

God and Church

Created for Protestant and Independent Christian Churches for young people in grades 6-8.

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Eligibility Requirements:

- Be in grades 6-8
- Have original workbooks
- Present work to the pastor for final approval
- For Protestant and Independent Christian churches

NOTE: This program does not require that young people have official membership in a congregation, but it does require that they present their work to a pastor.

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Introduction

Welcome to the *God and Church* Program!

The *God and Church* program will be a journey. Actually it will be a continuation of a journey that you have already started. It will be a faith journey that will help you grow closer to Christ and be a stronger member of your church family. You will ask questions and make discoveries about yourself, about Jesus, and about the church. You will make a video or photo album to remember the highlights of your faith journey. You will need a Bible and a traveling companion or a "counselor." Your counselor will walk with you along your journey, share your experiences, and serve as a guide when necessary. Talk to your parents and your pastor about who will serve as counselor for you. Consider if your parent(s) would like to participate as mentors.

Joshua was someone in the Bible who was also facing a journey. Joshua was the leader of the Hebrew people after Moses had died. After wandering in the desert for forty years, Joshua was to lead the people of God across the Jordan River and into the Promised Land. But Joshua was not alone. God had promised to be with him. Joshua didn't have to be afraid or discouraged, because God promised to be with him wherever he went.

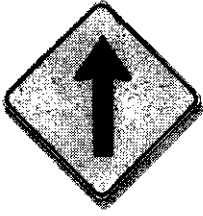
As you begin your journey in *God and Church*, you too have the assurance that God will be with you. God will strengthen you and bless you as you learn to walk with God.

Before you begin your journey in *God and Church*, think back in time and reflect on your faith journey and where you already have been. Then do the following:

Describe your relationship with Christ and with the church.

Daily Bible Reading

The best map that you can take on your faith journey is the Bible. The Bible is the Word of God. God can speak to you through scripture. By reading and studying the Bible, you can come face-to-face with God. The project for Unit I requires that you read your Bible every day for three weeks (it will take you about three weeks to complete Unit I). You will need to start on this project right away. Turn to page 15 in the Student Workbook to make a plan for reading your Bible everyday.



Lesson 1

My Journey: Meeting Jesus, the Person

Anticipating the Journey

Jesus started out as a baby, just as you did. He learned to crawl and then to walk. Jesus had to learn to talk and then to read and write. Although Jesus lived in a very different time, many things in Jesus' childhood were similar to things in yours. Take the time to think about Jesus growing up as a child. What are some things that you think would have been the same for both you and Jesus? (Use your imagination. For example, would Jesus have needed a baby-sitter from time to time? Would he have fallen down and cut his knee? Did he have chores? Homework?) What does this mean to you?

My Journey in the Bible

The first part of your *God and Church* journey will introduce you to Jesus. As Christians, we strive to walk hand in hand with Jesus. Who is Jesus? Jesus was a real person who lived and walked on this earth. He is one of the most famous figures in all history. This first section will focus on Jesus, a true human being.

1. We often overlook the humanity of Jesus, but Jesus was fully human. Read the following passages and explain how they show the human side of Jesus.

a. John 19:28 _____

b. John 11:35 _____

c. Matthew 27:46 _____

d. Luke 22:44 _____

e. John 2:13-16 _____

2. Read Hebrews 2:17-18, 4:15, and 5:7-9. Why is it important that Jesus was human?

3. George Washington, Martin Luther King, Jr., Mother Teresa, Jesus Christ ... all were fully human; all are famous historical figures. Biographies have been written about these individuals to help us understand their place in history and the impact that they have on us today. Our study of Jesus will begin with a biographical sketch of Jesus' life as recorded in the Bible. Each of the items listed in Column A are associated with a particular event in the life of Jesus. Match each item in Column A with the correct event in Column B. (If you are not familiar with these events, you may need to read about them in your Bible.)

COLUMN A

1. _____ Stones into bread
2. _____ Empty tomb
3. _____ Fishers of people
4. _____ Hosanna!
5. _____ Go and make disciples!
6. _____ Manger
7. _____ Upper room
8. _____ Sun stopped shining
9. _____ Dove descending from heaven
10. _____ Water into wine

COLUMN B

- A. The Last Supper (Mark 14:12-24)**
- B. The Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20)**
- C. Jesus' first miracle (John 2:1-11)**
- D. Jesus dies on the cross (Luke 23:44-49)**
- E. Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem (Mark 11:1-10)**
- F. Jesus is tempted (Matthew 4:1-11)**
- G. Jesus calls his disciples (Mark 1:16-20)**
- H. Jesus is born (Luke 2:1-20)**
- I. Jesus rises from the dead (Matthew 28:1-10)**
- J. Jesus is baptized (Matthew 3:13-17)**

4. Copy the events listed in Column B on notecards. Ask your counselor if there are additional events that you should add to the list. Then arrange the notecards in chronological order. Consult your Bible to figure out the correct order.

5. On the back of each notecard, list three things that you know or learned about that event. Read more about the event in your Bible if you cannot list at least three things.

Highlights of My Journey

Look back over what you have learned from this leg of your journey about meeting Jesus, a true human being. In the postcard below, tell what you feel is most important or what you remember most. Your message should be very brief (only one or two sentences) and tell about the highlight of your journey. Address your postcard to someone who would enjoy hearing about your faith journey or someone who you feel would benefit from what you learned.

The postcard template consists of a large rectangular area on the left with seven horizontal lines for writing a message. On the right side, there is a square stamp box with a scalloped border. Below the stamp box, the word "TO:" is printed in a bold, sans-serif font. Underneath "TO:", there are two horizontal lines for writing an address.

Picture This!

“Picture This!” will be at the end of each lesson after you have studied and discussed portions of scripture. It will be a record of your journey. You can choose between making a video or a photo album. This will be an ongoing project throughout the entire program.

If you choose to make a video, you will need to have access to a video camera and other related equipment. Your assignment will be to produce a news program with interviews, live news, commercials, special programs, anchorpeople, and so on. You will decide the content and the format. There will be three main video segments. If you choose to make a photo album, you will need a notebook or scrapbook and a camera. Your album will be a collection of photographs, drawings, paintings, and other works of art. There will be seven “chapters” in your album.

Take the time to page through the *God and Church* workbook and look at the “Picture This!” sections. Talk with your counselor about your ideas for a video or photo album. Regardless of whether you choose to make a video or photo album, you will need to show your work and share your stories with others at the completion of the *God and Church* program.



Video

Decide on a name for your TV show and design a logo for your program. Choose one or two anchorpeople to host your show. Every time you film a segment for your show, your anchorpeople will introduce or announce the new story. Your anchorpeople will provide the continuity throughout the video. Your assignment is to introduce your show, explain the purpose of your program, and plan the first segment. Your first

segment will focus on the life of Jesus. Decide which events in Jesus’ life you will cover. Then decide how you will cover them. Consider the following options:

- Interviews—Interview people who knew Jesus.
- Live coverage—Use a special “time machine” to go back in time and cover the news “live.”
- Commercial—Include a commercial for the Bible and how it teaches people about Jesus and brings people close to him.
- Personal story—Share your own faith story and tell what Jesus means to you.

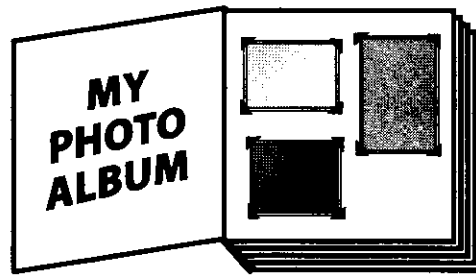
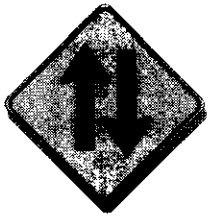


Photo Album

Make a cover or title page for your photo album. Besides a title, be sure to include your name and date. Introduce yourself and your counselor by including a picture of the two of you. Your first chapter in your photo album will introduce Jesus and show his humanity. Choose one or more of the following options or design your own. Add labels and descriptions to go along with your pictures.

- Make a collage (a collection of pictures) of faces of people that show the many different emotions and feelings that Jesus would have felt (i.e., happy, sad, worried, hungry, thirsty, etc.). You may take photographs of people with different facial expressions, or you may cut pictures out of old magazines or newspapers. Use as many pictures and as many pages in your photo album as you want.
- Choose two events in the life of Jesus that are especially meaningful to you. Find pictures to illustrate the event and your feelings about it.
- Design the front side of the postcard for this lesson. Use markers or color pencils and make your picture eye-catching.

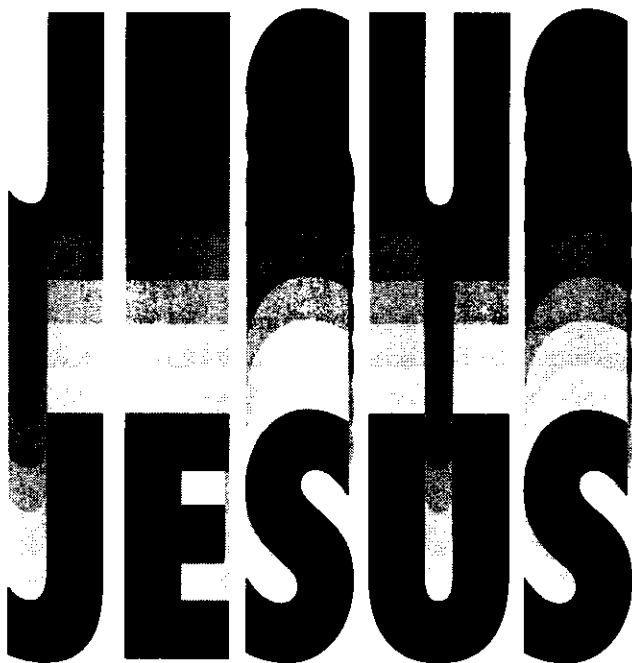


Lesson 2

My Journey: Meeting Jesus, the Son of God

Anticipating the Journey

Consider the importance of names. Your name is an important part of who you are. In the space below, list all your names and nicknames (you may also include such words as *son*, *granddaughter*, *cousin*, *nephew*, etc.). Then discuss the following questions with your counselor: Do different people know you by different names? What do your names tell about you and the relationships you have with other people?



My Journey in the Bible

In the previous section, you took the first step in getting to know Jesus, the human being. But Jesus is much more than just a famous person. The next part of your journey will help you meet Jesus, the Son of the living God. Jesus is both fully human and fully divine.

1. Jesus, too, was called by many names, and these names can teach us many things about him. Read the following passages to find out some of the names by which Jesus is called. List each name and, if necessary, look up its meaning in a Bible dictionary. With your counselor, talk about what these names teach us about Jesus.

a. Matthew 1:21 _____

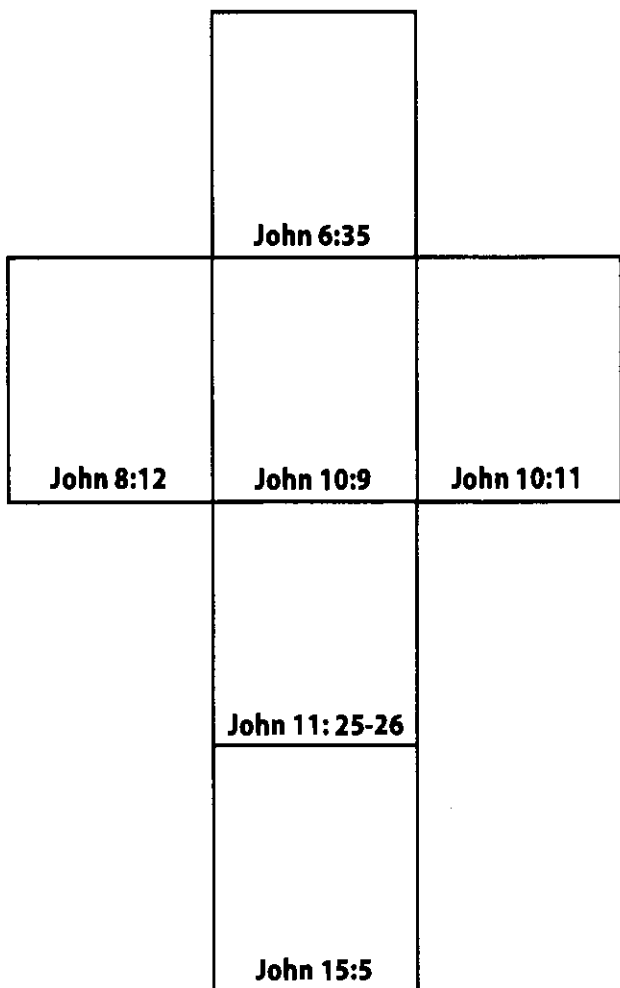
b. Matthew 1:23 _____

c. John 13:13 _____

d. John 1:29 _____

e. John 1:41 _____

2. You have studied the names by which Jesus is called. Now discover what Jesus himself says about who he is. Each of the Bible verses in the cross contains a statement made by Jesus that begins with "I am." Read the passages and then draw a picture in each box to remind you of what Jesus said. Then write out the words from John 14:6 in the space provided. Discuss these Bible verses with your counselor and tell which verse is most meaningful to you.



John 14:6

3. Jesus stated that he was the Son of God. He also said that if you did not believe him, you could believe the miracles and signs that he did. The following passages are the accounts from people who knew Jesus or were eyewitnesses to his miracles. Identify the people and explain what they witnessed.

a. Matthew 14:22-33 _____

b. John 11:23-27 _____

c. John 1:32-34 _____

d. Matthew 27:54 (27-54) _____

e. Acts 9:1-9 _____

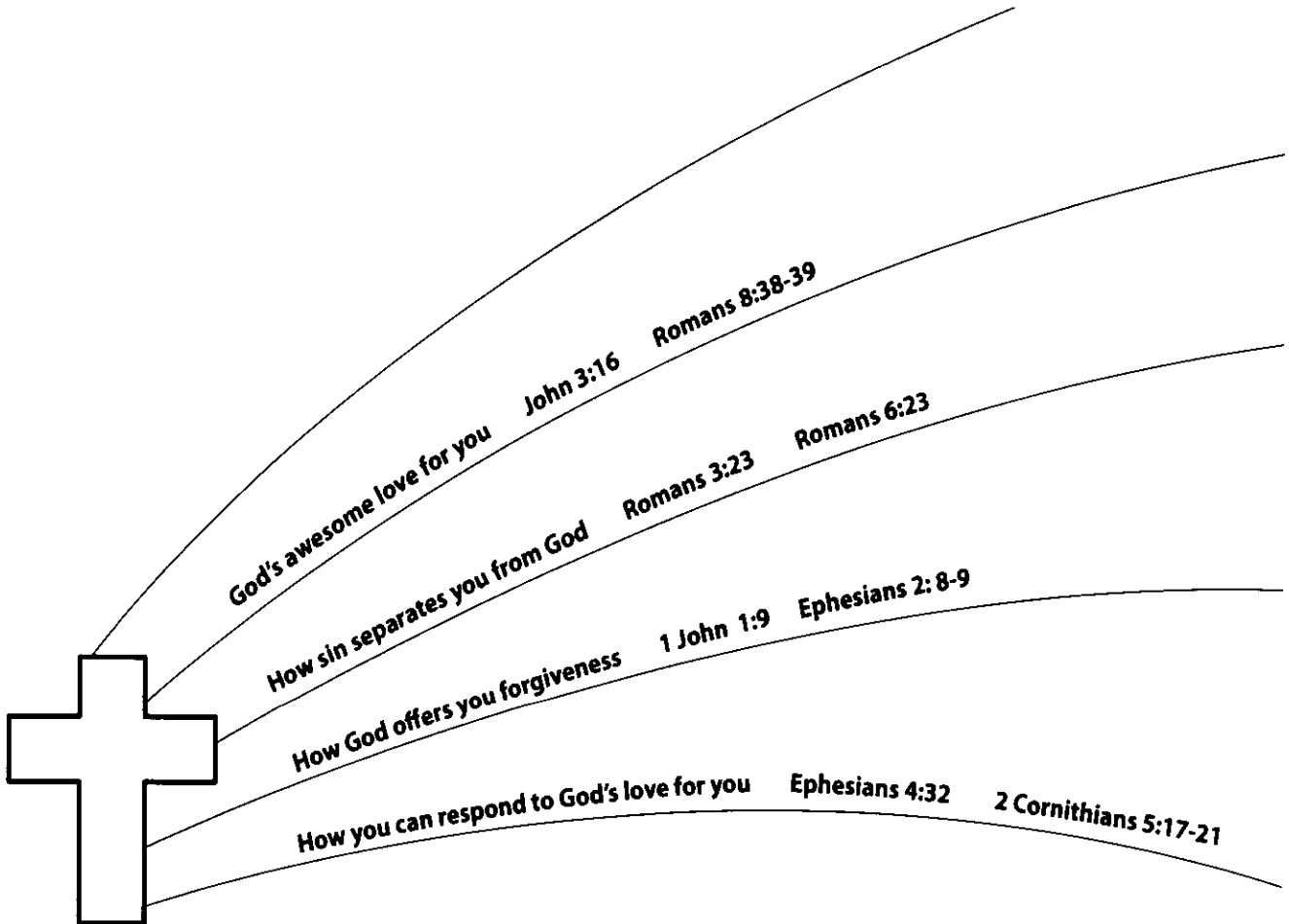
Choose a witness who you think is the most effective. Explain your choice in the space below.

4. Knowing about Jesus, true human being, and Jesus, true God, is not enough. You must believe in Jesus and receive him in your heart as Lord and Savior. Our relationship with Jesus starts with God's awesome love for us. God's love is unending, all encompassing, and always reaching out to us. But our relationship with God is broken by our sin. Sin is turning away from God. Anytime we choose to follow our own direction instead of God's direction, we sin. But God sent his son, Jesus, to die on the cross to wipe away our sins. This is good news indeed! When we confess our sins and repent (repent means to turn back toward God), God forgives us. Praise God that we are called children of God! Praise God for the Good News of Jesus Christ!

Make a scriptural "rainbow" or "color chart" to remind you of the Good News of Jesus Christ. Read each theme and corresponding Bible verses below. Write a few words to remind you of their meaning. Then choose a color that you feel

illustrates each theme. Be prepared to explain your choices. (The colors that you choose do not literally have to be the colors of the rainbow.)

5. Jesus knows you and loves you. He forgives you and offers you eternal life. Jesus invites you to believe in him. It's that simple. He is standing and knocking at the door of your heart and is waiting to be asked inside (Rev. 3:20). What does this mean to you?



Highlights of My Journey

Look back over what you have learned from this leg of your journey about meeting Jesus, the Son of God. In the postcard below, tell what you feel is most important or what you remember most. Your message should be very brief (only one or two sentences) and tell about the highlight of your journey. Address your postcard to someone who would enjoy hearing about your journey or someone who you feel would benefit from what you have learned.



Picture This!

Video

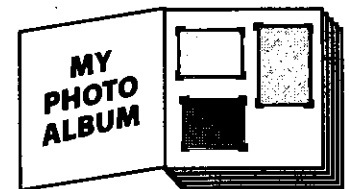
Continue working on your first segment. Write the script.



Photo Album

The second chapter in your photo album will proclaim that Jesus is the true Son of God and invite others to believe in him. Add new pages to your photo album. Choose one or more of the following ideas or design your own. Add labels and descriptions to go along with your pictures.

- Choose two or three names for Jesus. Cut out individual letters of the alphabet from magazines and newspapers to spell out these names in your album.
- Draw or collect symbols of Christ (e.g., Good Shepherd, crown of thorns, fish, etc.)
- Transform the “scriptural rainbow” on page 9 into a human rainbow. Coordinate a group of volunteers to wear certain color T-shirts or to hold certain color construction paper and to stand in a rainbow formation. Then take their picture.
- Design the front side of the postcard for this lesson. Use markers or color pencils and make your picture eye-catching.





Lesson 3

My Journey: Meeting Jesus, the Head of the Church

Anticipating the Journey

Pick one of your friends. List some people whom you have met because of that friend.

You	Your Friend			

My Journey in the Bible

When you have a friend, often your friendship is not limited to that person alone. You may also get to know your friend's friends and family members. It is the same thing with Jesus. Getting to know Jesus means getting to know the church (i.e., others who believe in Jesus). In Ephesians 1:22-23, Jesus is proclaimed the head of the church, and we, as Christians, are his body. Therefore, when we invite Jesus into our hearts and proclaim him Lord and Savior of our lives, we are also called into relationship with the church, the full body of Christ.

1. Meeting Jesus doesn't stop there. It also means getting to know the church. The coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost is often celebrated as the "birthday" of the church. Read about the birth of the church in Acts 2:1-47.

a. Write down any words that describe the sensory and emotional experiences in this passage. In other words, what was heard, seen, and felt during Pentecost?

b. Read the words that you wrote in question a. Circle the things that you have experienced and felt in your own congregation. What other comparisons can you make between the early church and your congregation?

2. You have read about the early church and how it started. Now it is time for you to learn the history of your own congregation. Your congregation did not just happen. Who started it? Why? When? In what way (or how) did the founders think your local congregation would make an important addition to your community? What are the highlights of your congregation's history? Talk with your counselor about the best way to learn about your congregation's history. Perhaps its history has been written. Perhaps you can talk to the church historian or librarian or a member who can share some special stories about your congregation. Write some of your discoveries in the next column.

My Congregation

3. Congregations that are bound together by common belief and history are called denominations (or fellowships or associations). Individual congregations that work with denominations are able to do that which they could not do alone. Does your congregation belong to a denomination? If so, learn about your denomination's story. Whether you read a book or pamphlet, go on-line, or talk to your counselor, try to answer the following questions:

a. Name two or three reasons for your denomination's founding.

b. Name some of the key people who helped start your denomination.

c. List several important dates in your denomination's history.

d. Name some specific beliefs and practices that are very important to your denomination.

e. Name several beliefs that you have in common with other Christian groups.

4. Many churches use creeds or statements of faith to remind them of what they believe about God and Jesus Christ. If one is used in your church, read it closely and discuss its meaning with your counselor. Then memorize it. After you learn it, recite it to an adult, explain what it means to you, and ask him or her to sign in the space below. If your church does not use a creed or statement of belief, your counselor will suggest an alternate assignment. Find out why your denomination is non-doctrinal (does not have a written statement of belief). What does it have?

I certify that

(name of young person)

has memorized

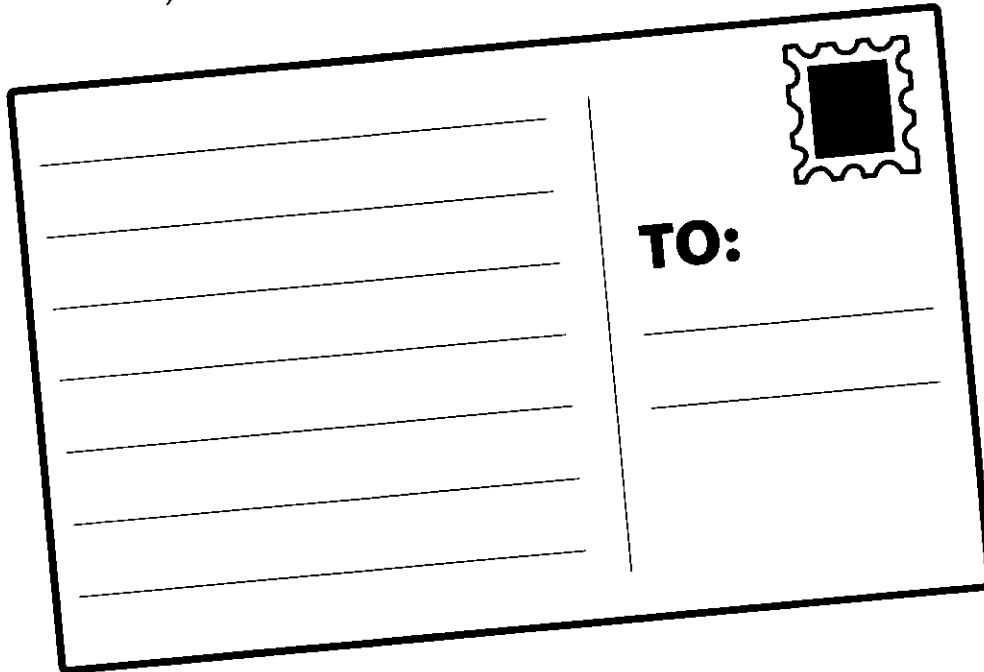
(list creed or scripture passages)

and has explained its meaning to me.

Adult's signature / date

Highlights of My Journey

Look back over what you have learned from this leg of your journey about meeting Jesus as the head of the church. In the postcard below, tell what you feel is most important or what you remember most. Your message should be very brief (only one or two sentences) and tell about the highlight of your journey. Address your postcard to someone who would enjoy hearing about your faith journey or someone who you feel would benefit from what you have learned.



The postcard template consists of a large rectangular area on the left with horizontal lines for writing. On the right side, there is a postage stamp area with a scalloped border, and below it, the word "TO:" followed by two horizontal lines for an address.

Picture This!

Video

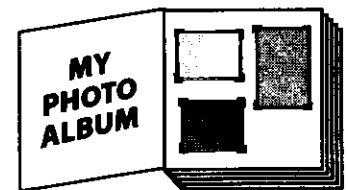
Make final plans for filming Video Segment 1 (i.e., gather all props, costumes, and video equipment that you will need and make copies of the script for everybody involved) and then film it.



Photo Album

The third chapter in your photo album will tell about the history of your congregation and/or denomination. Add new pages to your photo album. Choose one or more of the following ideas or design your own. Add labels and descriptions to go along with your pictures.

- Collect photographs that illustrate the key events in the history of your congregation. Get permission to make copies. Write captions for your pictures.
- Take a current picture of one or two of the longtime members of your congregation. See if they can give you a photograph of themselves taken at about the time that they joined the congregation. Ask them to comment on the changes that they have seen in the church during their lifetime.
- Make a time line of the history of your congregation.
- Design the front side of the postcard for this lesson. Use markers or color pencils and make your picture eye-catching.





PROJECT I

Daily Bible Reading

The first requirement of the *God and Church* program is to read your Bible every day for three weeks. (If possible, try reading your Bible throughout the entire *God and Church* program.) Make a plan with your counselor. Will you read an entire gospel? Will you use a devotional series? Will you keep a journal of your thoughts and questions? Write your plan. You may use the chart below to record your plan and/or to keep track of your progress by recording the days that you read and the passages that you read on each day.

My Plan: _____

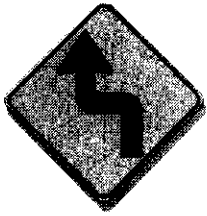
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

What I found difficult: _____

What I enjoyed: _____

What I learned: _____

Date Completed: _____ Counselor's Signature: _____



Lesson 4

My Journey: Learning How Christ Worshipped God

Anticipating the Journey

Read the following statements. Indicate whether you agree or disagree with each statement. Be prepared to explain your answers.

AGREE DISAGREE

- a.** I go to church because I have to.
- b.** It's easy for me to daydream during the service and not really pay attention to what's being said.
- c.** Church refreshes me.
- d.** The only time I think about God or read from the Bible is when I go to church.
- e.** I want to take a more active role in church than just singing or reading along.
- f.** I don't always want to go to church, but I'm usually glad when I do.
- g.** During the week I catch myself singing a song or thinking about something that I heard in church.
- h.** I look forward to seeing my friends at church.

Luke 2:49 _____

Luke 4:16 _____

Matthew 26:55 _____

Luke 21:37-38 _____

Mark 11:15-17 _____

Go back and answer the agree/disagree statements in the exercise above from Jesus' point of view. Use a different color pen or pencil. How similar are your responses? What does Jesus' example mean to you?

2. Jesus read and quoted scripture. Scripture was not something that was reserved for the synagogue. Scripture was a part of his everyday life. Jesus' knowledge of scripture gave glory and honor to God. Read about Jesus' being tempted by Satan in Luke 4:1-13, and discuss the following questions with your counselor:

My Journey in the Bible

Jesus lived his life in praise of God. His words, his actions, his whole being gave glory and honor to God. Worship was not something that was reserved for the synagogue. Jesus' everyday living was a form of worship. Worship is showing God respect and honor. It is giving total priority to God. All that we do in response to God's love is worship.

1. Going to the synagogue was an important way that Jesus worshiped God. Jesus set an example for us to follow. Read the following Bible verses to learn how important the synagogue was to Jesus (you may make notes in the space provided next to each Bible reference).

a. How did Jesus' knowledge of scripture protect him? How did Jesus' knowledge of scripture give glory to God?

b. Think of situations in your own life when it would be helpful to know scripture. How can knowing the Bible affect your behavior and the choices you make? How is reading scripture a form of worship?

3. Jesus led a rich prayer life. He often left the crowds to be by himself and pray. When Jesus prayed, he did more than just talk and listen to God. He communed with God. What does it mean to "commune"?

a. Each of the following passages describes a time when Jesus was praying. Identify each event. Then reflect on the important times in your own life. With your counselor, discuss the role prayer played (or could have played) in those moments.

Luke 3:21-22 _____

Luke 6:12-13 _____

Luke 9:12-17 _____

Luke 9:28-36 _____

Luke 22:39-46 _____

b. We learn in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 that we should pray without ceasing. What does this mean? Is it possible to pray nonstop? Think about your own prayer life as worship. How often do you pray? When do you pray? With whom do you pray? Talk with your counselor about ways to strengthen your prayer life. Write those ways in the space below.

4. Luke 19:37-40 tells of a time when the Pharisees wanted to rebuke the crowd of disciples for praising God. Jesus had an interesting response. Jesus said if the people were to refrain from praising God, the very stones would cry out instead.

a. How did Jesus' life on Earth "cry out" in praise of God? How was his everyday living a form of worship?

b. Name some people in the Bible whose very lives "cried out" with praise for God.

c. Name some people today whose very lives "cry out" with praise for God.

d. Think about your own life. How does your everyday living praise God?

Highlights of My Journey

Look back over what you have learned from this leg of your journey about learning how Christ worshiped God. In the postcard below, tell what you feel is most important or what you remember most. Your message should be very brief (only one or two sentences) and tell about the highlight of your journey. Address your postcard to someone who would enjoy hearing about your faith journey or someone who you feel would benefit from what you have learned.

A postcard template with a stamp box in the top right corner. Below the stamp box is the label "TO:" followed by two horizontal lines for an address. The main body of the postcard is divided by a vertical line, with the left side containing six horizontal lines for writing a message.

Picture This!

Video

Video Segment 2 will focus on how your congregation worships. Use as many of the following ideas as you wish to help you explore the worship life of your congregation.

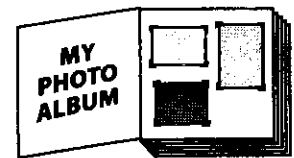
- Interviews—Interview some people in charge of the worship service. Find out what they do to lead a worship service.
- “Behind-the-scenes” coverage—Film the behind-the-scenes preparation for a worship service. Can you film the choir rehearsing an anthem? the pastor writing a sermon? the secretary printing the bulletins?
- Commercial—Include a commercial that invites people to attend your congregation’s worship services
- “Call in” time—Host a “call in” time and invite viewers to call your TV station and share their stories on the air and give personal examples attesting to the importance of worship in their daily lives.

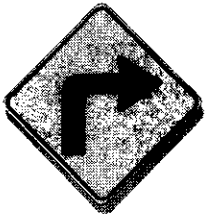


Photo Album

Chapter 4 in your photo album will show the importance of worship in everyday life. Add new pages to your photo album. Choose one or more of the following ideas or design your own. Add labels and descriptions to go along with your pictures.

- Go outside and take photographs of nature or find pictures in old magazines or calendars that show how God is glorified in creation. Find an appropriate Bible verse (or verses) to express how all nature gives praise to God.
- Take pictures of people whose lives you feel give praise to God. Add explanations in your photo album.
- Design the front side of the postcard for this lesson. Use markers or color pencils and make your picture eye-catching.



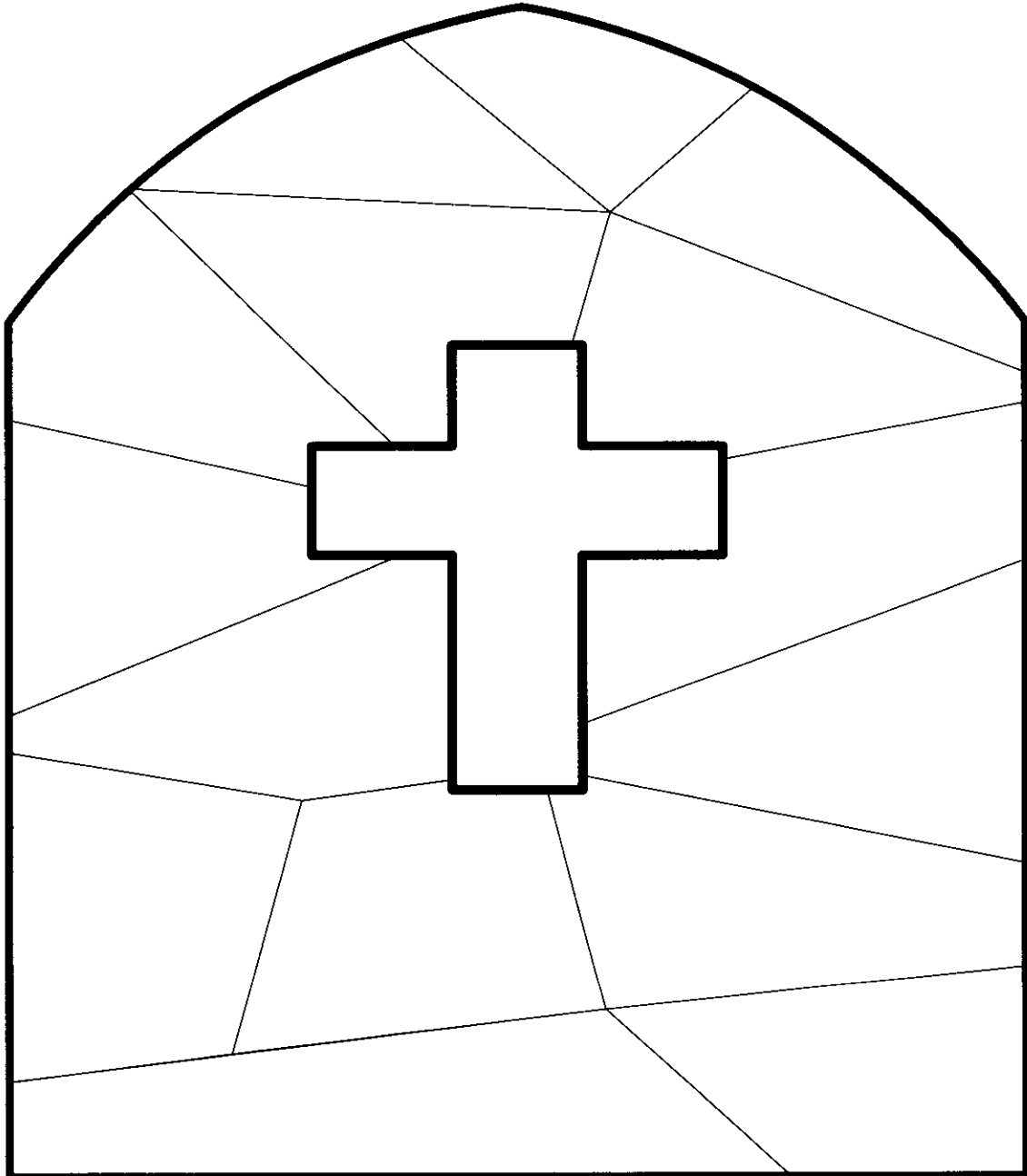


Lesson 5

My Journey: Exploring How My Congregation Worships God

Anticipating the Journey

Visit the sanctuary in your church. What are the things you see there? Fill in each part of the stained-glass window with words or drawings of the items you see in your sanctuary. With your counselor discuss how they are used and how they contribute to the worship service.



My Journey in the Bible

Worship is an important part of the lives of God's people. Learn more about the worship service(s) of your congregation.

1. What is the order of worship for your congregation? List the main parts of the worship service, and explain what they are and why they appear in the order that they do.

2. Discuss the following questions with your counselor:

a. What is the role of the pastor(s) and others in leading worship?

b. What different types of worship services does your congregation have? What worship opportunities exist outside of Sunday morning worship?

c. What worship resources are used in the worship services?

d. How is music an important part of worship?

e. Describe what happens at a Baptism and explain its significance.

f. Describe how Holy Communion is celebrated in your congregation and explain its significance. Attend a service that includes Communion.

g. What are the special days in the church calendar? What special days are observed by your congregation? Describe the traditions that your congregation has for these special worship services.

h. How are young people involved in the worship services of your congregation?

3. Attend a church service with your counselor/mentor. If possible, study the order of worship with your counselor/mentor before the service. Afterwards meet with the pastor to talk about the service.

Date of worship service attended: _____

Complete the following sentences:

a. I didn't know that _____


b. I was surprised that _____

c. I enjoyed _____

d. I didn't want to _____

Highlights of My Journey

Look back over what you have learned from this leg of your journey about exploring how your congregation worships God. In the postcard below, tell what you feel is most important or what you remember most. Your message should be very brief (only one or two sentences) and tell about the highlight of your journey. Address your postcard to someone who would enjoy hearing about your faith journey or someone who you feel would benefit from what you have learned.



A postcard template with a stamp box in the top right corner and a 'TO:' address field below it. The main body of the postcard is divided into two sections by a vertical line. The left section contains seven horizontal lines for writing a message. The right section contains two horizontal lines for an address.

Picture This!

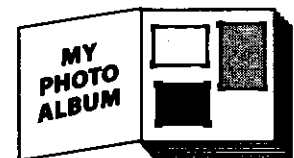
Video

Continue working on Video Segment 2. Finish the script and write the questions for the interview(s). Confirm any appointments that you have made for interviews and filming. Then film it.

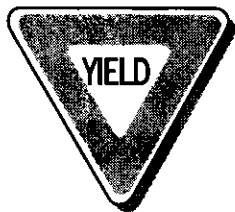


Photo Album

Chapter 5 of your photo album will explore the worship service of your congregation. Add new pages to your photo album. Choose one or more of the following ideas or design your own. Add labels and descriptions to go along with your pictures.



- Take pictures of the different jobs that people perform in order to prepare for a worship service.
- Design your own stained-glass window.
- Take photographs or find pictures of different sanctuaries or houses of worship.
- Find pictures in old magazines to illustrate the different parts of the worship service. Label them and put them in the order they appear in a worship service.
- Design the front side of the postcard for this lesson. Use markers or color pencils and make your picture eye-catching.



PROJECT 2

Discovering How I Can Worship God

You have studied how Jesus worshiped God. You have explored how your congregation worships God. Now you will discover how YOU can worship God. Complete one or more of the following activities. You may choose to design your own projects (with the approval of your counselor).

- Prepare and lead a devotion for a Sunday school class, youth group, scout group, or family. Talk with your counselor about this experience.
- Prepare a worship experience for an outdoor setting.
- Visit other churches and attend their worship services. Your counselor can help you choose which churches to visit. If it is possible, arrange a tour of the church and talk with the clergy (or other person). Talk with your counselor about the similarities and differences between the worship services.
- Actively participate in a worship service. Talk to your counselor and pastor about how best you can serve (greeter, acolyte, reader, usher, special music).

What I did: _____

What I found difficult: _____

What I enjoyed: _____

What I learned: _____

Date Completed: _____ Counselor's Signature: _____



Lesson 6

My Journey: Learning How Christ Witnessed and Ministered to Others

Anticipating the Journey

Take a coin. Flip it ten times. Every time it lands on "heads" tell of a time when you have heard about God's love. Every time it lands on "tails" tell of a time you have seen God's love in action.

My Journey in the Bible

Witnessing is often understood to mean how we *tell* other people about Jesus, whereas *ministering* usually means what we *do* to help other people. In this program, witnessing and ministering will go hand in hand. You cannot *tell* other people about Jesus without *doing* the good works to meet their needs or help their hurts. And the good works that you do in the name of Jesus are the best way of telling others the Good News of Jesus Christ.

1. Jesus ministered to people by seeing them as individuals and addressing their specific needs. What needs did Jesus address for the people in the following passages? What did each person(s) request?

Mark 10:46-52 _____

Matthew 8:1-3 _____

Matthew 8:23-27 _____

Mark 9:14-29 _____

2. Jesus' ministry was filled with compassion. Jesus felt the hurts and needs of ordinary people and reached out to them with love and mercy. Read about the compassion Jesus showed to the Samaritan woman in John 4:4-42.

a. How was Jesus compassionate? What social standards did Jesus defy by talking with the Samaritan woman?

b. What happened as a result of Jesus' conversation with the Samaritan woman?

c. Describe a time when you have shown or received compassion. What impact did it have?

d. Choose one of the following situations and act it out. Show what it might be like to respond in a self-centered way, and then show what it means to be Christlike and respond with compassion.

- You have to miss going to the movies because Dad wants you to help him paint at the church work day.
- You're watching your favorite show on TV, and your little sister needs help with her social studies homework.
- The kid that called you names last week is sitting all alone in the cafeteria.

3. Jesus was a man of action. He didn't only preach about God's love and mercy, he demonstrated it. Jesus put his faith into action by reaching out and ministering to the people around him. Jesus' miracles were one way he witnessed or told people about God's love.

Read about the miracles listed below. Tell what Jesus did and why he did it.

a. John 4:46-53 _____

b. John 11:38-44 _____

c. Luke 13:10-17 _____

d. Luke 7:11-17 _____

4. Jesus' miracles were in response to specific needs of individuals, but they also served a higher purpose: to invite people into relationship with Christ (John 10:37-38). Our good works—our witness and our ministry—should also serve a higher purpose. Discuss the following questions with your counselor.

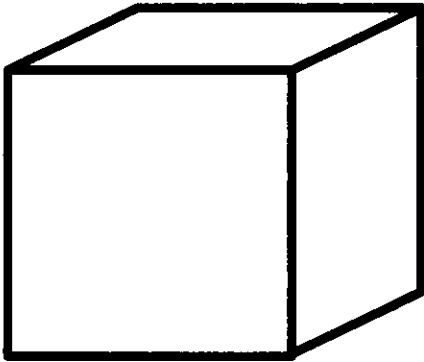
a. Is the call to ministry optional? Can you be a good Christian without helping others? Explain your answer. (James 2:14-26)

b. Are good works required for salvation? Explain your answer. (Ephesians 2:8-10)

c. Is it enough to do good works? Can you receive salvation by doing good works and not professing faith in Christ? Explain your answer. (Romans 10:9-10)

d. What is the purpose of good works? (2 Corinthians 9:11-13)

5. You have studied about Jesus' witness and ministry and how Jesus healed all kinds of hurts. There isn't a hurt too small or insignificant to bring to Jesus. What about you? Jesus wants to know your needs. What hurts do you have? What challenges are you facing? What pressures do you feel? Write them (or draw pictures) in the box below. Then draw a big circle around the entire box. Label the circle "God." God is bigger than any of your problems. God surrounds you in God's love and care. As you look at this picture, offer a prayer to God thanking God for God's strength and presence in your life.



My prayer: _____

Highlights of My Journey

Look back over what you have learned from this leg of your journey about how Jesus witnessed and ministered to others. In the postcard below, tell what you feel is most important or what you remember most. Your message should be very brief (only one or two sentences) and tell about the highlight of your journey. Address your postcard to someone who would enjoy hearing about your faith journey or someone who you feel would benefit from what you have learned.



Picture This!

Video

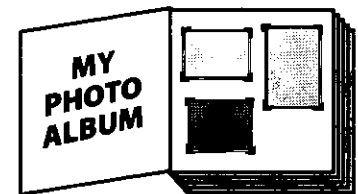
Video Segment 3 will focus on the witness and ministry of your congregation. You may choose one specific outreach program that interests you or you may report on several different programs. Consider the programs of your congregation as well as programs in your community. Use as many of the following ideas as you wish to help you show the importance of witnessing and ministering in Jesus' name.



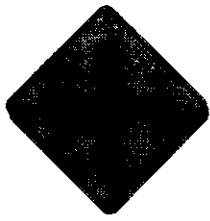
- Interviews—Interview the people in charge of a specific program and the volunteers that help out.
- Public Service Announcement—Include a public service announcement for one of your organizations that will help recruit volunteers for a needed project.
- Actual footage—If possible, volunteer for one of the organizations and record it on video.
- Tours—Arrange for a tour of the facilities of one of the organizations and obtain permission to film portions of it.

Photo Album

Chapter 6 of your photo album will focus on the importance of witnessing and ministering in Jesus' name.



- Make a sign that says, "I've seen intentional acts of kindness." Find people who can tell of a time when they have witnessed a kind act or when they have been a recipient of a kind act. Ask them to hold your sign and then take their pictures. Include captions with your pictures when you add them to your photo album.
- Collect signatures (on color paper or notecards) from people who have witnessed or been the recipient of a kind act. Ask them to write a sentence or two describing what happened. Arrange your notecards in your photo album.
- Draw a cartoon strip of one of the skits on page 25.
- Draw a "before" and "after" scene for one of Jesus' miracles. (If you like, you may choose one of the miracles listed on page 25).
- Design the front side of the postcard for this lesson. Use markers or color pencils and make your picture eye-catching.



Lesson 7

My Journey: Exploring How My Congregation Witnesses and Ministers to Others

Anticipating the Journey

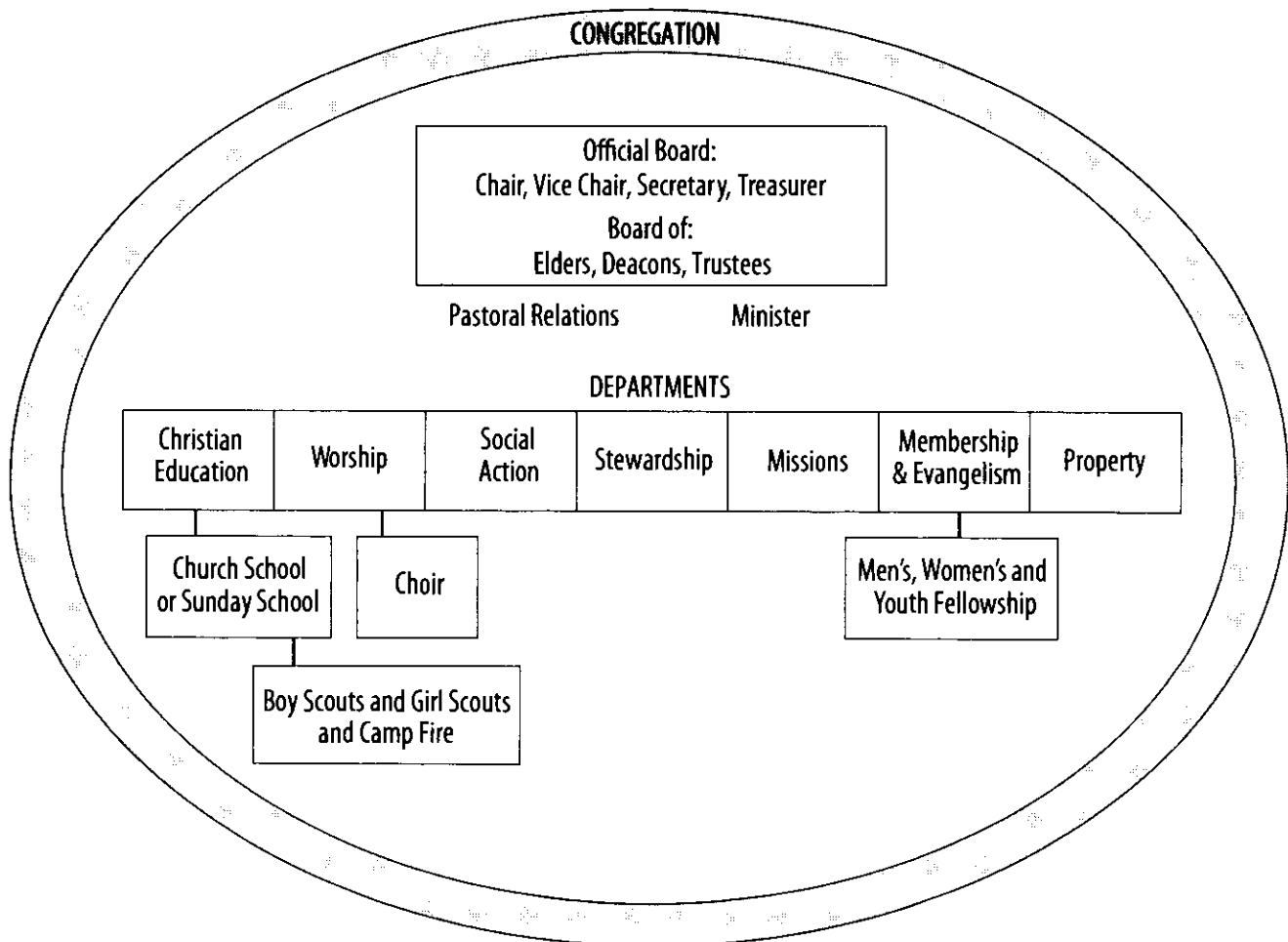
Choose a group of people (it can even be your family) to brainstorm 25 ways to witness to God's love and grace. Write your answers on notecards or small pieces of paper. Remember what you learned about witnessing and ministering going hand in hand. Consider making a bulletin board or other display out of your answers.

My Journey in the Bible

Every member of your local congregation is called to serve in ministry and witness. No, not everyone

is a preacher or teacher, but everyone is a minister and shares in responsibility for the work of the church. Your congregation reaches out to the community in many different ways.

1. Learn about the structure of your congregation that enables it to do effective witnessing and ministering. What organizations, committees, and officers help your congregation do God's work? How is your church structured? Talk with a leader of your congregation. Then use the sample chart below to help you draw a chart that shows how your church is organized.



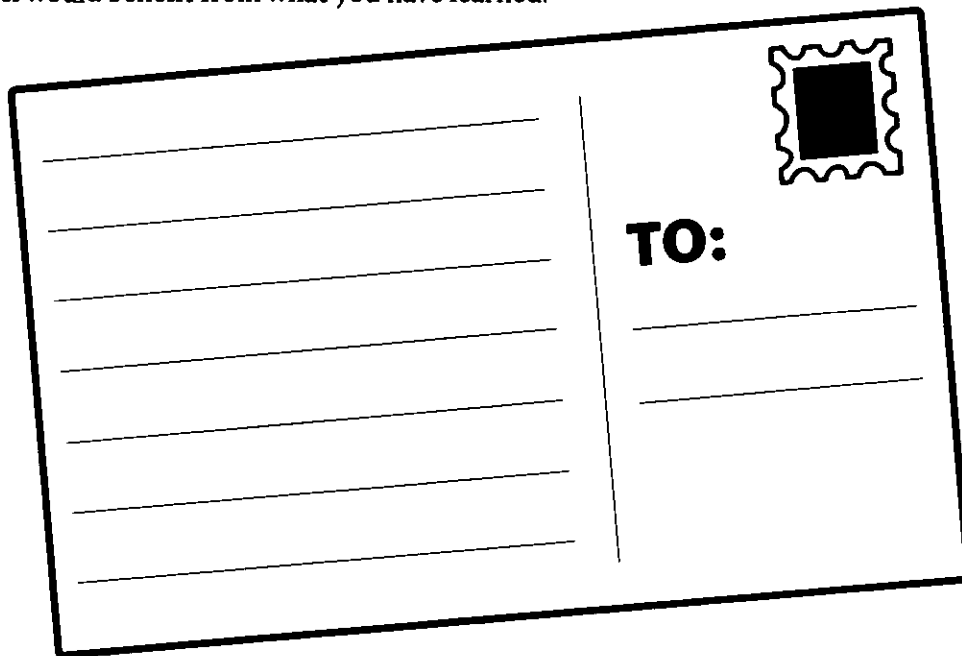
2. Fill in the chart below to show all the different ways that your church reaches out to people in your own congregation, to people in your community, and to people outside your community. Ask your counselor to help you if you need help in identifying ways your congregation reaches out to the different groups.

Ways my church reaches out to people in my congregation	Ways my church reaches out to people in my local community	Ways my church reaches out to people outside my community

3. One of the results of the church's witnessing and ministering to people is people's coming to Christ. What if somebody wants to join your congregation? Find out how people become members of your congregation. List the requirements for membership in the space below.

Highlights of My Journey

Look back over what you have learned from this leg of your journey about how your congregation witnesses and ministers to others. In the postcard below, tell what you feel is most important or what you remember most. Your message should be very brief (only one or two sentences) and tell about the highlight of your journey. Address your postcard to someone who would enjoy hearing about your faith journey or someone who you feel would benefit from what you have learned.



A postcard template with a stamp box in the top right corner, a 'TO:' label below it, and several lines for writing. The left side of the postcard has several horizontal lines for writing.

Picture This!

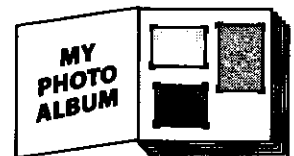
Video

Continue working on Video Segment 3. Write the script and the questions for the interview(s). Confirm any appointments that you have made for interviews and filming. Then film it.



Photo Album

- Create a new chart showing the structure of your congregation. This time add photographs.
- Collect flyers and brochures explaining the various programs that minister to the needs of people. Display these flyers in your photo album.
- Design the front side of the postcard for this lesson. Use markers or color pencils and make your picture eye-catching.





PROJECT 3

Discovering How I Can Witness and Minister to Others

You have studied how Jesus ministered to others. You have explored how your congregation ministers to others. Now you will discover how YOU can minister to others. Complete all three activities.

1. Invite someone to church, Sunday school, youth group, or to join you and others in a caring activity (a service project). Tell them ahead of time what to expect. Give them a tour, introduce them to people you know, and make them feel comfortable. Be sure to share the Good News of Jesus with them. Afterwards, interview them and get their thoughts. What were their expectations before their visit? What were their reactions after the visit? What was surprising? What was familiar? What made them want (or not want) to come back?

Date Completed: _____

2. Get involved in the ministry of your congregation and work with people in your own church. Look at the chart on page 29 and volunteer in one or more programs that interest you. Your counselor can help you find a spot where you will be helpful and can learn from the experience. Write about your experience below. (The following questions may help you: What did you do? What was difficult? What did you enjoy? What did you learn?)

Date Completed: _____

3. Make a plan to volunteer at a community agency (look at the list of agencies your congregation supports or works through in the chart on page 29). Choose a program that addresses the hurts and needs that you feel strongly about. Your work should not be impersonal, but rather, it should help you get to know others as real people. Decide how long you will volunteer. (How many times will you visit the retirement center? How many times will you work at the food pantry?) Write about your experience below. (The following questions may help you: What did you do? What was difficult? What did you enjoy? What did you learn?)

Date Completed: _____

Counselor's Signature and Date: _____

Looking back on your journey in the *God and Church* program

An important part of any journey is looking back to see how far you have come. Take the time to discover how you have grown in your Christian faith by doing the following:

Describe your relationship with Christ and with the church.

You were asked this very same question at the beginning of this program. Look back and read what you wrote on page 3. What are two or three new insights that you have received from this *God and Church* program? In what way have you grown closer to Jesus? Closer to the church? What will you do to continue your spiritual journey? Share your discoveries with your counselor and ask your counselor to add his or her signature and comments in the space below.

Counselor's Comments: _____

Counselor's signature _____ Date _____

Final Review by the Pastor

The last requirement is that you present your work to the pastor. This is a church program and must be approved by a pastor. This is not a "test" but an opportunity to share what you have learned. Be sure to bring your Student Workbook and any project materials to the final review and ask your pastor to sign your book.

SIGNATURE OF PASTOR

DATE

Award Ceremony

Congratulations on completing the *God and Church* program! It's time to celebrate! Together with your counselor plan an award ceremony to celebrate this important accomplishment. Decide whom you will invite, whom you want to thank, and what you will share about your journey.

Online ordering available at www.praypub.org

God and Church Award Application Form

Incomplete applications will be returned. Submit one application per candidate (unless using the Multiple Order Form from the Counselor's Manual).

Shipping address: Allow two to three weeks for delivery. Overnight shipping requires a street address & correct zip code.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Day contact: Phone _____ E-mail _____

Candidate's Information:

Name _____ Grade _____
 Home Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Denomination (Church Body) _____ Check one: BSA GSUSA CF AHG Other: _____

Church Information: Please provide the following information for the church that sponsored the program or whose pastor reviewed the candidate's work.

Name of Congregation _____ Denomination (Church Body) _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Pastor's Name _____ E-mail _____
 Who was responsible for coordinating and/or teaching the class? Who served as counselor?
 Counselor's name _____ E-mail _____

Certificate of Eligibility: The pastor's signature is preferred; however, other signatures will be accepted.

I certify that the candidate has successfully completed the requirements for the *God and Church* program and has presented his/her work to the pastor for final approval.

Signature _____
 Date _____

All orders must be sent with payment in full by check, money order, or credit card (if credit card, please provide the following information)

Check one: Mastercard Visa Discover
 Cardholder's Name _____
 Acct # _____
 Expiration Date: _____ CV2 Code _____
 The CV2 code is the last three digits on the backside of the credit card located in the signature box.
 Cardholder's Address _____
 Phone (Day contact) _____
 Signature _____

*** SHIPPING** -- All orders are assessed a standard Shipping/Handling fee per shipping address (orders shipped together are assessed one fee) and are sent via First Class Mail. To upgrade shipping, visit www.praypub.org for explanation and fees.

For current prices and information go to www.praypub.org or call 800-933-7729.
 Send this form and payment to
P.R.A.V.
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 St. Louis, MO 63123
 2009 Printing

QTY	STOCK#	ITEM (see pictures on page 35)	PRICE	TOTAL
_____	002C3	God and Church Medallion	\$9.50	_____
_____	001CN	God and Church Embroidered Patch	\$3.00	_____
_____	002C6	God and Church 3/4" Lapel Pin	\$5.50	_____
_____	001C9	God and Church Certificate	\$1.00	_____
_____	002C8	Counselor 3/4" Lapel Pin	\$5.50	_____
_____	001CC	Counselor Patch	\$3.00	_____
_____	CC1C9	Counselor Certificate	\$1.00	_____
Denomination 3/4" Lapel Pins (may be pinned in the ribbon of the medal or worn by itself)				
_____	0A1C6	AME Lapel Pin	\$5.50	_____
_____	0B1C6	Baptist Lapel Pin	\$5.50	_____
_____	0D1C6	Disciples of Christ Lapel Pin	\$5.50	_____
_____	0E1C6	Episcopal Lapel Pin	\$5.50	_____
_____	0L1C6	Lutheran Lapel Pin	\$5.50	_____
_____	0T1C6	Pentecostal Lapel Pin	\$5.50	_____
_____	0P1C6	Presbyterian (PCUSA) Lapel Pin	\$5.50	_____
_____	0F1C6	Presbyterian (PCA) Lapel Pin	\$5.50	_____
_____	0M1C6	United Methodist Lapel Pin	\$5.50	_____
_____		Duplication Fee (\$2.00 per photocopied booklet)	\$2.00	_____
_____		Required Registration Fee per student	\$5.50	_____
_____		Required Shipping/Handling Fee per order*	\$3.50	_____
			TOTAL (Prices Subject to Change)	_____
Upgraded Shipping Options: By selecting an option below, you agree to pay special shipping fees, which will be added to your Grand Total.				
<input type="checkbox"/> USPS Priority Mail 2-3 days not guaranteed (additional fees apply)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Ground 3-5 days - No PO Boxes (additional fees apply)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Expedited 1-2 days - No PO Boxes (additional fees apply)				
FAX SERVICE 314-845-0038 All fax orders are assessed \$6.00.			\$6.00	_____
Faxes received by noon CST will be processed and shipped that same day.				
The fax fee is assessed per shipping address (orders shipped together are assessed one fee).				
GRAND TOTAL (amount of order plus special fees)				_____

Tell Us What You Think

Evaluation Form

Please take a few moments to let us know what you think about the *God and Church* program. Your comments are important to us! We would like to hear from you so that we can learn how to make the *God and Church* program even better. We also are looking for "success" stories and interesting projects to feature in our newsletter and on the internet. You may e-mail your comments to info@praypub.org, or you may check our Web site at www.praypub.org for a response form. Thank you for sharing your comments with P.R.A.Y.!

For the child to respond:

Tell about your favorite parts of the *God and Church* program. What do you remember best? Did you have a favorite lesson? What family project was the most fun? You can write your comments here. You can also draw a picture or include a photograph if you like. Attach additional pages if necessary.

For the parent to respond:

How has this program changed your child? Your family? _____

I give permission for P.R.A.Y. to use the drawings, photographs, and/or quotes for publicity purposes for P.R.A.Y. I understand that any drawings and/or photographs that are submitted to P.R.A.Y. will not be returned.

Signature of parent/guardian _____ Date _____

Day phone _____ E-mail _____

For the counselor/pastor to respond:

Describe your program, i.e. How many times did you meet? How long was each session? Who did you invite to participate in your program? etc. _____

Comment on the *God and Church* curriculum. What are its strengths? How can we make the curriculum better?

I give permission for P.R.A.Y. to use the drawings, photographs, and/or quotes for publicity purposes for P.R.A.Y. I understand that any drawings and/or photographs that are submitted to P.R.A.Y. will not be returned.

Signature of counselor/pastor _____ Date _____

Day phone _____ E-mail _____

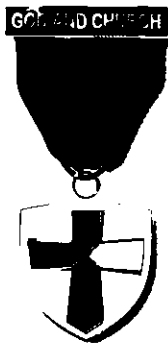
God and Church Awards

Use the application form on page 33 to order these awards.

The P.R.A.Y. awards feature a four-colored cross. The colors correspond to the four levels in the P.R.A.Y. series, i.e. *God and Me* (red), *God and Family* (yellow), *God and Church* (blue), and *God and Life* (green). The four colors converge into a point to create an "X" at the center of the cross. "X" is the first letter in the Greek word for Christ, and it is symbolic of how Christ should be at the center of our lives.

God and Church Medallion

- The official recognition for *God and Church* recipients!
- The shield with cross hangs from a blue ribbon and bar. Blue is the color for *God and Church*, but it also stands for truth and loyalty.
- Order a denomination pin (see far right column) to wear in the ribbon of the medallion to show your church background.
- For members of a scouting program, here is where you wear it on the uniform:
AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS – on the front of the vest or sash
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA – above the left shirt pocket
GIRL SCOUTS OF THE U.S.A. – below the membership stars
- Don't forget ... the award looks great in a frame!



Pin

- A popular item!
- Approximately 3/4 inch in size
- Worn on non-uniform clothing
- May be worn on the Girl Scout uniform
- Often presented to a parent
- May be used as a mother's pin
- Available in several denominational logos (see far right column)



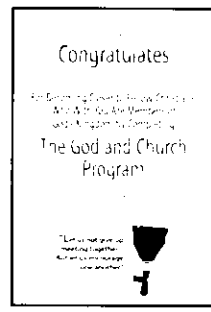
Embroidered Patch

- 3" embroidered emblem
- Sew it on a BSA brag vest or on the back of a Girl Scout vest
- Wear it as a temporary patch on the front of the BSA uniform
- Or simply add it to your patch collection!



Certificate

- 5x7" and printed in full color
- Certificates come "blank" – you add the recipient's name and secure appropriate signatures.
- Looks great in a frame, or add it to your scrapbook!



Say "Thank you" to Your Counselor!

Counselor Pin

- Show your appreciation to your counselor by presenting him/her with a colorful pin
- Approximately 3/4 inch in size
- Worn on non-uniform clothing



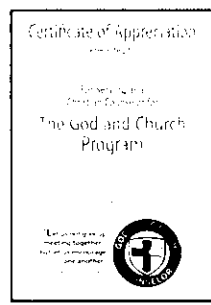
Counselor Patch

- 3" embroidered patch
- It matches the youth patch except it says "Counselor" on it
- May be worn as a temporary patch on the front of the BSA uniform



Counselor Certificate

- 5x7" and printed in full color
- Certificates come "blank" – you add the counselor's name and secure appropriate signatures (why not have the recipient sign it?)
- Great way to say "Thank You!" to your Counselor!



Denominational Pins

- Pins may be worn by themselves or pinned in the ribbon of the medallion
- You were required to study your church and denomination, why not wear your denomination pin on your medallion?
- Available for the following denominations:



AME
African Methodist Episcopal



BAP
Baptist



DOC
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



EPS
Episcopal



LUT
Lutheran



PEN
Pentecostal



PRE
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)



PCA
Presbyterian Church of America



UMC
United Methodist Church



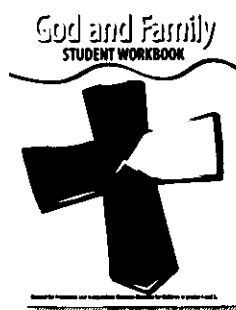
Sample pin on medallion



The P.R.A.Y. Program



God and Me
Student Workbook
(grades 1-3)
#33604



God and Family
Student Workbook
(grades 4-5)
#33597



God and Church
Student Workbook
(grades 6-8)
#33599



God and Life
Student Workbook
(grades 9-12)
#33609



God and Me
Counselor Manual
(for the pastor)
#33603



God and Family
Counselor Manual
(for the pastor)
#33598



God and Church
Counselor Manual
(for the pastor)
#33600



God and Life
Counselor Manual
(for the pastor)
#33610



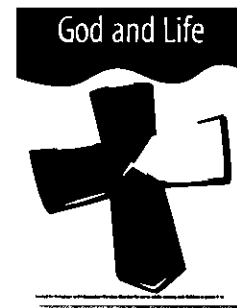
God and Me
Adult Mentor Workbook
(for the parents)
#33606



God and Family
Adult Mentor Workbook
(for the parents)
#33595



God and Church
Adult Mentor Workbook
(for the parents)
#33596



God and Life
Adult Mentor Workbook
(for the parents)
#33605

Catalog #33599



Programs of Religious Activities with Youth

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