

THE THREAD | The Gospel At Work

Lesson 3: A Picture Of The Early Church

Dear Parents,

Hey there! We just wrapped up another lesson in our teaching students the big-picture story of the Bible through our study called *The Thread: Discovering The Thread of the Gospel Through the Big-Picture Story of the Bible*. I've loved the conversations that have been happening in our group so far. This week was the third of 13 lessons looking at the spread of the Gospel and Christianity in a post-crucifixion/resurrection world. This lesson was entitled "A Picture of the Early Church." The church today looks super-different than it did 2,000 years ago. Yet, there are many aspects that were central to the church then that are just as central to the church today. We talked about how the church is a place where we do fun stuff like play dodgeball, have potlucks, and vote on the color of the carpet (OK, not really that last one)...but that those aren't the things that caused the Church to grow so dramatically! Only the Gospel can do something like that because it offers something that you can't get anywhere else.

Lesson Overview: This week, we'll focus on the early Church and how it got off the ground. Churches today may be different than when the Church first started, but one thing has remained the same: The Gospel. No matter what the color of the carpet is, no matter if you still use hymnals, or how many youth you have in your program, the Gospel is always the same. As we continue our big-picture look at the story of the Bible, students will see a snapshot of the early Church. Through it, they'll learn that the Gospel is capable of knitting people together in pursuit of Christ, changing the world in the process. Students will be challenged to imitate the New Testament Church as they pursue Christ in their contexts.

What We Want Your Teenager To Learn: Understand that what we know as the Church had begun to take shape in Jerusalem and that the message of Christ and the Cross leads to salvation.

What We Want Your Teenager To Do With What They've Learned: Grasp their role in sharing their faith and growing the Church.

Scripture Passages We Studied: Acts 2:42-47; 1 Corinthians 1:18-24

Please Take A Few Minutes This Week To Read These Passages.

Next Steps. . .

During the next week, as you engage in conversations with your teenager, remember that one way that will help them to understand and apply what they have learned is to explain it to someone else. Use the following questions to guide your conversation:

- What are the reasons you like going to church?
- What are some ways that church is different from any other place you go?
- Who is someone you can invite back with you next week, and how can you invite them?

Thank you for all you do. As a parent, you are the primary spiritual influence in the life of your teenager, and they desperately need you. I'm praying for you! If you have any questions or if I can help with anything, please don't hesitate to let me know.