

General Sunday School Association

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Dear Sunday School teachers and families,

For the next 6 issues, GSSA's plan is to publish lessons about our foundational church beliefs and what makes us so special. Our goal is to simplify these topics for the understanding of our young people. We suggest creating a bulletin board with the title **"Church of Christ History and Beliefs"** A document is posted on the church's website; churchofchrist1830.org, click on Links→Resources, and then click on either "Lessons for MS/HS" or "Lessons for Children." You can also find here, any of the resources that is referenced to in the lessons, and/or can be obtained from the Church library.

- Significance of the date April 6, 1830
- Bible and Book of Mormon
- Ministry; callings and offices
- Principles of the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- The Church Seal; how it represents us
- Going out to all nations

Please contact us with any questions or comments.
Sue, Betsy, Steven and GSSA committee members

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE DATE APRIL 6, 1830

Have you noticed on one of our church signs, or on the church seal (look on the inside cover of this Zion's Advocate) that it says Organized April 6, 1830?

How long ago was April 6, 1830? Answer: A calendar math opportunity 🤔

Why was the Church of Christ organized on April 6, 1830?

A simple explanation can be found in the Church History for Juniors by Donna Moser; Ch 8 P4.

"A very small group met in the Peter Whitmer home. This was on a Tuesday--and a very important one it would be. They prayed together earnestly and then, in keeping with the laws of the state of New York, they organized themselves into a church. They were only six, but they were a church- the restored Church of Christ!"

If there was a Church of Christ when Jesus lived here, then why was there a meeting to make it the Church of Christ again on April 6, 1830?

Good question! When Jesus was here, he taught the people how he wanted them to behave; follow his commandments, how to treat one another, and how to pray. Explain what you know from the scriptures; the Bible and Book of Mormon, what did Jesus teach his people?

According to History of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot), Volumes I and II 1830-2008. Copyright 2012 by The Board of Publications:

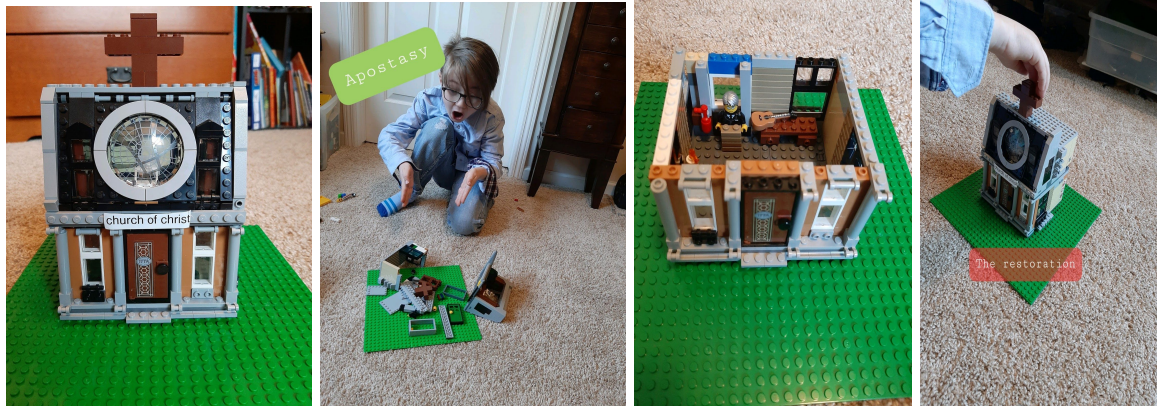
"The Scriptures known as the Bible contain, particularly in the New Testament, an account of the personal work of Christ. It outlines the origin and formation of the Church of Christ as it was fashioned by the Christ himself. It shows the consequences of obedience to the principles of the gospel of Christ as he gave them to his followers in that day. It records the gifts and blessings that followed the believer in that day and time, and it makes the painful prediction that this beautiful order was not to continue in unbroken progression down through the ages, but instead, even in a very short time after the ascent of Jesus into the heavens, there would be an apostasy, or falling away. A text or two of Scriptures will illustrate this falling away."

Read: Acts 20:28-30

2nd Thessalonians 2:1-4

"This, however, does not mean that there would never again be a Christian dispensation in the world or that men later would not return to God and enjoy the blessings of the Church. In other words there was to be a complete restoration of the Testament church and gospel for Christ in teaching about the end of the world and his second coming makes this declaration: And the gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come. Matthew 24:14."

Activity: Choose some materials to build something. Then have it become disorganized to show what "apostasy" means, (falling apart). Then build it back up to show what "restoration," or restoring something looks like. Our model, Noah Jones, from the Bradley Michigan local, chose to use Legos®. What will you use?



For more on Church History; go to www.churchofchrist1830.org.