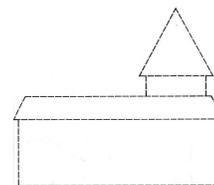


The Church of Jesus Christ was Restored



Preparation:

I am taking poster board and from it cutting out 4 shapes a triangle, a small rectangle, a big rectangle and a trapezoid. These shapes will be able to be put together to form a church. Each shape will represent a part of the church Jesus organized when he was on Earth. I'm not sure yet if I'm going to write on these shapes or use pictures to depict each representation.

TRIANGLE- (Jesus)

THEN-When Jesus was on the earth, one of the important things He did was to organize His Church. The Lord taught His gospel, delegated His priesthood authority, and organized His Church when He was on the earth.

NOW- Jesus Christ is the head of the Church. The living God reveals His will to living prophets and apostles. They give us guidance suited to our times.

SMALL RECTANGLE-(Organization of the Church)

THEN-He called twelve Apostles to be His special witnesses and messengers (see Matt. 4:18-23; Mark 3:14-19).

NOW- Today we have the same Church organization that the Lord set up in His day with apostles, prophets, patriarchs, missionaries, and so on (see A of F 1:6). The prophet has the authority to lead the kingdom of God on earth. The Church is a true and living church because the Lord guides us through living prophets and apostles.

TRAPEZOID-(Scriptures/His Gospel)

THEN-His teachings, His sayings, His sermons, His parables.

NOW-The scriptures and latter-day prophets teach us the fullness of the gospel. They teach us about the Savior, His Atonement, and the doctrines, ordinances and covenants we need to return to Heavenly Father.

BIG RECTANGLE- (Priesthood)

THEN- The power and authority to act in God's name. Ordinances must be performed by the proper priesthood authority for Heavenly Father to accept them.

NOW- This authority to act in God's name comes from the Lord. It is only given to worthy men in the Church by the laying on of hands by those who hold the priesthood. Ordinances, such as baptism and temple marriage, are valid in this life and in eternity only when performed by the priesthood.

YELLOW SUN-(Restoration)

Write on a piece of paper The Word of the Lord. Before Primary, hide the paper somewhere the children will not be able to find it, such as in your pocket or shoe.

GAK #'s 406 (Scriptures/Gospel), 407 or 408 (Priesthood), 240 (Jesus) and a picture of Thomas S. Monson, Latter Day Prophets, the First Presidency or Quorum of the 12 (organization of the Church) Attach to bottoms of kids chairs or keep and display later.

This is a summary of how I plan my lesson to go....

I will talk about how Jesus Christ "built "His church while He was here on Earth, placing each shape on the chalkboard as it is discussed, building His Church. Discuss each topic of Christ's church with as much or as little detail as you see fit. When Jesus Christ was on the earth He taught His gospel. He taught faith, repentance, baptism by immersion, and the gift of the Holy Ghost. He gave His Apostles His authority, which is the priesthood of God. The Church of Jesus Christ was on the earth.

I will then talk about Jesus dying for us and no longer being on the Earth, removing His shape from the board. Then about what happened to His apostles, removing them from the board. With his apostles gone and no one with His Authority on Earth anymore the Priesthood was no longer there, removing it. Eventually people forgot or made changes to His teachings so that His Gospel in its fullness was no longer on Earth anymore, remove it as well. The Church of Jesus Christ and the priesthood were taken from the earth for hundreds of years.

Tell them that there is something written on a piece of paper in the room that you would like them to try to find. Ask them to do so quietly. When they have thoroughly searched, ask them, "What were you looking for but unable to find?" Take out the paper. Have the children read aloud the words on the paper. (The word of the Lord) Where was the word of the Lord during the Apostasy? (Some of it was in the Bible, but many teachings had been taken from the earth.) Point out the chalkboard. Just as the board is left black, so was the world left in spiritual darkness. Many people looked for the true word of the Lord but could not find it. There were no Church leaders with authority to receive revelation from the Lord. This was known as the apostasy.

Do you know what the word restore means? It means to bring something back to the way it was. The true Church was restored—or brought back—to the earth.

Place the BIG YELLOW SUN (restoration) on the chalkboard. Invite the children to find the GAK pictures attached to their chairs. Have them read the story on the back or discuss the picture and decide what building block of the church was restored. Rebuild the Church, discussing each block as it relates today. The Restoration, represented by a big yellow sun, brought great light into the world. The Lord's Church today is called The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. We are blessed to have the restored Church on the earth.

Bear your testimony of the Restoration.