

Panic Lesson 9



CHURCH

Anything to photocopy? No

Here are the parts of this lesson:

- ♦ **Crumbling Pyramids** *active mixer*
- ♦ **Images of the Church** *Bible study of metaphors for the church*
- ♦ **Ideal Church** *use pencil and paper to write out descriptions of the ideal church community*

MIXER

CRUMBLING PYRAMIDS

Divide your youths into teams of six. On a signal each team must form a pyramid and complete a given task. The first team to complete the task receives points. After each task the teams must dismantle and wait for the signal to begin a new task. A list of tasks follows. If you make up your own, scale your points according to the number in the pyramid involved in the action.

- Form a pyramid and say “The Pledge of Allegiance” in unison. (60 points)
- The bottom person in the middle must take off his shoes. (20 points)
- The two people on the second level must turn completely around. (40 points)
- The person on the second level on the left must turn around. (20 points)
- The bottom person in the middle must turn around. (20 points)
- The whole team turns around in a circle (only the bottom three have to move). (60 points)

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BIBLE STUDY

IMAGES OF THE CHURCH

The New Testament uses quite a few metaphors to describe the function of the church in the world. These metaphors help us understand not only who we are as the church, but what our relationship should be to Christ and to each other.

You might want to begin with a study of each of these word pictures of the church, and then have the students rank them from most important to least important, or from best to worst. Of course, the idea is not necessarily to imply that any of the metaphors are unimportant or more important than others, but simply to generate discussion on the subject. You might have the students think of some additional metaphors, borrowing from modern-day culture to create their own images on the church.

Here is a list of metaphors used in the New Testament:

- Bride. We are the bride; Christ is the bridegroom. (2 Cor. 11:2, Eph. 5:25, Rom. 7:4, Rev. 19:7)
- Branches. Jesus said that he was the vine, and that we are the branches. (John 15:1-8)
- Flock. Jesus said that we were sheep and that he is the Good Shepherd. (John 10:11-15, Matt.10:16)
- Kingdom. Jesus was called the Mighty King, the King of Kings, and we are brought into his kingdom. (Col. 1:13)
- Family. We are the sons and daughters of God, brothers of Christ, brothers and sisters to each other, joint heirs with Christ, the household of God. (Heb. 2:10-11, Gal. 4:1-7)
- Building. We are temples of the Holy Spirit, a building not made with hands. (2 Cor. 5, Eph. 2:19-22)
- Body. We are all part of the body of Christ, each person being a different part of the body. (1 Cor. 12, Eph. 4)
- Salt. We are the salt of the earth. (Matt. 5:13)
- Light. We are the light of the world. (Matt. 5:14)
- Fishermen. Jesus called us to be fishers of men. (Matt. 4:19)
- Soldiers. Fighting against “principalities and powers,” wearing the full armor of God. (Eph. 6:10-17, 1 Thess. 5:8)

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