

The Five Purposes of Church: Mission - Pass it on.

(John 3:16, Romans 3:23, Matthew 28:18-19)

Big Idea: We have the best news ever. We know that God has saved us because of Jesus. So pass it on.

Memory Verse: John 3:16 - "For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son. God gave his Son so that whoever believes in him may not be lost, but have eternal life."

Family Discussion

God has sent Jesus to rescue us. Jesus did this when he died on the cross. Who needs to hear this good news about Jesus?

(everyone, everyone needs to be rescued)

- The Bible says we need to be rescued. What do we need to be rescued from? Romans 3:23 (the punishment our sins deserve - death)

- How can we be rescued?

(God has sent Jesus to rescue us, Jesus did this by taking the punishment for our sins so we don't have to be punished for them)

- How can people hear this good news about Jesus? Can they hear it on television? The radio? The newspaper? Matthew 28:18 - 19

(sometimes people hear it on TV/radio or read it in a book. But the most common way God lets people know is by people telling people, people like us who love Jesus)

- God wants us, who know Jesus, to tell others. Who do you know who needs to hear the good news about Jesus?

- What would you tell someone who didn't know anything about Jesus? (find out what children would say is the most important thing to tell others, then show them a simple drawing, Bridge to Life, that they could use to tell others this good news about Jesus)

Bridge to Life Illustration:

- Draw a cliff on either side of the page.

- Write the word God on one side and us on the other side.

- Point out the big valley in between that separates us from God.

- The reason we are separated from God is our sins.

- Write the word sin at the bottom of the valley.

- Sin is ignoring God, doing what we want to do, not loving God properly.

- Sin makes it's impossible for us to be God's friend.

- We are separated from God (point to the valley).

- Draw a cross that joins one side of the cliff to the other side.

- When Jesus died on the cross he made a bridge from us to God (point to bridge the cross makes, joining us and God).

- Jesus is the bridge because when he died he was punished for our sins, instead of us.

- Jesus is the only bridge.
- Jesus is the only way we can be friends with God.

Application:

- Give each child a piece of paper and ask them to do the Bridge to Life drawing and explanation (older kids).
- Who can you talk to about Jesus?
- Who can you pray for to become a Christian?

Elephant hand Puppet

- Make one copy per child on cardboard.
- Cut out each elephant. Be sure to cut the trunk hole out. Have the children decorate the elephant with grey crepe paper, or textas, pencils - whatever you have (leaving the hole free).
- When dry, the children can push their finger through the hole (their finger acts as the elephant's trunk).
- Discuss the story with them as they play with their elephants.