



**IGLESIA DE AMOR MINISTERIOS**  
**CHURCH OF LOVE MINISTERIES**

**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**  
**DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

**Module 6 Book**

# Module 6

## The Church

---

### Module Overview

Welcome to Module 6 of the Children's Ministry Development Program.

In Module 5, you learned about the Holy Spirit and how He helps believers know Jesus, understand God's Word, grow in Christlike character, and serve with wisdom and strength. In this module, we will focus on the Church and how Children's Ministry fits within the larger Body of Christ.

The Church is not just a building, a service, or a weekly gathering. The Church is the people of God, called to worship Jesus, grow as disciples, serve one another, share the Gospel, and bring the Kingdom of God into the world. Every ministry within the church exists to support that calling, including Children's Ministry.

As Children's Ministry workers, it is important to understand that we are not serving in an isolated department. We are part of the larger mission of Iglesia de Amor. The children we serve are not separate from the church; they are part of the church family. They need to know that they belong, that they matter, and that God has a purpose for their lives.

This module will help you understand the biblical meaning of the Church, the importance of unity, the value of serving, the role of families, and the way Children's Ministry supports the mission and vision of Iglesia de Amor.

---

### Module Learning Objectives

After completing this module, you will be able to:

- Understand what the Church is according to Scripture.
- Recognize that children are an important part of the church today.
- Understand how Children's Ministry supports the mission of Iglesia de Amor.
- Explain the importance of unity within the Body of Christ.
- Recognize the value of serving and stewardship.

- Understand the role of families within the church.
  - Help children feel connected to the larger church family.
  - Serve with a greater sense of purpose, belonging, and responsibility.
- 

## Opening Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the gift of the Church. Thank You for calling us into Your family and allowing us to serve one another in love.

As I begin this module, help me understand more clearly what it means to be part of the Body of Christ. Teach me to serve with unity, humility, and faithfulness. Help me see Children's Ministry as part of the larger mission of Iglesia de Amor.

Give me wisdom to help children know that they belong in Your Church, that they are loved by You, and that they have a place in Your Kingdom.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

---

## Lessons Included in This Module

Lesson 1: What Is the Church?

Lesson 2: The Church as the Body of Christ

Lesson 3: Children Belong in the Church

Lesson 4: The Mission of the Church

Lesson 5: Unity in the Church

Lesson 6: Serving the Body of Christ

Lesson 7: Partnering with Families in the Church

Lesson 8: Children's Ministry and the Life of the Church

---

## Memory Verse for Module 6

1 Corinthians 12:27 (NIV)

"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."

---

As you work through this module, remember that Children's Ministry is not separate from the church's mission. It is one of the ways Iglesia de Amor makes strong disciples of Jesus Christ and brings salvation and complete restoration one family at a time. Every child, every family, every volunteer, and every leader has a place in the Body of Christ.

## Lesson 1

# What Is the Church?

## Learning Objectives

After completing this lesson, you will be able to:

- Understand what the Church is according to the Bible.
  - Recognize that the Church is more than a building or service.
  - Explain why the Church matters in the life of a believer.
  - Understand how Children's Ministry fits within the Church.
  - Help children understand that they belong in the family of God.
- 

## Key Scripture

**Matthew 16:18 (NIV)**

"And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it."

Jesus said that He would build His Church. The Church belongs to Him. It is not built on human ideas, personal preferences, or programs. The Church is God's people, gathered together to worship Him, grow as disciples, serve one another, and share the Gospel with the world.

---

# Why This Lesson Matters

Many people think of church as a building.

Children may say, "We are going to church," and imagine the place where they attend services, sing songs, learn Bible lessons, and see their friends.

While the building is important because it gives us a place to gather, the Bible teaches that the Church is much more than a building.

The Church is the people of God.

The Church is made up of those who belong to Jesus Christ.

This means Children's Ministry is not separate from the Church. It is part of the Church. The children we serve are not simply being watched while adults worship. They are being welcomed, taught, loved, and disciplined as part of the church family.

Understanding what the Church is helps us serve children with greater purpose.

---

## The Church Is God's People

The Church is not the building.

The Church is not the chairs.

The Church is not the stage.

The Church is not the classrooms.

The Church is the people who belong to Jesus.

When believers gather to worship, pray, learn God's Word, serve, and encourage one another, they are functioning as the Church.

This means the Church is alive.

It is made up of people from different ages, backgrounds, cultures, languages, and life experiences who are united through faith in Jesus Christ.

At Iglesia de Amor, we see this beautifully through our bilingual and multicultural church family. God brings people together as one body so they can worship Him, grow together, and serve His Kingdom.

---

## **The Church Belongs to Jesus**

Jesus said, "I will build My church."

This reminds us that the Church belongs to Him.

The Church does not belong to a pastor, board, volunteer team, or individual ministry.

Jesus is the head of the Church.

This matters because every ministry should reflect His heart, His mission, and His truth.

Children's Ministry belongs to Jesus too.

Every classroom, every lesson, every volunteer, every child, and every family should be cared for in a way that honors Him.

When we serve in Children's Ministry, we are serving the Church that Jesus loves and is building.

---

## **The Church Is a Family**

The Bible often describes believers as a family.

Through Jesus, we are adopted into God's family.

This means the Church should be a place where people are loved, supported, encouraged, corrected, strengthened, and discipled.

Children need to know that they are not outsiders.

They are part of the church family.

They should feel:

- Welcomed.

- Loved.
- Safe.
- Known.
- Valued.
- Included.
- Encouraged.
- Spiritually nurtured.

When children experience the Church as a loving family, they begin to understand more clearly the love of God.

---

## **The Church Gathers and Scatters**

The Church gathers for worship, prayer, teaching, fellowship, and encouragement.

But the Church also scatters into the world to live out the Gospel.

This means church is not only something that happens on Sunday.

The people of God represent Jesus throughout the week at home, work, school, and in the community.

Children can begin learning this truth early.

They can understand that following Jesus is not only for church services. They can love God, obey His Word, pray, show kindness, and be a light for Jesus wherever they go.

Children's Ministry helps prepare children to live as part of the Church both inside and outside the building.

---

## **The Church Worships God**

One of the primary purposes of the Church is worship.

Worship means honoring God because He is worthy.

We worship through:

- Singing.
- Prayer.

- Giving.
- Obedience.
- Serving.
- Reading Scripture.
- Living lives that honor God.

Children should learn that worship is not only something adults do in the sanctuary.

Children can worship God too.

They can sing, pray, listen, give thanks, obey, and serve.

When we teach children to worship, we help them understand that they were created to know and glorify God.

---

## **The Church Makes Disciples**

Jesus commanded His followers to make disciples.

That mission belongs to the whole Church.

Children's Ministry plays an important role in this mission because discipleship begins early.

When children learn about Jesus, memorize Scripture, pray, worship, and practice obeying God's Word, they are growing as disciples.

Children's Ministry helps fulfill the mission of the Church by investing in the next generation.

We are not simply caring for children.

We are helping raise strong disciples of Jesus Christ.

---

## **The Church Serves One Another**

The Church is called to serve.

Every believer has a role in the Body of Christ.

Some teach.

Some lead.

Some encourage.

Some pray.

Some give.

Some help behind the scenes.

Some welcome guests.

Some care for children.

Every act of service matters.

Children can also learn to serve.

They can help clean up, encourage friends, pray for others, welcome visitors, share, and show kindness.

When children learn to serve early, they begin understanding that they are part of God's work.

---

## **The Church Shares the Gospel**

The Church exists not only for those already inside it.

The Church is called to share the Gospel with the world.

This includes children and families.

Every Sunday may include children who are hearing about Jesus for the first time.

Every classroom is an opportunity to share the love of Christ.

Every parent interaction is an opportunity to represent the heart of the Church.

Children's Ministry supports the mission of evangelism by helping children and families encounter Jesus in a loving and trustworthy environment.

---

# The Church Is Not Perfect

Because the Church is made up of people, it is not perfect.

People make mistakes.

Leaders are still growing.

Volunteers are still learning.

Families are still being restored.

Children are still developing.

But Jesus is faithful.

He continues building, correcting, strengthening, and purifying His Church.

This truth helps us serve with humility.

We do not expect perfection from ourselves or others, but we do pursue faithfulness, unity, growth, and love.

---

## Helping Children Understand the Church

Children can understand the Church in simple ways.

You might say:

"The Church is God's family."

"The Church is made of people who follow Jesus."

"The church building is where we gather, but the Church is the people."

"Children are part of the Church too."

"God gives everyone in His Church a way to love and serve."

These simple truths help children understand that they belong and that their faith matters now.

---

# If You Are Still Learning About the Church

Maybe you are still learning what it means to be part of a church family.

Maybe church has been part of your life for many years.

Maybe you are returning to church after time away.

Maybe you are still exploring faith and community.

Wherever you are in your journey, this module is designed to help you understand the biblical purpose of the Church and your role within it.

If you have questions about church membership, serving, faith, or belonging, write them in your notes and discuss them with your ministry leader during your scheduled meeting.

---

## Think About It

How would you explain the Church in your own words?

---

---

---

---

Why is it important for children to know they belong in the church family?

---

---

---

---

## Ministry Application

As you prepare to serve this week:

- Remember that Children's Ministry is part of the larger Church.
- Welcome children as valued members of the church family.

- Help children understand that church is more than a building.
  - Look for ways to connect the lesson to the mission of the Church.
  - Encourage children to worship, pray, learn, and serve.
  - Represent the heart of Jesus and Iglesia de Amor with love and humility.
- 

## Did You Know?

Children who feel connected to the larger church family are more likely to view church as a place where they belong, not just a place they attend. A child who feels known, loved, and included is more likely to develop a lasting connection to faith and community.

---

## Discussion Questions

1. What is the Church according to the Bible?

---

---

---

2. Why is the Church more than a building?

---

---

---

3. How does Children's Ministry help fulfill the mission of the Church?

---

---

---

4. What is one way you can help children feel like they belong at Iglesia de Amor?

---

---

---

---



# Lesson 2

## The Church as the Body of Christ

### Learning Objectives

After completing this lesson, you will be able to:

- Understand the biblical picture of the Church as the Body of Christ.
  - Recognize that every believer has an important role in the Church.
  - Explain why every ministry role matters.
  - Understand how Children's Ministry works together with the larger church.
  - Help children understand that they are part of God's family and can serve Him.
- 

### Key Scripture

#### 1 Corinthians 12:27 (NIV)

"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."

The Bible describes the Church as the Body of Christ. This means every believer has value, purpose, and a role to play. Just as a human body has many different parts that work together, the Church is made up of many people with different gifts, responsibilities, and callings.

---

### Why This Lesson Matters

Children's Ministry does not operate alone.

It is one part of the larger Body of Christ.

Every teacher, assistant, volunteer, student helper, ministry leader, pastor, parent, and child contributes to the life of the church in some way.

Understanding the Church as the Body of Christ helps us see ministry differently.

We are not simply filling positions.

We are serving together as members of one body.

When one part of the body is healthy, the whole body is strengthened.

When one part struggles, the rest of the body should respond with care and support.

This truth helps us serve with humility, unity, and purpose.

---

## **One Body, Many Parts**

A human body has many parts.

Eyes see.

Ears hear.

Hands serve.

Feet move.

The heart pumps blood.

Each part has a different function, but every part matters.

The Church works in a similar way.

Not everyone has the same role.

Some people preach.

Some teach.

Some lead worship.

Some welcome guests.

Some work with children.

Some serve in administration.

Some pray behind the scenes.

Some maintain the building.

Some encourage others.

Some give generously.

Some help quietly.

Every role matters because every role helps the Church fulfill its mission.

---

## **No Role Is Unimportant**

Sometimes people think visible roles are more important than hidden roles.

A person on a platform may seem more important than someone setting up chairs.

A teacher may seem more important than an assistant.

A director may seem more important than a volunteer.

But in the Body of Christ, every role matters.

A classroom cannot function well without people who prepare supplies.

Children cannot be safely cared for without assistants.

Families cannot feel welcomed without greeters.

Teachers cannot teach effectively without support.

Leaders cannot lead well without faithful teams.

God sees every act of service, even the ones people never notice.

---

## **Children's Ministry in the Body of Christ**

Children's Ministry is one important part of the Body of Christ.

It supports the Church by:

- Teaching children God's Word.
- Helping children know Jesus.
- Supporting parents and guardians.
- Creating a safe environment for children.

- Helping children grow as disciples.
- Preparing the next generation of believers.
- Allowing families to participate in worship and ministry.
- Strengthening the whole church family.

When Children's Ministry is healthy, the entire church is strengthened.

Families are supported.

Children are disciplined.

Volunteers are developed.

The mission of Iglesia de Amor moves forward.

---

## **Working Together in Unity**

The body cannot function well if its parts work against one another.

The same is true in the Church.

Unity matters.

Children's Ministry workers should seek to work in unity with:

- Pastors.
- Ministry leaders.
- Teachers.
- Assistants.
- Parents and guardians.
- Other church ministries.
- Fellow volunteers.
- Student helpers.

Unity does not mean everyone has the same personality, opinions, or preferences.

Unity means we are committed to the same mission and choose to work together in love.

At Iglesia de Amor, that mission is to make strong disciples of Jesus Christ to bring forth the Kingdom of God.

---

# Respecting Other Roles

Part of being the Body of Christ is respecting roles that are different from ours.

Not everyone will serve the same way.

Some people are gifted with organization.

Some are gifted with teaching.

Some are gifted with compassion.

Some are gifted with hospitality.

Some are gifted with creativity.

Some are gifted with leadership.

Some are gifted with prayer.

Instead of comparing roles, we should celebrate how God uses each person.

Comparison creates discouragement.

Gratitude creates unity.

When we honor one another, the whole ministry becomes healthier.

---

# Serving with Humility

The Body of Christ functions best when every person serves with humility.

Humility means we do not serve for recognition.

We do not seek attention.

We do not think our role is more important than someone else's.

We are willing to help wherever needed.

We are willing to learn.

We are willing to receive correction.

We are willing to support the team.

Jesus modeled humility throughout His ministry. He served others, welcomed children, washed His disciples' feet, and gave His life for us.

As His followers, we are called to serve with that same heart.

---

## **When One Part Hurts**

In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul teaches that when one part of the body suffers, every part suffers with it.

This means we should care when others are struggling.

In ministry, this may look like:

- Encouraging a tired volunteer.
- Praying for a family going through difficulty.
- Helping a teacher prepare supplies.
- Supporting a child who feels left out.
- Communicating respectfully during conflict.
- Offering help when someone is overwhelmed.
- Showing compassion instead of criticism.

A healthy church cares for its members.

Children's Ministry should reflect that same care.

---

## **Children Are Part of the Body**

Children are not separate from the Body of Christ.

They are part of the church family.

They may still be growing, learning, and developing, but they matter now.

Children can:

- Worship God.
- Pray.
- Learn Scripture.
- Encourage others.
- Serve in age-appropriate ways.
- Show kindness.
- Welcome friends.
- Share God's love.
- Grow as disciples.

When we treat children as valued members of the church family, we help them understand that they belong.

---

## Helping Children Understand the Body of Christ

Children can understand the Body of Christ through simple examples.

You might say:

"The Church is like a body. A body has many parts, and every part matters."

Or:

"God gives each person a special way to help and serve."

Or:

"Some people teach, some people sing, some people help, some people pray, and all of them are important."

You can also use an object lesson by talking about body parts.

Ask children:

"What would happen if your feet said they did not matter?"

"What would happen if your hands refused to help?"

"What would happen if your eyes stopped seeing?"

This helps children understand that every person has value in God's Church.

---

# Teamwork in Children's Ministry

Children's Ministry requires teamwork.

A strong team includes people who:

- Prepare.
- Teach.
- Assist.
- Pray.
- Greet families.
- Help children feel safe.
- Clean up.
- Communicate clearly.
- Encourage one another.
- Follow leadership.

No one should feel like they are serving alone.

When everyone works together, the ministry becomes stronger and children receive better care.

Teamwork is not just practical.

It is biblical.

It reflects the Body of Christ.

---

## If You Are Still Finding Your Place

Maybe you are still discovering where you fit in the Church.

That is okay.

Many people discover their place by serving, learning, asking questions, and receiving guidance.

You may not know all of your gifts yet.

You may not know what role you will have long-term.

But you can begin by being faithful where you are.

God often reveals our gifts and calling as we serve.

If you have questions about your role, your gifts, or your place in the church, write them in your notes and discuss them with your ministry leader during your scheduled meeting.

---

## Think About It

What role do you currently play in the Body of Christ?

---

---

---

---

Why is it important to remember that every role matters?

---

---

---

---

---

## Ministry Application

As you prepare to serve this week:

- Thank God for your role in the Body of Christ.
  - Encourage another Children's Ministry worker.
  - Look for one way to support your team.
  - Avoid comparing your role with someone else's role.
  - Help children understand that they belong in God's family.
  - Serve with humility, unity, and love.
  - Ask God to show you how your gifts can strengthen the Church.
-

## Did You Know?

Children often develop a stronger sense of belonging when they see adults serving together in unity. When ministry workers encourage one another, respect different roles, and work as one team, children learn that the Church is a loving family where everyone has a place.

---

## Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean that the Church is the Body of Christ?

---

---

2. Why does every role in the Church matter?

---

---

3. How does Children's Ministry strengthen the larger church?

---

---

4. What is one way you can help children understand that they are part of the church family?

---

---

---

## Personal Notes

Use this space to record important ideas, Scriptures, or questions you would like to discuss with your ministry leader.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Lesson Summary

The Bible describes the Church as the Body of Christ. Every believer has value, purpose, and a role to play. Children's Ministry is one important part of that Body, helping children know Jesus, supporting families, and strengthening the mission of the church. As Children's Ministry workers, we serve best when we work together with humility, unity, respect, and love. Every role matters, and every faithful act of service helps build up the Church that belongs to Jesus.

---

### Memory Verse

#### 1 Corinthians 12:27 (NIV)

"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it."

### Taking Your Next Step

This week, look for one way to encourage someone else in the Body of Christ. Thank another volunteer, help a teammate, pray for your ministry leader, or remind a child that they belong in God's family. Ask God to help you serve with humility and unity as part of the Church that Jesus is building.

# Lesson 3

## Children Belong in the Church

### Learning Objectives

After completing this lesson, you will be able to:

- Understand that children are valuable members of the church family.
  - Recognize that children are not only the future of the Church, but part of the Church today.
  - Explain why children should be welcomed, disciplined, and included in age-appropriate ways.
  - Identify practical ways Children's Ministry helps children feel that they belong.
  - Serve children with greater love, respect, and spiritual purpose.
- 

### Key Scripture

#### Mark 10:14 (NIV)

"Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

Jesus welcomed children when others tried to keep them away. His response shows us that children matter deeply to God. They should never be treated as interruptions, distractions, or less important members of the church family.

---

### Why This Lesson Matters

Children need to know they belong in the Church.

They are not simply waiting until they are older to matter to God.

They matter now.

They are not just the future of the Church.

They are part of the Church today.

Children can worship, pray, learn Scripture, serve, show kindness, ask questions, grow in faith, and experience the love of Jesus.

As Children's Ministry workers, one of our responsibilities is to help children understand that Iglesia de Amor is their church too.

When children feel welcomed, loved, and included, they are more likely to develop a lasting connection to God, the Church, and the people of God.

---

## **Jesus Welcomed Children**

In Mark 10, people brought children to Jesus so He could bless them.

The disciples tried to stop them.

But Jesus corrected the disciples and welcomed the children.

This teaches us something important:

Children are never a bother to Jesus.

They are never too young to receive His love.

They are never unimportant in His Kingdom.

Jesus did not push children aside.

He made room for them.

Children's Ministry should reflect the heart of Jesus by making room for children spiritually, emotionally, relationally, and physically.

---

## **Children Are Created in God's Image**

Every child is created in the image of God.

This means every child has value, dignity, and purpose.

Their value is not based on:

- How well they behave.
- How much they know.
- How outgoing they are.
- How easy they are to teach.
- Whether they come every week.
- Whether their family is already involved in church.

Every child matters because God made them and loves them.

This truth should shape the way we speak to children, correct children, teach children, and care for children.

---

## **Children Can Know God**

Some people underestimate children spiritually.

They may think children are too young to understand faith.

While children may not understand everything the same way adults do, they can begin knowing God in real and meaningful ways.

Children can learn that:

- God loves them.
- Jesus died and rose again.
- The Bible is God's Word.
- They can pray.
- God hears them.
- They can obey God.
- They can worship.
- They can show kindness.
- They can follow Jesus.

Children's faith should be nurtured, not dismissed.

---

## **Children Need Discipleship**

Children do not become disciples automatically.

They need to be taught, encouraged, corrected, loved, and guided.

Discipleship for children happens through:

- Bible teaching.
- Prayer.
- Worship.
- Scripture memory.
- Loving relationships.
- Classroom routines.
- Conversations.
- Encouragement.
- Parent partnership.
- Modeling Christlike character.

Every Children's Ministry class should help children take another step toward Jesus.

Even simple lessons can become powerful seeds of faith.

---

## **Belonging Builds Trust**

Children are more open to learning when they feel safe and known.

Belonging helps children trust their leaders and participate more fully.

Children feel they belong when adults:

- Learn their names.
- Welcome them warmly.
- Notice when they are absent.
- Listen to them.
- Encourage their participation.
- Respect their personalities.
- Celebrate their growth.
- Treat them with patience.
- Include them in age-appropriate ways.

Belonging is not created by words alone.

It is created through consistent love and attention.

---

## **Children Should Be Seen and Heard**

Sometimes adults unintentionally communicate that children should be quiet, invisible, or separate from church life.

While children do need age-appropriate structure, they should also know their voices matter.

Children can ask questions.

Children can share prayer requests.

Children can worship.

Children can participate in lessons.

Children can serve in simple ways.

Children can encourage others.

Children can learn to use their gifts.

A healthy church does not ignore children.

A healthy church disciplines them.

---

## **Children Belong in Worship**

Children may not always worship the same way adults do, but they can learn to worship God.

Children can worship through:

- Singing.
- Clapping.
- Prayer.
- Listening to Scripture.
- Giving thanks.
- Participating in age-appropriate worship.
- Learning songs that teach biblical truth.
- Responding to God with sincerity.

When children are taught that worship is for them too, they begin to understand that God desires a relationship with them personally.

---

# Children Belong in Service

Children can begin learning to serve at a young age.

Serving helps children understand that they are part of God's work.

Age-appropriate service may include:

- Helping clean up.
- Welcoming a new child.
- Sharing supplies.
- Praying for someone.
- Helping younger children.
- Participating in special events.
- Bringing an offering.
- Showing kindness to someone who feels left out.

Children do not need to wait until adulthood to learn servant leadership.

They can begin practicing it now.

---

# Children Need Safe Places to Grow

Children are still learning.

They will make mistakes.

They will ask unusual questions.

They will need reminders.

They will sometimes struggle to listen or participate.

A safe spiritual environment allows children to grow without shame.

This does not mean there are no boundaries.

Children need clear expectations and loving correction.

But correction should always communicate:

"You are loved."

"You are safe."

"You are learning."

"You still belong."

Discipline should guide children toward growth, not push them away from the Church.

---

## **Helping Children Feel Connected to Iglesia de Amor**

Children should know that Iglesia de Amor is not only their parents' church.

It is their church too.

We can help children feel connected by:

- Teaching the mission and vision in simple ways.
- Helping them understand they are part of God's family.
- Including them in church celebrations when appropriate.
- Praying for the pastors and church family.
- Talking about church events in class.
- Encouraging them to invite friends.
- Celebrating spiritual milestones.
- Helping them see that they have a place in the Body of Christ.

When children feel connected to the church, they are more likely to see faith as part of their life, not just their parents' life.

---

## **Partnering with Parents to Build Belonging**

Parents and guardians play a major role in helping children feel connected to the Church.

Children's Ministry can support parents by:

- Communicating what children are learning.
- Encouraging family conversations about faith.
- Welcoming parents warmly.
- Celebrating children's growth with families.

- Praying for families.
- Encouraging consistent attendance.
- Helping parents feel supported rather than judged.

When families feel welcomed, children feel more secure.

Church becomes a place of belonging for the whole family.

---

## **If You Are Still Finding Your Place**

Maybe you are still learning where you belong in the church.

Maybe you are new to Iglesia de Amor.

Maybe you are still growing in your faith or exploring what church community means.

That is okay.

Belonging often grows over time through worship, service, relationships, and discipleship.

As you help children understand that they belong, allow God to remind you that you are also invited to grow as part of His family.

If you have questions about belonging, membership, serving, or spiritual growth, write them in your notes and discuss them with your ministry leader during your scheduled meeting.

---

## **Think About It**

When have you felt like you truly belonged in a church, group, or community?

---

---

---

---

What helped you feel welcomed and valued?

---

---

---

---

---

# Ministry Application

As you prepare to serve this week:

- Learn and use each child's name.
  - Welcome every child warmly.
  - Look for a child who may feel left out and include them.
  - Remind children that they are part of God's family.
  - Encourage children to participate in prayer, worship, and learning.
  - Celebrate one child's growth or effort.
  - Help children understand that Iglesia de Amor is their church too.
- 

## Did You Know?

Children who feel known and valued by adults in the church are more likely to develop a strong sense of belonging. Simple actions like learning a child's name, listening carefully, and celebrating their growth can deeply influence how they view the Church.

---

## Discussion Questions

1. Why is it important for children to know they belong in the Church?

---

---

---

2. How did Jesus show that children matter to God?

---

---

---

3. What are some practical ways Children’s Ministry can help children feel welcomed and included?

---

---

---

4. How can you help children understand that they are part of Iglesia de Amor now, not just when they are older?

---

---

---

## Personal Notes

Use this space to record important ideas, Scriptures, or questions you would like to discuss with your ministry leader.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Lesson Summary

Children belong in the Church because they matter to God. Jesus welcomed children, blessed them, and showed that they have a place in His Kingdom. Children are not only the future of the Church; they are part of the Church today. As Children’s Ministry workers, we help children feel loved, known, included, and spiritually nurtured. When children understand that they belong in God’s family, they are more likely to grow in faith, participate in the life of the church, and develop a lasting relationship with Jesus.

---

## **Memory Verse**

### **Mark 10:14 (NIV)**

"Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

### **Taking Your Next Step**

This week, intentionally help one child feel more connected to the church family. Learn their name, invite them to participate, encourage their questions, or remind them that they are loved by God and belong at Iglesia de Amor. Ask God to help you see every child the way Jesus sees them.

# Lesson 4

## The Mission of the Church

### Learning Objectives

After completing this lesson, you will be able to:

- Understand the mission Jesus gave to the Church.
  - Explain why making disciples is central to the Church's purpose.
  - Recognize how Children's Ministry supports the mission of Iglesia de Amor.
  - Identify practical ways children can participate in the mission of the Church.
  - Serve with a greater sense of purpose and spiritual responsibility.
- 

### Key Scripture

#### Matthew 28:19–20 (NIV)

"Therefore 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."

Before Jesus returned to heaven, He gave His followers a clear mission. The Church was called to make disciples. This mission is not limited to pastors, missionaries, or adults. Every believer and every ministry has a role in helping people know Jesus, follow Him, and grow in faith.

---

### Why This Lesson Matters

The Church does not exist only to hold services, organize events, or provide programs.

The Church exists to fulfill the mission of Jesus Christ.

At Iglesia de Amor, our mission is:

"To make strong disciples of Jesus Christ to bring forth the Kingdom of God."

Children's Ministry is part of that mission.

Every Bible lesson, prayer, worship song, classroom activity, and relationship should help children grow as disciples of Jesus.

When we understand the mission of the Church, we begin to see Children's Ministry differently.

We are not simply filling a schedule.

We are not simply keeping children busy.

We are participating in the mission Jesus gave to His Church.

---

## **The Great Commission**

Matthew 28:19–20 is often called the Great Commission.

A commission is an assignment or responsibility given to someone.

Jesus gave His followers the assignment to make disciples of all nations.

This includes:

- Sharing the Gospel.
- Teaching people about Jesus.
- Helping believers grow.
- Baptizing new believers.
- Teaching obedience to God's Word.
- Continuing the work of discipleship.

The Great Commission is still the mission of the Church today.

Every ministry should support this calling.

Children's Ministry supports the Great Commission by helping children know Jesus and grow as His disciples.

---

## **What Is a Disciple?**

A disciple is someone who follows Jesus, learns from Him, obeys His Word, and grows to become more like Him.

A disciple is not simply someone who attends church.

A disciple is someone whose life is being shaped by Jesus.

Children can begin learning discipleship early.

They can learn to:

- Love Jesus.
- Pray.
- Read the Bible.
- Worship God.
- Obey God's Word.
- Show kindness.
- Forgive others.
- Share their faith.
- Serve others.

Children's Ministry helps children take these first steps of discipleship in ways they can understand.

---

## **Making Strong Disciples**

The mission of Iglesia de Amor is not only to make disciples, but to make strong disciples.

Strong disciples are believers who are growing in faith, rooted in God's Word, and prepared to follow Jesus in everyday life.

A strong disciple:

- Knows who Jesus is.
- Understands the Gospel.
- Loves God's Word.
- Prays regularly.
- Depends on the Holy Spirit.
- Participates in the Church.
- Serves others.
- Shares God's love.
- Continues growing spiritually.

Children can begin developing these foundations now.

When we teach children faithfully, we are helping build strong disciples for the future.

---

# The Kingdom of God

The mission of Iglesia de Amor includes bringing forth the Kingdom of God.

The Kingdom of God refers to God's rule, reign, and will being lived out in the world.

When people follow Jesus, love others, forgive, serve, share the Gospel, seek righteousness, and live according to God's Word, they are participating in God's Kingdom.

Children can begin understanding the Kingdom of God in simple ways.

You might explain:

"God's Kingdom is where God is King and people live His way."

Or:

"When we follow Jesus and obey God, we help show others what God's Kingdom is like."

Children can participate in God's Kingdom by loving others, praying, serving, sharing, forgiving, and obeying Jesus.

---

# Children's Ministry and the Mission

Children's Ministry directly supports the mission of the Church.

We make disciples when we:

- Teach children about Jesus.
- Share the Gospel clearly.
- Help children understand the Bible.
- Teach children to pray.
- Encourage worship.
- Model Christlike character.
- Help children learn to serve.
- Partner with parents.
- Create safe spaces for spiritual growth.
- Point every lesson back to Jesus.

Every Sunday is an opportunity to help children take another step in discipleship.

Even small moments can have eternal impact.

---

## **Mission Gives Purpose to Every Role**

When we understand the mission, every role becomes meaningful.

The teacher making a lesson plan is helping make disciples.

The assistant passing out supplies is helping create a space for discipleship.

The volunteer greeting families is helping children feel welcomed into God's family.

The person cleaning the classroom is preparing a safe space where children can learn about Jesus.

The student helper encouraging a younger child is modeling servant leadership.

No role is too small when it supports the mission of Jesus.

---

## **Children Can Participate in the Mission**

Children are not too young to participate in the mission of the Church.

They can:

- Invite friends to church.
- Pray for others.
- Share what they learned about Jesus.
- Show kindness at school.
- Help someone in need.
- Worship God.
- Give generously.
- Encourage family members.
- Serve in age-appropriate ways.
- Tell others that Jesus loves them.

When children understand that God can use them now, they begin seeing themselves as part of His work.

This helps them grow with purpose and confidence.

---

# The Mission Goes Beyond Sunday

The mission of the Church does not end when service is over.

Discipleship continues throughout the week.

Children should learn that following Jesus matters:

- At home.
- At school.
- With friends.
- With siblings.
- During sports.
- During difficult moments.
- In choices and attitudes.
- In how they treat others.

Children's Ministry helps children connect Sunday lessons to everyday life.

A strong disciple follows Jesus everywhere, not only at church.

---

# Partnering with Families in the Mission

Parents and guardians are essential partners in discipleship.

Children's Ministry cannot replace the home.

Instead, we support families by reinforcing biblical truth, encouraging spiritual conversations, and helping parents know what their children are learning.

We partner with families when we:

- Communicate lesson themes.
- Share memory verses.
- Encourage family prayer.
- Celebrate spiritual growth.
- Pray for parents and guardians.
- Provide encouragement and support.
- Treat families with love and respect.

When church and home work together, children are strengthened in their faith.

---

## Staying Focused on the Mission

It is easy for ministries to become distracted.

We can become focused on schedules, supplies, decorations, events, or routines.

These things matter, but they are not the mission.

The mission is making disciples.

When making decisions in Children's Ministry, we should ask:

- Does this help children know Jesus?
- Does this support spiritual growth?
- Does this help families?
- Does this reflect God's Word?
- Does this support the mission of Iglesia de Amor?
- Does this help bring forth the Kingdom of God?

Mission keeps ministry focused.

---

## If You Are Still Understanding the Mission

Maybe you are still learning what it means to make disciples.

Maybe this is your first time serving in a ministry role.

Maybe you are still growing in your own relationship with Jesus.

That is okay.

The Development Program is designed to help you grow step by step.

As you learn more about the mission of the Church, ask God to show you how your life and service can help others know Jesus.

If you have questions about discipleship, ministry, or your role at Iglesia de Amor, write them in your notes and discuss them with your ministry leader during your scheduled meeting.

---

## Think About It

What does the mission of the Church mean to you personally?

---

---

---

How does your role in Children's Ministry help make disciples?

---

---

---

---

## Ministry Application

As you prepare to serve this week:

- Remember that every role supports the mission of making disciples.
- Ask how your lesson or activity points children to Jesus.
- Help children understand one practical way to follow Jesus during the week.
- Encourage children to pray for someone or invite a friend.
- Partner with parents by sharing what children learned.
- Serve with purpose, knowing your role matters.
- Pray that Iglesia de Amor will continue making strong disciples.

---

## Did You Know?

Children often begin understanding mission through simple actions. When they pray for others, invite a friend, share kindness, or talk about Jesus at home, they are beginning to participate in the mission of the Church in age-appropriate ways.

---

## Discussion Questions

1. What mission did Jesus give to the Church?

---

---

---

2. What does it mean to make disciples?

---

---

---

3. How does Children’s Ministry support the mission of Iglesia de Amor?

---

---

---

4. What is one way children can participate in the mission of the Church?

---

---

---

---

## Personal Notes

Use this space to record important ideas, Scriptures, or questions you would like to discuss with your ministry leader.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## **Lesson Summary**

The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ. At Iglesia de Amor, this mission is expressed as making strong disciples of Jesus Christ to bring forth the Kingdom of God. Children's Ministry is an important part of that mission because children can know Jesus, grow in God's Word, pray, worship, serve, and follow Him now. Every role in Children's Ministry matters because every act of faithful service helps children and families take another step toward Jesus.

---

### **Memory Verse**

#### **Matthew 28:19 (NIV)**

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations..."

### **Taking Your Next Step**

This week, ask God to help you see your role in Children's Ministry as part of the mission of the Church. Before serving, pray that every child would grow closer to Jesus and take one step forward as His disciple. Look for one simple way to help children understand that they can follow Jesus and participate in God's mission wherever they go.

# Lesson 5

## Unity in the Church

### Learning Objectives

After completing this lesson, you will be able to:

- Understand why unity is important in the Church.
  - Recognize that unity is built through love, humility, respect, and shared mission.
  - Identify attitudes and behaviors that protect or damage unity.
  - Understand how unity affects Children's Ministry.
  - Help children learn how to love, forgive, and work together as part of God's family.
- 

### Key Scripture

#### Ephesians 4:3 (NIV)

"Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."

Unity is important to God. The Church is made up of many people with different personalities, backgrounds, cultures, languages, gifts, and experiences. Even with those differences, God calls His people to walk together in love, humility, peace, and shared purpose.

---

### Why This Lesson Matters

The Church cannot fulfill its mission well without unity.

When people work together in love, the Church becomes stronger.

When people allow division, gossip, pride, or conflict to grow, ministry becomes weaker.

Children's Ministry depends on unity.

Teachers, assistants, student helpers, ministry leaders, parents, pastors, and volunteers must work together to create a safe, loving, and Christ-centered environment for children.

Children also learn about unity by watching adults.

When they see ministry workers encouraging one another, communicating respectfully, resolving conflict with grace, and serving together with humility, they learn what Christian community should look like.

Unity is not just something we teach.

It is something we model.

---

## **What Is Unity?**

Unity does not mean everyone is exactly the same.

Unity does not mean everyone has the same personality, opinions, preferences, or ideas.

Unity means we are joined together around Jesus Christ and His mission.

At Iglesia de Amor, unity means we work together to make strong disciples of Jesus Christ and bring forth the Kingdom of God.

Unity means we choose love over pride.

Peace over drama.

Humility over control.

Encouragement over criticism.

Mission over personal preference.

Unity keeps our focus on Jesus.

---

## **Unity Begins with Jesus**

The Church is united because of Jesus.

We do not become one family because we are all alike.

We become one family because we belong to Christ.

Jesus brings people together who may otherwise be very different.

Different generations.

Different cultures.

Different languages.

Different personalities.

Different backgrounds.

Different gifts.

At Iglesia de Amor, this is especially important because we are a bilingual and multicultural church family. Unity allows us to honor both languages, love one another well, and serve together as one Body of Christ.

Our differences should not divide us.

When surrendered to Jesus, our differences can strengthen the Church.

---

## Unity Requires Humility

Pride damages unity.

Humility protects it.

Humility means we do not always insist on our own way.

It means we are willing to listen, learn, serve, apologize, and consider others.

In Children's Ministry, humility looks like:

- Receiving correction with a teachable spirit.
- Helping even when the task is not glamorous.
- Listening to ministry leaders.
- Respecting other volunteers.
- Admitting when we make a mistake.
- Being willing to learn from others.
- Putting children's needs above personal preference.

Humility helps ministry teams work together in a healthy way.

---

# Unity Requires Love

Love is the foundation of Christian unity.

Without love, unity becomes impossible.

Love helps us:

- Be patient with one another.
- Assume the best when possible.
- Speak kindly.
- Forgive quickly.
- Encourage others.
- Serve without needing recognition.
- Protect relationships.
- Value people more than preferences.

Children's Ministry workers should be known for love.

Children should see adults loving one another, not competing, criticizing, or complaining.

A loving team creates a loving classroom.

---

# Unity Requires Respect

Respect means treating others with honor and dignity.

In ministry, respect is shown through:

- Listening when others speak.
- Speaking kindly.
- Following leadership.
- Valuing different roles.
- Communicating clearly.
- Avoiding sarcasm or harsh words.
- Honoring confidentiality.
- Being dependable.
- Treating every person as someone made in the image of God.

Respect strengthens trust.

When people feel respected, they are more willing to serve, communicate, and grow.

---

# Unity Requires Healthy Communication

Many conflicts begin with poor communication.

Healthy communication helps protect unity.

Children's Ministry workers should communicate:

- Clearly
- Kindly
- Honestly
- Respectfully
- Promptly
- Through the proper leadership structure

If you have a question, ask.

If you are confused, seek clarification.

If you cannot serve, communicate as soon as possible.

If there is a concern, speak to the appropriate ministry leader instead of discussing it with others.

Healthy communication prevents confusion and protects relationships.

---

## Avoiding Gossip

Gossip damages unity.

Gossip means sharing information, criticism, or concerns with people who are not part of the solution.

Even if something is true, it may still be wrong to share it with the wrong person.

Gossip can hurt people, create division, damage trust, and weaken ministry.

If you have a concern, take it to the proper ministry leader.

Do not discuss private matters with other volunteers, parents, children, or friends.

Protecting unity means protecting one another's dignity.

---

## Handling Conflict Biblically

Conflict can happen in any ministry because people are still growing.

The goal is not to pretend conflict never happens.

The goal is to handle conflict in a way that honors Jesus.

When conflict occurs:

- Pray first.
- Check your own heart.
- Speak respectfully.
- Listen carefully.
- Avoid gossip.
- Seek understanding.
- Involve ministry leadership when needed.
- Pursue peace and restoration.

Unity does not mean ignoring problems.

It means addressing problems with maturity, humility, and love.

---

## Unity in Children's Ministry

Children's Ministry requires many people working together.

Unity is needed between:

- Teachers and assistants.
- Volunteers and ministry leaders.
- Children's Ministry and parents.
- Children's Ministry and pastoral leadership.
- Student helpers and adult leaders.
- Children's Ministry and the larger church.

When the team is united, children benefit.

Classrooms are calmer.

Communication is clearer.

Parents feel more confident.

Volunteers feel supported.

Ministry becomes more effective.

Unity creates a healthy environment for discipleship.

---

## Teaching Children Unity

Children also need to learn unity.

They may struggle with sharing, kindness, forgiveness, patience, or including others.

Children's Ministry gives children a safe place to practice Christian community.

We can teach children to:

- Love one another.
- Share.
- Listen.
- Forgive.
- Include others.
- Use kind words.
- Pray for each other.
- Work together.
- Celebrate differences.
- Help those who are struggling.

When children learn unity early, they begin understanding what it means to be part of God's family.

---

## Unity Does Not Mean Ignoring Differences

Unity does not erase differences.

In the Church, differences can become a gift when they are submitted to Christ.

Different people bring different strengths.

Some are organized.

Some are creative.

Some are gentle.

Some are bold.

Some are quiet encouragers.

Some are strong leaders.

Some are prayerful supporters.

Some serve behind the scenes.

A unified church does not demand that everyone be the same.

A unified church learns to honor different gifts while staying focused on one mission.

---

## **Protecting Unity Through Servant Leadership**

Servant leadership protects unity because it puts others first.

A servant leader asks:

- How can I help?
- How can I encourage?
- How can I support the mission?
- How can I build others up?
- How can I make this easier for the team?
- How can I honor Christ in this situation?

When every ministry worker serves with this attitude, unity grows stronger.

Servant leadership shifts the focus from "me" to "we."

---

# If Unity Has Been Difficult for You

Maybe you have experienced hurt, conflict, or division in church before.

Maybe unity feels difficult because of past experiences.

Maybe you are still learning how to work with others in ministry.

That is okay.

God can heal, teach, and grow us.

Unity does not mean pretending past hurts did not happen.

It means allowing God to shape our hearts so we can walk in love, wisdom, and peace.

If you have questions or concerns about teamwork, communication, or conflict, write them in your notes and discuss them with your ministry leader during your scheduled meeting.

---

## Think About It

What does unity in the Church mean to you?

---

---

---

---

What is one attitude or habit that helps protect unity?

---

---

---

---

## Ministry Application

As you prepare to serve this week:

- Pray for unity in Children's Ministry.
  - Encourage another volunteer or ministry leader.
  - Communicate clearly and respectfully.
  - Avoid gossip and protect confidentiality.
  - Look for one way to help your team.
  - Choose humility when your preferences are different from someone else's.
  - Teach children to love, forgive, and include others.
- 

## Did You Know?

Children often learn how to treat others by watching the adults around them. When ministry workers speak kindly, resolve conflict peacefully, and serve together with joy, children learn that God's family is meant to be loving, united, and safe.

---

## Discussion Questions

1. Why is unity important in the Church?

---

---

---

2. What is the difference between unity and everyone being exactly the same?

---

---

---

3. How can gossip damage ministry unity?

---

---

---

4. What is one way you can help protect unity in Children's Ministry?

---

---

---

---

## Personal Notes

Use this space to record important ideas, Scriptures, or questions you would like to discuss with your ministry leader.

---

---

---

---

## Lesson Summary

Unity is essential to the health and mission of the Church. The Church is made up of many people with different gifts, personalities, backgrounds, and experiences, but we are united in Jesus Christ and His mission. In Children's Ministry, unity helps create a safe, loving, and effective environment for discipleship. As ministry workers, we protect unity through humility, love, respect, healthy communication, confidentiality, and servant leadership. When children see unity modeled by adults, they learn what it means to belong to the family of God.

---

### Memory Verse

#### Ephesians 4:3 (NIV)

"Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."

### Taking Your Next Step

This week, ask God to help you protect unity in the ministry. Look for one practical way to encourage your team, communicate clearly, or serve with humility. As you work with others, remember that unity is not built by sameness, but by shared love for Jesus and commitment to His mission.

# Lesson 6

## Serving the Body of Christ

### Learning Objectives

After completing this lesson, you will be able to:

- Understand that serving is an important part of the Christian life.
  - Recognize that every believer has a role in the Body of Christ.
  - Explain why serving should be done with humility, love, and faithfulness.
  - Understand how Children's Ministry serves the whole church.
  - Help children learn that they can serve God and others in age-appropriate ways.
- 

### Key Scripture

#### 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

God gives every believer gifts, abilities, opportunities, and resources that can be used to serve others. Serving is not only a task we complete. It is one way we show the love of Christ and help build up His Church.

---

### Why This Lesson Matters

The Church is strongest when every person serves faithfully in their role.

Children's Ministry is one of the clearest examples of this truth. Every Sunday, many people work together so children can be welcomed, protected, taught, loved, and disciplined.

Some serve by teaching.

Some serve by assisting.

Some serve by preparing supplies.

Some serve by welcoming families.

Some serve by praying.

Some serve by cleaning classrooms.

Some serve by organizing schedules.

Some serve by helping children feel safe and included.

Every act of service matters.

When we understand that we are serving the Body of Christ, even the smallest task becomes meaningful.

---

## **Serving Is Part of Following Jesus**

Jesus did not come to be served, but to serve.

Throughout His ministry, Jesus cared for people, healed the sick, welcomed children, fed the hungry, taught truth, washed His disciples' feet, and gave His life for us.

Serving was not separate from His mission.

It was part of His mission.

As followers of Jesus, we are called to serve others with the same heart.

Serving in Children's Ministry is one way we follow the example of Christ.

We serve because Jesus served us first.

---

## **Serving Is Not About Position**

In the Kingdom of God, greatness is not measured by title, visibility, or recognition.

Greatness is measured by humility and faithfulness.

Some ministry roles are visible.

Others happen behind the scenes.

But God sees every act of service.

Passing out crayons matters.

Cleaning a classroom matters.

Comforting a nervous child matters.

Preparing a lesson matters.

Greeting a parent matters.

Praying for a family matters.

Helping another volunteer matters.

No act of service is wasted when it is done for the Lord.

---

## **Serving with Humility**

Humility means we serve without needing attention or praise.

A humble servant does not ask:

"Will people notice me?"

Instead, they ask:

"How can I help?"

"How can I bless someone?"

"How can I support the mission?"

"How can I make this easier for the team?"

Humility keeps our hearts focused on Jesus.

In Children's Ministry, humility helps us serve wherever we are needed, whether the task feels important or ordinary.

---

## Serving with Love

Service without love can become cold, frustrating, or task-focused.

Love reminds us why we serve.

We are not simply completing assignments.

We are loving children, families, volunteers, and the church.

Serving with love means:

- Welcoming children warmly.
- Being patient with those who are still learning.
- Encouraging fellow volunteers.
- Speaking kindly.
- Helping without complaining.
- Caring about people more than tasks.
- Remembering that every child matters to God.

Love gives meaning to service.

---

## Serving with Faithfulness

Faithfulness means being dependable and consistent.

In Children's Ministry, faithfulness matters because children and families depend on us.

Faithfulness includes:

- Arriving on time.
- Preparing before serving.
- Communicating if you cannot attend.
- Following through on responsibilities.
- Being present and engaged.
- Supporting your team.
- Continuing to grow spiritually.

Faithful service builds trust.

When children see the same caring adults serving consistently, they feel safer and more connected.

---

## **Serving with Excellence**

Excellence means giving God our best.

It does not mean perfection.

It means preparation, care, responsibility, and a desire to honor the Lord.

Serving with excellence may include:

- Reading the lesson before Sunday.
- Preparing materials.
- Keeping classrooms clean.
- Following safety procedures.
- Communicating clearly.
- Paying attention to children's needs.
- Looking for ways to improve.
- Serving with a positive attitude.

Excellence communicates that children and families matter.

---

## **Children's Ministry Serves the Whole Church**

Children's Ministry does not only serve children.

It serves the entire church family.

Children's Ministry supports parents by helping disciple their children.

It supports worship services by providing a safe place for children to learn at their level.

It supports the mission of the church by helping make strong disciples.

It supports future generations by building spiritual foundations early.

It supports families by creating trust, care, and partnership.

When Children's Ministry is healthy, the whole church is strengthened.

---

## Every Role Works Together

Children's Ministry requires many different roles.

A teacher may lead the lesson, but the assistant helps create order.

A director may organize the ministry, but volunteers help carry it out.

A greeter may welcome a family, but the classroom team continues that welcome.

A student helper may assist with supplies, but their kindness may encourage a younger child.

Every role works together.

No one should feel unimportant.

The Body of Christ is healthiest when every person serves faithfully in their part.

---

## Serving Helps Us Grow

Serving does not only bless others.

It also helps us grow.

Through serving, God teaches us:

- Patience.
- Humility.
- Responsibility.
- Compassion.
- Teamwork.
- Faithfulness.
- Dependence on the Holy Spirit.
- Love for people.
- Perseverance.

Sometimes serving reveals areas where we still need growth.

That is not a bad thing.

God often uses ministry to shape our character and make us more like Jesus.

---

## Helping Children Learn to Serve

Children can begin learning to serve at a young age.

They may not serve the same way adults do, but they can still participate in God's work.

Children can serve by:

- Helping clean up.
- Sharing supplies.
- Welcoming a new child.
- Praying for someone.
- Encouraging a friend.
- Helping younger children.
- Participating in outreach opportunities.
- Showing kindness.
- Giving generously.
- Listening and obeying.

When we give children age-appropriate opportunities to serve, we help them understand that they are part of the Body of Christ.

---

## Serving Without Comparison

It is easy to compare our role with someone else's.

A person may think:

"I only assist."

"I only clean."

"I only prepare supplies."

"I am not the teacher."

"I am not the leader."

But in God's Kingdom, faithfulness matters more than visibility.

The goal is not to have the most noticed role.

The goal is to serve Jesus well.

Comparison can lead to pride, insecurity, or discouragement.

Gratitude helps us serve with joy.

---

## **Serving When It Is Difficult**

There will be times when serving feels hard.

You may feel tired.

You may feel unappreciated.

You may face a difficult classroom.

You may need to serve when it is inconvenient.

In those moments, remember that you are serving the Lord.

Colossians 3:23 reminds us to work with all our heart as working for the Lord.

God sees your faithfulness.

He strengthens those who serve Him.

---

## **If You Are Still Discovering How to Serve**

Maybe you are still learning where you fit in ministry.

Maybe you are not sure what your gifts are.

Maybe you feel nervous about serving.

That is okay.

Many people discover their gifts by serving faithfully over time.

Start where you are.

Remain teachable.

Ask questions.

Receive feedback.

Pray for guidance.

God often reveals purpose as we take faithful steps of obedience.

If you have questions about your role or how you can serve more effectively, write them in your notes and discuss them with your ministry leader during your scheduled meeting.

---

## Think About It

What does serving the Body of Christ mean to you?

---

---

---

---

What is one way serving in Children's Ministry can help you grow spiritually?

---

---

---

---

## Ministry Application

As you prepare to serve this week:

Thank God for the opportunity to serve.

- Arrive prepared and ready to help.
  - Look for one way to support another volunteer.
  - Serve with humility, even in small tasks.
  - Encourage a child to serve in an age-appropriate way.
  - Avoid comparing your role with someone else's role.
  - Remember that every act of service matters to God.
- 

## **Did You Know?**

Children often learn servant leadership by watching adults serve joyfully. When children see volunteers helping, teaching, cleaning, praying, welcoming, and encouraging without complaining, they begin to understand that serving is a normal part of following Jesus.

---

## **Discussion Questions**

1. Why is serving an important part of following Jesus?

---

---

---

2. Why does every role in Children's Ministry matter?

---

---

---

3. How can serving help you grow spiritually?

---

---

---

4. What is one age-appropriate way children can learn to serve?

---

---

---

---

## Personal Notes

Use this space to record important ideas, Scriptures, or questions you would like to discuss with your ministry leader.

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Lesson Summary

Serving the Body of Christ is an important part of the Christian life. Every believer has a role, and every act of faithful service matters to God. In Children's Ministry, serving with humility, love, faithfulness, and excellence helps children experience the love of Jesus and strengthens the entire church. As we serve, God also shapes our own hearts and helps us grow as disciples. Children can also begin learning to serve in age-appropriate ways, discovering that they belong in God's family and can participate in His work.

---

### Memory Verse

#### 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

### Taking Your Next Step

This week, choose one simple way to serve beyond your assigned responsibility. Encourage a teammate, help prepare a classroom, pray for a family, or assist a child who needs extra care. Ask God to help you serve with humility and joy, remembering that every faithful act of service strengthens the Body of Christ and honors Jesus.

# Lesson 7

## Partnering with Families in the Church

### Learning Objectives

After completing this lesson, you will be able to:

- Understand the importance of partnering with parents and guardians.
  - Recognize that families are central to the spiritual growth of children.
  - Explain how Children's Ministry supports, but does not replace, the home.
  - Identify practical ways to encourage and communicate with families.
  - Serve children and families with respect, humility, and care.
- 

### Key Scripture

#### Deuteronomy 6:6–7 (NIV)

"These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children."

God designed families to play a major role in the spiritual formation of children. Parents and guardians have daily opportunities to teach, model, and reinforce faith in the home. Children's Ministry partners with families by supporting, encouraging, and strengthening what God desires to do in each household.

---

### Why This Lesson Matters

Children's Ministry does not exist apart from families.

Every child who enters the classroom comes from a home, a family system, and a life outside of church. Some children come from homes where faith is actively taught. Others may be the first or only person in their family learning about Jesus.

Some families are strong and stable.

Some families are hurting.

Some parents feel confident discipling their children.

Others feel unsure, overwhelmed, or new to faith themselves.

As Children's Ministry workers, we should never view parents or guardians as separate from the ministry. They are essential partners in the spiritual development of children.

When Children's Ministry and families work together, children are strengthened.

---

## **Parents Are the Primary Spiritual Influence**

Children spend far more time with their families than they do at church.

This means parents and guardians have the greatest opportunity to shape a child's faith.

Children watch how their families pray, speak, forgive, worship, serve, and make decisions.

Children's Ministry should never attempt to replace the home.

Instead, we come alongside families by:

- Teaching biblical truth.
- Encouraging spiritual conversations.
- Supporting parents.
- Praying for households.
- Celebrating children's growth.
- Providing tools when possible.
- Reinforcing what children are learning at church.

The strongest discipleship happens when church and home work together.

---

## **Supporting, Not Replacing**

It is important to remember that Children's Ministry supports the family.

We are not the child's parent.

We are not the child's guardian.

We are not the final authority in the child's life.

Our role is to serve with humility and respect.

This means we should:

- Honor parents and guardians.
- Communicate respectfully.
- Avoid judging families.
- Follow church policies.
- Encourage spiritual growth.
- Partner with leadership when concerns arise.
- Support the family's role in discipleship.

A healthy Children's Ministry strengthens families rather than competing with them.

---

## **Building Trust with Families**

Parents and guardians trust us with their children.

That trust is built over time.

We build trust when we:

- Greet families warmly.
- Learn children's names.
- Follow safety procedures.
- Communicate clearly.
- Keep classrooms organized.
- Handle concerns wisely.
- Respect confidentiality.
- Show genuine care.
- Follow through on what we say.
- Represent Christ with integrity.

Trust is essential in Children's Ministry.

When families trust the ministry, they are more likely to feel supported, connected, and encouraged.

---

## **Communicating with Parents and Guardians**

Clear communication helps families feel informed and cared for.

Communication may include:

- Welcoming parents at check-in or pickup.
- Sharing what children learned.
- Letting parents know about upcoming events.
- Reporting concerns appropriately.
- Celebrating a child's progress.
- Encouraging continued conversation at home.
- Directing questions to the Children's Ministry Director when needed.

Communication should always be respectful, brief, and appropriate.

If a conversation requires more time or involves a sensitive issue, involve the Children's Ministry Director or ministry leader.

---

## Sharing What Children Are Learning

One simple way to partner with families is to tell parents what their child learned.

For example:

"Today we learned that Jesus calms the storm and that we can trust Him when we are afraid."

Or:

"Our memory verse today was Psalm 119:105. You might practice it together at home this week."

Or:

"We talked about kindness today and how God helps us use words that build others up."

These short conversations help parents continue discipleship at home.

Even a brief update can make a difference.

---

## Encouraging Parents

Many parents and guardians carry heavy responsibilities.

Some may feel tired, discouraged, or unsure if they are doing enough.

A kind word from a ministry worker can be very meaningful.

You might say:

"We are so glad your family is here today."

"Your child asked a thoughtful question in class."

"We loved having your child today."

"We are praying for your family."

"Thank you for trusting us with your child."

Encouragement helps families feel seen and supported.

Children's Ministry should be a place where families experience grace, not pressure.

---

## **Respecting Family Differences**

Every family is different.

Families may differ in:

- Culture.
- Language.
- Parenting style.
- Church background.
- Spiritual maturity.
- Family structure.
- Life experience.
- Schedule.
- Needs and challenges.

At Iglesia de Amor, we serve families with love and respect.

We should avoid assumptions.

We should listen well.

We should honor people's dignity.

We should serve with patience and humility.

Our goal is not to criticize families.

Our goal is to love them, support them, and point them toward Jesus.

---

## **Confidentiality with Families**

Families may share personal information with ministry workers.

Children may also share things about their home or family.

This information should be handled with care.

Do not repeat private details to others.

Do not discuss family matters with other volunteers unless leadership has directed you to do so.

Do not share stories publicly without permission.

Do not post about children or families online without following ministry policy.

Confidentiality protects trust.

If a situation involves safety, abuse, neglect, self-harm, violence, or serious concern, notify the Children's Ministry Director or ministry leader immediately according to ministry policy.

Confidentiality does not mean keeping unsafe secrets.

---

## **Partnering During Challenges**

Sometimes a child may struggle with behavior, transitions, anxiety, sadness, or participation.

These situations should be handled with wisdom and teamwork.

When appropriate, Children's Ministry may partner with parents by:

- Asking what helps the child.

- Sharing classroom observations respectfully.
- Creating a consistent plan.
- Encouraging the child together.
- Praying for the family.
- Involving ministry leadership when needed.

Parents and guardians often know what helps their child best.

A humble partnership can help create a better experience for everyone.

---

## **Helping Families Continue Faith at Home**

Children's Ministry can encourage simple spiritual habits at home.

Families can be encouraged to:

- Pray together.
- Read a Bible story.
- Practice the memory verse.
- Talk about the Sunday lesson.
- Worship together.
- Serve together.
- Practice forgiveness and kindness.
- Ask children what they learned at church.

Do not make families feel guilty if they are still learning.

Encourage small steps.

Even one simple spiritual conversation at home can be meaningful.

---

## **Children's Ministry and the Vision of Iglesia de Amor**

Partnering with families connects directly to the vision of Iglesia de Amor:

"To bring salvation and complete restoration one family at a time."

Children's Ministry is one way this vision becomes practical.

As children grow spiritually, families are encouraged.

As parents feel supported, homes are strengthened.

As families encounter Jesus, restoration begins.

Every child represents a family.

Every family matters to God.

When we partner with families, we are participating in God's work of salvation and restoration.

---

## **If Family Ministry Feels New to You**

Maybe you feel comfortable with children but nervous talking with parents.

That is normal.

Start simple.

Smile.

Greet families.

Share one positive comment.

Ask your ministry leader for guidance.

You do not need to have long or complicated conversations.

Small, sincere moments of connection help build trust over time.

If you are unsure how to handle a parent question or concern, direct them to the Children's Ministry Director or ministry leader.

---

## **Think About It**

How can Children's Ministry support parents without replacing their role?

---

---

---

---

What is one simple way you can encourage a parent or guardian this week?

---

---

---

---

## Ministry Application

As you prepare to serve this week:

- Greet parents and guardians warmly.
  - Share one positive comment about a child when appropriate.
  - Tell a parent what the class learned.
  - Pray for the families represented in your classroom.
  - Respect confidentiality.
  - Avoid assumptions about families.
  - Direct sensitive concerns to the Children's Ministry Director or ministry leader.
- 

## Did You Know?

Children are more likely to grow spiritually when church and home reinforce the same biblical truths. Even simple communication between ministry workers and parents can help continue discipleship beyond Sunday.

---

## Discussion Questions

1. Why are parents and guardians important partners in Children's Ministry?



teaching, prayer, encouragement, communication, and care. As Children's Ministry workers, we build trust by serving with respect, confidentiality, humility, and love. When church and home work together, children are strengthened, families are encouraged, and the vision of Iglesia de Amor is lived out one family at a time.

---

## **Memory Verse**

### **Deuteronomy 6:6–7 (NIV)**

"These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children."

## **Taking Your Next Step**

This week, look for one simple way to partner with a family. Share what their child learned, offer an encouraging word, pray for their household, or help a parent feel welcomed and supported. Ask God to help you see every child and every family as part of His work of salvation, discipleship, and restoration.

# Lesson 8

## Children's Ministry and the Life of the Church

### Learning Objectives

After completing this lesson, you will be able to:

- Understand how Children's Ministry connects to the larger life of the church.
  - Recognize that Children's Ministry is part of the mission, worship, discipleship, and community of Iglesia de Amor.
  - Identify ways children can be included in the life of the church in age-appropriate ways.
  - Understand the importance of communication between Children's Ministry and church leadership.
  - Serve with a greater awareness of how your role strengthens the whole church family.
- 

### Key Scripture

#### Psalm 145:4 (NIV)

"One generation commends Your works to another; they tell of Your mighty acts."

God's design has always included one generation passing faith to the next. Children's Ministry is one of the ways the church teaches the next generation about God's goodness, His Word, His power, and His love.

---

### Why This Lesson Matters

Children's Ministry is not separate from the church.

It is part of the life of the church.

Sometimes people unintentionally think of Children's Ministry as something that happens "downstairs," "in the classroom," or "while the adults are in service." But Children's Ministry is not a separate program operating apart from the rest of Iglesia de Amor.

It is a vital ministry that supports the mission of the church, strengthens families, develops future leaders, and helps children grow as disciples of Jesus Christ.

When Children's Ministry is healthy, the whole church is strengthened.

When children are loved, taught, protected, disciplined, and included, the entire church family benefits.

---

## **Children's Ministry Supports the Mission**

The mission of Iglesia de Amor is:

"To make strong disciples of Jesus Christ to bring forth the Kingdom of God."

Children's Ministry directly supports this mission.

We make disciples when we:

- Teach children about Jesus.
- Help children understand the Gospel.
- Teach children to pray.
- Help children learn God's Word.
- Encourage children to worship.
- Model Christlike character.
- Partner with families.
- Help children learn to serve.
- Create a safe place for spiritual growth.

Children's Ministry is not childcare.

It is discipleship.

It is one of the most important ways the church invests in the next generation.

---

## **Children's Ministry Supports the Vision**

The vision of Iglesia de Amor is:

"To bring salvation and complete restoration one family at a time."

Every child represents a family.

When a child learns about Jesus, a family can be encouraged.

When a parent feels supported, a home can be strengthened.

When children grow in faith, spiritual conversations may continue at home.

When families are loved and welcomed, they become more connected to the church.

Children's Ministry helps fulfill the vision of Iglesia de Amor by serving children and supporting the families connected to them.

God often works through children to touch entire households.

---

## **Children's Ministry and Worship**

Children are worshipers.

They may not worship exactly like adults, but they can learn to honor God with sincere hearts.

Children's Ministry helps children worship by teaching them to:

- Sing to God.
- Pray.
- Listen to Scripture.
- Give thanks.
- Respond to God's Word.
- Participate respectfully.
- Understand that worship is about honoring God.

Whenever children are included in churchwide worship moments, special services, baptisms, celebrations, or family services, they begin to understand that worship belongs to them too.

They are not just watching adults worship.

They are learning to worship God personally.

---

## **Children's Ministry and Discipleship**

Discipleship is the heart of Children's Ministry.

Children's Ministry teaches children the foundational truths they need to grow in faith.

These include:

- Who God is.
- Who Jesus is.
- What the Gospel means.
- Why the Bible matters.
- How to pray.
- How to follow Jesus.
- How to love others.
- How to obey God's Word.
- How to serve.
- How to be part of the Church.

Discipleship does not happen in one lesson.

It happens over time through consistent teaching, loving relationships, prayer, repetition, and example.

Every Sunday is another opportunity to help children take one step closer to Jesus.

---

## Children's Ministry and Community

The Church is a family.

Children need Christian community just like adults do.

In Children's Ministry, children begin learning how to live in community by practicing:

- Sharing.
- Listening.
- Forgiving.
- Encouraging.
- Praying for others.
- Respecting leaders.
- Including others.
- Serving together.
- Celebrating one another.
- Showing kindness.

These may seem like simple classroom behaviors, but they are actually part of discipleship.

Children are learning how to live as part of God's family.

---

## **Children's Ministry and Leadership Development**

Children's Ministry also helps develop future leaders.

Some children who are discipled today may become:

- Teachers.
- Worship leaders.
- Pastors.
- Missionaries.
- Parents who disciple their children.
- Church volunteers.
- Ministry leaders.
- Servant leaders in their schools and communities.

Leadership development can begin early.

When children learn to pray, serve, encourage others, participate, and take responsibility, they are developing habits of servant leadership.

Student helpers also have the opportunity to grow as they serve under adult supervision.

Children's Ministry helps prepare the next generation to love and serve God faithfully.

---

## **Children's Ministry and Churchwide Events**

Children's Ministry often plays an important role in churchwide events.

This may include:

- Special services.
- Baptisms.
- Family events.
- Holiday celebrations.

- Outreach events.
- Community events.
- Worship nights.
- Volunteer appreciation.
- Discipleship events.
- Ministry training.

When children are included appropriately, they learn that they are part of the larger church family.

When Children's Ministry workers support churchwide events, they help create a welcoming environment for families.

Events become more effective when children and families are considered, welcomed, and cared for.

---

## **Communication with Church Leadership**

Because Children's Ministry is part of the larger church, communication with leadership matters.

Healthy communication helps ensure that Children's Ministry stays aligned with the mission, vision, values, and policies of Iglesia de Amor.

Children's Ministry workers should communicate with the appropriate ministry leader about:

- Classroom needs.
- Safety concerns.
- Volunteer needs.
- Parent concerns.
- Supply needs.
- Behavior concerns.
- Event needs.
- Questions about curriculum.
- Ideas for improvement.
- Sensitive situations.

Clear communication protects children, supports families, and strengthens the ministry.

---

## **Supporting Other Ministries**

Children's Ministry also supports other ministries in the church.

When children are safely cared for and disciplined, parents can participate more fully in worship, teaching, serving, and fellowship.

Children's Ministry supports:

- Worship services.
- Small groups.
- Family events.
- Outreach.
- Leadership development.
- Volunteer teams.
- Pastoral ministry.
- Churchwide discipleship.

This does not mean Children's Ministry exists only to help adults. Children are the primary focus of the ministry. However, when Children's Ministry serves children well, the whole church is strengthened.

---

## **Helping Children See the Bigger Church Family**

Children need to understand that Iglesia de Amor is bigger than their classroom.

They are part of a church family that includes:

- Pastors.
- Ministry leaders.
- Worship teams.
- Volunteers.
- Parents.
- Teens.
- Adults.
- Seniors.
- Guests.
- Mission partners.
- Other children.

You can help children see the larger church family by:

- Praying for pastors and leaders.

- Talking about church events.
- Celebrating baptisms and testimonies.
- Encouraging children to greet others kindly.
- Teaching them about serving.
- Helping them understand the church's mission.
- Reminding them that they belong.

When children understand the bigger picture, they begin to see themselves as part of God's work.

---

## **Children's Ministry Reflects the Heart of the Church**

The way we serve children says something about what we value as a church.

When we serve children with excellence, we show that they matter.

When we protect children carefully, we show that safety matters.

When we teach Scripture faithfully, we show that God's Word matters.

When we welcome families warmly, we show that people matter.

When we partner with parents, we show that family matters.

When we disciple children intentionally, we show that the next generation matters.

Children's Ministry reflects the heart of Iglesia de Amor.

---

## **If You Are Still Learning How the Church Works**

Maybe you are still learning how different ministries fit together.

Maybe you are new to serving.

Maybe you are still discovering your role in the church family.

That is okay.

The more you serve, ask questions, attend meetings, communicate with leaders, and participate in church life, the more you will understand how Children's Ministry connects to the whole church.

If you have questions about church structure, ministry leadership, events, or your role, write them in your notes and discuss them with your ministry leader during your scheduled meeting.

---

## Think About It

How does Children's Ministry strengthen the whole church?

---

---

---

---

What is one way you can help children feel connected to the larger church family?

---

---

---

---

## Ministry Application

As you prepare to serve this week:

- Remember that Children's Ministry is part of the larger mission of Iglesia de Amor.
- Pray for the pastors, leaders, volunteers, children, and families of the church.
- Help children understand that they belong in the church family.
- Communicate clearly with your ministry leader.
- Look for ways to support churchwide events when appropriate.
- Teach children that they can worship, pray, serve, and grow now.

Serve with awareness that your role strengthens the whole church.

---

## Did You Know?

Children who understand they are part of the larger church family are more likely to feel connected, valued, and spiritually engaged. When children see that they belong not only in a classroom but in the church as a whole, they begin to develop a stronger sense of identity as part of the Body of Christ.

---

## Discussion Questions

1. How does Children's Ministry support the mission and vision of Iglesia de Amor?

---

---

---

2. Why is Children's Ministry more than a separate classroom program?

---

---

---

3. What are some ways children can participate in the life of the church?

---

---

---

4. Why is communication with ministry leadership important?

---

---

---

## Personal Notes

Use this space to record important ideas, Scriptures, or questions you would like to discuss with your ministry leader.



---

# Assignment Submission

Email your completed reflection to:

[iglesiadeamor918@outlook.com](mailto:iglesiadeamor918@outlook.com)

Subject Line:

Children's Ministry Development Program – Module 6 Assignment – [Your Full Name]

Your assignment will be reviewed by a ministry leader before you continue to the next module.

---

## Next Step

Congratulations! You have completed Module 6: The Church.

After submitting your assignment:

1. Return to the Children's Ministry Development Program main page.
2. Click "Schedule Meeting with Ministry Leader."
3. Meet with your ministry leader to:
  - Review your reflection.
  - Ask questions about this module.
  - Discuss how Children's Ministry connects to the life of the church.
  - Pray together before moving forward.

Once your assignment has been reviewed and your meeting has been completed, you may begin Module 7: Servant Leadership.