



# Kids Club

Leader Guide

Feb  
Week 1

Feb. 1, 2026



## THE CHURCH

### Series Overview

The Church - This series will teach kids about what church is and the role each of us plays in it. It begins by helping kids understand that the church is not a building but the people of God. Then, they'll discover how God's love works through the church and that they, too, have a special purpose within the body of Christ. Lastly, they'll learn the importance of gathering together regularly for worship and encouragement. We are the church!

# Lesson Overview

Many people are accustomed to thinking of church as a place or a building, but it wasn't always that way. In fact, there was a time when there were no church buildings at all, yet the church was still thriving! In this lesson, we'll help kids get back to the idea that the church is the people of God. As the people of God, we should understand that although buildings are nice, everything we are called to do can be accomplished without a building!

## **Lesson 4:**

We Are the Church – Acts 2:42–47

## **Bottom Line:**

The church is more than a building

## **Memory Verse (Series):**

And let us not give up meeting together. Some are in the habit of doing this. Instead, let us encourage one another with words of hope. Let us do this even more as you see Christ's return approaching. Hebrews 10:25 (NIRV)

## Schedule

### **1. Welcome & Connection (10 minutes)**

Kids check in, play together, and connect with leaders. Encourage older kids to include younger ones. Give prompts for questions the teacher can ask to build relationships. Lessons 2-4: review the previous lesson's take home challenge.

### **2. Group Gather & Bible Focus (10 minutes)**

Short lesson with Scripture and discussion. This should be very engaging, with lots of opportunity for movement and kids participating.

### **3. Review & Practice (10 minutes)**

Practice engaging with Scripture from lesson and series memory verse.

### **4. Prayer & Worship Practice (5 minutes)**

Practice prayer or worship together. Choose a prayer activity or type of spiritual practice/worship to engage in together. Should be quiet and reflective.

### **5. Group Activity or Project (10 minutes)**

Reinforce the truth that God has a plan through creative, hands-on fun and meaningful discussion. Ideally kids are working in pairs or groups. Either a game, craft, or other activity.

### **6. Wrap-Up & Structured Free Play (10 minutes)**

Review the main point, play together, and give a take-home challenge.

# SUPPLIES

## 1. Welcome & Connection

- Items for structured free play
- Name cards or blank paper with markers
- Optional: small basket of neutral items for icebreaker

## 2. Group Gather & Bible Focus

- Bibles
- **Church and People Images**
- Optional: simple rhythm cue like clapping or a small hand drum

## 3. Review & Practice

- several Bibles
- plastic or paper plate
- Optional: other meal items such as spoons, forks, cups etc.
- **Memory Verse Poster**
- Optional: tape to stick cards on wall or floor

## 4. Prayer & Worship Practice

- Soft instrumental worship music

## 5. Group Activity

- Pre-cut paper people or name cards for each child
- Large poster paper or butcher paper
- Markers or crayons
- Glue sticks or tape

# Welcome & Connection (10 min)

*As kids arrive, invite them into free play(coloring, games, playdoh, Legos, etc.). Actively coach older kids to notice younger kids and invite them into what they are doing. Play upbeat worship music as kids play/create.*

**Welcome, friends. Today we are learning that the church is more than a building. The church is people. As you play, look for ways to include others and make space for everyone, because that is how we live out being the church together.**

## **Connection Prompts:**

- When you hear the word church, what do you think of first?
- Who is someone at church you are glad to see each week?
- How does it feel when someone invites you to join a game?
- What is one way you can help make Kids Club feel welcoming today?
- Why do you think God wants us to be together instead of alone?

*Give a two minute warning before transition.*

# Group Gather & Bible Focus (10 min)

**Over the next few weeks, we are learning about the church and why it matters. Some people think church is a building, but the Bible tells us something different.**

**Today, we are learning that the church is more than a building. The church is people.**

*Invite kids to stand up. Have them pretend to walk into a church building and sit in a chair. Then have them stand up again and give high fives to the people around them. Invite kids to sit back down.*

**Buildings can be helpful places, but buildings are not what make a church. People do.**

**A long time ago, the very first church did not have a building at all. There were no classrooms, no stage, and no chairs. But the church was still growing and strong.**

*Have kids whisper to a neighbor one thing people might do together at church. Invite a few to share their answers.*

**Let's listen to what the Bible says the first church did together.**

*Read Acts 2:42–47 out loud from an NIV Bible.*

*As you read, pause and add motions:*

- Learning together: point to ears
- Eating together: pretend to eat
- Praying together: hands together
- Helping others: reach hands forward

*Read through the passage twice as kids do the motions.*

The Bible says they learned together, ate together, prayed together, and helped one another. That is what made them the church.

*Have kids turn to a partner.*

Which of these do you like best about being part of the church? Learning, eating together, praying, or helping others?

*Give 30 seconds to talk.*

*Invite two quick responses from the group.  
Hold up a picture of a church building.*

If this building was empty, would it still be a church?

*Pause briefly.  
Hold up a picture of people together.*

When God's people gather, love each other, and follow Jesus, that is the church.

Let's say today's bottom line together. *The church is more than a building.*

## Review & Practice (10 min)

### Scripture Relay: Scripture Path Relay

Set up 4 stations around the room, each representing something the believers did together in our story today.

- Learning: several Bibles
- Eating: plastic or paper plates (optional: other meal items such as spoons, forks, cups etc.)
- Praying: no set up needed
- Helping: no set up needed

Let's remember what the first church did together. They didn't have a building, but they spent time learning, eating, praying, and helping. That's what made them the church! Today we're going to move like the church and show each of these parts in a fun game.

They gathered and did 4 things together. Can you remember what they were?

- Learning together – The believers spent time learning from Jesus' teachings.
- Eating together – They shared meals and cared for each other.
- Praying together – They prayed to God as a group.
- Helping each other – They shared what they had and looked out for everyone.

*Divide kids into small teams; older kids help younger kids.*

Call out a part of the passage. Teams run to that station, act it out, then run back. Repeat 2–3 rounds, adding cheers or silly motions.

### **Memory Verse Motion Challenge**

Read Hebrews 10:25 from an NIV Bible.

Break Hebrews 10:25 (NIV) into 4 short phrases with motions:

1. "Let us not give up meeting together" → hands together then open
2. "Some people have gotten into the habit of doing this" → shrug shoulders
3. "Instead, let us encourage one another" → point to a friend and clap
4. "Especially as you see the day coming closer" → look up and wave

Practice call-and-response. Add a playful team "echo" challenge.

Now let's say our memory verse with motions in our teams! Team one, you go first. Team two repeats the next line. Let's finish it together!

## **Prayer & Worship Practice (5 min)**

### **Prayer Activity: Guided Thankfulness Prayer**

Let's sit in a circle and get ready to pray and worship together. Today we are thanking God for the people who make up the church—our friends, our family, and even people we don't know yet.

We're going to pray around the circle. One person will pray a short sentence thanking God for someone in the church. It can be one word or one sentence. Older kids, you can start and help younger kids if they need ideas.

- Go around the circle once, letting each child share.
- If a child is shy, the leader can prompt them with:
  - "Thank God for someone who helped you this week."
  - "Thank God for a friend you like to sit with at church."
  - "Thank God for the teachers who led my group."
  - "Thank God for the people who serve hot chocolate and granola bars."
  - "Thank God for the people who help us in the parking lot."
  - "Thank God for the pastors who lead our parents so they can learn and worship too."
- Keep it short and positive. Encourage nods or soft "amen" responses after each prayer.

Now we'll spend a quiet moment thinking about one way we can help or include someone this week. Place one hand on your heart and one hand reaching out like you are helping someone.

*Play gentle worship music in the background. Encourage kids to close their eyes if they want. Leaders quietly circulate and whisper encouragement to older kids to model reflection.*

**Let's end by praying together: 'Dear God, thank You for the people who make up the church. Help us to love, include, and help others this week, just like the first church did. Amen.'**

*All kids repeat the prayer together.*

**Remember: The church is more than a building. We are the church when we love and help each other.**

## **Group Activity or Project (10 min)**

### **Activity: Build the Church Collage**

**We are going to build a picture of our church—but not a building. We're going to make a collage of people, showing everyone who is part of the church. Each of you will add your own person and share one way you help the church.**

- *Show kids the poster paper and pre-cut paper people or name cards.*
- *Show markers/crayons and glue sticks/tape.*
- *Assign older kids as "helpers" to guide younger kids in drawing, coloring, or writing.*
- *Each child decorates their paper person with a name and/or a way they help.*
- *Older kids encourage and coach younger kids.*
- *As each child finishes, they tape or glue their person onto the poster labeled "Our Church."*
- *Encourage kids to say aloud the way they help as they add their person.*
- *Leaders circulate and ask questions like:*
  - *"Which part of the Bible story does this show?"*
  - *"How did you help someone this week?"*

*Once everyone has added their person:*

**Look at our church! Every person here matters. Even kids. Even you. When we love, learn, pray, and help, we are the church together.**

- *Ask 2–3 kids to share what they added and why.*
- *Older kids can coach younger kids to use their words.*

**Great work, everyone! Remember: The church is more than a building. Each of you is part of the church every time you love, pray, help, or include someone.**

# Wrap-Up & Structured Free Play (10 min)

*As kids arrive, invite them into free play (coloring, games, playdoh, Legos, etc.). Actively coach older kids to notice younger kids and invite them into what they are doing. Play upbeat worship music as kids play/create.*

Today we learned something really important about the church. The church is not a building. The church is people.

In the Bible story from Acts, there were no church buildings like we have today. God's people met in homes. They ate together. They prayed together. They helped each other. Wherever God's people were together, the church was there.

That means when we love each other, share with each other, and choose to follow Jesus together, we are being the church.

## **Suggested Discussion Questions:**

- *What are some things the early church did together in today's story?*
- *Who makes up the church?*
- *How can kids be part of the church even when we are not inside a church building?*

## **Bottom Line Review:**

*Have kids say together: The church is more than a building.*

People who follow Jesus and love each other are the church.

## **Weekly Challenge:**

This week, your challenge is to look for ways to be the church. You can pray with someone, help someone, share with someone, or encourage someone. Remember, you do not have to be in a church building to be the church.

## **Closing Prayer:**

God, thank You for making us part of Your church. Help us remember that the church is people who love You and love each other. Show us how we can be the church wherever we go. Amen.

## **Optional Closing Game: Where Is the Church?**

*Have kids stand in a circle or spread out around the room.*

*Call out a place or situation. Kids respond by either staying standing and saying "We are the church!" or sitting down quietly if it is not true.*

I am going to name a place or a situation. If the church can be there, stay standing and say, "We are the church!" If it cannot, sit down quietly.

*Call out examples one at a time:*

- In a church building
- At home with your family
- On the playground
- At school
- At a friend's house
- In a car
- At the dinner table
- When people pray together
- When people help each other
- When people follow Jesus together

*After several rounds, end with this statement:*

**The church is not a building. The church is God's people wherever they go.**



**Kids Club Feb W1 Church Imager**

Print on heavy cardstock. 2/campus. keep for entire series



**Kids Club Feb W1 People Imager**  
Print on heavy cardstock. 2/campus. keep for entire series

**And let us not neglect our  
meeting together, as some  
people do, but encourage  
one another, especially  
now that the day of his  
return is drawing near.  
Hebrews 10:25**