

CHRIST AND HIS CONGREGATION

Objective

The children learn that each person has his or her place and responsibilities in the congregation, which is ruled by Christ as its head.

Contents

- Responsibilities within the congregation.
- The gifts of the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:4–13).
- God's children are members on the body of Christ.
- Christ as the head of the congregation (Colossians 1:18).



Lesson Plan**Lead-In**

Workbook, Theme Picture,
Discussion

Elaborate on the theme picture which depicts activities at the church.

Implementation

Discuss with the children, who may participate in the depicted activities: members and ministers of the congregation.

Question Prompt

Who may participate in these activities?

Emphasize that for some it is advantageous if somebody has a special gift or talent, for example, when

- playing an instrument,
- singing in a choir/children's choir,
- conducting (e.g., a choir, orchestra, etc.)
- decorating the altar,
- etc.

With respect to these gifts and talents, it is important that someone is prepared to use them for the benefit and joy of the congregation.

Teacher's Presentation

Just as there are different natural gifts and talents, there are spiritual gifts which the Bible refers to (1 Corinthians 12:8–10). These gifts include:

- the gift, born out of the Holy Ghost, to speak about wisdom and knowledge,
- the gift of faith,
- the gift to perform miracles and make the sick well again,
- the gift of prophesy,
- the gift of discerning the spirits, and
- the gift of speaking in tongues (i.e., speaking other languages).

	<p>These gifts are to be of help to all in the congregation.</p> <p>A child reads aloud</p>
Bible	<p>1 Corinthians 12:4–6: <i>“Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.”</i></p>
Discussion	<p>Discuss with the children what is meant by the Bible text.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ There are many different kinds of gifts, but not everyone receives each of these gifts. However, all gifts come from the same Holy Ghost. ■ There are various ministries, but each ministry serves the same Lord. ■ Diverse powers come from God; they enable the working of various miracles and wonders. <p>A child reads aloud</p>
Bible	<p>1 Corinthians 12:7: <i>“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.”</i></p>
Question Prompt	<p>What does this mean?</p> <p>When everyone in the congregation uses the gifts and powers they have received, there is joy for all and everyone benefits.</p>
Teacher’s Presentation	<p>Apostle Paul then metaphorically compares the congregation to a body. If the congregation is a body, then, like the human body, this body has many members, which complement and need one another. All members of the body are important, regardless of their function or capability.</p>
Question Prompt	<p>What does this mean when applied to our being part of the congregation?</p>
Discussion	<p>Each child of God is important, and has his or her place and function in the congregation. This also includes children, who, for example, are able to be a joy to others.</p>
Workbook, Exercise 1	<p>The children complete the exercise and it is discussed.</p>

Discussion

Emphasize again that there may indeed be differences with respect to origin, character, personality, and gifts between the individual members of the congregation, but each sealed soul has received the same Holy Ghost.

These differences do not only exist between the faithful in a congregation, but also between congregations. Everywhere, the activity of the Holy Ghost is the common bond, however.

Teacher's Presentation

In his letter to the Colossians, Apostle Paul again speaks about the congregation as a body.

A child reads the first part of

Bible

Colossians 1:18:
"And he is the head of the body, the church ..."

Discussion

Discuss with the children that Christ is described as the head here. The expression "head of the body" stresses the special significance of Christ for his congregation.

- No member of the body can exist without the head. Without the head, nothing functions. Christ directs his congregation.
- On the other hand, the head is part of the body to form a whole. This means Christ is closely united with his congregation.

Conclusion

Workbook, Exercise 2

The children complete the exercise.

Notes
