

BUILDING UP GOD'S HOUSE



ONE SOUL AT A TIME



**1ST - 2ND GRADE
TEACHER'S MANUAL**

Matthew 16:13-19

When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi,
He asked His disciples, saying,
“Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?”

So they said, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and
others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”

Simon Peter answered and said,
“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Jesus answered and said to him,
“Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood
has not revealed *this* to you, but My Father who is in
heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on
this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades
shall not prevail against it.”

Teachers: These materials are intended as a guide to teaching children about God's house. It is recommended that you do not read the materials to the children. Some suggested means of teaching these concepts include letting the children take turns reading the materials out loud and discussing as a group and/or explaining various sections in your own words.

Building Up God's House

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God's House, The Church

I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. 1 Timothy 3:15

A house is a place where we live. When we think of a house, we think of a building made of stone or brick or wood. People of the world live in many kinds of houses. There are even houses for animals!



Did you know that God has a house? In the Old Testament, the temple was God's house. Jesus went into the temple and ran out people who were buying and selling things in the temple. Matthew 21:12-13. The temple was a building, just like our houses are today.

crosses and statues of Jesus and Mary, and call the buildings "churches". But is that really what the church is?

The Bible says that the church is God's house today. 1 Timothy 3:15. What is the church? Many people think the church is a building. They believe these buildings are special because they belong to God. They build big, beautiful houses, decorate them with

Paul tells the church at Corinth that they, the church, are the temple of God and are holy. 1 Corinthians 3:17. In other words, God's church is the people of God and not a building! The apostle Peter said almost the same thing in 1 Peter 2:5, "you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house." The church is a spiritual house in which God dwells.



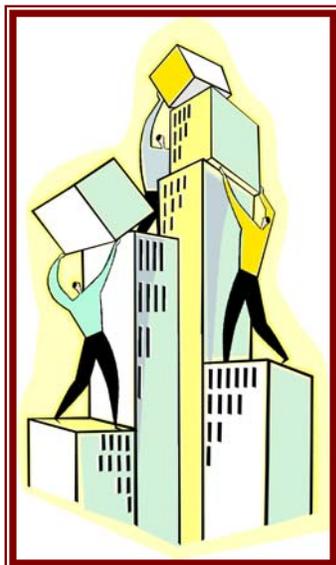
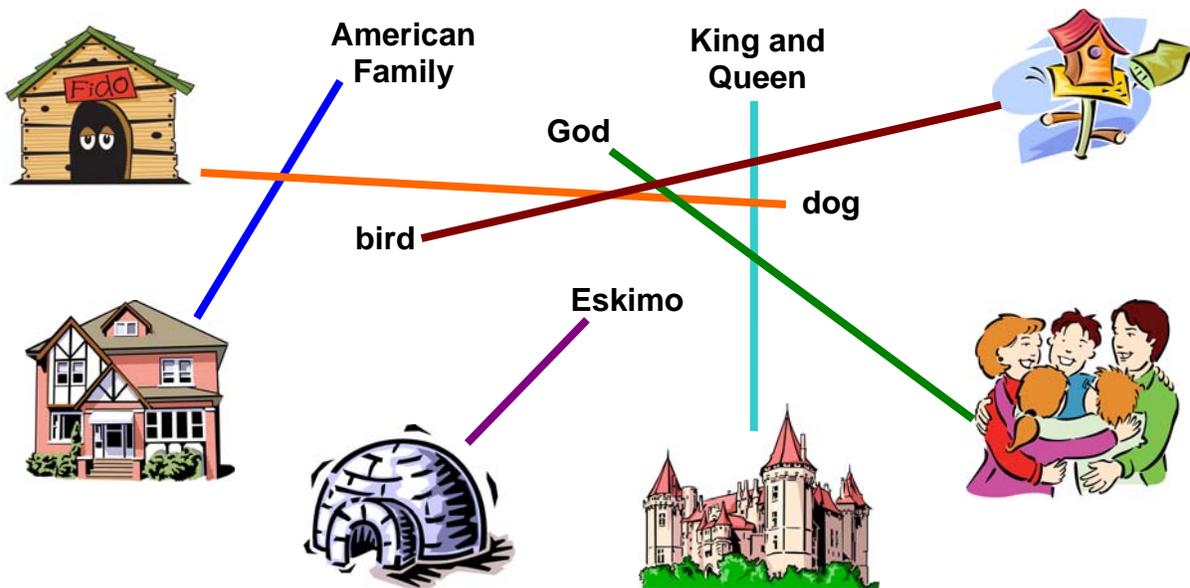
**Which is
God's
house?**





Who Goes There???

Draw a line from the "house" to the word that describes who lives in the house.

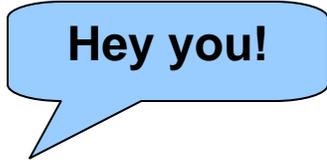


Just like people's homes, God's house has:

- ✓ an architect, plans, and a builder
- ✓ specific parts,
- ✓ a time and place of construction, and
- ✓ people who work for the builder to make it bigger and fix it.



What's In A Name?



Names are very important. A name is a word by which we know a person or thing. Everyone has a name. What would happen if we did not have names? We could only say "you", "he", "she", and "it", and point our fingers. We would get very confused if we did not have names.

Your parents gave you your name, and they call you by your name. You probably have a first name, a middle name, and a last name. Some people have two middle names. Your parents may have even given you a loving "nickname" that they sometimes call you. You would not like it if a stranger decided to call you by a name that you

didn't know, just because they liked the name and thought it was better than your name. Your parents would not like that either. Most people would not like that. That is because your name is special to you.

Some people name things that are special to them, like cars, boats, and houses. The king and queen of England live in "Buckingham Palace", and the President of the United States lives in "The White House". God has given some special names to His house. We should use the names that God gave to His house and not make up our own names.

Unscramble the words to find some of the names God used for His house.

HURHCC FO DGO CHURCH OF GOD Acts 20:28

PLMTEE OF GDO TEMPLE OF GOD 1 Cor. 3:17

SEHRCHCU FO THSIRC CHURCHES OF CHRIST Romans 16:16

Cathy Ray Tammie Mary Jacob Joy
 Leah Matthew Justin
 John Shelly Rebecca Henry
 Caleb Jessica Kyle
 Sarah Michael Joseph
 William Patricia Jennifer Beth



Architect and Builder

For he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker *is* God.
Hebrews 11:10



Many people build models of cars, boats, trains, and other things from kits. Kits are even made for children by Lego and other companies. These kits come with directions on how to put the pieces together to make a copy of whatever is on the front of the box. Can you guess what would happen if you tried to build a car from a Lego kit and did not read or follow the directions? You would probably not get an exact copy of the car shown on the box!

Did you know that houses are no different? Imagine starting to build a house with no directions. Each worker would cut and nail wood in place where he thinks it should go. The finished house would probably look a lot like a patchwork quilt! What if nobody thought to build a kitchen? Or what if everybody built a kitchen? There might be no bedrooms or bathrooms. How silly a house like that would be. Would you want a house like that?



When people build houses for us to live in, the first thing that happens is that someone draws pictures of the house and writes directions for how to build it. The pictures and directions are written on special paper called "blueprint". The blueprint is a pattern for the house. Any time a house is built by following the blueprint exactly, the result will be a copy of the house. The person who draws the pictures and writes the directions is called "the architect". The blueprint tells the person building the house how to make a house exactly like what the architect wanted.

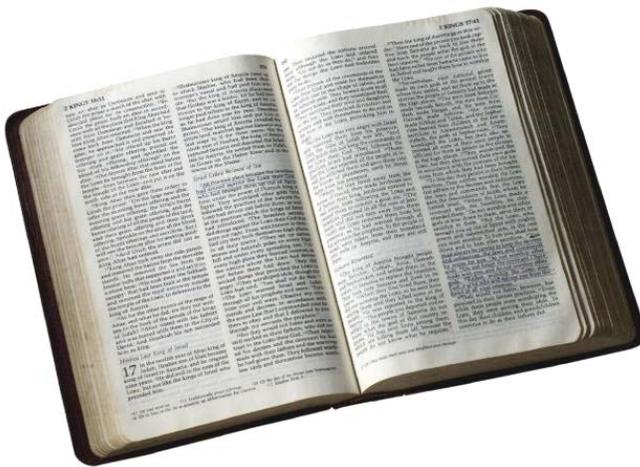




God's House

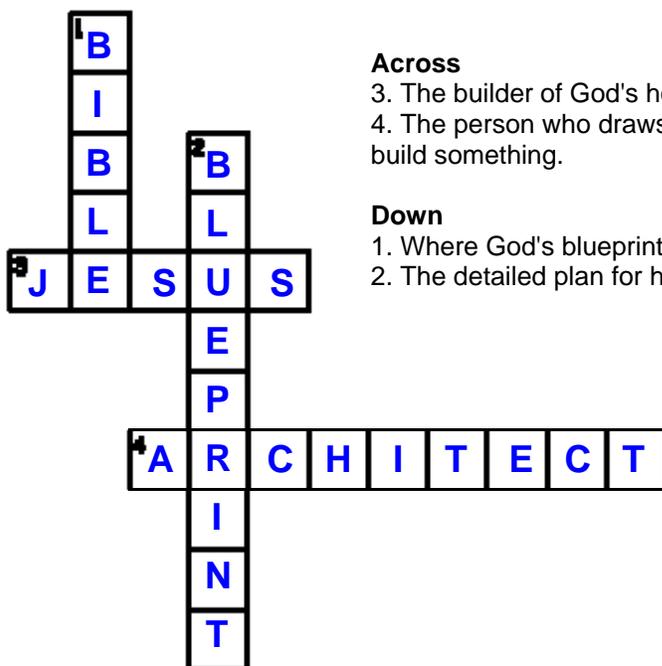
Ephesians 3:9-11,
Matthew 16:13-19,
Philippians 3:17
2 Timothy 1:13

Is God's house any different from other houses? The Bible tells us that God *purposed* His house from the beginning of time. That means that God had plans for His house a long, long time ago. Remember what a person is called who designs and plans a house? An architect. God is the architect of His own house. The Bible also says that Jesus is the builder of God's house.



We have an architect and a builder. But where are the blue prints? We cannot build according to God's plan if we don't have a copy of the blueprints!

The Bible tells us that the stories about the apostles and the letters that they wrote are God's blueprint. We should follow what the apostles and their helpers did. We find the apostles words in the Bible! That means that the Bible contains the blueprints we need to build God's house.



Across

- 3. The builder of God's house
- 4. The person who draws the pictures and writes the directions to build something.

Down

- 1. Where God's blueprint is found
- 2. The detailed plan for how to build a house





Decode the Message

Decode the message to find out what King David knew about building a house for the God.

U N L E S S T H E
 15 12 8 10 26 26 23 5 10
 L O R D B U I L D S
 8 13 9 25 7 15 22 8 25 26
 T H E H O U S E T H E Y
 23 5 10 5 13 15 26 10 23 5 10 1
 L A B O R I N V A I N
 8 18 7 13 9 22 12 16 18 22 12
 W H O B U I L D I T
 24 5 13 7 15 22 8 25 22 23
 P S A L M 127:1
 4 26 18 8 21

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Y	K	F	P	H	Z	B	L	R	E	X	N	O	G	U	V	J	A	C	Q	M	I	T	W	D	S

Let's Make God Happy!!

Many people today think that one church is just as good as another. They think they can choose any church they want. They think that churches can choose their own way of doing things. They don't think they need to follow any blueprints. The Bible tells us there is one church, that God has a blueprint for that church, and He wants us to follow His blueprint. The Bible tells us that the church in Corinth was not following God's plans, and He was not happy with them. If God was not happy when the Corinthians did not follow His plans, will He be happy with us today if we do not follow His plans?



STRUCTURAL PARTS

Behold I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious, and he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame. 1 Peter 2:6.

We have the blueprint for God's house – the Bible. A blueprint specifies how the ground is to be prepared, the foundation that is to be laid, and all the *structural parts* that must be put in place for the house to be functional. The structural parts are all the things that a house has that make it a house: a foundation, walls, a roof, windows, and a front door! Can you name some other parts that a house has?

Let's learn about how God's house is similar to our houses. What structural parts does God's house have?



The Cornerstone

The *cornerstone* is the key part of a building because everything is lined up according to it. It is the block on the very corner of the building. It must be completely perfect and square. Read 1 Peter 2:6.

Who is the cornerstone of the church? [JESUS](#)

The Foundation

A *foundation* is the solid surface that a house is built on. Every house needs a solid foundation. Remember the parable of the wise and foolish men? This parable speaks of the foundation upon which we build. One man built on the rock, and his house stood when the storms came. He was called "wise" because he built on the right kind of foundation. The other man didn't build on a solid foundation. This man was called "foolish". What happened when the rains came?

Read Matthew 16:13-19. Unscramble the words to find out what the foundation is in God's house.

H I A F T N I S E U J S

[FAITH](#) [IN](#) [JESUS](#)

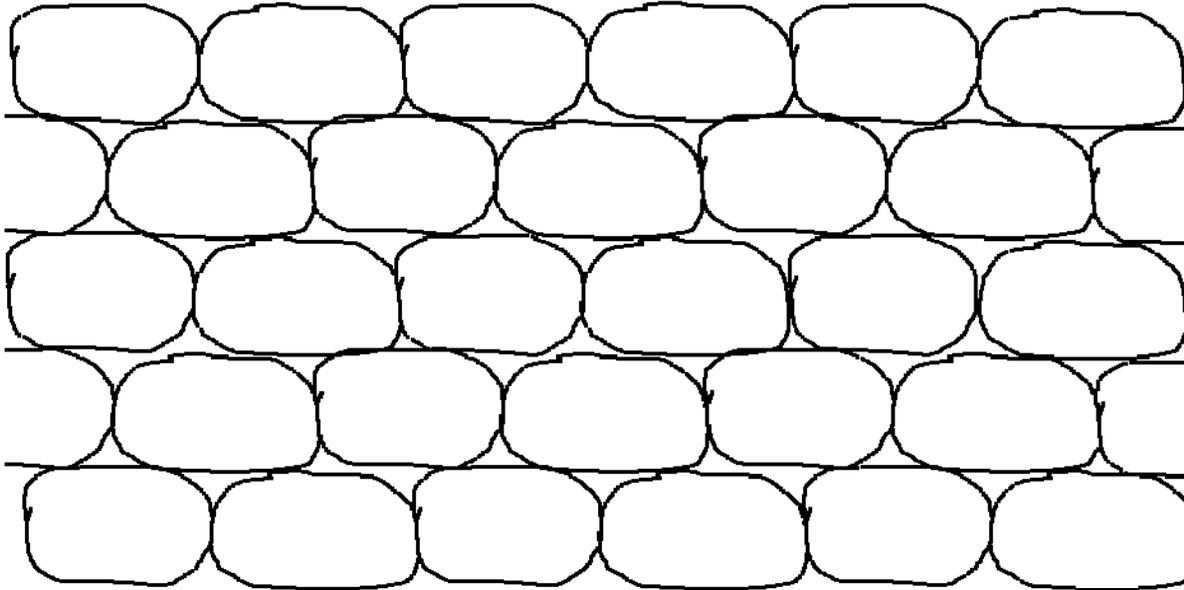
The Walls

If Jesus is the cornerstone, and faith in Him is the foundation that goes with the cornerstone, then what are the walls of God's house? In ancient times, walls were built of stones or bricks, and some houses are still built that way today. In God's house, the bricks and stones are the believers – the Christians. 1 Peter 2:5: says,



you also, as **living stones**, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

God's people are the stones in God's house that make up the walls! Write the name of one person in God's house on each stone in the wall below.



The Supports

Supports are used to strengthen a house; they are found throughout the entire house and help hold up the whole house. Each wall supports the walls adjoining it; the rafters and beams support the roof, and are in turn supported by the wall; load-bearing beams run throughout, and all of these sit on a solid, level foundation that holds everything up. God's house is similar. Each Christian has a part to play, and each supports the others. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:11-14. What are some ways we can support other people?

The Door

Doors provide a way to enter into a house. Can you imagine a house with no doors? We would not be able to get in! Jesus is not only the cornerstone of God's house, He is also the front door! The way into God's house is by believing and obeying Jesus. Jesus said in John 10:9,

I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

THINK! Can people sneak in the "back door" of God's house? Why or why not?

NO, THERE IS NO BACK DOOR!





The Tools of the Trade

Different tools are needed to build a house – everything from large earth movers to small paint brushes. Each tool is needed for a specific task. Without the right tools, getting the job done is very hard. Building God's house is no different; many tools are needed – but these are spiritual tools. Match the physical tools shown to their spiritual counterparts.



Shovels are used to break up all the tough, rocky dirt, level the ground, and prepare it for the foundation. To help the Christian break new ground and prepare the soil, we have a special shovel. Read Hebrews 4:12. What is the Christian's "shovel"?

WORD OF GOD



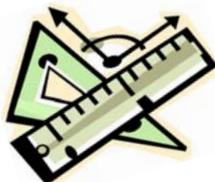
Saws cut away the things that do not belong. We use them to cut boards to the exact size and shape that the blueprint says we need. To build God's house, we must do the same. We must remove anything that disagrees with God's Word. We have to be careful to not cut away things that belong. Is God happy when people do not follow His blueprint? (Revelation 22:18-19)

NO



Hammers and nails are used to bind together pieces of wood. In God's house, the pieces are bound together with love for our brothers and sisters in Christ. Read Ephesians 4:1-3, 31-32 and Colossians 3:12-14. What are some things that love will do to help us stay together?

BE PATIENT, FORGIVING, KIND, ETC...



Rulers, squares and levels are used to measure and make sure all pieces are exactly as they should be according to the blueprints. Read John 12:48, John 20:31, Romans 15:4 and 1 Peter 1:15-16. What is the ruler we should use in building God's house?

THE BIBLE, THE WORD OF GOD

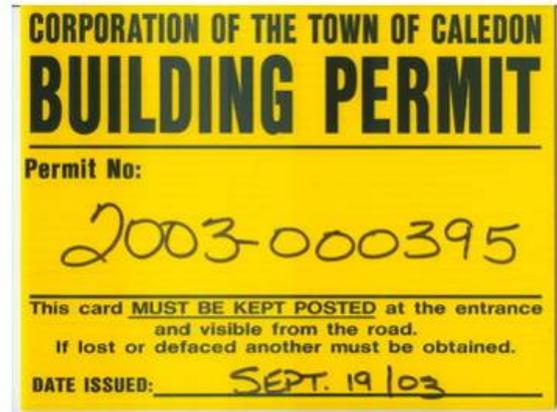
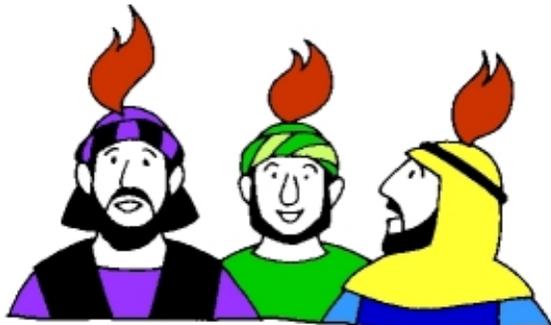


UNDER CONSTRUCTION

"And on this rock I will build My church." Matthew 16:18.

When you want to do go to a friend's house, do you need to ask your parents first? We need to get *permission* to do a lot of things. When people want to build a house, in most towns they cannot begin building whenever they wish. They have to apply for a permit and wait for permission to begin building.

When Jesus first told His disciples that He would build His church, He didn't have them start right then. There were some things that had to happen first. They had to wait. Following His resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples. Jesus reminded them of all that He had told them and prepared them to start building His church. They were to return to Jerusalem and again wait until they received power from God. A few days later, on Pentecost, the disciples were together in Jerusalem, just like Jesus told them to do. The Holy Spirit descended on the apostles like flames of fire and gave them miraculous power. The power promised from God had come. The apostles now had permission to start building God's house.



Fill in the blanks to find out more about the miraculous power that the apostles received on Pentecost.

"We hear them **SPEAKING** in our own **TONGUES** the wonderful works of God." Acts 2:11

Now was the time to lay the foundation. Peter preached the first gospel sermon ever. The word "gospel" means "good news". 3000 Jews believed that Jesus was God's Son, the foundation of God's house, obeyed what Peter told them to do, and were added to God's church. Construction of the church had now begun and there were "living stones" in place. The walls were being built. Peter and the apostles went everywhere preaching and adding more living stones to God's house.



Find the Hidden Message

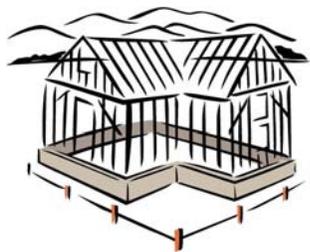
M H L Y B O U A L S
 O E C E A U S L I V
 I N L R P P I G S T
 O N E A U S E L S A
 R E B U S H O T D S
 I J E W S U C G E E
 L T U P A S R P I R
 T S O C E T N E P M
 R I T R E W O P J O
 U A L H O U S E X N

BUILD
 CHURCH
 GOSPEL
 JERUSALEM
 JEWS
 PENTECOST
 PETER
 POWER
 SERMON



Copy the unused letters from above to find Peter's message.

Y O U A L S O , A S L I V I N G
S T O N E S , A R E B U I L T U P A
S P I R I T U A L H O U S E .



THINK!

Sometimes our houses need to be fixed or repaired because they get worn down. Do you think that God's house sometimes needs repair?



WORKERS NEEDED!

For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building.
1 Corinthians 3:9

Jesus needs good workers to help make His house bigger. With all jobs, bosses want the people who work for them to have certain skills or talents. Jesus wants workers who have certain talents too.

- ❖ Able to read and understand blueprints. 2 Timothy 2:15
- ❖ A hard worker; not lazy. Matthew 21:28-30
- ❖ Gets a lot of work done. John 15:1-6
- ❖ Does things right. 1 Corinthians 3:9-16
- ❖ Able to grow and learn new things. Matthew 25:14-30
- ❖ Works well with others; doesn't get in fights. John 15:12 , 1 Corinthians 1:10.
- ❖ Wants Jesus to be happy; will do things HIS way. John 14:23-24



No sitting down on the job!!!



THE FARMER'S NEW FARM

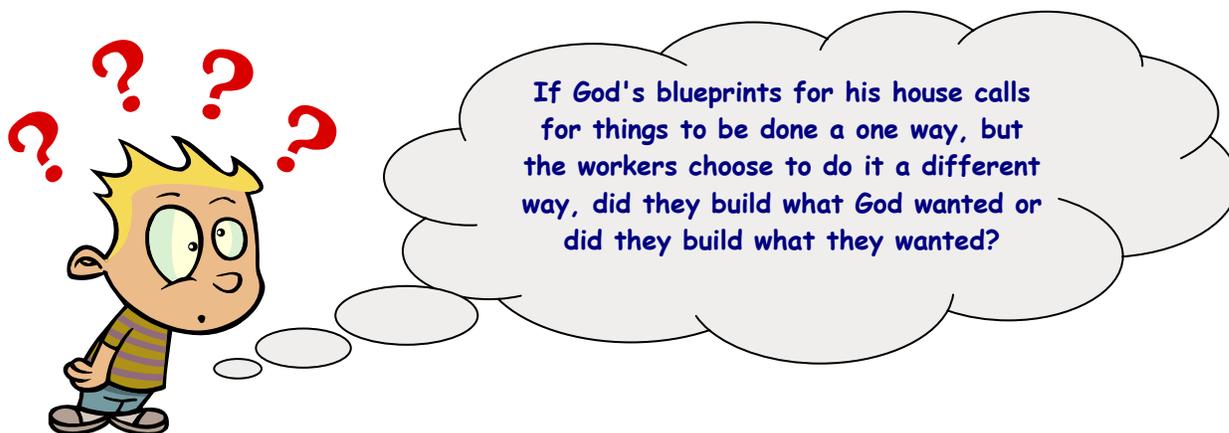
There was once a farmer who decided to build a new farm. He wanted a new house, new barns, new outbuildings – everything. He planned everything he wanted. The farmer had to go far away on business, but before he left, he gave the plans to his son and told him to follow the plans.

When the farmer was done, he returned home. Upon reaching his new farm, something didn't look right. The son greeted his father outside the new house, "Welcome home, father! Everything went well and is exactly what you wanted!"

"No, it is not, son," the farmer said. "I expected the smokehouse to be just past the well, and instead it is next to the henhouse, close to the front porch. Weren't my instructions clear?"

"Yes," the son replied. "But while you were gone, I looked at the plans and had some concerns. The smokehouse was very far away where you had planned for it. Neither you nor mother are getting any younger. I thought that if we moved it closer to the house you'd have an easier time getting to it. Other than that one small change, everything is exactly as you wanted. I've obeyed your instructions."

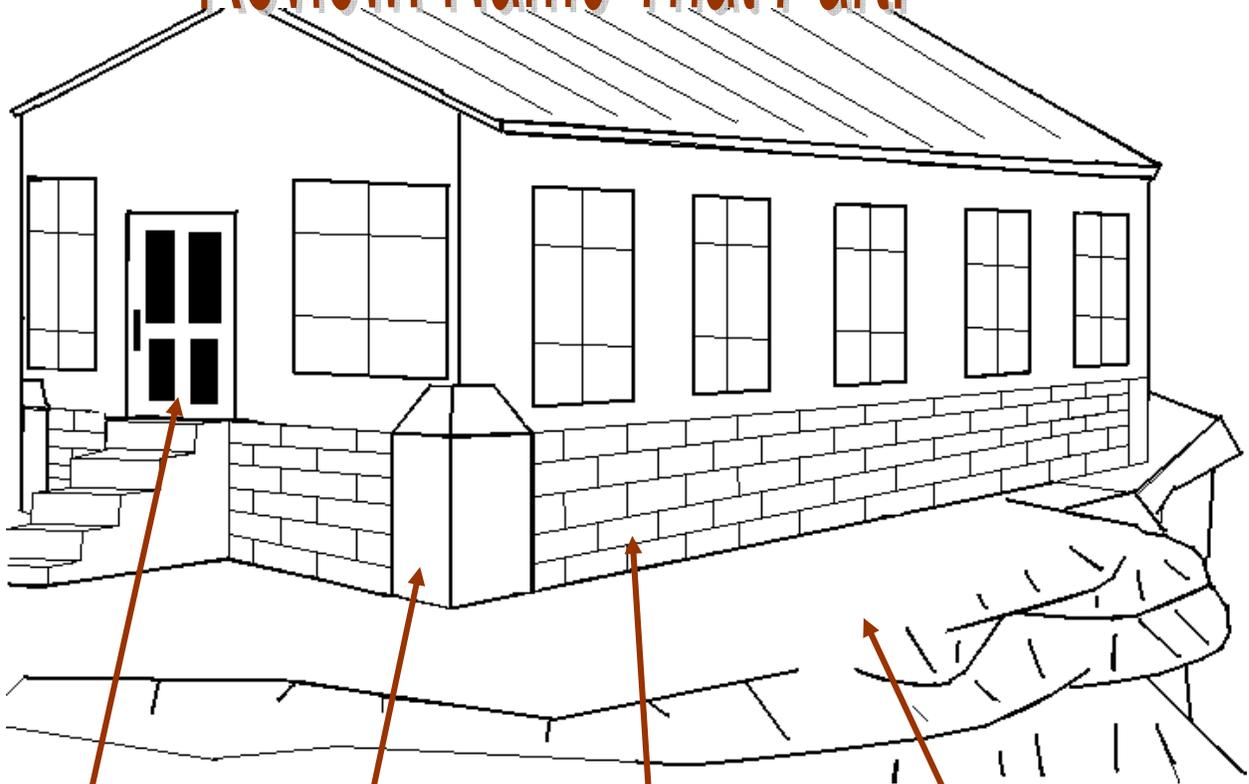
To the son's surprise, his father said, "You obeyed me in nothing. I left detailed plans for how I wanted this farm to be built. The first time you disagreed with my instructions, you did what you wanted and not what I told you to do. Everything else you did was only because you agreed with it, not because you respected my wishes and wanted to obey me."





Review: Name That Part!

From our lesson today, write in the parts of God's house.



Door:

JESUS

Stones:

CHRISTIANS

Foundation:

FAITH IN JESUS

Chief
Cornerstone:

JESUS

Blueprint for
God's House:

THE
BIBLE

