

# LESSON 1

## Church: Where it's at!

**GOAL/PURPOSE:** To establish the context for Confirmation – the Church. To learn about how the Christian Church started and how it spread, obstacles the early Christians faced, and what the Church is like today. The reading in this lesson looks at the book of *Acts* to see a model of church life and then compares that model to what we do today. By the end of this week's class, your Confirmands should understand the link between the church of *Acts* and the general church today (not to mention some ways of how it relates specifically to Living Life Church).

***\*Begin the class with prayer.***

Before you get started, ask students to introduce themselves to the class again and tell a little bit about themselves (favorite food, hobbies, what school they go to, etc.). Also ask them to talk a little bit more about their experience in the church and/or their faith journey. Have they always attended church, how long have they been a part of First Methodist McKinney, do they have any favorite bible stories or bible verses? By the end of this class, you should know everyone's name in your class. (As the weeks go by, be mindful of your student's pasts as you ask them questions. Try not to put students in an awkward spot by asking questions that they do not know or are uncomfortable answering).

Just as last week, use this class to get students excited about the lesson material and encourage them to do their reading each week. *Have fun!*

### **ACTIVITY:**

Divide into groups of 2 or 3. Give each group a handful of spaghetti and a handful of marshmallows. Tell them they will have 5 minutes to build a church out of their materials. At the end of the 5 minutes, have each group describe their church to the rest of the class. They should include why their church looks the way it does and what kinds of things go on inside of it (ex. Bible studies, prayer meetings, Sunday School, worship, etc.).

**MATERIALS NEEDED:** Large bag of dried spaghetti, large bag of mini marshmallows, posterboard

### **DISCUSSION:**

- 1) What or who started the Church so many years ago? (Jesus) Who did he ask to lead the Church? (his disciples, specifically Peter)
- 2) What seems to be the most important belief in the Christian Church? (Jesus Christ, the Son of God ~ his life, death, and resurrection)
- 3) What were some of the characteristics of the early church in *Acts*? ***\*List these characteristics on the board.***
- 4) How important are people to all of this? (This may be a good time to ask students how the manual defines *fellowship* (Christian friendship or *koinonia* in Greek)).

**EXERCISE:**

Take some time to look up 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 as a class. Discuss these verses briefly and note the importance of *each person* to the body of Christ. Then, just to be goofy, teach the students the hand motions to *“Here is the church; here is the steeple. Open the doors and see all the people!”*

**DISCUSSION, CONTINUED:**

- 1) How does the church in *Acts* differ from what you’ve experienced in church?
- 2) How is it similar?
- 3) What has been good and/or bad about your experience in the church?
- 4) What do you think is the most important part of being a church? (unified belief in Jesus Christ and living it out)
- 5) What can you do to make your church more like the church in *Acts*?
- 6) Why do you think it’s important that we learn about the church first in Confirmation? (sets the context for all of our Christian learning to come)

*\*Finish with anything else they’d like to discuss (Go the extra mile) and then close the class in prayer.*