

=BIBLE DOCTRINES=

Lesson 9

A Gospel Church

Objects to have:

Have pictures of the following: a baby in a playpen, a baby walking, a little child's chair, an adult-sized chair
Have objects or pictures used to illustrate the furnishing in the tabernacle
Have a piece of cloth that is gathered at the top, with a small tear at the middle of the top
Your Bible.

Introducing the lesson:

Children, look at how big you are now. You weren't always that big. You were a tiny baby one day, and then you got bigger and bigger. (Show the appropriate picture while saying the following.) One day you were so small that you could fit in a playpen; then you got too big for a playpen. One day you started taking little tiny steps—one at a time. One day you got big enough to walk alone. You were not big enough yet, however, to sit in a big chair and be comfortable. Maybe someone bought a chair that was your size. Maybe right now, at home, you have a chair that is this size. One day you are going to get too big to sit in this chair. You will not be comfortable any longer in this size chair. You will need to sit in big chairs.

That's what happens. Sometimes we can use something for a while; then we no longer have any use for that. Our Bible story for today tells us about something that God wanted the people to use. Then a day came when He wanted them to use that something no longer; He wanted them to use something else. You listen very carefully to the story and see if you can tell me at the close of the story what it was that the people used to use. Be ready to tell me what God then wanted them to use. Be ready to tell me what we use now instead of that. This sounds like a riddle. You will understand if you listen very carefully to the story.

Telling the story:

Many of us remember hearing about the great big giant who came out into the valley and asked that one man come to fight him. His name was Goliath. He was calling to the army of the Israelites. The Israelites knew God. God is more powerful than anybody or anything. Not one Israelite soldier said, "We will come to fight you, Goliath." They were afraid! For many days Goliath came and shouted to the Israelites and called for someone to come and fight him. Someone came to the camp of the Israelites and brought food to his brothers. That someone was David. David fought Goliath. David won the battle. God helped David! Goliath was killed.

After David killed Goliath, he calmly went back home. David grew older just as you are growing older.

One day David got to be king. King Saul was no longer the king.

One day King David was looking at the tabernacle. We have heard about the tabernacle. It was like a huge tent. From the outside, it looked ugly. From the inside, it was beautiful. This was not an ordinary kind of tent. It was a very particular kind of tent where God would meet with His people. When the tabernacle was built, the people were traveling from place to place. The tabernacle was built so that they could take it apart, roll up the walls, stack the boards and carry it and the tabernacle furniture with them whenever they moved.

Let's talk about what the tabernacle looked like. The tabernacle was a tent. For a roof it had coverings of animal skins. The walls were skin coverings held up straight by boards that were held up by blocks of silver. The furniture could be carried by poles that were slid into rings on the sides of the furniture. (Concerning the furnishings of the tabernacle, briefly show pictures or objects which could illustrate the brazen altar, the candlestick, the table of shewbread, the altar of incense, and the ark of the covenant.)

David was looking at the tabernacle. He thought to himself, "We do not travel from place to place as we used to do. The people live in houses now. I live in a very nice house. We do not need to fold up the coverings for the tabernacle; we do not need to carry the walls of the tabernacle; we do not need to carry the furniture from place to place any more. I think it would be very nice if we built a nice building where God could meet with us."

King David went home. It was time to go to bed. He was very excited thinking about how the building ought to be built where God would meet with His people. Maybe he dreamed about the new building while he slept that night. He was so excited! The next morning, however, God let King David know that he should not build the new building. God told King David how the new building ought to be built, but He also told him that the next king should build the building. The tabernacle was still to be used for a while. Maybe King David was disappointed; I think I would have been disappointed. After a while, however, maybe he got to feeling better about it. He was busy thinking about the plans for the new building. God told him how the building should be built. King David then told an architect how to draw up the plans for the building. The building would be called the temple.

The temple would have the same things in it that the tabernacle had in it. It would be much larger, however. There would be extra rooms built on the outside around the temple. There would still be an altar. There would still be a candlestick. There would still be a table of shewbread. There would still be the altar of incense. There would still be a veil (hold up your piece of cloth). The veil was a huge curtain which hung from the ceiling to the floor at the back of the tabernacle. The curtain in the temple was so thick that nobody could cut or tear it. It was a very heavy, thick curtain. It was called the veil.

There was only one person who was supposed to go behind the veil. That one person was the high priest. The high priest had to do the praying for the people. He had to ask God to forgive the people of their sins. He had to take the blood past the veil into the Holy of Holies. He put the blood on the ark of the covenant that was behind this big curtain. Then he asked God to forgive the people of their sins. Jesus had not yet come to earth from Heaven. That is why the people had to ask forgiveness of their sins in this way. They needed a high priest and priests. They needed the temple.

King David grew to be an old man. It was time for him to die and go to Heaven. The people needed a new king. King Solomon became the new king. King Solomon started work on the temple that King David wanted so badly to build. King Solomon started right away to build the new temple. (Dramatize the following.) He sent thousands of men to a country far away from his country. In that other country were many beautiful big trees. The wood from those trees would make beautiful walls and furniture. Also in that country was beautiful stone. Some of the men had chisels and hammers. They used the chisels and hammers to break the stone into big blocks. The big blocks of stone were beautiful. They were sent back to King Solomon. King Solomon had some other men to put the stone together with mortar to build the walls of the temple. From the beautiful wood that came from the other country, he built the walls to cover the stone on the inside. Then over everything he put gold. The temple was covered with gold. The veil—the big curtain—was beautiful and thick and heavy. All the furniture was covered with gold, also. The temple was huge. It was magnificent. Priests were still needed in the temple. The priests would talk to God for the people. God would talk to the priests for the people. That is because Jesus had not come to earth from Heaven yet.

One day Jesus did come to earth from Heaven. He came as a baby in the manger. Jesus grew to be a man. It was time for Him then to do what was needed to be done so that people could be saved from their sins. Jesus needed to die on the cross. Jesus was hanging on the cross. When it was time for Him to die, suddenly everything got dark. Even though it was daytime with the sun shining, suddenly it was as dark as night; the earth shook. While all of this was happening, something mysterious happened in the temple. The huge, beautiful, heavy, thick veil tore in two. No man could tear this veil. No man could cut the veil. The veil did not tear from the bottom to the top. It tore from the top to the bottom. (Demonstrate this.) God tore this big beautiful curtain in the temple! When Jesus died on the cross, God tore that veil. Right away people knew that they could talk to God by themselves. There was no need for priests any longer. Jesus arose from the dead. He went back to Heaven. From then on, anybody who trusts Jesus as his Saviour can pray without the help of a priest. Whenever I want to

pray, I don't go to a priest or a preacher. I can just talk to God! Anybody who has trusted Jesus as Saviour can do that!

We do not need the tabernacle any more. We do not need the temple any more. We do not need the little temples that were called synagogues any more. What we need now is a building called the church building. The people who come to the building are the church. The building is just so that the church can come and hear the Word of God taught and preached. You and I have come to buildings today that have a name. These buildings are named The Pacific Baptist Church. The people in the church building are really the church. The buildings are here so that we can meet together. We are supposed to meet together every week. We are supposed to come to hear the Bible taught in Sunday school. Brother Schaap, our Preacher, preaches the Bible in church services. We are supposed to know what the Bible says. We are supposed to come to hear the Bible taught and preached.

Now you tell me what the people no longer needed. It was a building that had skins for a covering. (If the children do not give the right answer yet, give a further clue. Continue doing this until they guess, "tabernacle.") God's people stopped moving around so much—they no longer needed the tabernacle; then they built the _____. What was that building called? It was the building that King David wanted to build, but King Solomon built it instead. (Keep on giving hints until "temple" is guessed). Now, we no longer need the temple. Jesus came to earth, died on the cross, arose from the dead, and went back to Heaven. We no longer need priests. The curtain in the temple was torn from the top to the bottom by God. Everybody who trusts Jesus can talk to Him themselves. Now what kind of building do we meet in to hear the Bible taught and preached? Yes, we meet in the church building. What are our church buildings called? Yes, they are called the Pacific Baptist Church.

There is a verse in the Bible that tells us that we are always supposed to go to church. We are never supposed to stop going to church at any time in our lives. Hebrews 10:25 tells, "*Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together....*" Whenever Sunday comes, where are we supposed to be? Yes, we are supposed to be in church. There is a church service on Wednesday night also when the Preacher teaches the Bible to us. We never get too big to go to church! We are supposed to go to church all of our lives. Jesus commands us to go to church.

LEARN OUR BIBLE VERSE: Hebrews 10:25, "*Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together....*"