

# WEEK 3

# GOD IS REDEEMER

## GOD MAKES US FAMILY

PRIMARY LESSON GUIDE

### THE FOUR KEYS

## KEY VERSE

So, we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Romans 12:5

## KEY IDEAS

1. The family of God is unified
2. The family of God is built on Christ
3. The family of God is the church

## KEY PASSAGE

Ephesians 2:19-22

## KEY PRINCIPLES



EVERY CHILD SHOULD KNOW . . .

Jesus unifies all believers as a family, the Kingdom of God.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD FEEL . . .

thankful for the family of God.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD BE ABLE TO . . .

talk about how the church is God's family.



EVERY CHILD SHOULD WANT . . .

to be part of the family of God.

# INTRODUCTION

God is not only our Savior but also our Redeemer. The word redemption means to “buy back” something that has been lost. In our case, we have lost our freedom and fellowship with God because of sin. We are slaves to sin, and Jesus bought us back through His blood that was shed for us on the cross. When we repent and trust in Him, we are transformed into new creations with new hearts and given the promise of eternal life. God’s plan is to redeem all people who will repent and trust in Him. Together, we are His church. The church is both local (Christians who meet together weekly to pray and worship) and global (all Christians on earth). Jesus describes the church in Matthew 5 like a “city on a hill” that gives light to the darkness that surrounds it. God has given Christians a special job to shine His light to the world so all people have a chance to know Him and be saved.

## OPENING ILLUSTRATION

Begin class by briefly reviewing last week’s lesson. Remind kids that our hearts are changed when we follow Jesus. Explain that today we’re talking about how all who believe in Jesus and have repented of sin are part of God’s Kingdom, His church. Bring out the play building blocks and say, “This morning we’re going to make a building together.” Guide the children in forming a pyramid style building, making sure it is built in such a way that when the cornerstone is removed, it will fall. Say, “What do you think would happen to the building if I took one of these blocks off the top?” Allow answers and respond, “Probably not much, right?” Then say, “Now what would happen if I took one of these cornerstones from the bottom?” Allow answers and respond, “Let’s find out.” Take away one of the corner blocks and toss it aside, letting the tower fall. Say, “Whoa! That wasn’t a very good idea, was it? Those cornerstones are pretty important, huh?” Explain that cornerstones were the most important stone in ancient buildings when Jesus lived because they held the whole building together.

## STORY

Read Ephesians 2:19-22.

Does anyone know what the church is?  
Is the church a building like the one we made earlier or is it something else?

The church is the people of God. The building is just the place that God has given us to gather together in. If our building was taken away, we would still be the church! So, if we think about the building we made earlier, each one of those stones would represent each one of us. We make up the church, and Jesus is the cornerstone that holds us together!

Why do you think it is important for us to gather together as the church? (Hebrews 10:24-25)

God made us to be in relationship with one another. Even God is in relationship with Himself (three in one: Father, Spirit, Son), and we were made in His image! When believers come together like we do on Sundays or any other time during the week, we can encourage one another. We also help each other when someone is in need. God knew that His people would need each other, and He created us to be a family!

The church is the family of God, and we have a united mission to love God and share His love with the world!

## ACTIVITY

Using the activity sheets included, help the children create their own “churches”. Write names of fellow church members on the shapes that make up the church building. Remind them that Jesus is the cornerstone that holds us all together in love.

## PRAYER

Thank God that He makes us a family of believers and that He created us to be in community with each other to encourage and help one another. Ask God to help you appreciate the church He has given us.

## SONG

Who is the Redeemer by The New City Catechism

# FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

Matthew 5:14-16, Ephesians 4:11-16, 1 Peter 2:5, Psalm 118:22, 1 Corinthians 1:10

## ACTIVITY

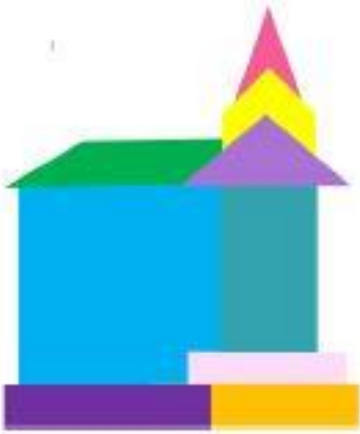
Use the coloring sheet in your take home packet and the discussion questions below to have a conversation with your child about what it means that Jesus is our cornerstone. Reread Ephesians 2:19-22.

## DISCUSSION

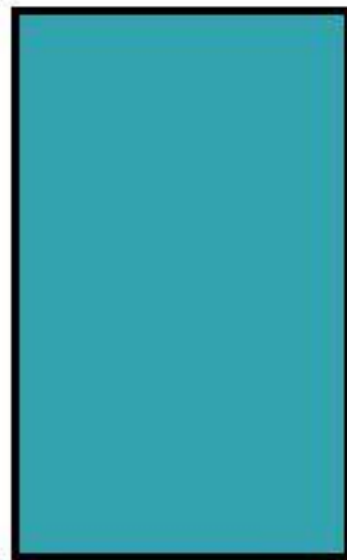
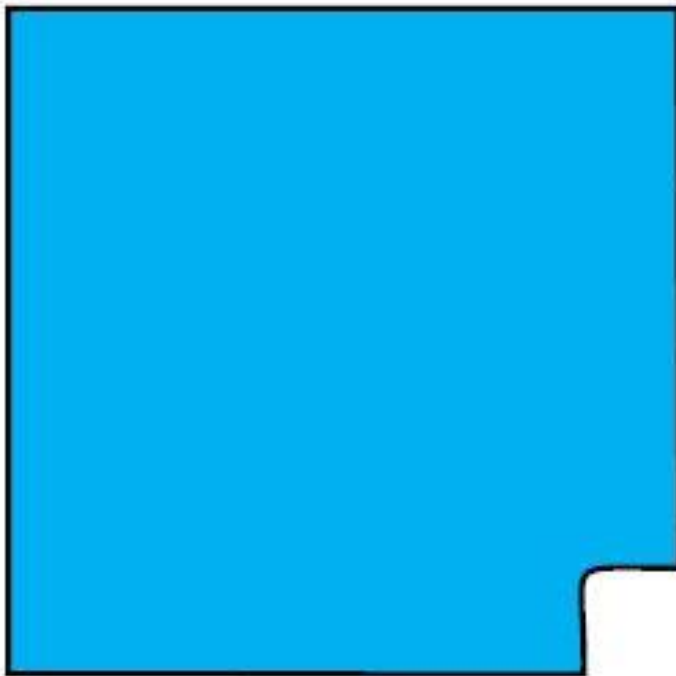
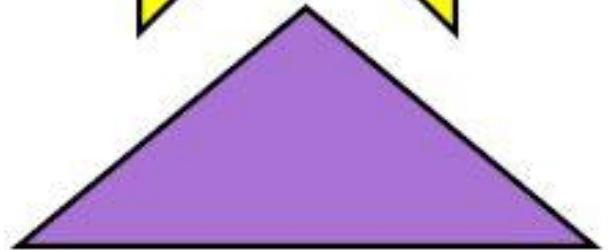
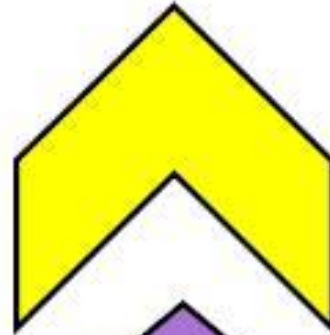
- What is a cornerstone?  
In ancient building construction, large buildings were mostly constructed of stones. The cornerstone was the most important one! It was usually one of the largest and strongest stones found in the bottom corner of the building (like in the picture).
- What does it mean that Jesus is our cornerstone?  
Jesus described Himself as the cornerstone that His church would be built upon. Though our church meets in a building on Sundays, this is not what Jesus meant. The church is not a building you can see. The church is actually the people who meet there! It is a spiritual “building” made up of all who have trusted in Jesus for the forgiveness of sin. Jesus is the one who makes the “building” possible by bringing people together, from all over the world, who believe in Him! Though people may attend different church buildings across town and across the world on Sundays, we are all a part of the same body of Christ, the Kingdom of God!

## PRAYER

Thank God for making all believers part of His family. Ask God to help you love others in His church like He does.



Cut out the shapes below and assemble them onto a separate sheet of construction paper according to the image on the left. Write Ephesians 22:20-21 on the construction paper to complete.



JESUS CHRIST OUR CORNERSTONE

