Sometimes we don't want to do what mommy and daddy say, do we? [Shake head no.] We want to do what WE want to do! [Nod head yes.] When that happens, our hearts are hard like rocks and need to be broken up. We use God's special shovel, the Bible, to help do break up our rocky hearts.



[Show "Tools of the Trade" visual aid. Point at the saws.] How about saws? What do we use those for? [Let the children answer.] Right! We use them to cut things. Saws cut away the things that do not belong. We use them to cut wood to the exact size and shape that the blueprint says we need. When we build God's house, we do the same thing. We must remove everything that is not in the Bible. We have to be careful not to cut away things that belong. God is not happy when we do not follow His blueprint. Let's be careful and make God happy.

[Show "Tools of the Trade" visual aid. Point at the hammer and nails.] Hammers and nails are used to hold pieces of wood together. In God's house, we hold the pieces together with something very special. It's spelled L-O-V-E. Can anyone guess what that is? It's LOVE. We must love each other. When we love each other, we will stay together when the bad storms come and try to blow us down!



[Show "Tools of the Trade" visual aid. Point at the squares and tape measurers.]



Everyone hold up their tape measurers? What do we use these for? Do you remember? [Let the children answer.] Right! Rulers and tape measurers are used to measure and make sure all pieces are exactly the size that the blueprints say they should be. See? [Show the "inches" on a tape measurer.] This tells us exactly what an "inch" is. We can measure a piece of wood to be exactly 3 inches. See? [Measure one of the building blocks.]

What would happen if we made one piece of wood too long? Can you guess? [Let the children answer.] Things wouldn't fit quite right, would they? God has a special tape measurer that we are to use to measure the pieces we use in building His house. Who can guess what that is? [Let the children answer.] Yes! It's God's word, the Bible. The Bible tells us what is bad. We measure what we do using God's ruler, the Bible, to see if it is good or bad.



### **Handwork: Measuring**

Let the children color or paint the measuring picture. Review and ask questions while they color.



# WORKERS NEEDED!

For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building.  
1 Corinthians 3:9

**Lesson Goal:** To teach the children that we all need to help build God's house and that Jesus wants those who help to have special skills.

**Visual Aids:** For this lesson, you will need the "Lesson 5" visual aids.

## **Lesson Outline and Suggested Text:**

### **Teacher Talk**

Jesus needs good workers to help make His house bigger. All bosses want the people who work for them to have special skills or talents. Jesus wants workers who have special talents too.

Jesus wants people who learn about and understand His plans for His house. [ Hold up the "Study" sheet. ] We want to make Jesus happy, don't we? [ Nod ] We make Jesus happy by building His house the way He wants it. We cannot know what He wants if we don't study His plans! Who remembers where we can find Jesus' plans? [ Hold up the Bible and allow the children time to answer. ] That's right! Jesus' plans are in the Bible. To be a good worker for Jesus' we need to read and understand the Bible.

Jesus wants His workers to teach other people about Him. [ Hold up the "Teach" sheet. ] We can share the Bible with other people in many ways: boys can become preachers and teachers, girls can teach children and other girls. We can all teach our neighbors and our families. And we can invite them to come to worship and Bible class with us.

Jesus wants His workers to pray for His house. [ Hold up the "Pray" sheet. ] God gives strength to those who pray, so by praying for Jesus' house, we will strengthen it. What will happen if the house is weak? [ Allow the children time to answer. ] That's right, it might fall down! That would make Jesus very sad. Let's pray for Jesus' house so it will be strong!

Jesus does not want people who are lazy. He wants hard workers. [ Hold up the "Lazy" sheet. ] Would a boss be happy if his workers sat down on the job and didn't do anything? [ Shake head. ] Like other bosses, Jesus wants His workers to get a lot done. Has your mom ever asked you to pick up your toys and after picking up one or two toys, you sat down and began playing with them? You mom probably wasn't very happy with you. Jesus is the same way. He wants His workers to keep on working and not sit down on the job!

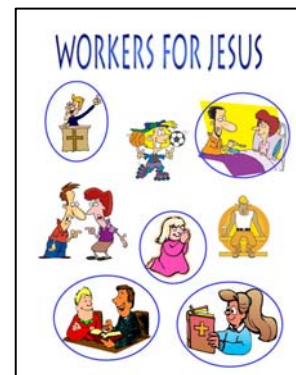


Jesus wants His workers to get along with each other and not fight. [ Hold up the “Don’t Fight” sheet. ] Do we sometimes fight with our brothers and sisters? [ Allow the children time to answer. ] Are your mother and father happy when you fight with your brothers and sisters? [ Shake head ] Jesus is not happy when we fight with our fellow workers either. You know why? When we are fighting, we are not doing work for Jesus!!!

Most of all, Jesus wants us to be a part of His house! Jesus says that we cannot be workers for Him unless we are part of His house. [ Hold up the “Living Stones” sheet.] Do you remember when we said that Christians are a part of God’s house? What kind of stones are Christians? [ Allow the children time to answer. ] That’s right! Christians are living stones.

**Handwork: “Workers for Jesus”**

Discuss what is happening in each picture. Have the children circle the pictures showing people working for Jesus: preaching, helping the sick, praying, teaching others about Jesus, and studying God’s word.



**Singing Activity**

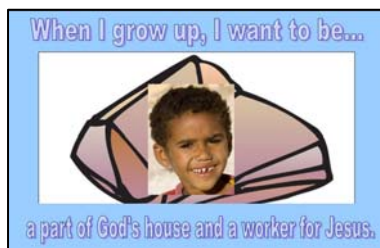
Sing the song, “A Helper I will Be”, to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell”. The words are: “A helper I will be; a helper I will be; there’s work to do, there’s work to do; a helper I will be.”

**Handwork: “When I Grow Up”**

For this handwork, you will need either the “When I grow up” frames in the student handwork packet or you may make frames using construction paper. The frames should be 5.25” tall by 8.5” wide. Cut the center out of the frame to expose the middle. Give each child a 5.25” tall by 8.5” wide sheet of white paper (1/2 of a piece of typing paper). Have them mount the picture of the stone in the middle of the sheet.

Using a Polaroid camera, take a photo of each child. Cut the photos out and let each child glue their own picture on top of the stone. Alternatively, you may have acquire a photo of each child in advance from their parents or use the smiling face included in the handwork packet.

Glue the frame on top of the picture so that the rock with the face shows through. If using construction paper for the frame, glue the words “When I grow up, I want to be...” and “a part of God’s house and a worker for Jesus” on to the frame.



You may optionally mount the picture on some heavy card stock and add a picture hanger, or put strips of magnets on the back so it can stick to a refrigerator.