

LESSON OVERVIEW

Big Idea: The first church shows us how we can win at church.

Key Question: Why do we want to win at church?

Memory Verse: *All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles teachings, and to fellowship, and to prayer. Acts 2:42*

Overview: We're starting a new series called "How to win at everything". We all like to win, right? Winning is fun. But, we're going to learn about a certain kind of winning that's different than you might think. Here's what it means to "win"- *you make God happy by the way you think and act.* This is important for us to remember as we learn how to "win" in some key areas of life. It's all about having the right response in whatever situation we're in. Today, we're going to look at how to win at church. The very first church was a great model of how to win. Maybe you've never thought about how to win at church. Well, if winning means we make God happy, then of course He cares how we act at church! He wants us to have ears that listen to the Bible so we know how to live to honor Him. He wants us to be kind to others and to reach out to the new kids so they feel comfortable. He also wants us to spend time worshiping and praying. It's how we can say "thanks" to Him. God wants us to be winners!. That doesn't mean winning every game or getting everything you ever want. Winning to God means that we live a life that honors Him. When we do that, we can't ever lose!

CLASSROOM AGENDA

- 5 min **PLAY:** Begin working on Activity Page #1.
- 5 min **WARM UP:** How can you be a good friend to others at church? How does having friends at church help someone learn about God?
- 5 min **PREVIEW:** Write out the Big Idea and Memory Verse and Key Question on a whiteboard. Have the kids (2nd-5th grade) copy it down on Activity Page #1.
- 20 min **LARGE GROUP:** Gather for songs and videos with other kids. Then return to small group to finish this guide.
- 5 min **RECAP:** Read the Lesson Overview from the Teacher's Guide and then answer the KEY QUESTION.
- 5 min **EXPLORE:** Read [1 Thessalonians 5:16-18](#). List the things this verse says to do. What does it say about prayer? Why should we never stop praying?
- 10 min **PLAY:** Choose a group activity from Activity Page #2.
- 5 min **CLOSE:**
 - As a class, make a list of things you will do to welcome a new kid that comes to class.
 - Share prayer requests and pray as a class.

TEACHER TIPS

Don't forget that you set the tone for your kids. Smile. Have fun. Pursue God together.

Allow each kid to share. The point: church is a great place to make friends. Help kids to think of specific ways they can be a good friend at church, especially to new kids.

Answer: We want new people to come to church so they can hear what Jesus did for them on the cross. Church is a place people come to learn about Jesus and we need to do our part to make them feel welcome. How we act and treat people at church can either make them want to come back to learn more or never come back because no one cared about them. That would be sad because we want everyone to meet Jesus so He can be their savior, too.

Bonus Questions: Do you remember your first day you visited the church you attend now? How did you feel? How did the other kids and teachers treat you? Is there anything you wished they had done to make you more comfortable?

The first church models for us how to win. They came together to study the Bible, to worship and pray. They had joy because they understood that everything they had was a gift from God. They also understood that prayer was important and it should be important to us because it's our way to talk to God. It's how we share the things we are worried about, thankful for, and even the things we need. Here's the cool thing, God promises to hear us and to take care of us.

Make a list of specific things everyone will do the next time a new kid visits the class.

ACTIVITY PAGE #2

Classroom Activities for K-1st

Option #1

"Be a Winner" Jeopardy

A great game patterned after a classic game show to test knowledge and speed. Divide the class into 2 teams. Each team gets a bell. After the question is read, teams have to hit their bell to answer the question. The team who rings first, gets the first chance to answer. Every correct answer gets one point. If a team rings first but gets it wrong, the other team can steal. A correct answer on a steal earns the team a bonus point.

Questions:

1. What is the Big Idea today? (the first church shows us how to win...)
2. What book of the Bible is our Memory Verse from? (Acts)
3. What is the Memory Verse for today? (all the believers devoted themselves..)
4. What is the Big Question for today? (Why do we want to win at church?)
5. What can we do at church and at home that helps us win? (hint: starts with "P"-pray)
6. What does it mean to "win"? (make God happy by how we think and act)
7. Is Acts in the New Testament vs Old Testament? (New)
8. Who should we listen to at church? (teachers)
9. How can we win at church with other kids? (make friends)
10. What book did God write that helps us to win? (the Bible)

Supplies needed

- bell or ringer

Bonus Activity

"Guess what I'm thinking?"

Have kids try to guess what you're thinking by the words you use to describe it.

Words to describe:

1. Bible (it's a book, God's words in it)
2. Jesus (died on a cross for us)

*If you have time, come up with a few more words on your own

Option #2

Win at King of the Hill

This is a fun game that challenges kids to answer questions to beat everyone else out for the top spot, the "king of the hill". Tape off a square on the floor using masking tape. Select one kid to start as king. The rest of the kids line up, with the first person facing the "king". The teacher asks a question from below, the first to answer correctly wins the duel. If the "king" wins, they stay in the square. If the challenger answers correctly, he or she will be "King" or "Queen".

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Supplies needed

- tape

Bonus Activity

"Guess what I'm thinking?"

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Words to describe:

1. church (place you go to learn about Jesus)
2. pray (how we talk to God)

*If you have time, come up with a few more words on your own

1 Discover Truth

Watch this week's lesson video as a family and fill in the blanks.

1. The _____ shows us how we can win at church.
2. We win when we listen to our _____.
3. We win when we make _____ at church.
4. We win at church every time we _____ together.

2 Talk about it

Answer these questions together as a family.

1. Why is it important to listen to your teachers or parents? What happens when you don't listen?
2. How can you be a good friend at church? At school?
3. Have people been nice to you at church? What did they do? Have people been mean? What happened? What can you learn from those situations?
4. Read [1 Thessalonians 5:16-18](#). List the things this verse says to do. What does it say about prayer? Why should we never stop praying?

3 Live it out

Memorize this week's Bible verse:

"All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teachings, and to fellowship... and to prayer."

Acts 2:42

Bonus: Read these additional passages as a family this week.

- Read [Jeremiah 29:12](#). How does it make you feel to know that God listens to you when you pray?
- Read [Psalm 119:105](#). How does God's word help us to obey?
- Read [Proverbs 17:17](#). What does "loyal" mean? What does it mean to be a good friend?



NAME _____

ACTIVITY PAGE #1

K-1st Grade



BIG IDEA

The first church shows us how we can win at church.

MEMORY VERSE

"All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles teachings, and to fellowship, and to prayer."

Acts 2:42

Color the picture.

