

# BUILDING UP GOD'S HOUSE



**ONE SOUL AT A TIME**



**3RD - 4TH GRADE  
STUDENT WORKBOOK**

## **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.”**

### **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.

In the New Testament, Paul writes that the church is God's house. 1 Timothy 3:15. Many people today 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 crosses and statues of Jesus and Mary, and call the buildings "churches". But is that really what the church is?



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

"For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people."  
2 Corinthians 6:16

is a spiritual house in which God dwells.

Although it is not a physical building, the church shares many of the characteristics of a physical building. According to the Bible, the church has:

- ❖ an architect, an architecture, and a builder
- ❖ specific structural components,
- ❖ a time and place of construction, and
- ❖ workers who labor for the builder to expand and maintain it.

We will talk about these characteristics in more detail in the sections that follow.



# 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.

Peter and Paul used various names for God's people. Read each passage and write the words used to describe God's people.

- 1 Timothy 3:5 \_\_\_\_\_
- 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Corinthians 6:16 \_\_\_\_\_
- Ephesians 2:19 \_\_\_\_\_
- Ephesians 2:21 \_\_\_\_\_
- Ephesians 2:22 \_\_\_\_\_
- 1 Peter 2:5 \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

According to Hebrews 3:6, we are Christ's house if we

- a. worship God on Sundays,
- b. believe on His name,
- c. feed the poor and care for the sick,
- d. hold fast and firm to the very end, or
- e. ask Jesus into our hearts as our personal savior





# 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. These kits come with directions on how assemble the pieces to make a copy of whatever the kit is supposed to make. Can you guess what would happen if you tried to build a model and did not read or follow the directions? You would probably not get an exact copy of whatever the kit was to build!



Did you know that houses are no different? Imagine building a house with no instructions. Each worker cuts and nails boards in place where he thinks they 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. Or what if there

was no way to go from one room to another without going outside the house and back in another entrance? How silly a house like that would be. Would you want to live in a house like that?

When people build houses, the first thing that happens is an architect draws pictures and writes instructions for how to build the house. A house's architecture arranges the various parts of a house in a useful manner. It shows the structure of the house and reflects the architect's wishes.

The architecture is written on special paper and called a *blueprint*. The blueprint contains the *pattern* for a house. Sometimes the blueprint is called *the plans* because that is exactly what it is. Any time a house is built by following a blueprint exactly, the result will be an identical house. By writing down the plans and having a builder who will follow the plans exactly as written, the house's architect can be assured he will get exactly the house he wants.

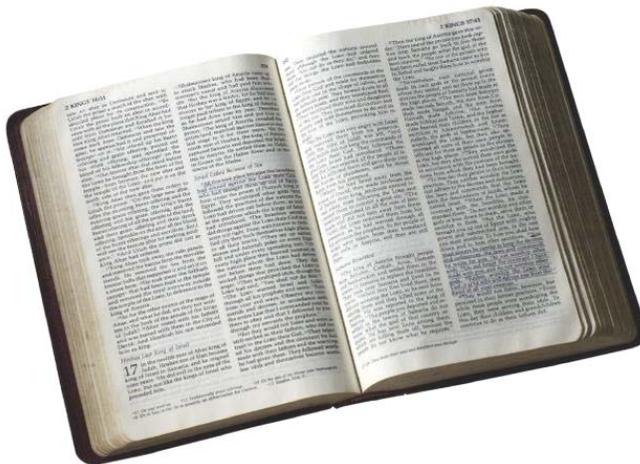




# God's House

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. There's an architect, an architecture, and a builder. But where is the architecture? We cannot build according to God's plan if we don't have a copy of the plan!



Paul told the Philippian Christians in Philippians 3:17, "Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern." And he told Timothy to "hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus." 2 Timothy 1:13. The very words and lives of the apostles are a pattern or *blueprint* for us to follow today, and these words and the account of their lives are recorded for us in the Bible!

## Decode the Message

15    12    8    10    26    26    23    5    10

8    13    9    25    7    15    22    8    25    26

23    5    10    5    13    15    26    10    23    5    10    1

8    18    7    13    9    22    12    16    18    22    12

24    5    13    7    15    22    8    25    22    23

4    26    18    8    21

**127:1**

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



## Why are there so many churches today that are nothing alike?

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?

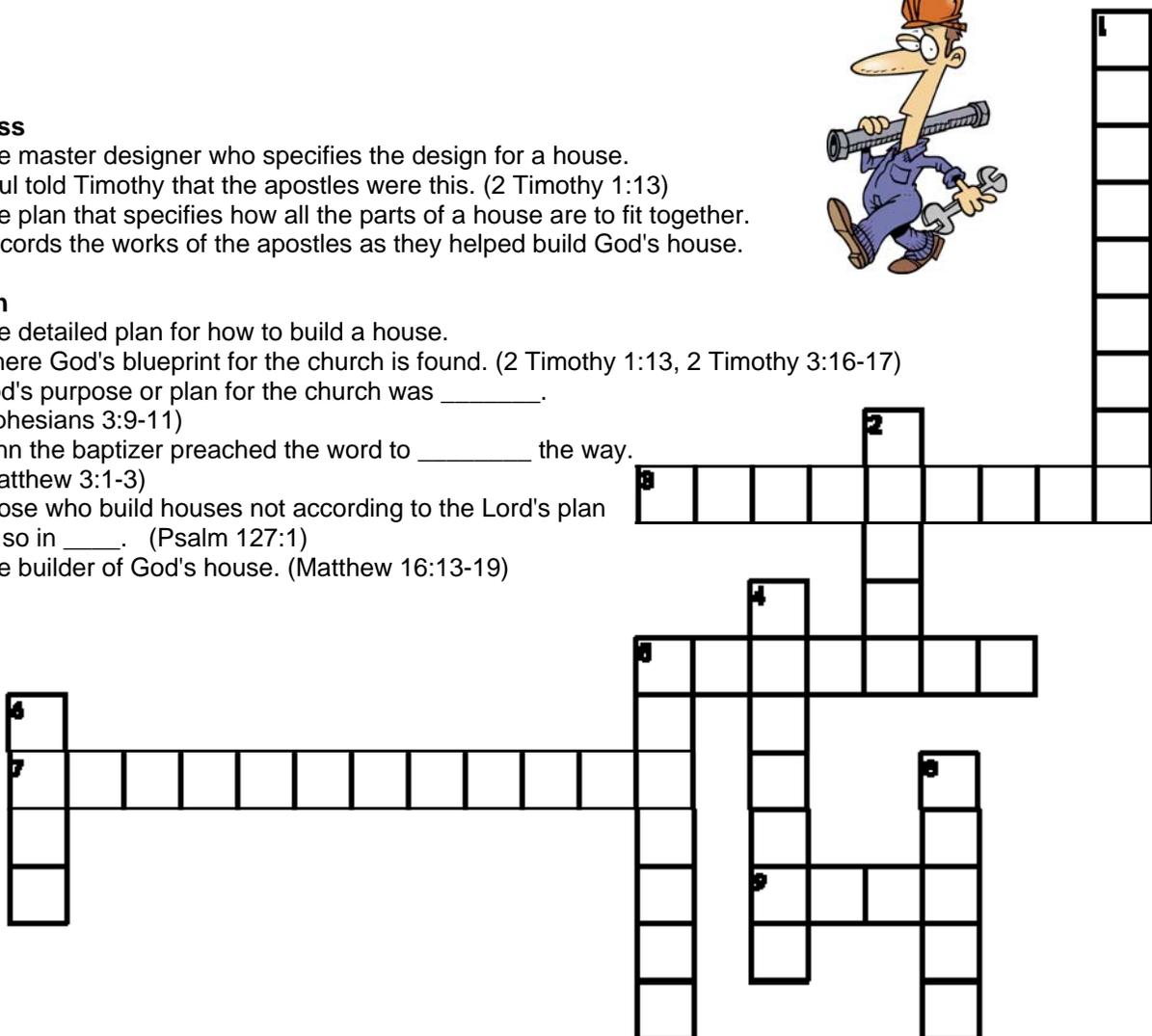


**Across**

- 3. The master designer who specifies the design for a house.
- 5. Paul told Timothy that the apostles were this. (2 Timothy 1:13)
- 7. The plan that specifies how all the parts of a house are to fit together.
- 9. Records the works of the apostles as they helped build God's house.

**Down**

- 1. The detailed plan for how to build a house.
- 2. Where God's blueprint for the church is found. (2 Timothy 1:13, 2 Timothy 3:16-17)
- 4. God's purpose or plan for the church was \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Ephesians 3:9-11)
- 5. John the baptizer preached the word to \_\_\_\_\_ the way.  
(Matthew 3:1-3)
- 6. Those who build houses not according to the Lord's plan do so in \_\_\_\_\_. (Psalm 127:1)
- 8. The builder of God's house. (Matthew 16:13-19)





# STRUCTURAL COMPONENTS

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.

A blueprint specifies how the foundation that is to be prepared, and all the parts that must be put in place for the house to be functional.

God's house is similar – it has a foundation, a cornerstone, bricks and stones for the walls, supports and trusses, even a front door. Let's learn what God has to say about all these parts and how they work together in His house.



## **The Cornerstone**

The *cornerstone* is the key part of a building because everything is lined up according to it. Jesus is the cornerstone of the church. 1 Peter 2:6. Everything begins with Jesus. How is Jesus the cornerstone of the church?

## **The Foundation**

Remember the wise man and foolish man? Each man built a house on a foundation. One man used the rock as his foundation, and his house stood firm when the storms came. He was called "wise" for choosing to build on the right kind of foundation. The other man didn't build on a solid foundation. He built on the sand. This man was called "foolish". What happened when the rains came?

## **What Is A Cornerstone?**

The first stone set in the construction of a masonry foundation was said to be the "corner stone". Until the development of modern construction, the stone was usually at a corner, possibly as the first of the foundation stones, and it was a real support."

The cornerstone was important to early construction because the initial walls and supports, and eventually the remaining corners, were set in based on the cornerstone. If it was not completely square – a perfect 90° angle – the remaining corners would not be true, and the foundation would not be rectangular; no wall in the resulting building would be straight. Because of this, the cornerstone was the most important stone in the building.



This parable is so true: every house needs a solid foundation on which to build. Today, concrete is typically poured to create a foundation. Once the concrete is dry, the house is constructed on the dry surface. What is the spiritual foundation upon which God's house is built?

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In Matthew 16:13-19, Jesus asked His disciples who men said He was. Then He asked who they thought He was. Peter confessed His faith in Jesus as the Son of God. Jesus said that this faith is the rock upon which He would build His church. This faith would allow workers to lay the foundation of the house. 1 Corinthians 3:9-11.

Using the raw material of faith in Christ Jesus, Paul and the rest of the apostles built a solid foundation for the church during the first century.

### ***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. Read 1 Peter 2:5. Who are the bricks and stones of God's house?

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### ***The Supports***

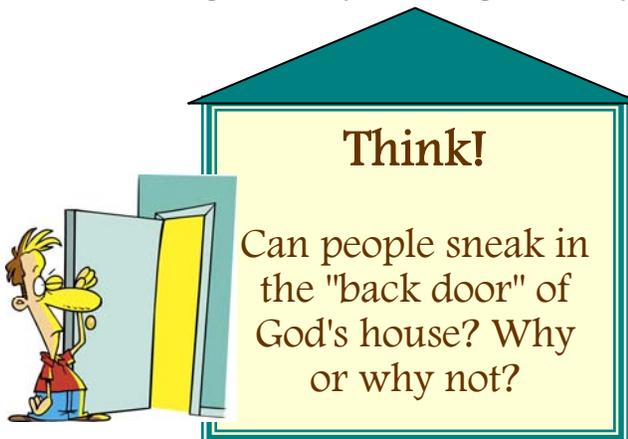
Every house had *supports* that run through out and are used to strengthen it. Each wall supports the walls adjoining it; the rafters and beams support the roof and are in turn supported by the wall; load-bearing beams and timbers run throughout, and all sit upon a solid, level foundation that holds everything up. So it is with God's house. Who are the supports in God's house according to Paul in 1 Thessalonians 5:11-14?

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### ***The Door***

Doors provide a way to enter into a house. Jesus is not only the cornerstone of God's house, He is also the door. The way into God's Kingdom is by believing and obeying Jesus.

***I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. – Jesus (John 10:9)***





# Tools of the Trade

A variety of tools are needed to build a house – everything from large earth movers to small fine-detail paint brushes. Each tool is needed for a specific task, and the job becomes more difficult without all the right tools.

Building God's house is no different; many tools are needed – but these are spiritual tools. Let's look at some of the tools Christians need in building God's house.



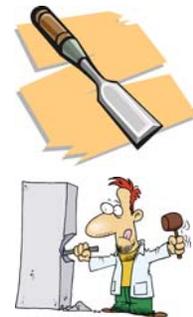
**Shovels** are used to break ground, level the ground, and prepare it for the foundation. To help the Christian break new ground and prepare the soil, we have a special shovel. What is it according to Hebrews 4:12?

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**Saws** cut all types of materials, from wood to stone and metal and anything in between. They cut materials to length, they shape pieces - they remove excess material. The Christian uses God's word to remove excess material – to eliminate that which doesn't belong. This means removing anything that disagrees with God's Word. We have to be careful, however, to not cut away things that belong. What will happen to the person who doesn't cut according to the pattern God has given? (Revelation 22:18-19)

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**Chisels** are used on either stone or wood. Cold chisels are used to shape stone, both for fine shaping and rough outlining. Wood chisels are used for carving; they have sharp blades that can cut a perfect 90° angle or carefully shave away material for a recessed door hinge. In a sense, Christians use a spiritual chisel to shave away the bad things, pruning the evil influence from our lives. What are some of the things we are to shave away from our lives, according to Paul in Galatians 5:19-21?

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**Nails**, along with **hammers**, have been used for centuries to fasten together pieces of wood. For the Christian laboring on God's house, we bind the pieces 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?

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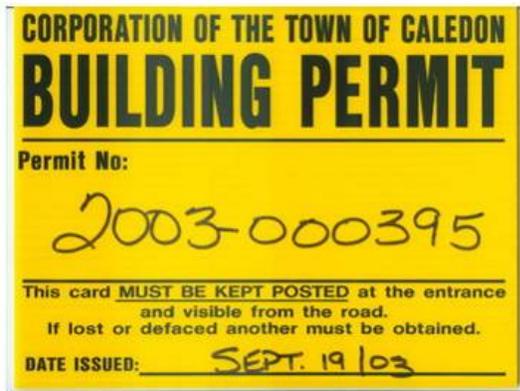
**Rulers, squares and levels** are constantly in use during the building process to make sure all pieces are square, straight, and exactly as they should be according to the plans. Read John 12:48, John 20:31, Romans 15:4 and 1 Peter 1:15-16. What do you think the Christian's ruler is?

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# UNDER CONSTRUCTION

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



### ***Waiting on the Authority to Proceed***

When people want to build a house, in most towns they cannot simply begin building whenever they wish. They have to apply for permits, submit the plans for review, and then sit and wait for approval to begin construction. In Matthew 16:19 Jesus told Peter,

And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

Jesus told Peter he would give him the authority to begin building the church and open its doors. He did not give Peter the keys at the time He said this. That would come later. Peter had to wait.

Following His resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples. Jesus reminded them of all He had told them and prepared them for the task that was to come – building the church. He gave them His final instructions in Luke 24:49:

Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.

They were to return to Jerusalem and again wait until they received “power from on high.” This was the comforter, the Holy Spirit that Jesus spoke of in John 14:26. A few days later, on Pentecost, the disciples were together in Jerusalem, as Jesus commanded. (Acts 2) The Holy Spirit came to the apostles, giving them the ability to speak in languages they did not know (Acts 2:5-12). This was the fulfillment of Jesus’ promise in John 14:26 and the prophecy in Joel 2:28-32 (Acts 2:17-21). The apostles now had the authority to start building God’s house.

### ***Preparatory Steps***

Once the necessary approval is granted and permits are issued, a team of workers moves in to begin the work of constructing the house - preparing the ground and laying the foundation and setting the cornerstone.

As we studied before, John the baptizer prepared the ground for God’s house. Luke 3:1-4. Before He went to the cross, Jesus spoke of building His church. A very important thing had to be done before that process started: He had to face the cross, and death – and to rise from the dead after three days. Once that had taken place, the Cornerstone was ready to be set on the foundation.



### **The Foundation and Base House**

Now was the time to lay the foundation. As we studied before, the foundation is faith in Jesus Christ. Faith comes from hearing God's word (Romans 10:17), so to create faith, Peter preached what we now know as the first gospel sermon. We don't know how large the crowd was. We do know the crowd was not completely friendly; some mocked the apostles, accusing them of being drunk when they heard them speaking in foreign languages. We also know the results of Peter's preaching, found in Acts 2:37-41. 3000 Jews had faith in Jesus as God's Son, the foundation of God's house, obeyed what Peter commanded, and were added to the church, God's house. Construction of the church had now begun and there were "living stones" in place. Peter and the apostles went around, continuing to preach to the Jews and adding more living stones to God's house.

### **Major Additions**

For some time after Pentecost, the church was limited entirely to the Jews. This was about to change however. In Acts 10 we read of Cornelius, a Roman centurion and a devout man who feared God, who gave alms to the poor and prayed continually. An angel of the Lord appeared to him and told him to send for Peter.

At this time, the Lord was giving Peter special visions, preparing him for what was to come. Shortly afterward, the people that Cornelius sent to find Peter reached Joppa, and Peter went with them. Upon meeting Cornelius and his household, Peter explained all that had happened to bring them together, and began to explain the faith – Jesus' sacrifice, His resurrection, and the basics of the faith (Acts 10:17-43). When he began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on Cornelius and his household, exactly as had happened to the apostles on Pentecost (Acts 11:15).

This was a sign to Peter and all the Christians with him: gentiles (non-Jews) were to be added to God's house. Much like an addition or an extra story, God's house had just expanded – and its potential for growth was unlimited.

### **Continued Expansion**

Throughout the book of Acts, we see the Lord adding to His house precisely as He did on the day of Pentecost: people hear the word of God, believe, repent of their sins, confess the name of Jesus before men, and are baptized. Like then, God's house today is built one soul at a time. How are we supposed to build God's house today? Exactly as the apostles did then – by teaching those we meet.





# Find the Hidden Message

T	B	U	I	L	D	Y	O	U	A	L	S	ANGEL
S	O	A	S	L	I	V	H	I	N	G	M	BUILD
O	S	T	S	O	N	C	E	S	A	E	O	CHURCH
C	E	N	T	U	R	I	O	N	L	N	D	CORNELIUS
E	G	R	T	U	I	P	P	A	E	O	G	DEVOUT
T	B	E	H	U	E	L	S	O	U	M	N	GENTILES
N	L	C	N	T	O	U	E	I	W	R	I	GOSPEL
E	A	E	E	T	R	V	J	N	L	E	K	JERUSALEM
P	N	R	P	E	I	O	E	T	R	S	R	JEWS
U	G	P	J	S	P	L	A	D	W	O	S	JOPPA
P	E	I	R	P	O	I	E	E	T	U	C	KINGDOM
A	L	L	A	H	O	G	J	S	U	S	E	PENTECOST
												PETER
												POWER
												SERMON

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

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## "FLIP THIS HOUSE"

The practice of house-flipping emerged as a common investment practice in the United States in the late 1990s. "Flipping is a term, used primarily in the United States, which refers to the practice of buying something and quickly reselling ("flipping") it for profit. Though flipping can apply to anything you can buy, the term is most often applied to real estate and initial public offerings."

The goal of house flipping is to take a property that is need of repair, make the necessary repairs, and resell the house at a profit. Flipping a house usually involves a complete facelift, including new paint, new floors, new lights, new bathroom fixtures, new kitchen cabinets, and the list goes on. Depending on the age and structure of the property, significant structural repair may be necessary (new roof, foundation repair, new wall framing, etc.)

**How does the idea of "flipping" apply to God's house, the church?**



# LABORERS 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 laborers to help expand His house. A laborer is simply a worker. As with all jobs, there are certain skills and abilities an employer wants in his employees. Jesus also wants laborers who have specific qualities. Read the scriptures and determine how they apply to the desired qualities.

- ❖ Ability to read and understand blueprints.

2 Timothy 2:15 \_\_\_\_\_

- ❖ Willingness to work; not lazy.

Matthew 21:28-30 \_\_\_\_\_

- ❖ Productive in labor.

John 15:1-6 \_\_\_\_\_

- ❖ Produces quality work.

1 Corinthians 3:9-16 \_\_\_\_\_

- ❖ Ability to grow and develop new skills.

Matthew 25:14-30 \_\_\_\_\_

- ❖ Works well with others.

John 15:12 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Corinthians 1:10. \_\_\_\_\_

Luke 11:17 \_\_\_\_\_

- ❖ Desire to please the owner more than self.

John 14:23-24 \_\_\_\_\_





## THE FARMER'S NEW FARM

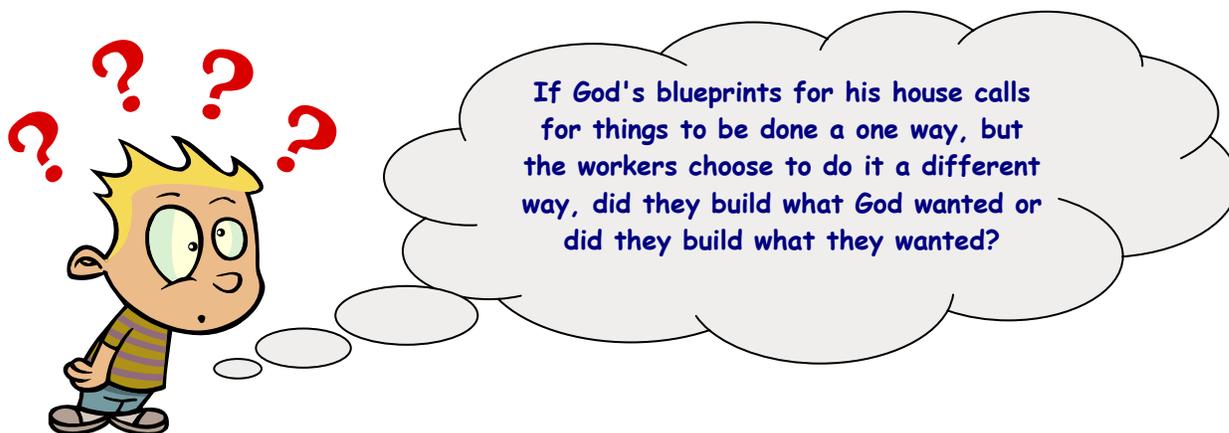
There was once a farmer who decided to build a new farm. He wanted a new house, new barns, new outbuildings – everything. He planned everything he wanted. The farmer had to go far away on business, but before he left, he gave the plans to his son and told him to follow the plans.

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."

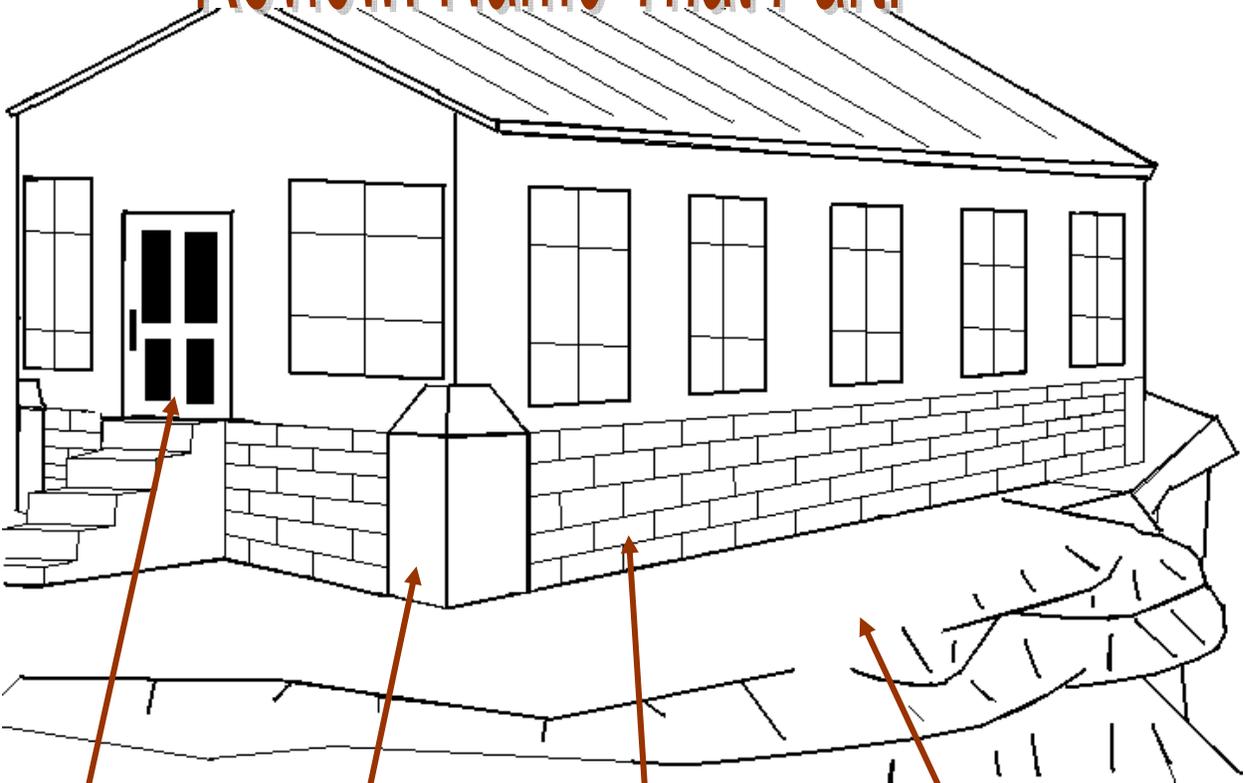
To the son's surprise, his father said, "You obeyed me in nothing. I left detailed plans for how I wanted this farm to be built. The first time you disagreed with my instructions, you did what you wanted and not what I told you to do. Everything else you did was only because you agreed with it, not because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

\_\_\_\_\_

**Chief  
Cornerstone:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Stones:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Foundation:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Blueprint for  
God's House:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

