

Lesson 12

Jesus Christ Organizes His Church

Alright kiddo, let's dive into a story about a very special group of people and what they did long, long ago!

Once upon a time, Jesus, who was God's son, walked on Earth with his friends. They were not just regular friends, though. They were very important because Jesus chose them to help Him spread love and kindness everywhere they went. These special friends were called apostles.

Now, Jesus didn't just randomly pick these friends. He had a big plan! He wanted to build something amazing called the Church of Jesus Christ. In this Church, everyone would be like one big family, loving and helping each other, just like Jesus taught.

In Jesus' Church, there were some important things:

- **Revelation:** This means that Jesus would talk to the leaders of the Church and tell them what to do. It's like when you ask your mom or dad for advice, but in this case, it's Jesus giving the advice!
- **Authority from God:** Jesus gave special powers to His apostles, like when you give your friend permission to play with your toys. This authority helped them do special things in the Church.
- **Church Organization:** The Church was like a big puzzle, with everyone having a special job to do. There were leaders, teachers, and helpers, all working together to make the Church strong.
- **First Principles and Ordinances:** These were important things that everyone in the Church learned and did, like being kind, praying, and being baptized (like a big spiritual bath!).
- **Spiritual Gifts:** Jesus gave special powers to His followers, like being able to heal others or knowing things without being told. It was like giving them superpowers to help others!

But as time went on, some people forgot these important teachings. This made Jesus sad because He wanted everyone to remember His teachings and love each other like a big family.

So, even though there were some bumps in the road, Jesus' Church (People Who Love and want to Follow Him) is back and stronger than ever, just like in the stories we love!

And it's all because Jesus loves us and wants us to be part of His big, happy family. Cool, huh?

Additional Scriptures

Ephesians 2:19 (members called Saints)

1 Corinthians 12:12–31 (Church likened to a body)

Luke 10:1; Acts 14:23; Titus 1:7; 1 Timothy 2:7 (officers of the Church identified)

John 8:26–29 (the Father directs Jesus)

Luke 9:1; James 1:17; 5:14–15 (spiritual gifts)

2 Peter 2:1; Matthew 24:9–12; John 16:1–3; Amos 8:11; 2 Thessalonians 2:3–4 (Apostasy predicted - A falling Away from the church and truths Jesus taught)

Daniel 2:44–45; Matthew 24:14; Acts 3:19–21; Micah 4:1; Isaiah 2:2–4

Once upon a time in a small village nestled among rolling hills, there lived a young girl named Emily. Emily was known for her kind heart and adventurous spirit. She loved exploring the woods and listening to the stories told by the village elders.

One sunny day, as Emily wandered through the forest, she stumbled upon a clearing where she found a group of children playing together. Curious, she approached them and discovered that they were reenacting stories from the Bible.

One of the children, a boy named Jacob, eagerly explained, "We're pretending to be Jesus and his apostles! Jesus chose us to help spread his love and teachings to everyone."

Intrigued, Emily asked, "Who's Jesus?"

Jacob smiled warmly and began to tell her the tale of Jesus, the Son of God, who walked the Earth long ago with his closest friends, the

apostles. He shared how Jesus performed miracles, healed the sick, and taught about love and forgiveness.

As Jacob recounted the story, Emily's eyes sparkled with wonder. She felt a deep sense of awe and excitement. "I want to learn more about Jesus and his Church," she declared.

With Jacob as her guide, Emily joined the group of children in their imaginative play, taking on the role of one of Jesus' followers. Together, they acted out scenes of Jesus organizing his Church, appointing apostles, and teaching important lessons of faith and compassion.

Through their play, Emily learned about the importance of revelation, authority from God, church organization, first principles and ordinances, and spiritual gifts. She felt a sense of belonging and purpose as she embraced the teachings of Jesus and His Church.

As the sun began to set, the children gathered in a circle, their hearts filled with gratitude for the stories they had shared and the lessons they had learned. Emily smiled as she realized that she was part of something special—a community united by love, faith, and the teachings of Jesus Christ. And in that moment, she knew that she had found her place in God's big, happy family.