



THE THEME

The Church is Essential.

MEMORY VERSE

“On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” - **Matthew 16:18**

CHALLENGE VERSE

“May you have power together with all the Lord’s holy people to understand Christ’s love. May you know how wide and long and high and deep it is.” - **Ephesians 3:18**

AUGUST 6 - LIFE APPLICATION

Jesus is the cornerstone of the church.

Note to Parents

Our current topic is, “**The Church is Essential**”. This week, we learn that Jesus is the cornerstone of the church. Turn to **Ephesians 2:19-21** in your Bible for reference. If you did not go to church on Sunday, you can listen to the sermon online before discussing: momentsofhopechurch.org/messages

Intro Question:

Say, “**Do you know what the word ‘essential’ means?**” (*Discuss.*)

In the dictionary, the definition of ‘essential’ is *something that is absolutely necessary*. **Can you think of things that are essential, that we absolutely must have?** (*Make a list together. For instance: Food, water, shelter, clothing, etc. After making the list, ask why these things are essential. Can we live without any of these things? If so, some may need to be removed from the list!*)

This month, we will be learning that the church is essential. **Why do you think the church is something we must absolutely have?** (*Discuss their thoughts - but we will be discussing all month.*)

Discuss:

1. **Who is Jesus?** (*Let each person in the family say who they think Jesus is and who He is to them.*)
2. During the month, we will learn more about the church and why it is important to us. But first, we need to know how important Jesus is to the church. Read **Ephesians 2:19-21**.

Who is the cornerstone of the church? (*Jesus.*) **Why is the cornerstone important?** (*It is the stone that forms the base of a building, and all of the other pieces require the cornerstone in order to be stable.*)

So, if the church is not based on Jesus, what happens? (*It isn’t stable, it could be unhealthy or it could collapse.*) Another way to describe it is that Jesus is the “seed” from which the church grows. Without Jesus, the church does not grow as it should. It’s all about Jesus!

3. In **Matthew 16:15-18**, Simon Peter is the first disciple to declare that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God. Read **Matthew 16:17,18** to see what

Jesus said to him:

“Jesus replied, ‘Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.’”

4. Peter knew that Jesus was the Son of God. **How do we know that Jesus is who He said He is?**
 - People wrote about Him. There is an abundance of written manuscripts about Jesus, even some by people who were not Christians, and many who actually saw or met Jesus teaching and performing many miracles.
 - In the Old Testament, there are over 300 prophecies of the coming Messiah. Jesus’s life almost matches them all to perfection!
 - Is Jesus a liar: did he make it all up? A lunatic: was he crazy? **Or is He who He said He was? What do you think?**
5. In the coming weeks, we will talk about why the church is essential. Why do you think the church is important? What makes the church important in your own life?

FAMILY CHALLENGE

1. If you have blocks in your home, use them to make (together) a “building” with four walls. Ask, **“What do you think would happen if I removed the cornerstone from the bottom corner of the building?”**

Let kids do this and see what happens! Talk about why the church needs to be “all about Jesus.”

2. Give each person a large index card or piece of paper and markers. **Ask them to write this month’s verse and illustrate it.** Hang it somewhere where everyone can see it and practice saying the verse during the month. For smaller kids, have them learn the first part of the verse: **“On this rock I will build my church...” - Matthew 16:18**

Challenge your kids to memorize the verse and agree on a special family activity if everyone in the family can do so!

PRAYER

“Dear God, Thank You for the church. Thank You for Jesus, for sending Him to teach us about You and rescue us from our sins. Thank You for giving Jesus and the church to us. Help us to be a part of the church and to serve You with our lives. In Jesus’ Name, Amen”