



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 27 - LIFE APPLICATION

Be the church.

Note to Parents

This month, we are learning that **“The Church is Essential.”** This week, we learned that we need to **“Be the Church.”**

Before having a conversation with your kids, read through **Ephesians 4:11-15.**

Where do you see yourself in helping your children become fully devoted followers of Christ? The truth is, God chose you out of all the people in the world to raise your children, and you are the most important influence in their lives. Also, you have so much more time with them than anyone else, and so many opportunities to pour into them. They are your blessings from God, but He wants you to bless them with helping them know Him more!

Review:

With your kids, talk about what we have already learned the first 3 weeks of August:

- Theme: The Church is Essential. **What does essential mean? Why is the church essential?**
- Jesus is the Cornerstone of the Church. **Why is Jesus important to the church?** Believing that He died for your sins and is Lord and Savior of your life is the way you enter the church. **Have your kids made that decision? Have you?**
- Communion and Baptism are Important. We had 61 baptisms on Sunday. These people made a decision to give their lives to Jesus and follow Him with their lives! **Have your kids thought about being baptized yet? Have you?**

THIS WEEK: Be the Church

1. This week, we learned that we need to “Be the Church.” **What do you think that means?** (*Discuss.*)
2. During the service, David and Marilynn Chadwick talked about our church having a “discipleship pathway” called **Core 4.** **First, what is a disciple?** (*A disciple is a follower of Jesus who desires to obey Him and be more like Him every day.*)

3. We learned that there are **4 important ways** that followers of Jesus (disciples) can “Be the Church.” **Do you remember what they are?** (*Give kids a chance to respond, then read through the “Core 4.”*)
- **Core #1: Scripture** - Scripture as a second language. (Know the Bible).
 - **Core #2: Theology** - Know what we believe.
 - **Core #3: Wholeness** - Letting faith affect every area of our lives: body, soul, and spirit.
 - **Core #4: Outreach** - To the least and the lost. (Know how God has gifted us to reach the least and the lost.)
4. We are all going to have opportunities during the year to grow in our faith and become strong followers of Jesus. **In which areas do you see strength in yourselves and in your family? In which areas do you see a need for maturity and growth?**

PRAYER

“Dear Jesus, Thank You for giving us the church, the family of believers. Help us to be the church by knowing You more and more, living our lives growing in You and serving You and going for You. In Your Name we pray, Amen.”

FAMILY CHALLENGE

Together, decide on one area where your family can begin to grow together, and plan a way to start doing so.

- **Scripture:** Together, read the Bible on a regular basis and discuss what you have read. It can be just a few verses each day!
- **Theology:** There are a few of the great books available on apologetics for kids. You can search these titles online:

Mama Bear Apologetics

Big Truths for Little Hearts Cards for Kids

Case for Faith for Kids (Lee Strobel)

Case for Christ (Lee Strobel)

Defend Your Faith: 100 Devotions for Kids With Questions (Jesse Florea)

Cold Case Christianity for Kids (J Warner Wallace and Susie Wallace)

- **Wholeness:** Work on building a strong family together- healthy emotionally and spiritually, with Jesus as the cornerstone. Be intentional in your relationship with your spouse. Love and mentor your kids well. Have and help your children have healthy friendships with other believers.

Model for and teach your kids financial responsibility. One way is to have them start practicing tithing, saving, and spending. If they start a lifetime practice of giving 10% or more to the church, saving 10% or more, and spending appropriately, they will be blessed and will be a blessing!

- **Outreach:** Learn your spiritual gifts and those of your children. We will be offering classes in a few months, but until then talk with your kids about how they are gifted and how they can use their gifts to care for the least and the lost. Start in the church with the opportunities in Hope Kids ministry or First Impressions (Yes, you can serve with your older kids!) or even working at Hope Farm together! And, in your own neighborhood and with family and friends. Soon, we will have ways you can reach others around the Charlotte area.