

Elders and Deacons

Theme: Leaders — God’s plan for the organization of the local church

Sunday Morning Lesson

Pre-Class Activity: Make a fill-in-the-blank worksheet with lots of blanks. A sample is on page 65 of this Guide, but omit the word “New” from the title and omit the printed verse. This will help the students be prepared for reciting the Memory Verse in class.

Bible Facts: Special Delivery: Bible Facts

Memory Verse: Give each student an opportunity to say the Memory Verse for the class. When each student says the verse from memory, the other students may show their approval as directed by the teacher. Help students who struggle with the memory work to be successful. Give guests an opportunity to say the Memory Verse. Have the Memory Verse printed on a sheet of paper or enlarged on a poster. Add to the wall display that features the Memory Verses and the names of students who said them. Prepare a card for each student with his or her name and the Memory Verse citation ready to add to the display.

Prayer

Lesson of the Day

Ideas for Teaching the Lesson

1. In the classroom Bibles, have the students find and read together Titus 1:5-9.
2. Create a simple scene featuring a shepherd. Use a green sheet or green bulletin board paper for grass. Use a blue sheet or blue paper for water. Have a sheep that is a stuffed animal or a graphic.
3. Use items from the Letters from Heaven Package to teach the lesson, taking them out at the appropriate times. Talk about what a shepherd does for his sheep. Have a close-up picture of each elder on a paper plate. Compare what a shepherd does for his sheep to what elders do for souls in a congregation. If the church doesn’t have elders, use clip art pictures of men’s faces.
4. Let each child take a paper plate picture of an elder and act out how the elders are responsible for only the believers in their own congregation. Have students role play elders from one congregation coming to elders at another congregation trying to tell them what to do and how to do it. Read 1 Peter 5:2 and talk about how elders oversee only the local church which has made them elders.



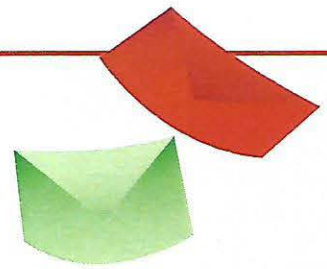
5. Ask students to get out their interview sheets. The instructions for these sheets are found on page 38 of this Guide. Have each student tell one thing he or she learned in the interviewing process. Go around again to give students an opportunity to mention something that has not been said.
6. Put the key verse scroll on the Letters from Heaven Wall.

Suggested Song(s) for this Lesson

- Humble Yourselves

Things to Get or Do
for Sunday Morning

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Wednesday Night Lesson

Pre-Class Activity: Create a worksheet featuring pictures of the church's elders. The students match the names on one side of the page to the elders' pictures on the other side.

Bible Facts: Special Delivery: Bible Facts

Memory Verse: Repeat the Sunday Morning memory work activity for students who were not present. Talk with all students about what the verse(s) tell us about Jesus or following Jesus.

Prayer

Starter

What sometimes happens on a playground during recess? Everyone wants to do something different. One guy says, "Let's play kickball," and three people join him. Four girls decide they will jump rope. One guy says, "Let's play tag," and five people take off to do it. Kids are screaming and running. No one kid has the authority to make decisions for the whole group. The whole scene is confusing. Later, when you think about what happened, you realize that no one was really having much fun. A group of people needs leaders and workers. Jesus wants each local church to have elders and deacons.

Briefly Review the Lesson from Sunday Morning

Ideas for Illustrating and Reinforcing the Lesson

1. *Objective: Demonstrate the work of elders*

- ★ Ask an elder and his wife to visit your class. Ask them to talk with the students at the children's level about an elder's work and preparing to be an elder and an elder's wife. Allow students time to ask them questions. Be prepared to ask questions if the students don't.

2. *Objective: Demonstrate working together in a group*

Give the students a short class project, such as spelling a Bible word on the floor using objects in the room. Allow about five minutes for the project. First, they must elect a leader. Second, they must discuss, plan, and carry out the assigned project. Stop the process after five minutes and ask questions such as the following:

- How did you select a leader?
- What was the leader's work?
- Did people follow the leader?
- What did the followers have to do?

Make application to the selection and work of elders in a local church.

3. *Objective: Discuss and demonstrate the work of deacons*

Using the marker board to write on, make a list of things that must be done in order for the church to meet for worship and Bible study. Help the students “discover” some things they may not have thought about. Examples of these things are cleaning the rest rooms, mowing the grass, paying the bills, fixing a broken door, cleaning the baptistry, and so forth. Talk with the students about what would happen if these things were not done for several months. Talk about deacons as a church’s special workers or servants. Read 1 Timothy 3:13 and discuss how deacons should work and what the results will be.

Suggested Song(s) for this Lesson

- Humble Yourselves

**Things to Get or Do
for Wednesday Night**

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