

MOMENTUM YOUTH BIBLE STUDY SERIES

THE CHRONICLES OF JENIAH AND URIAH
#12 - THE CHURCH
"FACING THE SAINTS"





“No. I can't do it. I won't go back! What will people say? I don't know how they will look at someone that had to sit in a police car for shoplifting?” Uriah thought. His mind was so consumed with his mistake; it was overpowering his ability to think rationally. He was in the car, dressed for church, but he couldn't shake the desire to run away and never face the church members again. To him, his mistake was too great and he was afraid at how the members would or would not receive him after such a public ordeal.

When he was caught shoplifting, someone in the store was recording on their smartphone and the incident went viral. The entire high school knew that he was arrested and the comments in the thread were pretty brutal. The last thing he needed was the people at church to dog him out too.

The car slowly came to a halt. The thirty-minute ride to church seemed to fly by and he waited as long as he could to get out of the car. With gentle prodding by his parents, he reluctantly got out and walked in the sanctuary.

“Hello,” one smiling face said. “Good morning!” another church member greeted him. He braced himself for the parade of boos he imagined the night before, not sure who would start the chants. To his surprise, everyone seemed so happy. It was as if he was just another teen at the church. His mind was filled with peace as he took his usual seat in the corner of the church. Jeniah found him in their usual seat and asked him how he was doing. “In a weird sort of way,” Uriah whispered, “it has been a good day. I wasn’t sure how I’d be received since I went “viral” but church hasn’t been that bad.” They directed their attention to the front as the pastor began his sermon.

“Church, I have a confession to make,” Pastor Goodman began. He was starting his sermon, but this time something was different. His address to the congregation was with a powerpoint presentation with a series of questions that helped Uriah and Jeniah see what church was all about.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF CHURCH?

The church is comprised of believers that are called out of the world to come together for worship, fellowship, and instruction in God's holy Word.

How do we operate? We use the Bible, the Word of God, to be the standard by which we function and relate to one another.

2 Timothy 3:16 - "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for _____, rebuking, correcting and training in _____."

The Bible speaks of the church in several ways.

- As a body

Ephesians 1:22-23 - ... the head over all things to the church, which is His body..."

Ephesians 5:23 - Christ is the head of the church: and he is the Savior of the body.

- As a temple of God, where Christ dwells

1 Corinthians 3:16 - Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

- As a bride

Ephesians 5:25 - Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her

WHY DOES THE BIBLE USE THOSE TYPES OF EXAMPLES?

With each example, the Bible shows how we are interconnected with each other and intimately tied to Christ.

The Bible also admonishes us to remind us that we exist to encourage each other through how we've seen God work in our lives.

- **Revelation 12:11** – And they overcame by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony...

DOES JESUS WANT US TO KEEP OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM A SECRET?

No. Jesus commanded us to teach others what we have learned about Him.

Matthew 28:19,20 – “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you....”

WHO MAKES UP THE CHURCH?

The church is comprised of people who were broken but come to Jesus to be mended. We remind others that we are sinners and don't deserve God's grace. Yet we willingly accept it as a free gift.

Romans 3:23 – “for all have sinned and _____I short of the glory of God.”

Ephesians 2:8 - “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith.”

As Uriah and Jeniah listened intently, they leaned forward to hear the pastor's concluding remarks. He stepped away from the pulpit and shared how he got in major trouble as a teenager. He was ashamed and embarrassed to go in public, but it was an older member in his church that reminded him that God still loved him and had a special plan for his life. He said through that member's love and acceptance, He was able to see Christ's love for him.

Uriah leaned over to Jeniah and whispered. “I never thought about it like that. Jesus must have known that I needed to be in church today. That sermon was just for me.”

They smiled as they closed their eyes as Pastor Goodman said a prayer thanking God that He created safe spaces where we can remind each other of God's immense love for us.