

THEN TO NOW

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A Curriculum to Teach Children About Apostolic History

Show children where we come from and point them ahead to where we're going!

THREE UNITS OF STUDY

UNIT ONE: THE EARLY CHURCH

In this unit, children will learn about the first century church. They will learn about WHO they were, WHAT they preached, HOW, WHERE & WHEN they lived and WHY they matter to us now.

UNIT TWO: THE 20TH CENTURY REVIVAL

In this unit, children learn about the 20th century church - including pioneers like William J. Seymour - and its revival. They will learn WHERE and WHEN revivals happened, HOW these pioneers lived and WHO they were, WHAT they preached and believed and WHY they matter to us now. In unit 2, a number of activities are designed to help you spotlight your own local pioneers.

UNIT THREE: THE MODERN CHURCH

In this unit, children will learn about the present-day church. They will learn WHERE we exist, WHAT we believe and WHO we are, HOW we live and WHY it is important that the church remain the same!



Scope & Overview

This curriculum is generally designed for children in elementary school (ages 4 through 11), but it can be adapted to fit younger age groups or older age groups.

There are three main periods of church history that will be studied in this curriculum.

In Unit 1, children will become familiar with the early church including Jesus' instructions before His ascension, Peter's first sermon and the Day of Pentecost, and the daily lives and behaviors of the first-century believers.

Unit 2 begins at the turn of the 20th century, when revival happened across the United States and Canada. Kids will learn about the Azusa Street revival and its significance, as well as local pioneers and church history.

Unit 3 begins later in the 20th century and continues to present day. In this unit, kids will connect the first units to today's reality. They will learn why we preach what we do and that we seek above all to be the church Jesus calls us to be. We seek to be like the early church - Apostolic in every way. Kids will compare similarities and differences of the early and modern-day church.

This curriculum is designed to spark ideas. The activities given are not detailed on purpose. Take the idea, adapt it and make it your own. You can use any combination of ideas from the pages. Teaching children requires you to be sensitive to the moment. If your kids are active, haul out a game. If they are quiet, take them to prayer or read them a story. Use this booklet as it best fits your class.

In addition, you can add as much "teaching" as you wish to the given activities. For younger kids, you may make a point after completing the activity and include only one scripture verse. Older kids may enjoy looking up and reading aloud more than one verse that illustrates the point of the activity. Know your group and do what best suits them.

UNIT ONE: THE EARLY CHURCH

Lesson One: Who Led the First Century Church?

OBJECTIVE: TO TEACH CHILDREN WHO THE MAJOR PLAYERS OF THE EARLY CHURCH WERE, INCLUDING JESUS, THE APOSTLES AND THE MANY FOLLOWERS WHO WERE FILLED WITH THE HOLY GHOST AROUND THE KNOWN WORLD.

Lesson Two: How Did the First Century Church Live?

OBJECTIVE: TO TEACH CHILDREN HOW PEOPLE IN THE APOSTLES' DAY WENT ABOUT DAILY LIFE. TO SHOW CHILDREN HOW DAILY TASKS WERE ACCOMPLISHED AND HOW JESUS' FOLLOWERS WERE NO DIFFERENT THAN US (THEY HAD RESPONSIBILITIES AND JOBS, ETC.).

Lesson Three: What Did the First Century Church Preach & Why Is the First Century Church Important?

OBJECTIVE: TO TEACH CHILDREN WHAT WAS PREACHED ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST AND WHAT THE EARLY CHURCH BELIEVED ABOUT JESUS, THE CHURCH AND THE RAPTURE.

Lesson One: Who Led the First Century Church?

OBJECTIVE: TO TEACH CHILDREN WHO THE MAJOR PLAYERS OF THE EARLY CHURCH WERE, INCLUDING JESUS, THE APOSTLES AND THE MANY FOLLOWERS WHO WERE FILLED WITH THE HOLY GHOST AROUND THE KNOWN WORLD.

HOOKS

- Purchase a “Tales of Glory Galilee Boat Set” from bibletoys.com. Have kids explore the 12 disciples following Jesus using these toys. Talk about Jesus’ instructions to the disciples (and apostles) and what they accomplished by following Jesus. Talk about the ascension and the first church service. If you can’t purchase the toy set, simply use 12 figurines or popsicle stick puppets (print images from the internet and tape them to popsicle sticks).
- Give kids a quiz on what they know about the book of Acts, just for fun. Tell them the book of Acts records the history of the early church. You can ask questions about how many gathered in the Upper Room, who replaced Judas, what day the Holy Ghost arrived, etc. Explain why we should have an understanding of how the first church was formed and founded. Younger children can “vote with their feet,” answering true and false questions by moving to opposite sides of the room (one side for “True” and one side for “False”).
- Use a large canvas and several sheets of red, orange and yellow tissue paper to make a wall hanging. See instructions here: http://www.chow.com/how_2059979_create-tissue-paper-wall-art.html. When the hanging is dry, write on it with a large permanent marker (you can write “Acts 2:38,” or “tongues of fire,” etc.). Talk about what the Bible says about the Holy Ghost (it consumes us like fire, it’s moving like fire, etc.).

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Have children learn the names of the twelve apostles by participating in a Crazy Clothesline drama. Hang a clothesline (string) across your room at kid-height and hang outfits to represent the twelve disciples. Pick appropriate props if possible (i.e.: coins for the tax collector Matthew). As you introduce a new apostle, choose a volunteer to stand behind the corresponding outfit. Read some information about the apostle to the children. Have the kids move and make expressions as they think the apostles would have. Once all 12 apostles are represented, review their names and what they all had in common (they wanted to follow Jesus). Talk about what it meant to be a disciple. Do you think we can be disciples today?
- Have children act out the Day of Pentecost with puppets (stick, sock, etc.). If you have older children, have them prepare and then present to a younger class (either this week or at the beginning of next week). You can also have children act the story out interactively. Have them worship and pray like those waiting in the Upper Room did. Give each child orange and red streamers to wave (represents fire), and have them make “wind” sounds.
- Let younger kids build (with blocks) a model of the upper room. Older kids can build (with Lego or blocks) or draw what they think the upper room looked like. You could hang paper on one of the walls and tell kids to draw what they think one view of the upper room may have looked like. Show them pictures from kids Bibles to get their creative juices flowing.
- Have kids each illustrate a scene from the story in Acts chapter 2. Compile the drawings in order when kids are finished and review the story.

WRAP-UPS

- Have children learn the names of the twelve disciples (and clarify for older kids the reason Matthias became a disciple in Acts and why some disciples seem to have two names) through song. Use <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bXGQ-Q25GwY&feature=related> or <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RiZq3zDl5D4> to teach them!
- Let kids play a game of “Trouble.” Discuss the troubles of the first century church. They were often sent to jail and progress was probably slower than they’d have liked (just like the kids’ pieces keep getting sent back to the beginning). Tell the kids that Jesus promised us that even though we’d encounter trouble in this world, “be of good cheer,” for He has overcome the world! Just like the church survived, we can’t lose if we’re on God’s side.
- Make up some review questions and play “Fill the Tube.” If you have a Twister mat, use the mat to play the game. If not, record the score by drawing circles on the board. Divide kids into four teams. Assign each team a color and lay the mat out so their colors run vertically in columns in front of them. Ask teams questions, beginning with team one. If the team can answer your question correctly, they get to put a beanbag or other token on the first circle in their column. The first team to answer six questions correctly and fill their column wins.

Lesson Two: How Did the First Century Church Live?

OBJECTIVE: TO TEACH CHILDREN HOW PEOPLE IN THE APOSTLES' DAY WENT ABOUT DAILY LIFE. TO SHOW CHILDREN HOW DAILY TASKS WERE ACCOMPLISHED AND HOW JESUS' FOLLOWERS WERE NO DIFFERENT THAN US (THEY HAD RESPONSIBILITIES AND JOBS, ETC.).

HOOKS

- Show children a video to link last week's teaching to today's. The Visual Bible's book of Acts is on youtube (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=InGKFxJp8XM&feature=related> and <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ITdlz5WJgpY&feature=related>). Tell kids that this video shows the day of Pentecost and that it was probably similar to this. Remind them of who is in the video, then discuss how their lives are different than ours.
- Play Underground Church to introduce to children how the early church was persecuted. In Underground Church, 3-5 children are sent out of the playing area (we'll call them "persecutors"). The other children elect a "pastor" and send him to the playing area to hide (give the pastor two minutes before the other children (the congregation) join him. Once all church members are hidden, the persecutors will come in and try to find the church members (including the pastor). If they find the pastor, the game is over. If they find church members, they bring them to a designated area (call it "jail;" don't allow persecutors to guard the jail). The job of the congregation is also to find the pastor - and notify a teacher that they have! When 75% of the congregation has found the pastor, the game is over and the church has won. Discuss how the first century church was persecuted for their belief in Jesus. Does this still happen today?
- As an alternative to Underground Church, use this game with younger players. Split into two teams; one team is "the church" and the other team is "the Romans." Each team has a "jail" (mark it as you wish). Choose two team captains. All other players should hide (make sure captains know who is on their team; use colored arm bands if necessary). Each captain goes searching for members of the other team. When they find a member of the opposing team, they bring them to jail. The first team to put at least 5 people in jail wins the round. Talk about how the church was persecuted by the Romans and why.
- Have children build clay or playdough houses that they think looked like ancient homes (show them some pictures first to give them an idea).

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Have children dress up like Bible characters. Take them on a tour around an ancient city, making up locations and props to suit your purpose. You might take them to "the city wall," "the city well," a house where believers met for prayer, their own home where they make meals. Lay out blankets on the floor and explain how believers slept. Take them to "market" to buy items with coins. Have kids go fishing with big nets or carry clay pots. Show children some of the things people in Jesus' day did!
- Show videos of people in Jesus' day. They can be cartoon or live action. Discuss similarities to our daily lives today, and differences. Talk about how the church is different today, and how it has remained the same.
- Learn a few phrases in one of the languages Jesus or his followers would have spoken (Greek, Hebrew, etc.). Help the kids reenact Peter's sermon to the crowd on the Day of Pentecost using an ancient language. You could also bring up "google translate" and simply allow the computer to speak the words for you (kids will find this interesting!).

- Have children make yellow pages for businesses they think would have existed in the first century (they might choose “bench maker,” “brick layer,” “sheep shearer,” “musician,” etc.). They can use markers, stickers and yellow paper. When they are done, compile the papers into a yellow duotang and keep the class book.
- Hang a long sheet of paper and have kids draw the “cityscape” (really, draw several buildings in a line). Have some children draw houses, others the marketplace, etc. Have them color their mural and add people!
- Have children live through a “day in the life” of first-century Christians. Put them all to “bed.” Then, wake them with a rooster call. Have them perform several morning duties (going to get water, starting a fire, make a meal, sweeping the floor). Send them to morning prayer at the Temple. When they come home, have them go to the river to wash clothes, go to the market to buy food, etc. Send them to the Temple again for prayer. Have them meet friends along the way and praise God for the great things He is doing. Have them witness a healing. Bring them home for dinner, then send them to “church” on the seaside or in someone’s house. Discuss what life was like for the early church.

WRAP-UPS

- Have children play a fishing game with rods and magnetic fish (clip paper clips to the nose of fish cutouts and attach a magnet to some string and a dowel rod). Write points values on the fish. Each time a child gets a fish, stop play and ask that child a review question. If they can answer, they get the points. Talk about how the early church fished for men as Jesus instructed. Why are we told to “fish” for men and not “hunt?” Compare the methods with children and discuss what it means to be a fisher of men.
- Have children examine what happens when a rock is dropped in a pond (a “ripple” develops). How was the early church like a rock dropped in a pond?
- Have kids examine picture books or other Bible books that show pictures of people in Jesus’ day. Have them look for differences from that time and present day. Older children can help you create a chart comparing the two time periods.

Lesson Three: What Did the First Century Church Preach & Why Is the First Century Church Important?

OBJECTIVE: TO TEACH CHILDREN WHAT WAS PREACHED ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST AND WHAT THE EARLY CHURCH BELIEVED ABOUT JESUS, THE CHURCH AND THE RAPTURE.

HOOKS

- Welcome children by decorating the room like you're setting up for a party. Put up balloons, streamers, play music and play pin the tail on the donkey or have a piñata (something kids would do at a party). Have a small gift for each child (some stickers, a pencil or a small Dollarama toy), and wrap it in bright paper. Allow them all to open their gifts. Once you have cleaned up, discuss what Jesus told the disciples before ascending into heaven (that He would send them the promised Holy Spirit). The Holy Ghost is called a gift because God gives it to us freely. Toys and other gifts are wonderful to get, but the Holy Ghost is a much better gift. Lead kids in a time of worship or prayer and be ready to pray with them.
- Use Acts 2:38 as your theme verse for today's session. Explain that it is what Peter preached and it tells us the three steps to salvation. Help kids memorize this verse by writing the words on balloons (break them up into several manageable chunks) and sticking the balloons to the wall. Have kids read the verse several times, then ask for a volunteer to pop one of the balloons. Continue until all balloons are popped and kids can recite alone. Have an additional balloon with "Acts 2:38" printed on it. Hold it up during your lesson at various times and have kids repeat the verse as you teach.
Hint: If kids don't like the sound of balloons popping, forewarn them to plug their ears; also, fill the balloons with less air, so the sound is not as jarring. If all else fails, use another method to help children learn the verse.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Take children on a book of Acts missionary journey. Set up locations around the classroom or children's area using props or even costumed characters. Follow a map you have printed of the ancient world (there are a number to choose from here: <http://www.bible-history.com/maps/>). Talk about how Paul traveled, etc. Put up signs to show where you are. Take a backpack with you with props packed to tell your story of how Paul lived and what he preached.
- Have several images representing happenings from the time of Jesus' crucifixion to some of Paul's missionary journeys. Photocopy the images so you have two sets. Split into two teams and give a set to each group. Have them work together to tape the images - in correct order - to the wall. Review the early church's beginnings.
- Print or draw pictures of Acts chapter 2 on large cards and shuffle them. Create two sets if you want kids to compete as teams. Have kids put the cards in order after you have read the story from Acts chapter 2.
- Have the kids pretend they are the apostles. Discuss how they must feel now that Jesus has gone. Do you think they miss Him? Have older kids write letters to Jesus (writing as an apostle). Younger kids can work as a class to write the letter, or you can have them act out a scene where they're calling Jesus on the phone. Discuss how Jesus promised He would return. Many of the early church members thought that would be sooner than 2000+ years! But they still were excited about His return, and we should be too!

- Pick four verses that teach about how the early church lived. Divide children into four groups and have each look up a verse. When they have read it, tell them to put it in their own words. Bring all four groups back together and have them share their findings.
- Play “Follow the Leader” and tell children that the early church described in the Bible is our “leader.” We must follow Jesus like they did.
- Older kids can do a sword drill, looking up verses that talk about the early church.
- Sing songs that talk about the apostles (“He Went Jumping & Leaping & Praising God”). Talk to kids about the apostles. We have songs about them and they almost seem like fairytale characters or make-believe people. But they were real and these things really did happen!

WRAP-UPS

- Have children make a book of Acts “Apostle’s Handbook” with “guides, rules and tips” on how to live like an Apostle.
- Post two maps of Paul’s missionary journey (map out a route with several “stops”) and make sure they are identical. Divide children into two teams and ask review questions. If they answer correctly, move them forward one “stop” in Paul’s journey. The first team to reach Rome wins the round. If kids are old enough, have them make up some questions for the opposing team.
- Have children make an acrostic poem (one word for each letter of the main word you’re using) using the word(s) EARLY CHURCH, APOSTLES, APOSTOLICS, etc. If you want to increase the challenge for older kids, have them make their own, then vote on the “best” word for each letter and make a class version.

UNIT TWO: THE 20TH CENTURY CHURCH

Lesson One: Who Led the 20th Century Church?

OBJECTIVE: TO TEACH CHILDREN ABOUT THE PIONEERS WHO WERE USED OF GOD IN THE GREAT REVIVALS OF THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY. TO INTRODUCE CHILDREN TO YOUR LOCAL CHURCH'S PIONEERS AND TO TEACH ABOUT "OLD TIME" REVIVALS.

Lesson Two: How Did the 20th Century Church Live?

OBJECTIVE: TO TEACH CHILDREN ABOUT THE DAILY LIVES OF OUR PIONEERS, WITH EMPHASIS ON HOW THEY CONDUCTED CHURCH AND TENT MEETINGS. TO SHOW CHILDREN WHAT OUR PIONEERS HAD, AND WHAT THEY DID WITHOUT.

Lesson Three: What Did the 20th Century Church Preach & Why Is the 20th Century Church Important?

OBJECTIVE: TO TEACH CHILDREN THAT THE PIONEERS BELIEVED THE SAME DOCTRINE THAT THE APOSTLES PREACHED. TO TEACH CHILDREN ABOUT WHAT PIONEERS PREACHED.

Lesson One: Who Led the 20th Century Church?

OBJECTIVE: TO TEACH CHILDREN ABOUT THE PIONEERS WHO WERE USED OF GOD IN THE GREAT REVIVALS OF THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY. TO INTRODUCE CHILDREN TO YOUR LOCAL CHURCH'S PIONEERS AND TO TEACH ABOUT "OLD TIME" REVIVALS.

HOOKS

- Have kids pick clothes out of a dress up chest as they come in the class. Play youtube videos of the Gaithers or Gold City singing old country hymns as kids enter. Tell them to dress as though they were going to church in the year 1906. Boys can pick out hats and ties, girls can pick out gloves, coats or hats and make paper fans. Make sure you're dressed as a pioneer too! Discuss how people got to church in the early 1900s and what their churches looked like. Get out a kids accordion and discuss some of the instruments and songs.
- Have kids make up their own hymns! Provide them with old-looking paper and pencils and put them in small groups. If they are having trouble, have them look up scriptures in song and put them to music. If you want to have kids join in singing, have the class write their hymns to a common tune, like "Mary Had a Little Lamb." Try singing them together. Music may be different nowadays, but our pioneers loved to worship God just like we do.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Have children watch a video on the Azusa Street revival (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ScXYrhlV9u4>). Discuss the video and that even though many "Pentecostals" still trace their roots to Azusa Street, some have not continued "steadfastly in the Apostles' doctrine." Talk about the importance of Azusa Street and how we still believe in the same Holy Ghost.
- Hand out templates of a newspaper's front page and have kids fill in all the details (i.e.: create titles for articles about Azusa Street, color pictures of the building and people, etc). You may also have older kids work in separate groups to do a news report. Talk about how incredulous people were when the Azusa Street revival happened, and how many thought these "Pentecostals" were silly.
Younger kids can do a news report too - you might have to feed them lines, but cutout a cardboard TV screen for them to stand behind and give them a play mic. Watch the good times roll!
- After watching the video or discussing a pioneer (William Seymour or someone local), hand out sheets of paper with a blank template of a face. Have kids draw the pioneer on the front and list things about him or her on the back (i.e.: courageous, bold, believed in the Holy Ghost, etc.). Compile these character "sketches" in a duotang. For younger kids, draw the pioneer in the middle of a whiteboard (have kids come up and help) and list characteristics around the drawing.
Ask kids what they think people will say about us in 100 years? Will they call us courageous just like we call our pioneers courageous?
- Have kids play the role of William Seymour or another pioneer pastor. Interview them on the "radio." Have a radio ready to show. Ask questions of Seymour ("Why were they making so much noise?" "Do you really think the Holy Ghost is for everyone?" "When do you think Jesus will come back?"). Help kids answer and discuss their answers with the class.

WRAP-UPS

- Have an old-fashioned sing along with the kids. You can gather around fake “campfire” and sing silly songs while clapping along. Try songs like “Mister Sun, Kumbaya, Down By the Bay, This Little Light of Mine, Boom Boom Ain’t It Great to Be Crazy, He’s Got the Whole World,” etc. Use play instruments like spoons, maracas or wood blocks and let kids play along. If you have a recording of any of these songs, you can sing along to those. Tell kids that next week we’ll be learning a little more about how our pioneers lived. They often entertained themselves with songs and stories since there was no TV, video games or movies to see.
- Have kids act out church scenes dressed up as pioneers. They can work together and act out “the choir practice,” “the preaching,” or “driving to church in a snowstorm in a horse-drawn carriage!”

Lesson Two: How Did the 20th Century Church Live?

OBJECTIVE: TO TEACH CHILDREN ABOUT THE DAILY LIVES OF OUR PIONEERS, WITH EMPHASIS ON HOW THEY CONDUCTED CHURCH AND TENT MEETINGS. TO SHOW CHILDREN WHAT OUR PIONEERS HAD, AND WHAT THEY DID WITHOUT.

HOOKS

- Show children some old items that pioneers would have used often (i.e.: quilts, tin pots, old-fashioned washboard or cookware, knives, axes, old phones, carriages, bonnets, etc.). If you can't find physical items, show photos. Additionally, you may choose to set these items up in a separate room and have your classes tour through this "museum" sometime during your session.
Talk about what the items were used for and what life was like in the early 1900s.
- Show children a 20th century house by following this link: <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/1900house/index.html> and taking the "virtual tour." Ask children where they think families might have read stories together? Said prayers? How do you think they got ready for church?
You could also show children a photo album of pioneer life.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Have children participate in an old-fashioned "tent-meeting." Tack a sheet across your room by affixing a large white sheet to the walls above your heads. Sing old-fashioned songs and get out a tambourine and a child-sized accordion, etc. Explain what tent meetings were and what happened during tent meetings. Lead children in a time of worship, "preaching" and prayer in the "tent."
- Have children design a "pioneer-themed" theme park. Have them design a ride (or two, or three, or a whole map full!) that has a pioneer theme. For example, you could have a bouncy castle-type play place that is called "The Crazy Quilt" that has patches on the floor or a "Washboard Water Slide." Allow them to be creative and have fun using 20th century elements in their designs.
- Have children make their own butter. Fill a medium jar with heavy cream and drop a marble inside; shake the jar for 20-30 minutes (let everyone take a turn). Try your homemade butter on crackers. Discuss how many things are "easy" for us today. Our pioneers worked hard to give us a beautiful church building, seats to sit on, etc.
- Put out a craft box full of miscellaneous supplies. Tell children that pioneer children often didn't have the newest toys. Our pioneers used things until they broke, or they made their own items. Tell kids their job is to make a toy they would enjoy playing with, out of only the materials in the box. See what they come up with!

WRAP-UPS

- Have children play games that early 20th century children would have played. For example, teach them simple skipping rhymes, show them how to play jacks, let them play with old-fashioned building blocks, teach them how to play “Sevens” (<http://www.mkheritage.co.uk/sga/games/ball-games.html>) or marbles. Talk about the toys we have today and how their games and toys were different. But all children like to play, regardless of the time period! In the same way, though the church looks different through different time periods (we dress differently, have different fashions and cultures, trends and methods), our message and our beliefs have never changed.
- Make a quilt with kids. The easiest way to do this is to cut 12X12 inch squares and fringe the edges into 1X3 inch rectangles. Cut about 25 squares for a small lap blanket or 36 for a larger quilt. Demonstrate and help the kids tie two squares together at a time and gradually tie sections of the quilt together until it’s finished. Make sure there are lots of teachers to help out, and tell kids to go slow!

If you want, determine a specific senior you’d like to give the quilt to and pray individually over the squares before you begin. Pray for long life and length of years, physical strength and healthy and spiritual fortitude. If the senior is ill, lonely or has another need, you can help kids pray for these things too! Use fabric markers to decorate the squares before or after you tie them. Present the quilt to a senior in a gift bag with a letter explaining what your class did and a framed photo of them holding the quilt. Thank them for being a pioneer of your church and standing for the Gospel.

Lesson Three: What Did the 20th Century Church Preach & Why Is the 20th Century Church Important?

OBJECTIVE: TO TEACH CHILDREN THAT THE PIONEERS BELIEVED THE SAME DOCTRINE THAT THE APOSTLES PREACHED. TO TEACH CHILDREN ABOUT WHAT PIONEERS PREACHED.

HOOKS

- Have children browse photo albums or collages of old images as they come in. Discuss who is in the images, what they were doing, what church was like “back then,” etc. If possible, display images from your own church’s history.
- Help kids or have kids write a poem about why they love our pioneers. Younger kids can draw pictures of pioneer tent meetings and write “Thanks for Bringing the Gospel to New Brunswick!” on the bottom.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Have children make punched tin lanterns with a hammer and nails. To prepare for this activity, freeze water in empty, open tin cans with the labels removed. This will give the nails something to punch into. You need only tap lightly to pierce the tin. Try making designs!
Talk about the things we have today (i.e.: electricity) that our pioneers didn’t have. Discuss the things our pioneers gave us that we have to be thankful for (i.e.: church buildings, ministers, meetings, instruments).
- If kids enjoyed your “tent meeting” from last week, host another church service today. Have kids lead in song, preach Acts 2:38 and pray in the altar.
- Split kids into groups according to their interests: rapping, writing songs or interpretive motion (limit choices if your group is smaller). Once they have made their choice, tell them that their task is to work together to present Acts 2:38-39 in their chosen medium (i.e.: they will either “rap” it, write a song or jingle about what Peter said or use their bodies, hands or streamers to visually represent what Peter said). Rotate around to the groups and help them brainstorm ideas. When they are prepared, have groups present to one another. Use pre-recorded beats or soft music to help kids present. Remind kids that the 20th century church preached the same message Peter did. Though our presentation method changes (they just rapped Acts 2:38!), the message doesn’t.
- Play “Musical Dots” with kids. Lay out a Twister mat (or the equivalent amount of colored circles on the floor). Play music. While the music is playing, kids may stand anywhere they want (any color). When the music stops, spin the Twister spinner. Whoever is standing on the indicated color is “out” for this round. Play until only 1-2 remain. Discuss how we have lost many of our pioneers; they have gone to heaven. Even though we don’t see them “playing” and working with us anymore, we can’t forget what they showed us to do!
- Sing old church songs with kids (teach them “I’ve Got that Holy Ghost” or “We’re Together Again”). Let them play along with instruments.

WRAP-UPS

- Have children play Hot Potato with a twist. Use a stuffed animal to pass or toss around a circle. Play music and stop it at intervals. When the music stops, the person with the object must say something our church has to be thankful for at our church. If you have older students, send 2-3 objects around the circle, in different directions! As children play, list their items on a board. Talk about their list when the game has finished. Discuss how our seniors and the adults in our church have built up the ministries and parts of this church. We have much to be grateful for! (childrensministry.com)
- Make Prayer Sacks with kids for our seniors. Decorate paper bags in a “pioneer” fashion (i.e.: scraps of fabric, old stamps, etc.). Write the names of several seniors or pioneers (get a list from staff) who need prayer (for sickness, etc.) on slips of paper and put them in the bag. Take time to go around a circle and have each child pull out and pray for one pioneer.

UNIT THREE: THE MODERN DAY CHURCH

Lesson One: Who Leads the Church Today?

OBJECTIVE: TO TEACH CHILDREN ABOUT THE UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH INTERNATIONAL AND SOME OF OUR LEADERS, COMPONENTS AND MAJOR FIGURES (MISSIONARIES, EVANGELISTS, PASTORS, SAINTS, ETC.). TO LEARN WHO IS PART OF THE CHURCH TODAY.

Lesson Two: How Does the Modern Church Live?

OBJECTIVE: TO TEACH CHILDREN THAT APOSTOLICS EXIST ALL OVER THE WORLD AND THAT, THOUGH THEY ALL LIVE DIFFERENTLY, THEY ALL WORSHIP ONE GOD. TO TEACH CHILDREN THAT WE ARE CALLED TO BE WITNESSES LIKE THE EARLY CHURCH.

Lesson Three: What Does the Modern Church Preach & Why Must the Modern Church Continue?

OBJECTIVE: TO TEACH CHILDREN THAT WE MUST SEEK TRUTH AND GOD'S WILL FOR OUR LIVES AND THE CHURCH. TO TEACH CHILDREN THAT WE MUST NOT CHANGE OUR MESSAGE.

Lesson One: Who Leads the Church Today?

OBJECTIVE: TO TEACH CHILDREN ABOUT THE UNITED PENTECOSTAL CHURCH INTERNATIONAL AND SOME OF OUR LEADERS, COMPONENTS AND MAJOR FIGURES (MISSIONARIES, EVANGELISTS, PASTORS, SAINTS, ETC.). TO LEARN WHO IS PART OF THE CHURCH TODAY.

HOOKS

- Have children watch a video of the Ethiopian Crusade that took place with Billy Cole in the early 90s (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X2eK3NpZbHA&feature=related>). Begin around 7:00 and let the video play to the end. Ask the kids to compare the video to the first outpouring of the Holy Ghost in Acts (you can do this verbally or draw a Venn diagram or comparison chart on the board). What is the same? What is different? Make sure kids understand that the preachers in Ethiopia preached the *same* message that Peter did on the Day of Pentecost.
- Put up some pictures of various leaders - local and otherwise - in our organization (i.e.: David Bernard, superintendent, Stan O'Donnell, youth president, Mike Wittmeier, Sunday School president, Raymond Woodward and Jack Leaman, pastors, Bruce Howell, foreign missions director, Terry Brewer, district superintendent, etc.) on the wall. Make sure there are several leaders kids won't know. Give kids a small bag, each with titles inside for each of the leaders on the wall (not their name, just their title). Have kids go around the room, look at the pictures and choose a title for each person. They will be able to easily label your "pastors," but likely won't know the difference between your district superintendent and youth president. Have younger kids simply vote as a group as you read out the titles. Once they have made their choices, reveal the true identities of your leaders. Discuss how many leaders help guide the church today. Discuss how many churches there are and how many pastors, etc. God wants everyone to be involved in His church!
- Tap into main service online. Discuss how many people all over the world will have church services just like us. Thousands! The church is everywhere!

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Have children make a mosaic of faces using cutouts from magazines. Give them each a large blank cardboard church template and have them glue the faces all over it until it is completely covered (you may also have one extra-large church and have all kids work together). Talk about how the church has reached into places we never thought we could go before (deep parts of Africa, former communist nations, China, etc.). Talk about *who* is part of the church today and remind children that we have preachers and saints of every color and nation in the church.

- Have kids play a game called “Bible Smuggle” to illustrate that the church exists in all nations, but is not at liberty to worship and openly proclaim Jesus in all nations. Have kids form a tight circle and put their hands behind their backs. Choose “it” and have him or her stand in the center. Slip a small Bible into the hands of one child. For two minutes, the kids can pass the Bible around secretly. Then “it” must try to guess who has it. If they guess correctly, they trade places. Play a few rounds and then discuss the reality of churches in China and other oppressed nations where the Bible is not allowed to be taught. We are very privileged in Canada. Ask children how they felt when the Bible came to their hands. If it was against the law in our country to have a Bible, what would you do? What risks would you take to get the Bible to people who have no Bible? Why is the Bible important to have? Was the early church treated meanly and persecuted for their beliefs? (childrensministry.com)
- Demonstrate working together/unity by having kids complete the following art activity. Buy precut squares of paper (about 4X4 inches). Make one large grid by taping the smaller squares together (use as many squares as you have children). Keep a second set of squares reserved (as many as were in the taped grid). Before class, draw a simple picture on the taped grid (make sure there is a bit of drawing on EACH of the smaller squares). Number the squares by flipping the sheet over and writing on the back of each small square. Mark the loose squares with the same sequence of numbers.
When kids arrive, give them each a set of squares with the same number on the back (i.e.: the two “13s”). Tell them one square has a piece of a drawing on it. The other is blank. They must copy the drawing EXACTLY as they see it WITHOUT tracing.
When all kids are finished, tape their squares in order on the wall. Your original image should appear.
When we work together, we can accomplish incredible things and help do BIG things for God. We must work together, as God has told us to. This is called UNITY.

WRAP-UPS

- Have children make a memory scrapbook of the church thus far. Have images printed for them, and provide them with stickers, scrapbook supplies, page protectors, pens and markers, a binder, etc. Write captions and titles under the images. Review the periods in church history and talk about our past - and our future! Take time to make this book and keep it on file in your room, or give it to a senior or pastor.
- Have children write thank you letters to saints, pioneers (or their families), your pastor, your district superintendent, etc. Have them thank these people for their faithfulness and love for truth. Send these letters to the intended recipient.

Lesson Two: How Does the Modern Church Live?

OBJECTIVE: TO TEACH CHILDREN THAT APOSTOLICS EXIST ALL OVER THE WORLD AND THAT, THOUGH THEY ALL LIVE DIFFERENTLY, THEY ALL WORSHIP ONE GOD. TO TEACH CHILDREN THAT WE ARE CALLED TO BE WITNESSES LIKE THE EARLY CHURCH.

HOOKS

- Show videos of various UPCI events so kids can see different Apostolics worshipping and preaching. Use youtube to find videos of General Conference, the Pentecostals of Alexandria, North American Youth Congress, etc.
- Stage a playful crime that will take place in your room. Have someone come into your room while you have your back turned and “steal” a small item from a table, etc. Make sure the kids can see, but that you play up the fact that you don’t see anyone (i.e.: if you turn around, have the offender hide or duck out of the room). After the intruder leaves and kids are adamant that something has been stolen, call on them to be witnesses, telling you all they know about the crime. Have them describe the suspect and what he took, how he or she acted, etc. Discuss how the word “witness” is used in the book of Acts. How were the original followers of Jesus witnesses? How can we be witnesses today? What does a witness do (describe Jesus and His actions and love to those around you)?

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Have children go on a history walk with an older adult or senior. The adult can take them around the church and talk to them about things they used to do at the church. You can also have some images from your church’s past and display them as a slideshow while allowing several adults to provide commentary. Allow older children to ask questions of the adults. You may also choose to have a senior come to your room and be interviewed by the kids, or simply tell stories about the “good old days.”
- Host a balloon race in your room. Thread a piece of straw (cut to about 2 inches) onto a string the width of your room, then hang the string across an open section of your room. Have kids blow up balloons (but don’t tie them off), tape them to the bottom of the straw and let them fly as far as they’ll go. Compare how far different balloons will go.
Discuss Hebrews 12:1 (“run the race that is set before us”) and how we are asked to *finish* the race, but not *win* it. Everyone wins if they finish the race! Talk about how it was fun to let your balloon fly, even if it didn’t fly the farthest. God just wants His church to do their best.

WRAP-UPS

- Have children play a glow-in-the-dark version of Hide and Seek. Give each child a glow-in-the-dark bracelet. They can wear it around their neck, wrist or ankle, but it must be visible. Choose one person to be “it” and send them out of the room. While they are gone, allow the others to hide and turn out the lights. When “it” returns, they will search for classmates in the dark. Of course, it will be easier to spot classmates because of the light they are emitting!

Discuss our purpose here on earth. We are to reflect the light of God. Is it easy to hide our light? Not really, and we shouldn't try to! We can show others the way to God! This is how the modern church chooses to live, shining the light of Jesus! ([children's ministry.com](http://children'sministry.com))

- Play “Compliment Ball” with children and discuss that the saints need to love each other and work together in unity. Sit in a circle. Kids get a ball and may toss to anyone they wish (you may wish to alternate receivers: boy, girl, boy girl) as long as they give a compliment to that person before they throw.

Lesson Three: What Does the Modern Church Preach & Why Must the Modern Church Continue?

OBJECTIVE: TO TEACH CHILDREN THAT WE MUST SEEK TRUTH AND GOD'S WILL FOR OUR LIVES AND THE CHURCH. TO TEACH CHILDREN THAT WE MUST NOT CHANGE OUR MESSAGE.

HOOKS

- Have children pair up and face their partner while seated. Ask kids to study their partners - what they're wearing, what color their socks are, etc. Have them turn away from their partner. While turned, have partners change two things about their appearance. For example, they may remove a shoe, turn up their sleeves, tuck in their shirt, etc. After a minute, have them turn back to face their partner. See how many pairs can successfully identify all the changes.
Discuss little changes that sometimes happen in churches over time. Discuss changes that are "allowed" and changes that cannot take place. We might change our methods, our styles, our leadership, our building, but we must never change our message, our holiness, our lifestyle, our passion, our adherence to the Bible, etc. (childrensministry.com)
- To play the above game with younger children, get a Mr. Potato Head with multiple parts. Put as many items on his body as you can. Show him briefly to children. Then turn away and change one feature. You can remove a part, add a part, replace a part, or simply twist his ear sideways. See how quickly children can spot the differences. Ask kids what has changed about our church since it started. Then ask them what has stayed the same! That's the important part!

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Have children plant a small garden in a plastic tray for your classroom (you can also plant dry beans and watch them sprout). Discuss how the church spreads "seed" all over the world, telling about Jesus. We are responsible to plant the seed. Talk about ways you can plant seed and witness to others.
- Have kids work together to design a flag that will represent your church. Tell them to think about all they have learned in the past several weeks. What images should we include? What represents our church and our beliefs? Think about the 5 senses and what the early church "looked" like, "sounded" like, etc. Draw the design on a whiteboard, then allow kids to draw it on large thick paper or fabric and color it in. You may also allow kids to draw the flag individually on smaller pieces of paper.
- Have kids volunteer to dress up like people from different decades (i.e.: 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s or 90s, etc.). If your kids are younger, you can also have adults dress up (or change costumes yourself). As each "guest" comes to your room, ask them to describe the plan of salvation in the lingo of their day. Use silly phrases representative of the different decades, but emphasize Acts 2:38. Discuss that it really is true that the way to be saved has not changed, and that people have obeyed Acts 2:38 for "decades."

- Play “Green Light Go!” with your group. Place three towels (one red, one green, one yellow) in your playing area (space them as much as you can). Call out colors. When you call out a color, all children must get to the appropriate towel and have one hand (or foot) touching the towel. The last one to reach the towel may be eliminated, or you can just play for fun. When you call out “traffic accident,” all players must release the towel and step away from it as fast as possible. (childrensministry.com) Discuss Mark 16:15-16. Jesus told us to GO! That’s a green light! Jesus isn’t really that interested in red lights or yellow lights. It’s our responsibility to GO into all the world and tell them about Jesus. That’s what the first church did - and that’s what we must do!

WRAP-UPS

- Have several older adults come to your room (they need only be “older” than the children, but if you can get some seniors to join you, this would be ideal). Pair kids and seniors in small groups (i.e.: one senior with a child or two) and have them work on a homemade cardstock puzzle of Deuteronomy 6:4-9. When groups have finished the puzzle, have the adult read the verse to the children. If you’re dealing with older kids, you may want to omit the “puzzle” and put the words of the verse on scrambled slips of paper in an envelope. Discuss how God wants His church to work together. All ages have a role to play! Discuss the content of the verses and how our seniors and parents have passed things to us. Discuss what we (the kids) will do in the future to ensure the message continues. (childrensministry.com)
- Create certificates for “Body Part Awards.” Make up awards for parts of the body of Christ. For example, “You’re awarded the ‘Eyes’ because you see the needs of others.” Make up as many awards as you have children. Have children vote and hand out the certificates. Remind them that we all have a part to play in the body of Christ. (childrensministry.com)
- Ask kids how they think our church will change or should change in the next 50 years. Ask them to draw what they think the church will look like in 50 years.

Final Celebration: Celebrate the Past, Look to the Future

OBJECTIVE: TO REVIEW ALL LEARNING FROM THE PAST 9 WEEKS AND TO CHALLENGE CHILDREN TO ALWAYS REMAIN A PART OF GOD'S CHURCH; IT'S GOING PLACES!

HOOKS

- Make several questions you can use during a review game and test the children's knowledge on the past 9 weeks (play Jeopardy, Snakes & Ladders, or another fun review game).

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- Have children create a time capsule box, to be opened in a decade. Tell them to write about what the church is like now and what they think the church will be like in 10 years. Write about favorite worship songs, take pictures of your Sunday School rooms (and the church) and put a copy of today's lesson in the box. Seal the box and wrap it or decorate it.
- Host a party and display all your artifacts from the past nine weeks. Combine with other classes and have kids from each class teach others about what they have learned. Put on a puppet show of Acts 2:38, sing old songs or have one more "tent meeting."

WRAP-UPS

- To give children a souvenir of this special series, buy plain white tee shirts for each student. In addition, buy two colors of fabric paint. Lay out tee shirts on the floor, along with shallow trays of the paint (all on newspaper). Have kids remove their shoes and socks and dip the bottoms of their feet in paint. After brushing off the excess, have them walk (2-4 steps) across the front of their shirt. With fabric markers, have an adult write "I'm Followin' Jesus." You can also use handprints and use the slogan "Join With Me!"

Bonus: Time Fillers When Things Run Over

WHAT'S HERE: WHEN CHURCH GOES LONG OR YOU'RE DONE FASTER THAN EXPECTED, USE SOME OF THE FOLLOWING TO BRIDGE THE GAP AND KEEP KIDS INTERESTED AND ENTERTAINED!

HAVE A BALL!

- Have kids sit in a circle and pass around a ball (or any object). Whoever has the ball is the one who gets to talk. Ask kids to pass the ball around the circle and share one thing they learned from the Bible that day. If everyone has a chance to share, go around the circle again and have kids share something they'll do about what they learned. (childrensministry.com)

MAGNET MANIA

- Have children stand on one wall. Call out different descriptors (i.e.: if you think you want to be a missionary, if you brought your Bible today, if you are wearing blue socks). When kids hear something that applies to them, they run to the center of the room and "stick" together like a magnet. Call descriptors in quick succession to keep kids moving faster.

NOAH'S NOISY ARK

- Place a sticker on each child's back so they can't see what's on their own sticker. (Each sticker needs an animal name or picture of an animal.) Challenge kids to mix and mingle, with the ultimate goal of discovering which animals they are by going around the group and asking only yes-or-no questions. To keep things moving and kids talking, allow kids to ask only one question at a time of each person. For example, two children may pair up and one may ask, "Do I have four legs?" The child who's asked will look at the first child's sticker and answer the question with a truthful yes or no. Each child gets to ask one question of the other, and then they switch roles. As soon as children learn which animals they are, they run to Noah (you) and say, "I'm a (*name the animal*)! May I board the Ark?" (childrensministry.com) You can also have all children line up against a wall and give them an animal name (make sure there are two of each animal). They must then move around that room sounding like that animal as they attempt to find their partner.

SHARED SKITTLES

- You'll need a bag of Skittles candies on hand and a premade Skittle Share Card. The card is a decoder, with colors representing something kids have to share with the group. For instance, red means kids tell their favorite food; yellow means kids share one thing they learned from the Bible today; orange means kids share how they can apply what they learned today at home. Form a circle, and pass around a bowl of Skittles candies. Let each child pick one candy in his or her favorite color but not eat it. Now show your group the Skittle Share Card. Go around the group letting kids each share according to the color of Skittle they chose. After kids share, they get to eat their Skittles. Once everyone has shared, let kids eat the rest of the Skittles.

GLOBAL GABBING

- Have kids sit in a circle and use an inflatable globe. Toss it to a child. Whatever country their right index finger is on will represent a question (you'll need to make up questions for all the different countries before hand, or on the fly). For example, if they are touching Canada, the question might be "would you rather live in a place that has snow all year long, or a place that is warm all year long?"

TWISTER JEOPARDY

- Lay out a standard Twister mat on the floor and get several beanbags. Assign a points value to colors on the mat (i.e.: the color closest to the kids can be worth 100 points, and the color farthest away worth 400). Ask kids questions

ALPHABET LIST

- Write the alphabet on the board. Choose a theme (food, animals, pioneers, summer, etc.) and write a word for each letter.

THIRTY!

- Stand kids in a circle or sit them down where they can all see each other. The object of the game: don't be the player forced to say the number "30." Children (on their turn) can say one, two or three numbers (in sequence, begin from one!), but must not be the player forced to say "30." They must say the numbers in order!