

CHAPTER 5

CHURCH: THE BIG FAMILY

Refer to **pg 55** in the workbook

Summary

The Church is portrayed as the body of Christ, with every Christian made a part of it. It is united though comprising different members. The emphasis of church is on people. 1 Peter 2:9 is used to reveal the meaning of Church. The work of the Church is also given.

The practical portion is about Small Groups. Guiding principles are given as to how to maximize growth through participation in such groups.

To get ready

1. Extra Bibles, pens and pencils
2. Photocopies of situation slips on page 20
3. Optional - photocopy of flash cards on pages 15 to 18
4. Memory verse 1 Corinthians 12:27

Leader's Guide

In this introduction let the learners write out in their own words the functions of the different parts of the body mentioned. Encourage them to give some way-out functions. E.g for hair, say something like 'to protect the bald head from sunburn' or 'to give the comb a chance to work'.

Ask them which are the more important parts and which are the less important parts. What are their reasons for thinking so?

At the end of it all, emphasize the fact that every part has a very important role to play.

Refer to **pg 56** in the workbook

1. 1 Corinthians 12:14-27 is given below. From their Bibles (NIV) the learners should be able to fill in the blanks. If someone has a different version, lend them an NIV Bible.

You may ask the learners to read the whole passage one verse at a time until all the blanks are filled in.

Refer to **pg 57** in the workbook

2. Let the learners do this quiz to check their understanding of the passage above. You may need to go through each point with them.

Emphasize that it is God who decides who goes where and that this unity in variety is part of His plan.

The answers are

1. F
2. T
3. T
4. F
5. F
6. T

3. Emphasize the fact that church refers to people not a building. Let them think a while about the riddle before giving them the answer. Some of their answers may be quite close. No need to be too sticky about exact words.

The answer to the riddle is

'Church has no meaning unless **you are (U_R)** in it.'

Refer to **pg 58** in the workbook

4. Let the learners look at 1 Peter 2:9. Give them time to fill in the unscrambled words and then find the sentence. Explain that the body of people who are the church is different from other bodies because this group is centered on God.

See details of discussion on the following page of the guide.

The church is to **declare the praises of God.**

Spend some time to discuss further the definitions of Peter regarding the Church. Again emphasize that it is all about people.

Refer to **pg 59** in the workbook

Here are some guiding questions for your discussion. Flash card can be created from the template on pages 15 and 16 at the end of this chapter.

Chosen people

Chosen by who?

Chosen for what purpose?

Royal priesthood

What do priests do? (serve as in-between for God and human beings)

What kind of priests are we as the church?

What comes to your mind when you say we are royal?

Holy nation

What nation do we belong to? (God's Kingdom)

What is the character of the nation?

What does holy mean? (separated to God for His purposes)

People belonging to God

Who do we belong to?

How do you feel about that?

What are we to do then? (do His will i.e. to be declaring His praises)

Our purpose as God's people

Why do we praise God? (He has saved us from sin, given us new life, etc)

Why must we declare His praises? (Good news cannot be kept to ourselves.)

5. Let the learners have some time to do the wordsearch. The answers can be found on page 19 at the end of the chapter. You may like to explain some of the functions of the church as listed for the word search above. Do give **relational** definitions instead of dictionary definitions.

Flash cards for these can be found on pages 17 and 18 at the end of this chapter.

Refer to **pg 60** in the workbook

Discipline

If you do something wrong, would not you like someone to point it out to you? After all, discipline is to help us grow as persons.

Hospitality

A friend from another state comes to town. Why not invite him or her to stay with you and your family if your parents do not mind and the space is there? Or a friend from another state visits. Take him or her out for lunch.

Sharing

Suppose you cannot afford to pay your exam fees. Would it not be good if someone is willing to help you out in this difficult time?

Worship

God is so great. Let us worship Him together as a big group. Isn't it great to have so many people together in church just singing praises and worshipping God?

Fellowship

This is more than eating. We can get together and bond together and really feel like we are part of a big family.

Pray

When you are sick or in some kind of trouble, would not it be nice to know that other people are praying to God for your sake?

Teach

God's truth is vital. Don't you want to learn more? It is great the church is teaching such truth.

Giving

God has given me so much. Name your blessings. Don't you want to just return a token to Him to say 'thank you' for all He has done? Regular giving reminds us that all things actually come from God.

Sacraments

These are reminders. You practise them because you do not want to forget that Jesus died and rose again for us.

Witness

Believing in Jesus is just wonderful. Don't you feel like sharing the good news with others who still do not know Jesus as their Savior? Sometimes by just showing others how much you all care for each other is going to make a big impact on their lives.

6. Here are possible situations. Using the words found from the wordsearch, fit in the correct role of the Church in that particular situation.

Refer to **pg 61** in the workbook

The answers are -

Hospitality (on page 60 of workbook)

Giving

Teaching

Worship

Discipline

Witness

Fellowship (on page 62)

Sacraments (on page 62)

Refer to **pg 62** in the workbook

Let the learners write down something of their own regarding what they like about church. Encourage some discussion on this matter. Then help them write it down in the speech bubble below. For example, you may begin like this - 'I like church because...'

Refer to **pg 63** in the workbook

1. The practical portion introduces the learner to Small Groups.

2. The templates for the situation slips can be found at the end of the chapter page 20. Photocopy according to the number in the class and give a set to everyone. Encourage the learners to think about the dynamics of the small group which will help them to grow more effectively than in the larger congregation. Stress there is more room to make mistakes without being too embarrassed. Also there is more personal accountability. You can refer to Galatians 6:2 about 'bearing one another's burden'.

Refer to **pg 64** in the workbook

The situations are as follows.

I feel so bad because I did something terribly wrong. Who can I talk to?

Raise the point that in a small group context, it is easier to share about things we have done wrong. Correction, repentance, forgiveness, restoration and growth can then follow in a smaller sized community.

My little sister is so shy. She is interested to know more about Jesus. But where can I take her to?

In the context of the small group, a shy person can feel safer to ask questions.

Two more situations are given in the next page.

Refer to **pg 65** in the workbook

After my father lost his job,
the family finds it so hard to
pay for things. Wonder who
I can ask for help?

In a small group, everyone knows one another. We are not nameless entities.

Sometimes in church, I feel
as though no one knows me.
I am just a nobody.

In a small group, you get to know people better. You are able to know who you can ask for help.

Refer to **pg 66** in the workbook

Encourage the learners to give a situation of their own that will be more easily handled in the small group rather than in the big group. You may like to give some other examples to stimulate their thinking.

3. The practical is to get the learners involved in life of a small group. If there is a youth small group, that will be just great. Fit them in if they are not already in one. If the church does not have such a group for youth, then form one with the present group of learners.

If they are new to small group meetings, brief them as to what to expect. Many churches adopt the 4W approach. See below.

W for Welcome

This is the icebreaker - a get-to-know-you-better event to get everyone laughing and relaxed.

W for Worship

Here is a time of praising and singing as together you worship God.

W for Word

This is the Bible study segment when you look into God's word to learn and hear what He is telling and leading you all.

W for Works

This is a time of prayer for each other after sharing one another's needs and joys.

The above is the mechanics. What is important is the life together and the accountability to help each other grow in the Lord. Stress this to the learners.

There are two hints here. You may like to elaborate on them. The more we participate, the more we will gain spiritually. This way, we get to know others and they get to know us. Praying binds the group together. We share each other's needs and place them before the Lord and we are all encouraged when we see the Lord's answers to our earnest prayers.

Refer to **pg 67** in the workbook

4. Do not forget the memory verse for the week which is 1 Corinthians 12:27.

Revise the other verses.

1 Corinthians 12:27

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

Let the learners work on the summary themselves before discussing as a group.

TODAY I LEARNED ...

- 1 that the Church is pictured as a **body** made up of many different **parts**
- 2 that each of us have a place in the Church and this is decided by **God**
- 3 that the Bible speaks of the Church as a **chosen people**, a **royal priesthood** , a **holy nation** and a **people** belonging to God

Refer to **pg 70** in the workbook

- 4 that purpose of the Church is to **declare** the praises of God to everyone
- 5 that the Church **builds** up God's people to fulfill God's purpose
- 6 that the Church **prays** , **fellowships** together, **teaches** God's truth and does the **sacraments**
- 7 that the Church can help us grow as Christians through **small groups**

AND I LEARNED HOW

to participate in the **small** groups of the church

See page 5 above

**CHOSEN
PEOPLE**

**ROYAL
PRIESTHOOD**

**HOLY
NATION**

CHURCH: THE BIG FAMILY

See page 5 above - continued

PEOPLE BELONGING TO GOD

See page 6 above

Discipline

Giving

Fellowship

Hospitality

Pray

See page 6 above - continued

Sacraments

Sharing

Witness

Worship

Answers to wordsearch (See page 5 above)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
L	T	L	K	D	Z	C	V	W	F	A	T	Y	H	P	1
L	E	L	Y	H	F	A	S	E	P	R	U	K	O	I	2
Z	A	J	Q	M	D	V	L	L	Q	D	Y	G	S	H	3
E	C	Z	I	O	S	L	V	H	H	D	K	Q	P	S	4
E	H	K	L	J	O	B	M	O	I	P	W	Q	I	R	5
U	N	M	N	W	A	Q	A	Z	P	M	A	L	T	O	6
G	X	I	S	T	N	E	M	A	R	C	A	S	A	W	7
T	I	H	L	F	K	W	N	Y	E	V	B	P	L	J	8
Z	I	V	L	P	H	P	G	B	I	O	R	E	I	E	9
P	M	W	I	B	I	N	H	I	E	A	H	O	T	R	10
T	Q	M	K	N	I	C	J	U	Y	K	U	B	Y	I	11
D	Q	Q	R	R	G	B	S	F	E	J	D	V	Z	M	12
O	I	K	A	Q	H	C	K	I	R	C	E	C	F	S	13
N	M	H	C	L	V	O	Z	N	D	I	S	Q	N	Z	14
G	S	W	I	T	N	E	S	S	X	E	T	F	O	Z	15

ANSWERS

(OVER, DOWN, DIRECTION)

First letter in darker print box

DISCIPLINE (10,14,NW)

FELLOWSHIP (10,1,SW)

GIVING (1,7,SE)

HOSPITALITY (14,1,S)

PRAY (13,8,SW)

SACRAMENTS (13,7,E)

SHARING (2,15,NE)

TEACH (2,1,S)

WITNESS (3,15,E)

WORSHIP (15,7,N)

See pages 10 and 11 above

I feel so bad because I did something terribly wrong. Who can I talk to?

I feel so bad because I did something terribly wrong. Who can I talk to?

My little sister is so shy. She is interested to know more about Jesus. But where can I take her to?

My little sister is so shy. She is interested to know more about Jesus. But where can I take her to?

After my father lost his job, the family finds it so hard to pay for things. Wonder who I can ask for help?

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Sometimes in church, I feel as though no one knows me. I am just a nobody.

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