

To the Teacher

The information below is to help you in teaching the lesson. DO NOT read this page to the students. Instead, teach the information in your own words. Be sure to finish the student's lesson as well. The Scripture references in parentheses are for additional study, to round out the information given in the lesson. Become familiar with these passages as well, to provide additional Scriptures to your students.

Lesson 24 – Where Do I Fit? (Teacher's Lesson)

Opening: Answer the opening question. Engage students in a discussion about your answers and then continue with the study. Your answers to this question can help you come to a good understanding of your students' area of strength.

Study Notes:

The Five Purposes of the church might possibly need more explanation or clarification than is in the student sheet. A deeper analysis follows.

1. Worship – The Bible explains that living a life that pleases the Lord is our spiritual act of worship (Romans 12:1), but for this discussion, worship is generally expressed in the local church through a worship service that usually includes music, prayer and the teaching of the Word of God.
2. Ministry – Ministry can take different forms. When the love of Christ satisfies a need in the believer, the ministry has been given. This can be through conversations, prayer, acts of kindness, or in other ways.
3. Evangelism – This is specifically declaring the Good News of Christ to someone that has not yet received Him as Lord and Savior. This can be accomplished in a group (revivals, Bible Studies) or one on one (personal visits, relationships).
4. Fellowship (with other believers) – Baptism is used here because it is a distinctive mark of identification with the Christian faith. When we are baptized, we are baptized into the body of Christ. You can have fellowship in worship services as well as social activities. Believers praying for one another is really what makes fellowship.
5. Discipleship – This happens after evangelizing. This can be accomplished through Bible Studies in groups or individually, simply by following the example of other Christians who are growing. Each Christian should be as much a disciple as one who is making disciples.

Romans 12

Verse 1 – What is our act of worship? To offer ourselves as living sacrifices.

This means that our lives are not our own – we belong to God. What he calls us to do is more than just a suggestion – it is His will.

Verse 2 - Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

The world sees the church as a “sports show” – as a place where we go and sit on Sundays. And it becomes a habit of life.

Verses 4-5 – What do all the members of the church have in common? We are all members of one body.

What is different about each member of the church? We all have different functions inside the body of Christ.

Each person has strengths and weaknesses that differ, but God can use anyone who is fully committed to Him. Although we all have different functions, we have only one goal: to grow and strengthen the Body of Christ.

Application: Now knowing the strengths of the student, their answer to the opening question, and the needs of your church, help students understand how they fit into the structure of the church. A time of prayer followed by a time of commitment can be beneficial in helping students become more directly involved in the work of the church.

Lesson 24 – Where Do I Fit?

The Big Question

Why does the church exist?

Different people have many different answers to the question above. Above all, the church exists to serve God. In studying many different Scriptures about the church, Rick Warren (a pastor and the author of The Purpose Driven Church) summed up the purpose of the church in two Scriptures:

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind... Love your neighbor as yourself.

Mateo 22:37-40

Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. Mateo 28:19-20

Then he summarized 5 basic purposes of the church:

1. Worship – “Love the Lord with all your heart.” Praising God for who He is.
2. Ministry – “Love your neighbor as yourself.” Touching lives with the love of Christ.
3. Evangelism – “Go and make disciples.” Bringing new believers to the Kingdom.
4. Fellowship (with other believers) – “Baptizing them.” Belonging to a family of faith.
5. Discipleship – “Teaching them to obey.” Growing spiritually in the image of Christ.

A good church will find ways to accomplish all five purposes in its own unique position. The wide range of these purposes means that God must equip individual church members to accomplish a wide range of tasks. This is exactly what He does. He equips individual believers to do the work of the church. Read Romans 12:1-8 and answer the questions below:

Verse 1 – What is our act of worship?

Verse 2 – Do not _____ to the pattern of this world, instead be _____ by the renewing of your mind.

Verses 4-5 – What do all the members of the church have in common?

What is different about each church member?

In verses 6-8, we are given examples of God equipping the church.

Prophecy – Declare the will of God in real life situations.

Service – Help those who have a need.

Teaching – Teach others in Bible knowledge and spiritual discipline.

Encouragement – Help others to be all that they can be in Christ.

Giving – Provide financially for the needs of others in the church.

Leadership – Serve the church to provide vision and direction.

Mercy – Help those who are hurt.

This list is not all, it only gives some ideas of different areas of service in the church. In light of the list above, are there any tasks on the list that you feel capable of doing, or more importantly, feel called by God to accomplish. Is there a specific task that is not on the list, but that you believe the church is in need of?

Reviewing the five functions of the church, what does your church do to fulfill each function? Put a star beside the functions in which you think your church needs to grow.

1. Worship

2. Ministry

3. Evangelism

4. Fellowship

5. Discipleship

If God has led you to see any areas that are in need in your church, share your thoughts now with others – perhaps He wants to use you to start or strengthen a certain area of ministry in your church. Take some time to pray for God's direction together as a church family to discover His direction.

Scripture to memorize:

So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.
Romans 12:5