

Module 2: Luther's Learning Centers - Jesus Is the Cornerstone

Jesus is the cornerstone activity is designed to be one of six learning centers. It will nurture an understanding and appreciation for Jesus as the cornerstone of our faith. Participants will make concrete block doorstops to celebrate Christ as the cornerstone of their church and daily life.

A musical component has been designed to create a sense of continuity between the theme and individual program offerings. A variety of rhythmic raps have been composed to highlight the key learnings at each Learning Center. A Musical Revue sheet is provided to display the rhythm raps and celebrate the fact that Martin Luther "rocked" the church with his own rhythms and beliefs. In fact, Luther loved music and often wrote songs based on rhythms and melodies that were familiar to the people to help make worship and education more relevant.

Church House Rock "For Here/To Go" packs are provided to transport crafts and other learning materials. The Wittenberg Door Openers or Gathering Activities introduce and distribute these resources for participants to use as they move through the Luther's Learning Centers.

The Leader's Notes for this activity, along with any needed preparations and supplies, are outlined below. A Program Planning Grid (PDF file) is available to assist you in coordinating the many details and tasks involved. Scan through the activity and adapt it to enrich your own schedule and intent. You might also consider using it to enrich other intergenerational or age specific events throughout the year.

Note: You may wish to display signs to distinguish Luther's Learning Centers from the Wittenberg Door Openers.

Approximate time: 10-15 minutes

Equipment and Supplies:

- One concrete block per family or individual participant
- Self-adhesive felt or felt and glue
- Paint pens or acrylic paint and brushes
- Mosaic tiles (optional)
- Mosaic tile adhesive (optional)
- A copy of Jesus is the Cornerstone reference sheet (PDF file)
- Rhythm Rap sheet A (PDF file)
- A copy of the Church House Rhythmic Revue sheet (PDF file)
- Sheets of adhesive 11/3" x 4" labels

Leader's Notes:

You may wish to recruit a few people to partner with you in completing some of the initial steps involved.

Use adhesive 11/3" x 4" address labels to make copies of the "Jesus is the Rock" rhythm sheet. Encourage participants to attach a label to their Rhythmic Revue sheet to celebrate Jesus as the foundation or cornerstone of their faith and daily life. Be sure to have a few extra Revue sheets available for participants who may not have received one.

Use the following directions to make a sample cornerstone.

- ☐ Purchase concrete blocks with a smooth surface, no holes or indentions.
- ☐ Cut felt to size of brick and attach or glue to the bottom of the block.
- ☐ Use paint pens or acrylic paints to decorate the brick with the words "Jesus is the Cornerstone" along with other decorative art.
- ☐ If resources and time allow, the blocks may be decorated with mosaic tiles. Follow directions on mosaic tile adhesive for application and allow adequate drying time.

Practice, tapping or clapping, the rhythm identified on the rhythm sheet. Participants who were involved in the Wittenberg Door Opener Activity: The Church House Rock Rhythmic Revue may already be familiar with the rhythm. Plan to use this exercise to highlight the primary point of this activity.

Activity:

Ask participants to identify some of the buildings in which they spend their time. Discuss some of the characteristics of their construction, e.g., one story-two story, brick or painted, with or without windows or a basement. Introduce the concept that our lives are built upon a foundation of key people and beliefs or perspectives that shape our lives and influence the choices we make.

Display the "Jesus is the Cornerstone" reference sheet as you invite participants to consider Jesus as their "cornerstone." Explain that a cornerstone is a stone in the corner of a building. It is the primary piece or beginning point of the construction. The rest of the stones and bricks that make up the building are laid on and around the cornerstone. If possible, you may want to show your participants the cornerstone of your church building.

Invite individuals or families to make a cornerstone to use as a doorstop or decoration in their homes. Display your sample and share the guidelines for completing this project.

Distribute copies of the rhythm rap as you highlight the key learning for this activity center. Invite participants to attach the labels to their Church House Rock Rhythmic Revue sheets. Then, encourage them to tap out the rhythm with you before adding the words to perform the rap.