

HOOK

Start with any "Family-themed" game, e.g.

GAME: Find your Family

Prepare cards or pictures of different families (4 members in each family, e.g. Mother, Father, Son, Daughter). Mix up cards and pass 1 to each child. Then ask them to find their family without talking.





TNCC
CHILDREN'S
CHURCH

NEW COVENANT FAMILY

LESSON: NEW COVENANT FAMILY

Today, the New Covenant Church celebrates its 15th Anniversary. While tNCC is our “local church”, and all of us are part of it, we are also part of the larger big Church FAMILY across the world, together with all who believe in Jesus.

WHAT IS CHURCH? <invite responses>

Church is not a building. It is not just a group of people coming together every week. It is not an exclusive organisation or a country club.

Church is:

- The **FAMILY** of God
- A **BODY**, with Christ as the Head
- A **COMMUNITY**
- A **LIGHTHOUSE** to the World

Today, we will look at Church as the **FAMILY** of God.

“YO, BRUH?”

In church, we sometimes hear people call each other “brother” or “sister”. This is not just a slang that we use with strangers on the street, like “Yo, bruh!” It is a fact that those of us who believe in Jesus are brothers and sisters to each other.

How do we know if someone is our biological brother or sister? Or our biological parent?

With modern medical technology, we can use DNA testing to see if people are flesh-and-blood relations. If two people share a large percentage of their DNA, then they are related.

Or if two children have the same father, then they are both siblings.

So how do we know if someone is a fellow brother or sister in Christ? How do we know if God is our Father?

The answer: *Through the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

RELATED BY FLESH AND BLOOD

Once, sin separated us from God. So it was impossible for us to have a relationship with a Holy God. But when Jesus died on the cross, His body was broken and His blood washed away all our sin. This opened the way for us to come near to God.

When we believe in Jesus and accept His finished work on the cross, we become adopted into God's family and can call God "Abba" or "Papa".

"So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith." (Gal 3:26)

"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe on His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." (John 1:12-13)

In Hebrews 2:11, it also says that Jesus is not ashamed to call us "brothers". Jesus is our big brother, "the firstborn among many brothers." (Romans 8:29)

Jesus Christ sustains us. His DNA/life unite us, binds us, and flows through us. Since we all have the same Father, and Jesus' life is in us, we are all one family — brothers and sisters to each other.

FLESH OF HIS FLESH (for older kids)

There is also another sense in which the church is related by flesh and blood with Jesus.

When God created the first woman Eve, He put the man Adam into a deep sleep and formed her out of the man's rib. As a result, Adam could say of Eve, *"This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh."* (Genesis 2:23)

Do you know Jesus has been described as the Second/Last Adam? (Romans 5:12-21; 1 Corinthians 15:45)

In the same way, Jesus was put into a deep "sleep" in the grave, and out of His sacrifice, God formed the church! We are truly bone of His bones and flesh of His flesh.

(Source: <https://thirst.sg/church-is-family/>)

HOW DO WE LIVE AS A FAMILY?

We look to our Father and our Big Brother. Just like children tend to look or behave like their parents (people can recognise who are we “belong” to by our face, mannerism, way of talking, abilities etc), as we allow Jesus’ life to flow in us, we can reflect HIS DNA more and more in our lives — “until Christ is formed in you” (Gal 4:19).

As we look at Jesus, we reflect His glory ... “And the Lord—who is the Spirit — makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.” (2 Cor 3:18)

Even when we may not like our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, let’s focus more on the Jesus in them and trust that they too will grow and mature to become more and more like Him. The more they — and we — become like Christ, the more we will love them.

As a family, we can learn from and support each other, both young and old. We can look out for those who feel alone. We can share and care for each other in good time and in bad. We can serve one another. We can pray for one another. We can grow more and more in Jesus’ love together.

Because we belong to Christ, we belong to His family. Amen!

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

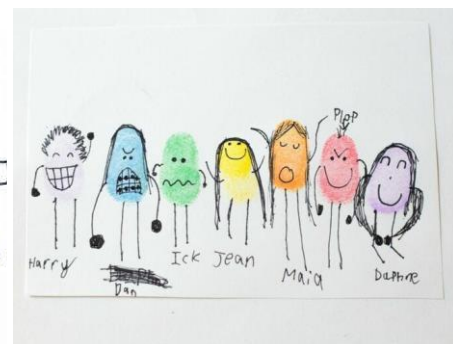
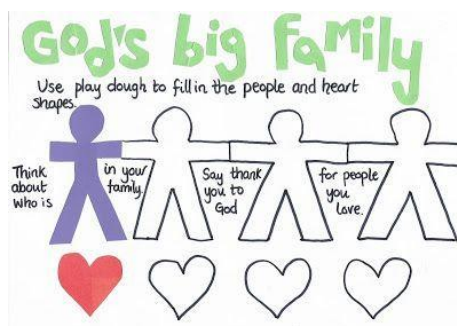
SONG & DANCE VIDEO

God's Great Family <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=StSX8hRTBDc>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZCXABVeG1-I>

God's Family <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HBwOFkZkWVg>

CRAFT

Related craft with the words: "The Church is God's Family"



HUDDLE TIME

Share prayer & praise points and pray together, as a family.

HOOK

Start with any “body-themed” game, e.g.

GAME: Body Jigsaw

Divide kids into few groups. Prepare a human body (jigsaw) puzzle in advance and put it in an envelope (one envelope per group of children).

You could use a large photo of the human body and cut it up into different pieces to create the puzzle. Intentionally leave out one part of the body (e.g., an eye or a nose; you can leave different body parts missing for each envelope)

Get the children to put the available pieces together to "complete" the puzzle.

At the end, ask the children in each group, "What body part is missing from your puzzle?" Go through the deficiency for each puzzle ... "What can this person in the puzzle NOT do?"

GAME: Body Relay

Prepare a large chart of a human body outline and pictures of body parts, e.g. eyes, ears, hands, belly button etc. Get kids to line up and each take a piece of the body and take turns to stick it on the chart. You can prepare 2 sets for 2 teams and make it a race.

Other ideas: <https://www.vtaide.com/gleanings/teachingBody.html>

LESSON: NEW COVENANT BODY

We are learning about the CHURCH.

WHAT IS CHURCH? <invite responses>

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Church is:

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Today, we will look at Church as the **BODY** of God.

CHRIST THE HEAD

When we believe in Jesus, we become part of His Church.

The Church is the **BODY** of Christ. Jesus is **HEAD** of the BODY. And we become One with Christ — His life flows in us and through us, both individually and as the big Church BODY.

There are several scriptures that tell us that:

“And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.” (Eph. 1:22-23)

“For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, His body, of which He is the Savior.” (Eph. 5:23)

“He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And He is the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything He might have the supremacy.” (Col. 1:17-18)

With Jesus as the head, the rest of us make up all the other parts of the body.

ONE BODY, MANY PARTS

Let's look at our body. Apart from the head, we have many, many different parts of the body — some seen, some unseen.

Can we name some parts that are seen? *Eyes, ears, mouth, hands, toes, hair etc.*

How about parts we can't see? *Heart, lungs, intestines, liver, kidneys etc.*

Is any part more important than the other? Can we say our ears are less important than our liver? Or our intestines less important than the mouth? No ... each part has its role to play in the body.

You wouldn't expect your body to function as well if you had a broken leg, would you? How loudly can you clap with only one hand? How well can you write without using a thumb? Even parts of our body that seem insignificant or not as critical can actually be quite important. If your pinkie toe hurts, it blocks thinking from quite a lot of other things.

Sometimes in a church or on a team of any sort, people want to leave if they are not seen as the most important part. But all of us work together to achieve something. Think of a music band: If everyone played the same line of music and the same instrument, it would sound pretty boring, wouldn't it?

Most importantly, we must remember that it is GOD who places us in our roles as a body.

1 Corinthians 12:12-27 *Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body — whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free — and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.*

Now if the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body.

The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, ²⁴ while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.



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NEW COVENANT BODY

A SERVING BODY

So all of us — old or young, tall or short — have a special purpose in the body of Christ. God gives us what we need, and He gives us special skills. Just like our body has different parts that do unique and important jobs, we each have our own role to play in the church. So we don't have to be jealous and compare, or be proud and look down on others. None of us can do everything on our own. We need each other.

Some people are good at teaching, some are good at speaking or organizing or listening well to those in need. Each of us has something to share. We can share with one another and give back to God and His church. When we do that, the body of Christ can serve other people and do wonderful things.

Romans 12:4-8 *For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.*

SHARE

Let's take time to share: What is one special gift God has given you? How can you use it to serve others?

VIDEO

Life Kidz: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=evRQUxn8qA>



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NEW COVENANT BODY

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

SONG & DANCE VIDEOS

The Body Song

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w8eTSnxDo1s>

You are the Body of Christ

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Th7yEV0gLF4>

CRAFT

Related craft with the words: "We are the Body of Christ"



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NEW COVENANT COMMUNITY

HOOK

GAME

Start with any relay or team-building game to illustrate the importance of “community”.

E.g. <https://www.parents.com/relay-races-for-kids-8608703>

LESSON: NEW COVENANT COMMUNITY

We are learning about the CHURCH.

WHAT IS CHURCH? <invite responses>

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Church is:

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Last week, we learned about the Church as the BODY of Christ. And a BODY is a living and growing thing. And we live and grow together, we become a COMMUNITY.

Today, we will look at Church as the **COMMUNITY** of God.

THE EARLY CHURCH

When Jesus rose again and went back to heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit to His disciples at Pentecost. And on that night, Peter stood up and preached, and about 3,000 believed in Jesus.

These 3,000 people formed the early church of God. What was this early church like?

Acts 2:42-47 *They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.*

Let's try to see if you can spot what they did when they met together every day in the temple courts:

- Listened to the teaching about Jesus
- Fellowshiped, took Communion and prayed
- In awe at the wonders and signs performed by the apostles
- Shared everything they had with one another
- Sold possessions and gave to those in need
- Ate together
- Praised God
- Enjoyed favour of the people

And God brought many to the church who accepted Jesus!

EACH OTHER

The New Testament talks a lot about the "others": love one another, forgive each other, teach each other, pray for each other, encourage each other, be friends with each other. That list could go on and on. But it is about one thing: OTHERS. Not Yourself or me. Community is about other people. It's about caring, thinking about and loving other people.

From the very, very, very beginning when God created the World, was Adam just all alone? Nope. He created Eve, because God didn't want Him all alone. God doesn't want any of us all alone. In fact, Jesus even had His own community. Who were they? The disciples. God loves to have a relationship with us, and He wants us to have relationships with each other.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 says, *"Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!"*

We need one another. God designed us that way. That's why we need community, to help us live like Jesus and love others. Community helps us grow and be more like Jesus.

WE ALL NEED ONE ANOTHER

In Kyoto, Japan, there is a magnificent bamboo grove, with bamboo trees growing tall, up to 30m, in one season!

A bamboo is tall and thin. How does it grow so tall without toppling over?

First, all the bamboo trees are connected by a underground network — all its roots are connected to one another, so they hold each other steady underground.

Secondly, once it's reached its full height, they start branching out and their leaves also grow widespread, holding on to each other on the top.

So on our own, we cannot stand. We need to support and encourage each other so we can grow strong and tall together.



VIDEO

What is the Church?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rms6KePjIZ8>

CONCLUSION

As a Christian, we are not meant to live our own lives by ourselves. We are called to live in COMMUNITY with one another. A COMMUNITY that helps us grow and learn more about who Jesus is and to live His life together.

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

SONG & DANCE VIDEOS (REVIEW)

The Body Song <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w8eTSnxDo1s>

You are the Body of Christ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Th7yEV0gLF4>

CRAFT

Related craft with the words: "We are God's Community"



HOOK

Start with any “light-themed” game, e.g.

GAME: Jesus, Our Light

Play a game of Red Light, Green Light with the change of turning the light on and off. Students run from one side of the room to the other when the lights are on. But when you turn the lights off, they have to stumble around and pretend to be afraid. If they keep running when the light is off, they're out. The winner is the first one who makes it to the other side of the room.

GAME: Find the “light switch”

Prepare a card with a picture of a light bulb or light switch. Also prepare some small items as “obstacles” to place around the floor. Have one of the children volunteer to be blindfolded, i.e. the person in the dark. Place the “light” on the floor somewhere between the “obstacles”. The blindfolded child has to navigate through the ‘dark room’ to find the light switch without stepping on any of the obstacles.

You can appoint one or two children to help guide the person to the light switch with their voices. For smaller children you can have the guide hold the person's hand and lead them to the light switch.

It's hard to live in the dark, isn't it? That's why we need light.

LESSON: NEW COVENANT LIGHT

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Today, we will look at Church as the **LIGHTHOUSE** to the World.

As a church, we have relationship with God (FAMILY) and with each other (BODY, COMMUNITY). But we are not just called to look inward. We are called out into the world (LIGHTHOUSE).

That's why tNCC's Mission as a church is to be "*a community transformed by His grace & impacting nations with His passion.*" We should not just be happy to be a community living and enjoying God's grace by ourselves. We should see how God can use us to impact others, our communities and nations, with His love and passion.

CHRIST, THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

The world we live in is in darkness because of sin. As we've seen in our earlier activity, it's hard to walk around in the dark. That's why we need Jesus, who shines His light into our lives.

Jesus brought light into a dark world. "*The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.*" (Isaiah 9:2)

Jesus Himself declared: "*I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.*" (John 8:12)

WE ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Interestingly, Jesus also calls us the light of the world. *"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house."* (Matt 5:14-15)

When Jesus told his disciples, "You are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14), the word "you" is plural. You can be a lighthouse for the Lord, but you don't have to do it alone. When Christ's followers serve, love, witness, and care for others in unity, as a CHURCH, our lights blend together and shine like a LIGHTHOUSE on a hilltop.

A LIGHTHOUSE FOR JESUS

Have you seen a lighthouse before?

Lighthouses stand strong, tall and commanding on a cliff, shining its light to guide and warn people at sea as waves crash at its sturdy base — built so they can withstand severe storms. They are placed strategically ... in hazardous locations so they can guide sailors safely to port. The lighthouse shines its light, steady and bright, in all kinds of weather. It shines for small boats and great ships.

The church is a living lighthouse. Each of us is called to be a carrier of Christ's light and truth to reflect and shine Jesus' light to the world in the darkness of night, when challenges seem to overwhelm and crush the world.



As a LIGHTHOUSE:

We shine

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." (Matt 5:14-15)

When the church loves and serves others as Jesus does (whether they are big or small, rich or poor), the world can see Jesus in us. We *"bear witness of the Light"* (John 1:8).

We warn of dangers

Just as the lighthouse warn ships of dangerous rocks, we are able to shine the truth of God in a confused world. We can warn others about the devil and his evil schemes. The devil comes to steal, kill and destroy, but Jesus came to give us abundant life (John 10:10). Let's share this truth out!



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NEW COVENANT LIGHT

We point the Way

Like John the Baptist, we point the way to Christ. John saw and testified that Christ is the Son of God. Now, the church is the one to point others to Jesus and preparing the world for Jesus' second coming.

"For so the Lord has commanded us: 'I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, that you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.'" (Acts 13:47)

So tNCC Kidz, let's remember to let our lights shine and point everyone to Jesus!

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

SONG & DANCE VIDEOS

My Lighthouse

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OaW_4MWSE6I

Let your light shine

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=duNpJyUaAk>

CRAFT

Related craft with the words: "We are a Lighthouse to the World"

