

SUGGESTIONS FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

BY

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THE CHURCH THE BODY OF CHRIST

BY

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INTRODUCTION

This little book has been prepared to help the Sunday School teacher present his lesson better on Sunday morning. It must be used with the Sunday School book, THE CHURCH THE BODY OF CHRIST, by Zeb Moss. The teacher should look carefully through this book as soon as he or she receives it and make a list of all the suggested visual aid materials to be used in teaching these lessons. Then look for these materials throughout each week. Each week the teacher should begin early in the week to study his Sunday School book, his Bible and this book in preparation for teaching on Sunday. The blank pages in this book are for the teacher to make his own outline and notes for teaching the lesson.

LESSON 1

TO STUDY IN ADVANCE: Ephesians 1:15-23; 4:1-16; 5:21-33. Also study chapter 7 in BAPTIST BELIEFS and chapter 3 in MY WALK WITH CHRIST.

VISUAL AIDS: Show a picture of a church building and another of a group of people at church. You may also find a picture of Christ, the head of the Church.

1. Discuss the general theme of the lessons for the next 3 months. Show the class what you will be studying together. Encourage them to study each lesson carefully.
2. Ask the class to tell what is meant by the "invisible church."
3. What is the difference between the "invisible" and the "visible" church?
4. Ask the class to read together the definition of a church found in the Sunday School book.
5. From Matthew 16, read the account of Jesus beginning his church. Ask the class, "What does Jesus mean by the word 'rock'?"
6. Ask a class member to read 1 Peter 2:4-5, and discuss the term "living stones".
7. What does it mean that Christ is the head of the church?
8. In Ephesians 5, what does Paul say Christ and the church are like? (The relationship between a husband and wife)
9. Ask some church members to tell what their church means to them.
10. Close the class with prayer for your church.

TO STUDY IN ADVANCE: Acts 13:1-4,49. Acts 1:8;
Romans 15:19-20.

VISUAL AIDS: Show a picture of a large church building and a smaller one with a line connecting the two. You may want to draw these.

1. Read the suggested scripture verses and give some of the background to the verses from Acts.
2. Ask the class why they think one church should help begin another.
3. Study carefully with the class the story of Barnabas and Saul being called to start a new church.
4. Explain the role of the Holy Spirit in this story.
5. Discuss how your church could start another church.
6. List the advantages of one church starting another.
7. Ask, "What facts should be known about an area before a new church is started there?"
8. Why are strong leaders necessary for the beginning of new churches? Discuss.
9. List the cautions given in the book and add any more you can think of.
10. Pray that God will lead your church to start a new church.

LESSON 2

TO STUDY IN ADVANCE: Acts 2:37-47; 5:12-16.

Also refer to BAPTIST BELIEFS,
chapter 7, and MY WALK WITH CHRIST,
chapter 3.

VISUAL AIDS: Show a picture of a person being baptized and a full picture of Christ to emphasize that the church is the "body of Christ."

1. Discuss why the author calls the church a "spiritual organization".
2. Explain to the class that our scripture verses (Acts 2:47; 5:14) show us that only those who accept Christ should be church members. Have the class read these verses.
3. Give some background for these scriptures (Acts 2:47; 5:14) stating how people had accepted the message of Christ in repentance and faith.
4. Ask the class, "Why are infants and young children not church members?"
5. How is a person saved? (Let the class discuss this question and be sure to correct any wrong ideas).
6. Ask one person to read 2 Corinthians 5:17 and discuss the meaning of the verse.
7. Read Matthew 3:7-8, and discuss why it is important for the church to try to be sure people are saved before they become members of the church.
8. List the privileges of church membership on a chalkboard. Add more than are in the book if you can.
9. Now list some of the responsibilities of church members.
10. Discuss with the class why some churches are strong. Is your church strong? Why? or Why not?

LESSON 12

TO STUDY IN ADVANCE: John 15:1-8; 2 Peter 3:18;
Matthew 11:28-30; Luke 2:52.

VISUAL AIDS: Show a picture of a church and a picture of a vine and branches.

1. Lead the class in saying the memory verse together.
2. Ask the class to explain the meaning of "spiritual growth".
3. List on a chalkboard the activities which help Christians grow spiritually.
4. Ask a member who has been in Sunday School for many years to tell what Sunday School means to him.
5. Explain the importance of regular attendance at Sunday School and worship services.
6. Ask, "How can we grow spiritually through attending the worship service?" (List on the chalkboard.)
7. Discuss the importance of the regular church prayer meeting and its value for the Christians.
8. Ask, "How does direct prayer to God help us grow spiritually?"
9. Read John 15:1-8 and explain that to abide in Christ, the Vine, is to grow spiritually.
10. Ask different Christians members to explain how each of the suggestions has been helpful to them in spiritual growth.

LESSON 3

TO STUDY IN ADVANCE: 1 Timothy 3:1-13;

Titus 1:5-9; Acts 6:1-7; 13:1-3;

John 16:13. Also read BAPTIST

BELIEFS, Chapter 7, and MY WALK WITH CHRIST, chapter 4, for additional help.

10. Pray and ask God to help you to witness for Christ in the coming days.

VISUAL AIDS: Show a picture of a pastor in his work, or perhaps a deacon serving in the church.

1. Explain to the class how the organization of the early (New Testament) church developed.
2. List on a chalkboard the names used in the Bible for a "pastor."
3. Use Acts 20:17 and 1 Peter 5:2 to show how the office of pastor is described by these three terms.
4. Compare 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9 and list as many qualifications for pastor as you can.
5. Discuss with the class what it means to be called to preach. (See Jeremiah 1:4-10, Isaiah 6:1-8, and Acts 9:1-9 for examples of God calling men to preach.)
6. Ask, "Why should a pastor seek to prepare himself through training and study to be the best pastor he possibly can be?"
7. Ask someone to read Acts 6:1-7 and discuss why the first deacons were chosen and what their work was.
8. List on a chalkboard the qualifications for a deacon found in 1 Timothy 3:8-13.
9. Ask the class to name the deacons in your church and tell how they serve the church.
10. Close with prayer for your pastor and the deacons in your church.

LESSON 11

TO STUDY IN ADVANCE: Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:18-20 and all the scripture references in the lesson material. Also see MY WALK WITH CHRIST, chapter 13 and STUDIES IN SOULWINNING.

VISUAL AIDS: Show some pictures of people to help the class see the importance of witnessing to people.

1. Write the word "evangelism" on the chalkboard and discuss its meaning.
2. Read or have another read the scriptures found in Acts 1 and Matthew 28, to show Jesus' command to win others. Also see Matthew 6:15 and John 3:15.
3. Explain (using the scriptures) the lost condition of the sinner.
4. Discuss: "Are all people who do not believe on Jesus lost and will they be punished in hell?" (Yes)
5. Ask if there are people in the class who know by memory any or all of the scriptures listed. Ask them to say them. Encourage the rest of the class to try to learn these and other scripture verses.
6. You may want to add other scriptures to those listed in the book. (see MY WALK WITH CHRIST).
7. Ask the class to think about people to whom they should witness. Ask, "Are there people your friends or members of your family?"
8. Discuss why it is good for two to witness together.
9. Ask three class members to read one of the scripture verses listed in the last section of the lesson (Proverbs 11:30; Daniel 12:3; and Isaiah 55:11).

LESSON 4

TO STUDY IN ADVANCE: Acts 6:1-7, related materials in BAPTIST BELIEFS, chapter 7, and MY WALK WITH CHRIST, chapter 4.

VISUAL AIDS: Perhaps you will want to make a poster with the title, "CHURCH GOVERNMENT", and under it put the words, "Autocratic, Episcopal, Presbyterian, and Congregational" with several question marks on the poster.

1. Begin the class by explaining the four different types of church government.
2. Ask the class to give examples of the different kinds of church government.
3. List on a chalkboard as the class tells how the New Testament churches governed themselves.
4. Ask, "What is a democratic church?"
5. How is your church democratic? Discuss this with the class.
6. Read Acts 6:1-7 and discuss how the early Christians settled problems in a democratic way.
7. Ask some class members to explain the meaning of the word, "independent".
8. Have someone read Acts 15:22-29 and tell how this is an example of one church advising another.
9. Is your church independent? In what ways is it independent?
10. Read Matthew 22:21 and Romans 13:1-7 and discuss the importance of a Christian's responsibility to his country.

LESSON 10

TO STUDY IN ADVANCE: John 4:19-26 and all of the scripture references in the lesson material.

VISUAL AIDS: Show a picture of a church worshipping or show people praying, teaching, preaching, singing, reading the Bible and giving.

1. Ask the class to give a definition of worship.
2. List on a chalkboard the actions which worship include.
3. Read John 4:19-26 and emphasize the importance of worship being a spiritual experience.
4. Discuss the statement, "Worship is both an inward experience and an outward expression."
5. Ask one class member to tell why private worship is important. Ask another to tell why public worship is important.
6. As you discuss each of the five forms of worship be sure to read or have someone else read the scripture references.
7. Ask, "Does our church have these elements of worship?" Discuss.
8. Discuss how our worship glorifies God. Does the worship in your church bring glory to God.
9. Explain the importance of all Christians being quiet and joining in the worship service, in order that the lost might be saved.
10. Pray for your church that your worship to God might be more meaningful.

LESSON 5

TO STUDY IN ADVANCE: 2 Peter 1:12-21;
2 Timothy 3:15-17. Also study chapter
one in BAPTIST BELIEFS and MY WALK
WITH CHRIST.

VISUAL AIDS: Find a picture of a Bible or put
an open Bible on a table before
the class.

1. Give some general facts about the Bible
(see BAPTIST BELIEFS).
2. Read and discuss 2 Peter 1:12-21.
3. Discuss the 3 different attitudes toward
the Bible. Use the scriptures to tell why
the first two are wrong.
4. Read carefully 2 Timothy 3:15-17 and
emphasize the most important words.
5. Compare 2 Timothy 3:16 and 2 Peter 1:20-21.
Also see Hebrews 1:1-7.
6. Give some examples to help the class under-
stand the instructions about reading and
studying the Bible.
7. Ask a class member to read John 16:13 to
show Jesus' promise of the Holy Spirit to
help us understand the Bible.
8. Give a testimony of how the Bible has
guided you in a certain problem, or ask a
class member to do it.
9. Ask one class member to read Isaiah 64:6
and another to read Isaiah 61:10 and dis-
cuss the meaning.
10. Read John 20:30-31 to show John's reason
for writing his Gospel.

LESSON 9

TO STUDY IN ADVANCE: Malachi 3:8-10; 1 Peter 4:10; 2 Corinthians 8:1-24; 1 Corinthians 16:2; 4:2. Also see BAPTIST BELIEFS, chapter 9 and MY WALK WITH CHRIST, chapter 7.

VISUAL AIDS: Show a picture of some money or put some coins on a table before the class.

1. Begin by asking, "What is stewardship?" "Who is a steward?" (Allow time for answers).
2. Show how God is good to us by giving us what we have. Have someone read Genesis 1:31 and another James 1:17.
3. Ask, "What does God own here on this earth?" Then read Psalm 24:1.
4. Explain God's purpose for us in his world. Read Genesis 1:28. What is our privilege? What is our responsibility?
5. Write the word "steward" on the chalkboard and explain the meaning.
6. Try to give other examples of the way a good steward shows his stewardship to the owner of the property.
7. Write the word "tithe" on the chalkboard and discuss its meaning. Figure the tithe (10%) of several amounts.
8. Read Malachi 3:10 and Leviticus 27:30. You may also want to read some other scriptures which you have studied in the suggested material mentioned above.
9. Discuss the blessings of stewardship.
10. If you are a tither (all Sunday School teachers should be) give your experience of how you began to tithe. Close with prayer that the church members will understand stewardship.

LESSON 6

TO STUDY IN ADVANCE: 1 Peter 2:1-10;
Revelation 1:4-6; Ephesians 2:17-22
and Hebrews 4:14-16. Also see MY
WALK WITH CHRIST, chapter 2.

VISUAL AIDS: Show a picture of a man in prayer.

1. Give a personal testimony about how important prayer is to you.
2. Ask 3 different people to read the scriptures in the book.
3. Ask the question, "Who is a priest?" Allow the class time to give answers.
4. Explain the Biblical teaching that says each Christian is a priest before God.
5. Discuss the work of the Old Testament priests. You may want to study Exodus 28, 29 to learn more about the work of these priests.
6. Read Matthew 27:51 and explain what it means.
7. Ask a class member to read Hebrews 4:14-16 to show how Jesus is now our High Priest.
8. Ask, "How do we become priests?" Then read Revelation 1:5,6 and Ephesians 2:17,18 and explain their meanings to the class.
9. List on a chalkboard our duties as priests.
10. Close with a prayer thanking God for the privilege of prayer.

10. Tell how often your church observes the Lord's Supper and let the class discuss if it is often enough or too often.

LESSON 8

TO STUDY IN ADVANCE: Luke 22:7-20; Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-23; 1 Corinthians 11:17-34. Also see BAPTIST BELIEFS, chapter 8, and MY WALK WITH CHRIST, chapter 5.

VISUAL AIDS: Put a piece of bread and a glass of grape juice (or something similar) before the class, or use pictures of these things. You may be able to find a picture of the Last Supper to show to the class.

1. Ask two class members to read the suggested scriptures for this lesson.
2. Compare any differences in the account of the Last Supper in Matthew or Luke. Notice the similarities.
3. To explain the background for the Lord's Supper be able to tell about the passover feast from reading Exodus 12:1-20 or Deuteronomy 16:1-8.
4. Ask a class member to tell about the escape of the Jews from Egypt and how the passover feast reminded them of God's deliverance.
5. Explain carefully the meaning of the symbols of the bread and the fruit of the vine.
6. Ask the class to find from reading 1 Corinthians 11:24-28 the purpose of observing the Lord's Supper.
7. Discuss with the class why the Lord's Supper is meaningful only to Christians.
8. From your study of 1 Corinthians 11:17-34 explain what the problem was in the church at Corinth.
9. Read 1 Corinthians 11:28 and ask the class what it means to them.

Lesson 7

TO STUDY IN ADVANCE: Matthew 28:18-20;
Romans 6:1-11. Also see BAPTIST
BELIEFS, chapter 8 and MY WALK WITH
CHRIST, chapter 5.

VISUAL AIDS: Find a picture of a person being
baptized.

1. Ask, "What does baptism mean to you?"
(Allow time for several to answer).
2. Explain that we baptize people today
because of the command of Jesus found in
Matthew 28:19. Read that verse.
3. Discuss the meaning of the word "baptize".
You may want to tell or read the Old
Testament reference, 2 Kings 5:14.
4. Examine carefully the words of Paul in
Romans 6:1-6. Ask the class what Paul
means by these words.
5. Help each person to understand that
baptism is a picture of death to sin and
resurrection to a new life in Christ.
6. Ask, "Can this picture be shown without
using the New Testament way of baptism;
that is, putting a person under the water?"
7. Discuss why a person must be a Christian
before he is baptized.
8. Read the verses in Acts which show that
baptism follows repentance and faith. Use
different class members to read the dif-
ferent verses.
9. Ask, "What will happen to the church if
non-Christians are baptized and allowed
to become members?"
10. Discuss why you think Jesus gave the
commandment of baptism to the church.