



Why Do We Go To Church?

1 Cor. 1:21

Items Needed

- ✓ Bible with marked scripture
- ✓ Crayons/Markers/Pencils
- ✓ Fiction or non-fiction book
- ✓ Copies of coloring sheet
- ✓ Copies of word search
- ✓ Copies of Take Home Overview



Why Do We Go To Church?

Objective of Lesson

The objective of this lesson is to teach the importance of gospel preaching and how the Lord uses it in the salvation of His people. It is important to teach children not to forsake the hearing of the word, because ..."it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe."

Scripture Reference

1 Corinthians 1: 21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

Lesson Instructions

1. I want us to talk about a subject today that I believe many of you have wondered about. Have you ever asked the question, "Why do we go to church?" Why is it most of us attend a church service two to three times a week? Why do we come and sit quietly while a man stands up and preaches to us from this book I hold in my hand?
2. As with all such questions we can turn to our Bibles for the answer. (Hold up your Bible) I need a volunteer to read our verse for us today. You can find it in 1 Cor. 1: 21 (Have the child turn too and read the verse aloud) The last part of that verse is what I want us to discuss today. This verse right here

tells us the answer to our question. This verse tells us why it is such a big deal we attend the Lord's worship service every opportunity we get. What does that verse say? "...it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe."

3. I once heard a story from a preacher friend of mine. It was a story that was recorded by a gifted preacher named Mr. Spurgeon. Mr. Spurgeon would come in to preach every worship service and he began to notice a young boy sitting in his service. Every service, this little boy would come down to the very front pew and as soon as Mr. Spurgeon would start preaching the little boy would sit forward in the pew and cup his little hands behind his ears and listen very intently to what Mr. Spurgeon had to say. (Cup your ears as if you are straining to hear what is being said) After a few services Mr. Spurgeon decided to speak to the little boy to find out why he was doing this at every service. He said, "Why is it you have begun to sit on the front row, lean forward and cup your ears when I am preaching?" The little boy said, "Because my mommy told me that you are God's preacher and if I am ever to hear God's voice it will be through you, so I sit on the front row and cup my ears because if God speaks to me, I don't want to miss it!"
4. That little boy's mother had been taught a priceless and valuable truth and she shared that truth with her son whom she loved very much and cared for very deeply. She wanted him to hear from God. She knew his soul depended upon it, so she taught him the importance of hearing God's preachers. She had been taught of God just what we read in our verse just now. When God speaks to men and women and boys and girls, He always speaks by a man...not just any man, No; He speaks to men through His chosen preachers. (1 Cor. 1:18-29, 2 Cor. 5: 17-6:2, Romans 10:9-17)
5. What are preachers? They are men taught of God, who have the God-given ability to open this book we have in our laps and read and know what it is teaching us. Our Pastor, Chris Cunningham, (Insert your pastor's name here) was taught the same way. God sent another one of His gifted preachers to

him and he taught HIM what this book is about. THAT man was taught through another one of God's gospel preachers. God appoints men and opens their understanding and teaches them that this book is about Christ and gives them the ability to see Him on every page, and because he can see Him he can point all of God's people to Christ. That is preaching. It is the God-given ability to open this book and point out where Christ is on every single page! What a gift!

6. A friend of mine used to have a saying. He said, "You can't come back from somewhere you have never been, anymore than you can tell about something you don't know." When you think about it that is so true! For example, how can you come back from a trip if you never went on a trip? HA! Or how can you teach something you don't know anything about? Let me give you an example. (Get a volunteer and have them stand in front of the class. Hand them a book - one you know they have never read) I want you to take this book and tell everybody here what this story is about. What? You can't? Why not? OHHH!! You have never read the book! HA! Well, it would be very hard to tell a story you have never heard before, right? That is the way it is with anybody who speaks for God. How can you teach about God if you don't know God?
7. (Have another volunteer come stand up in front of the class) Well, let's see if you can do this. I am going to tell you a story and I want you to explain it to the class. Are you ready? This story is called, "Einstein's theory of Relativity." "The theory of relativity usually encompasses two theories. Concepts introduced by the theories of relativity include measurements of various quantities are relative to the velocities of observers." Now you just heard the story, so I want you to teach everybody here what that means. What? You can't? Why not? It is because you have no knowledge or experience with Physics! Even though you understood me and you could probably tell I was speaking English, you still have no way to understand the words I was using. Why? It is because you have no experience with that

subject. That is what I meant when I said, "You can't come back from someplace you have never been." If you don't have any experience with what is written in our Bibles, then you have no way to understand it and therefore you have no way of teaching it. We all learn by going through things. We all learn by experience. You cannot know what this book is talking about unless God sends a man to preach to you what this book is talking about. That somebody is a man who has experienced salvation in Christ! A preacher can tell you about what Christ does for sinners because he himself is a sinner saved by God's grace! That is what God's preachers are. They are sinners saved by God's grace and they have been gifted by God to preach that good news to other needy sinners. God sends a man to preach to you and he opens up this book and shows you its meaning. Otherwise, it is just a bunch of jumbled up words that does the reader no good.

8. Our Lord records for us a story in the Bible. A man who was from Ethiopia heard about God and God's people. He got a copy of the Bible, God's word, (our Bibles) and tried and tried to figure out its meaning. He decided he was going to go to Jerusalem. He had heard that is where God's people were meeting and holding a religious ceremony called the Passover and the feast days. He wanted to participate in that ceremony. He had hopes of figuring out what God's book was about by participating in the ceremonies. He went to the feast days and saw everything. He participated in the feasts for three days. When the feast days were over he climbed back into his chariot and headed home. He opened up God's word and he was STILL confused! He just didn't understand what it was all talking about. What did it all mean? He went through the religious ceremonies and feasts and it didn't help him a bit in knowing God and what His word was teaching. OH, but God knew this man. He arranged for one of His gifted preachers, named Philip, to meet him. God's preacher was in a nearby city preaching, and God sent an angel and told Philip, "I need you to get up out of this city and go into the desert by way of a certain road. There you will find a man reading the word of God." So Philip

did as God said and he went into the desert by way of this certain road. There he saw this man. He came up beside the chariot and asked this man, "Do you understand what you are reading?" The man said, "How can I understand unless a man teach me?" Philip got into the chariot with the man and he opened God's book and right where the man was reading he began to explain how these verses were telling of Jesus Christ the son of God and how He was the savior of sinners. God opened the man's eyes to understand it and he finally understood what the Bible was teaching! It was no longer confusing to him.

9. Let me ask you. Did this man pick up the Bible and immediately understand it? No; it was written in his own language, but he couldn't with his own wisdom figure it out. Did the man learn what God's word was about by doing religious activities? No, he did everything religious he could think of. He even traveled a long distance and left his home and business just to participate in them, but he left just as confused. How did this man finally understand? God sent him a preacher ... A man gifted of God to open this book and show him it was all about Christ! Can you learn about God by going out in nature and sitting in the sunshine? No! God uses men, preachers. If you are going to hear from God, it is not going to be by picking up and reading this book. It is not going to be by getting out and enjoying nature. It is not going to be by doing religious activities and ceremonies and becoming involved in your local church. No! God reveals the truth - the good news of the gospel - one way and one way only. ***21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.***
10. Your parents care for you little ones very much and that is why they bring you to church. They know your soul depends upon it. They know if God is going to save you it will be through hearing the preaching of God's word. There is no other way. That is why we come to church two to three times a week. It is because our salvation depends upon God opening our ears, (Cup

your ears) so we can hear Him and believe on His Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. They bring you so you can hear about who you are and what you are before God. They bring you so you can hear about your sin. They bring you so you can be reminded of your need of a savior. They bring you so you can be reminded of how God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, into this world to keep His law and pay the debt we cannot pay. They bring you because they know if God does not reveal what His book is about, you will sit in darkness and die in darkness. OH, but God sent us men! He sent us faithful preachers who were taught by Him and He commanded His preachers to go out into ALL the world and PREACH ... because that is how God saves His people ... because "it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe!"
Amen!

Lesson Activities

- Illustrations
- Coloring Sheet
- Word search

Take Home Lesson Overview



Why Do We Go To Church?

Scripture Reference:

1 Corinthians 1: 21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

Lesson Overview:

Today we talked about the importance of preaching by answering the question, "Why do we go to church?" We saw in the scriptures how the Lord uses men, chosen by Him, to reveal to His people the good news of the gospel and to point them to Christ in His written word. There is an old saying that goes, "You can't tell something you don't know any more than you can come back from somewhere you have never been." God gifts His preachers through their own sweet experience of grace and gives them the ability needed to tell other sinners what God has not only done for them but for ALL His people.

We used the Biblical story of the Ethiopian Eunuch as the Biblical example of how a man cannot pick up the Bible and immediately understand it...even though he wanted to. Even though he traveled a far distance just to participate in God's appointed feast days and Passover, he was not able to read and understand what the Bible taught. It wasn't until God sent him a preacher to tell him that it spoke of Christ, that his eyes were opened. God sent Philip to open to him the scriptures and reveal Christ on every page.

Finally, I pointed out to the children that this is why it is important to come to the worship service as often as it meets. *21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.*

I pointed out that parents care for their children very much and that is why they bring them to church. They know our soul depends upon it. They know if God is going to save them it will be through hearing the preaching of God's word. There is no other way. That is why we come to church as often as it meets. It is because our salvation depends upon God opening our ears so we can hear Him and believe on His Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. They bring you so you can hear about who you are and what you are before God. They bring you so you can hear about your sin. They bring you so you can be reminded of your need of a savior. They bring you so you can be reminded of how God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, into this world to keep His law and pay the debt we cannot pay. They bring you because they know if God does not reveal what His book is about, you will sit in darkness and die in darkness. OH, but God sent us men! He sent us faithful preachers who were taught by Him and He commanded His preachers to go out into ALL the world and PREACH! Because that is how God saves His people! Because... "it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe!" Amen



Why Do We Go To Church Word Search

J I K Z G T I L H P B F F U Q
V N K A S O Z M R J E S U S Q
Z D Q I Z G D E P N Z O Q D Y
I R R N V V A W Z O L G A H S
H H Q N L C E D X V R V A V A
C K E T H I O P I A N T C K L
P H L E C N W E S F K D A M V
H I R N Z D L U Y F O T K N A
C D H D A T T Q W Q C Q Z E T
R D E S X G N I H C A E T C I
U L E I R R K I V L N A W I O
H Z O Z E O J V C G Y X N E N
C W F P D T W S C D N I P T N
X F Z V D M L T U S Q T F H S
O E L F J X E M L G N T D F Y

CHRIST
CHURCH
ETHIOPIAN
GOD
IMPORTANT
JESUS
PREACHER
SALVATION
TEACHING
WORSHIP