



ALF

ABOUT LIFE & FAITH

HELPING CHILDREN TO DISCOVER JESUS
AND BECOME HIS FOLLOWERS

TEACHING GUIDE





TO HELP CHILDREN TO SEE THE IMPORTANCE OF BELONGING TO A GROUP OF BELIEVERS – THE CHURCH.



Begin with a brief overview of sessions 3 and include - **WHAT WAS THE KEY SYMBOL AND BANNER?**

INTRODUCTION



Following Jesus is not something that we do alone. As well as the Bible and prayer God has given us other people. Belonging to a group of other believers helps us and them to follow Jesus.

PART

FOUNDATION



arts and crafts

DRAWING A CHURCH
Resource Materials page 8

GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

MANY HANDS
Resource Materials page 27



WHAT IS THE CHURCH?
Teaching Guide page 41



DVD CLIP 1 - ALF AND FRIENDS
Crazy Horses big tug-of-war experiment
RUNNING TIME: 4 mins, 30 secs



BIBLE STORY
THE CHURCH AT THE BEGINNING
Acts chapter 2 verse 41-42

! NB: This story is not in Luke's gospel

PART 2

EXPLORATION

APPLICATION

← REMEMBER

Begin with a brief overview of part 1 and include a game from the Top Ten Games (Resource Material pages 19-20)

QUIZ!

THE CHURCH AT THE BEGINNING
Resource Materials page 38



DVD CLIP 2 - VOX POPS
What would your ideal church be?
RUNNING TIME: 2 mins, 45 secs

Discussion

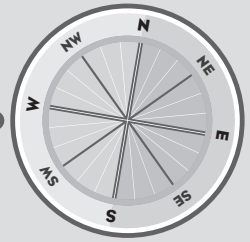
THE IDEAL CHURCH

Having listened to the views of the children on the DVD regarding their ideal church encourage your group to give their opinions of what an ideal church would be like.

“TALK 2”

THE BODY OF CHRIST
Teaching Guide page 43

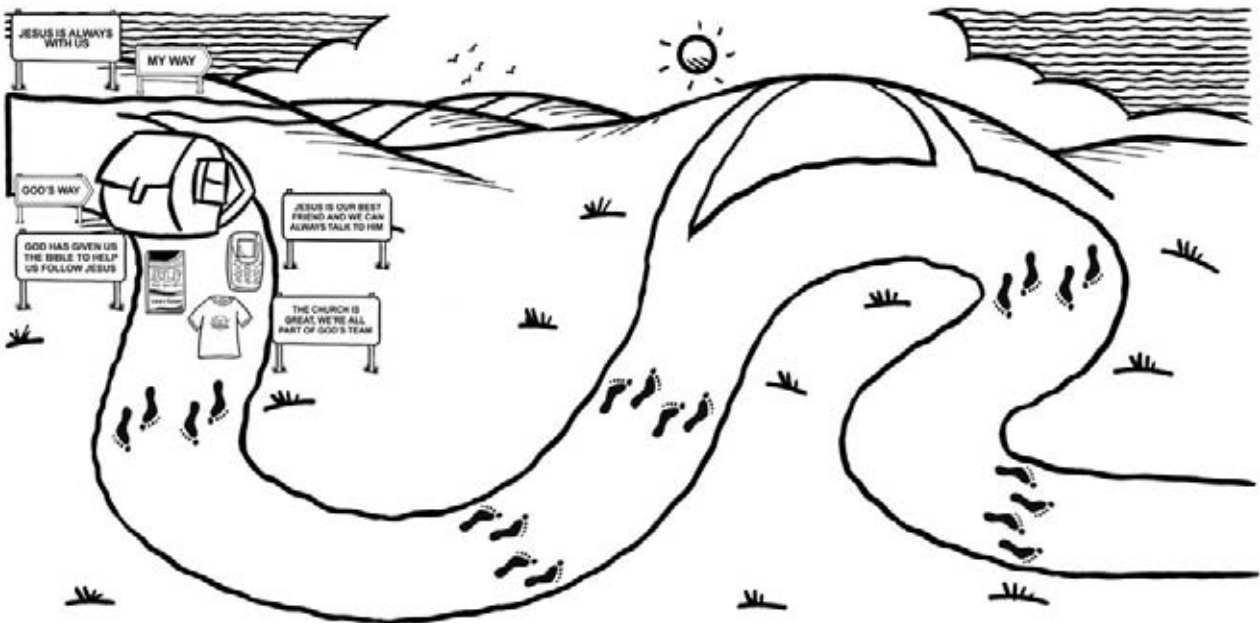
ON THE PATH



BANNER:



SYMBOL:





WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

This talk follows on immediately from the 'Drawing a Church' art and craft.

PREPARATION:

- Remember to have the bag from session 2 packed with the three items
- You will need a white board/flip-chart/large piece of paper and marker pens

Begin the talk by holding up the bag and removing the ALF T-shirt, ask the children if they can remember what the T-shirt represents.

Previously we said that the T-shirt represents belonging to a group. This will be explored during this talk.

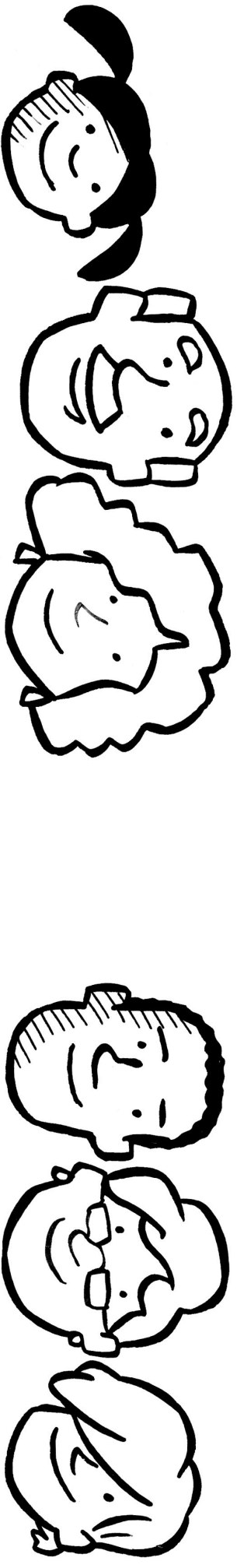
- Refer to the children's pictures and point out that whilst they are all good, none of the children have in fact drawn a church.
- Now say that you are going to draw a picture of the church and hopefully as you draw it, they will see the difference.
- On a white board/flip-chart/large piece of paper that all the children can see, draw a picture of a group of people. You do not have to be an artist to do this - make this fun - children will admire your drawing if you are an 'artist' but they will enjoy laughing at your 'attempt' if you aren't!

We have included a picture for you to copy if this helps - see Picture A on page 42

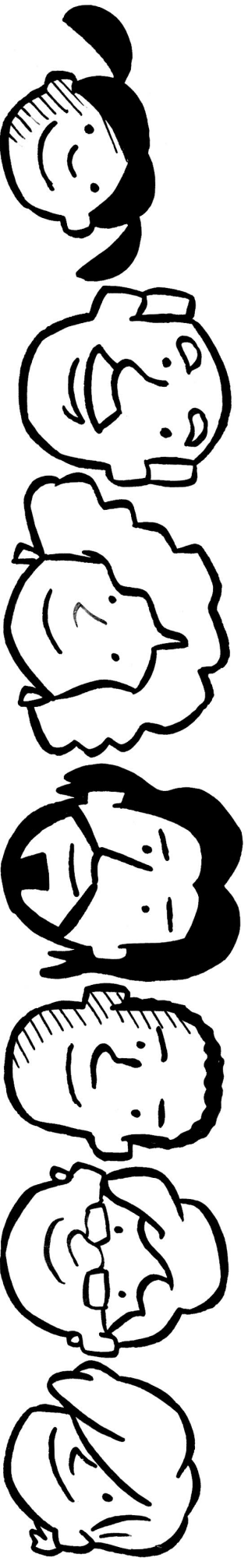
- Once you have completed your picture, explain that whilst many people think that the church is a building - it isn't. The church is a group of people and the building is the place where they meet!
- Now add Jesus into your picture, as in Picture B on page 42.
- Explain that the best way to think about church is like a group of people with Jesus at the centre.
- Continue to explain that another way of thinking about church is like a team. In a good team everybody tries to support and help each other. Churches are like a team of people helping each other to live God's way.

WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

Picture A



Picture B





THE BODY OF CHRIST

This talk follows on from the 'Many Hands' game.

PREPARATION:

- Remember to have the bag from session 2 packed with the three items
- Having played the many hands game, explain that team A found it easier to finish what they had been asked to do because each person in the team had a different part to play and each part was useful. The mouth was needed or there would have been nowhere to put the food. The arm was needed to get the food from the bowl to the mouth. The eyes were needed to tell the arm where the mouth was. Each part had a role! In team B, because one part was missing the result was a disaster. Each part is different but all are needed!!
- A man named Paul wrote many of the books in the New Testament. In these books, he explains that the church is like a body with each person being a part. Like a body that has arms and legs and eyes and a nose – all different, but all needed, the church needs all the people who are part of it, even though they are all different and able to do different things well to play their part! That does not mean everybody doing the same things, but everybody doing what they do well and benefiting the others.
- Ask the children if anybody can think of an example where lots of people join together and try to achieve something?
Answer: A team!
- Hold up the bag, take out the Bible and remind the children that as we learned previously, God has given us the Bible to help us to follow Jesus.
- Now take out the mobile phone and remind the children we also learned that every one of us can always talk to God in prayer.
- Now take out the T-shirt and remind the children that every one of us is part of God's team.

Remember to place the banner:

'The church is great, we're all part of God's team'

and the symbol:

The ALF T-shirt

onto the path.



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RESOURCE MATERIALS



This activity, linked to talk 1 - 'What is the Church?', will help the children to see that church is not a building, but people.

PREPARATION:**You will need:**

- Large pieces of paper
- Crayons, felt-tip pens etc

Method:

- Provide each child with a large piece of paper and crayons, felt-tip pens etc.
- Point out that you would like each child to draw, and colour in, a picture of a church. The children may make this drawing as elaborate or as simple as they like. The important thing is that each child ends up with a picture of a church.
- Once the children have finished their drawings, you may ask some of the children to show their pictures and say which church they have drawn - is it a specific church, or just a picture of a typical church?
- After this continue to deliver talk 1 - 'What is the Church?' on page 41 of the Teaching Guide.



MANY HANDS

This game will help children to see that each part of the body has a part to play. This is also the case in the church.

In this game the children will work in teams where each child has a different role. However, not all the 'bodies' will have the right parts...

PREPARATION:**You will need:**

- Two tables
- Three spoons
- Six painting aprons
- Two bowls of rice pudding
- Five blindfolds

Method:

- Each child participating in the game will need to wear a painting apron.
- Ask for six volunteers and create two teams, three in each team, and organise the children as follows:

Team A:

- One child is 'the mouth' and sits blindfolded at a table.
- One child is 'the arms' and sits blindfolded and has the spoon.
- One child is 'the eyes'. He is not blindfolded but is not allowed to move, they can only give instructions.

Team B:

- One child is 'the mouth' and sits blindfolded at a table.
- Two children are 'the arms' and are blindfolded and each has a spoon.

**Purpose:**

- The challenge is to see which group can eat the bowl of rice pudding first. To achieve this, the children will need to place the rice pudding into the 'mouth'. They will need to work together as a team.
- Countdown '5-4-3-2-1'.
- The game finishes when a group has finished eating what was in the bowl.
- Team B will struggle, but that's the point of the game.

NB: Be sure to check any food allergies children may have before this game.



These questions are based on Acts chapter 2 verse 42.

1-4 Name the four things the early Christians devoted themselves to.

- Learning from the apostles'.
- Taking part in the fellowship.
- Sharing in the fellowship meals.
- Prayer.

5 What did they do with their possessions?

Shared them.

6 What happened to their numbers?

God added to them every day.

JESUS IS OUR BEST
FRIEND AND WE CAN
ALWAYS TALK TO HIM

JESUS IS ALWAYS
WITH US

THE CHURCH IS
GREAT, WE'RE ALL
PART OF GOD'S TEAM

GOD HAS GIVEN US
THE BIBLE TO HELP
US FOLLOW JESUS

