



LEADER GUIDE

Unit 6: G.O.A.T.

Lesson 1: What's the G.O.A.T.?

OVERVIEW

UNIT OVERVIEW

Lesson 1: What's the G.O.A.T.?

DISCIPLINE: Building the Church

KEY VERSES: Ephesians 1:16-23; Acts 5:11; Romans 12:4-5

Lesson 3: When a Brother Sins Against You

DISCIPLINE: Biblical Conflict Resolution

KEY VERSES: Matthew 18:15-17; Eccl 4:9-12; Phil 2:3

Lesson 2: Strengthening the G.O.A.T.

DISCIPLINE: Encouraging One Another

KEY VERSES: 1 Corinthians 12:12-26

Lesson 4: Baptism

ORDINANCE: Baptism

KEY VERSES: Rom 6:2-4; Ps 103:12; Luke 23:43; Acts 2:38, 41

LESSON 1 OVERVIEW

We ARE the Church.

How do preteens view the Church? Today's service is aimed at helping preteens move beyond seeing "Church" as a place that they visit, and move toward seeing "Church" as a integral part of their identity. Throughout the New Testament, when the word "Church" is used, it is not a building—it is a group of people. Through activity and discussion, today's service will help preteens understand this biblical concept of Church and to see themselves as a part of the Church.

This understanding about the Church is the starting point of a month long experience for preteens in your ministry. Throughout the "Greatest of All Time" series, preteens will be a part of a team within your ministry that will earn points in an effort to gain the "G.O.A.T." title. What they'll discover, though, as the series continues, is that they are already on the all-time greatest team, the Church of Jesus Christ.

LESSON 1 LEADER DEVO

Read: 1 Peter 1:9

"PICK ME! PICK ME!" When did you wish with all your heart that you'd be picked? Was it for your favorite sports team?

Were you the one who would wildly raise your hand when someone said, "I need a volunteer?" Inside you were thinking (with all your heart), "Pick me. Pick me!" All of us want to be picked at times, don't we?

Here's some great news! When it comes to God's team, you've already been picked! God chose you before the foundation of the world. Once you realize you're on God's team, he has much for you to do.

Find a place where you won't be self-conscious. Close your eyes and raise your hand. Ask God to pick you or remind you of when you first realized you'd been picked. Listen for God's response. Take some time to write down your thoughts about being picked to be on the greatest team of all time.



SCHEDULE

Lesson 1: What's the G.O.A.T.?



01 WARM-UP

10 min

Preteens will play an Opening Game and get a brief overview of today's lesson topic.

Today's Opening Game: Church Building Contest



02 M.A.P.

10 min

Preteens will read through a passage of Scripture on their own. They'll consider what stands out to them from the passage and why it stands out to them. They'll also be given time to talk with God about the passage.

Today's Passage: Ephesians 1:16-23



03 DISCOVER

10 min

Preteens will learn about spiritual disciplines that will help them draw closer to God. They'll discover the Biblical basis for these disciplines, the purpose and benefit of these disciplines, and the reasons why Christians have practiced these discipline throughout history.

Today's Discovery: Who (or what) is the Church?



04 QUEST

20 min

Preteens will move into action as they practice different ways that they can grow in their own personal relationship with Jesus.

Today's Quest: Building the Church



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CREATING YOUR SCOREBOARD

For this series, you'll have a month-long G.O.A.T. competition. Create a large scoreboard to keep on display in your ministry space. Each week, you'll add a layer to the Score Board. At the end of this week's guide is an example of how you can organize this scoreboard, but take some time to consider what you'll specifically be awarding points for in your ministry's competition, as well as how many teams you'll want to have.

HOW MANY TEAMS SHOULD I HAVE?

Things to consider in determining number of teams:

- ☐ There should be 4-8 people on each team for each of the weekly competitions.
- ☐ Will it be boys vs. girls?
- ☐ Will it be 5th vs. 6th grade?
- ☐ Will each team be a Small Group?
- ☐ How will people who come for the first time in future weeks be added to the teams?
- ☐ How will you keep the teams balanced if, for instance, more boys than girl come?
- ☐ Will there be one leader assigned to each team?

[Slide 01 GOAT]

Welcome to [Ministry name]. Today, we're beginning a 4-week competition and each of you will be placed on a team. The question is: will your team be the G.O.A.T., the greatest of all time? (*Split the preteens into their teams.*)

First things first. Your team needs the greatest of all time name! And your team needs to be able to work together quickly. SO, we're going to give you a 45-second timer. Just 45 seconds for your team to come up with a team name.

Up here you see a score board. We'll use this all month. Notice the space under "TEAM NAMES" is blank.

You'll have 45 seconds to come up with a name for your team and tell that name to a leader. The leader will come up and write your name on the board with a marker. Any team that completes this task before the timer reaches "0" will receive 15 GOAT points to start our 4-week competition.

If you need ideas for your team name, just watch the screen for suggestions.

On your mark. Get set. Go.

[VIDEO 01 Team Names Timer]

[Slide 02 GOAT]





Now that your teams have names, let's have a competition. Our first competition is a church-building competition.

[Slide 03 Church Building Comp]

(Hold up *a paper bag full of supplies.*) Inside these sealed bags are supplies that you can use to build the Church. You have 5 minutes to complete this task.

You will be judged by how well you use your supplies for Church-building. Choose one person to come up and get the bag and bring it back to your group. You can use all the supplies, including the paper bag, but nothing else. There will be no asking questions before we get started. You just have to do your best. On your mark. Get set. Go.

[VIDEO 02 Five Minute Timer]

[Slide 04 GOAT]

(After the time has expired, walk around to view what the groups have done. Most likely, all the groups will have created a structure that resembles a Church BUILDING. That was NOT the challenge. Look at each team's structure and "hmm..." to yourself. Then return to the teaching space and continue.)

Well, I looked at what each group did and you built some amazing structures. These are creative and innovative looking buildings that you've all build. Great job.

However, none of you used your supplies to really build the Church. By the end of today's service, you'll see what I mean, and we'll try this contest again a little later on.

Let's take some time to better understand what the Church is. Our understanding of what the Church is will come from the greatest of all time book, the Bible.



**[Slide 05 MAP]**

Each week during our G.O.A.T. competition, we're going to award 15 GOAT points per person in your team that brings his or her Bible. AND, if your whole team brings Bibles from home, you'll get an extra 25 GOAT points on top of that.

There are some other ways to earn points for your team this month, too. *(Explain the extra ways that preteens can earn team points, such as bringing friends, telling a preselected leader a memory verse, playing preservice games, etc.)*

Now that each of you has your Bible ready or a print out, we're going to start M.A.P. time.

Watch this video, which will help you to understand. After the video, if you don't have a Bible, raise a hand and a leader will bring you a print-out.

[VIDEO 03 MAP 01]**[Slide 06 MAP Ephesians 1:16-23]****[AUDIO 01 MAP Time]**

(After the video/instructions, hand out MAP Cards to preteens who didn't bring a Bible. Also, give each preteen a pen/pencil (if they don't already have one from the "Spot the Difference" game) and a highlighter.

Give preteens time to complete M.A.P. as explained in the video. When it looks like most preteens are done, you can have preteens describe what they highlighted and wrote in their Bibles – or on the M.A.P. Cards– either in Small Groups or with the whole group.)



**[Slide 07 GOAT]**

When I say the word, “Church,” the first thing that comes to mind for most people is a building, like the one we’re in right now. In the Bible, though, when we read about the Church, it never means a building.

Throughout the New Testament of the Bible, there are several verses that use the word “Church.” Let’s read a few of the verses together. As we read them let’s replace the word “Church” with “building we’re in,” and see if it makes any sense.

(Read each of the following together with the preteens, replacing the word “Church” with “building we’re in.” After each verse, comment briefly about how the sentences don’t make any sense if the Church is a building.)

[Slide 08 Matthew 18:17]**[Slide 09 Acts 5:11]****[Slide 10 Acts 8:3]****[Slide 11 Acts 9:31]**

If we replace the word “Church” with “building we’re in,” it doesn’t make any sense. As we continue to read through the Bible (*hold up your Bible*), we see that the Church is NOT a building. In Acts 11:22, it says that the Church heard something. Can a building hear something? (NO.) In Acts 11:26, it says that Paul and Barnabas met with the Church. Can a building go to a meeting? (NO.)

NO. The Church is not a building.

[Slide 12 NOT a building]

The building we’re in right now is owned (or rented, etc.) by the Church, but it is NOT the Church. It’s the Church’s building.

So what is the Church then? Any ideas? *(Take responses. A preteen may answer correctly or not. Either way, roll with it.)* The Church is a group of people. Like a team. Or a family. The Church isn’t just ANY group of people, though. It’s the group of people who believe in Jesus Christ and who’ve been adopted into God’s family.

I’m part of the Church and if you believe in Jesus and have accepted him as your Savior, you’re part of the Church, too. I’m not part of a building (*stand up against a wall as though you are part of the wall.*) I’m part of a group of people (*walk toward the preteens.*)

The Church is the family of believers. We are a family.

[Slide 13 Family]



You don't have to be perfect to be in this family. Even when you mess up, you're still a part of this family. Nobody in this family is perfect, except Jesus. We've all sinned. We've all fallen short of the greatness of Jesus, but Jesus loves us so much that he died on the Cross to pay the price for our sins.

Maybe you're sitting here and thinking, "I don't know if I'm a part of the Church. I don't think I've made good enough choices for God to adopt me into his family." If you think that, listen closely.

God's family is different than an earthly family. To become a part of an earthly family, you have to marry somebody or be born into that family, or be adopted by that family. To become part of an earthly family, a human being makes a decision of some kind. To become a part of God's family, it's different. John 1:13 says this:

"To be a child of God has nothing to do with human parents. Children of God are not born because of human choice or because a husband wants them to be born. They are born because of what God does."

Here's some great news: God WANTS to adopt you into his family. If you will accept the gift of God's forgiveness for all of your sins, then today is your day to become a part of God's family, the Church.

If you receive the gift of God's love and forgiveness for your sins, if you believe that Jesus really did the things that the Bible says, and if you know that Jesus died on the Cross to pay the price for you to be adopted into God's family, stand to your feet. *(Give preteens a moment to respond.)*

There it is! THIS is the Church.

Think about what the Church can do! We can do more than any building. We can change the world, and we can never be bulldozed and brought to the ground. Repeat after me:

[Slide 14 We are]

We are God's family. *(Preteens repeat.)* We are the Church. *(Preteens repeat.)* OK. You can have a seat.

The Church is the family of believers. Let's think about that for a moment. How are we like a family? *(Don't take any answers yet.)*

[Slide 15 Family Question]

Get together with your teams and talk about this for 2 minutes. See how many different answers you can come up with. I'll give your team 10 points for each solid answer you come up with. When I say "GO," each team can send one person to the front to grab a Family Answer Sheet. Make sure your group has a pen to write with.





Make sure to turn it back in to me with all your answers written on it before the timer reaches "0." On your mark, get set, go.

[VIDEO 04 Two Minute Timer]

[Slide 16 GOAT]

(When the time has ended, read some of the answers or ask groups to each share their best answer. Depending on the size of your group, you can read all the answers and award points right now or tell the preteens that you'll keep the sheets and award points before next week's service. OR you could add up the points during today's Quest and announce the points at the end of service.)

Those are great answers.

So we, the Church, are a family. A loving family is just one picture of the Church. During M.A.P. time, you read another picture from the Bible. It was in the last verse of Ephesians 1. It said that the Church is Christ's body. Let's look again at that verse.

[Slide 17 Ephesians 1:23]

Next week, we're going to be looking at this picture of the Church. We'll talk about how you and I are like Jesus' body parts and how those body parts are supposed to work together.





It's time for today's Quest. Remember, during this part of our service, we learn practices that help us draw closer to God.

God is interested in strengthening the Church! He loves the Church, like a man about to get married loves his bride. One way we can draw closer to God is by building the Church. That's what today's Quest is all about.

[Slide 18 Build the Church Quest]

We're going to build up the Church today in three different ways.

First, let's build one another up by praying together.

[Slide 19 Build with our prayers]

Since we, the Church, are all connected by Jesus, let's do something together right now as the GOAT family. Get with one or two other people in this room right now and pray TOGETHER.

When I tell you to begin, find somebody to pray with. First ask, "What can I pray about?" Listen to your partner's answer and then pray together. As a sign that we're all connected, you can, if it's ok with your partner(s), place a hand on your partner(s)' shoulder while you pray for him or her.

Can I have a volunteer who will help me demonstrate how this will look? *(Call on a volunteer and demonstrate how to pray for each other. Then, dismiss preteens to pray together. Have leaders join preteens who don't partner with anybody or partner with preteens who might need a leader to help keep them focused on the instructions.)*

At the beginning of our service, I gave you some supplies in a paper bag and gave you the challenge of using the supplies to build the Church. However, you were thinking about the Church as a place instead of a more powerful definition of the Church: the definition of the Church that we see in the Bible.

The Church is the family of believers. So how do we build the Church? When we pray together like we just did, we make each other stronger. We build one another up. That's just one way to build the Church.

So how can we use these supplies *(refer to the extra bag you have up front)* to build the Church? Rather than telling me your ideas, let's try our team competition from the beginning of service again. This time, your challenge is to think of how you could use these supplies to build THE CHURCH. You know – not the building – but the family of God's believers.

[Slide 20 Build with our stuff]





You've already used your bag of supplies to create little models of buildings, so your supplies might be a little messed up. However, I still have this bag up front. So, for the next few minutes, talk with your team and come up with a great plan of how your team could use these supplies to build the Church. I'm giving you a **Team Party Idea pages** to write your plan down.

(Optionally: have a party in the next week or two, and allow the preteens to help in planning it. The Quest then becomes more than a mental exercise.)

Talk as a team and come up with a plan for building the Church. Be creative with your ideas. Come up with as many ideas as you can that you think will strengthen and build the family of believers. I'll check in with your teams at the end and award some points for each plan.

(If time permits, allow the teams to share their plans with the whole group. You can award each team 50 points or give varying points based on how detailed or creative each team's plan is. For larger ministries, have the teams partner up and share their plan with one other team. Then collect the plans and award points before next week's service. Gather everybody together once more.)

During today's Quest, we've looked at building the Church with our prayers and with our stuff. Let's wrap up today with one more way that we can practice building each other up: by teaching.

[Slide 21 Build by teaching]

One way we can build the Church is by sharing with each other what God is teaching us. When [senior pastor at your Church] shares truth with the Church, it builds people up. It makes the Church stronger.

The backs of your **M.A.P. Cards** have blank space for writing. If you have your Bible here today and didn't get a M.A.P. Card earlier, we're going to give you one of the Bible verse cards right now so you have some blank space to write on with **a pen**.

Take a moment and write down something that you learned today in the blank space on the back. In just a moment, we're going to give people a chance to stand up and share what they wrote.

Take a moment and write down something you learned today. Then, we'll build each other up by sharing these truths with each other. Let's all work together to build the Church, the greatest of all time family.

(Give the preteens time to write, and then to share in front of the group, what God is teaching them. Then close service in prayer - or have one of the preteens build up the Church by closing service in prayer themselves.)





ADMIN GUIDE

Unit 6: G.O.A.T.

Lesson 1: What's the G.O.A.T.?

SUPPLIES

Lesson 1: What's the G.O.A.T.?



01 WARM-UP

10 min

- Score Board, *see instructions in the Warm-Up Guide*
- Marker, *to write on the Score Board*
- Paper bag for each team + 1 extra bag for use during Quest. *Each bag should have the following OR SIMILAR items:*
 - ☐ 6 Paper plates
 - ☐ 6 Paper or Styrofoam Cups
 - ☐ Paper
 - ☐ Markers
 - ☐ Assorted Plastic Cutlery
 - ☐ Tape



02 M.A.P.

10 min

- Highlighters for each preteen
- Pens for each preteen
- **MAP Card** for each preteen (*copy on cardstock*)

NOTE: Within the leader guide, supplies are **highlighted** so you can understand how they'll be used and prepare accordingly.



03 DISCOVER

10 min

- Bible
- **Family Answer Sheet** for each team
- Pens for each team

NOTE: Supplies on this page that are written in a **bold font** can be found in the *Printables* Section.



04 QUEST

20 min

- **Team Party Ideas** for each team
- The extra bag of building supplies, *from the Warm-Up*
- Pens for each preteen
- **M.A.P. Card** for each preteen, *from M.A.P. time*



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PRINTABLES

Lesson 1: What's the G.O.A.T.?



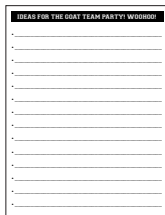
MAP Card (Ephesians 1:16-23)



Family Answer Sheet



Team Party Ideas



1 Highlight what stands out for Me.

Ephesians 1:16-23

2 How does what I highlighted Affect me?

I have not stopped thanking God for you. I always remember you in my prayers. I pray to the God of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is the glorious Father. I keep asking him to give you the wisdom and understanding that come from the Holy Spirit. I want you to know God better. I pray that you may understand more clearly. Then you will know the hope God has chosen you to receive. You will know that what God will give his holy people is rich and glorious. And you will know God's great power. It can't be compared with anything else. His power works for us who believe. It is the same mighty strength God showed. He showed this when he raised Christ from the dead. God seated him at his right hand in his heavenly kingdom. There Christ sits far above all who rule and have authority. He also sits far above all powers and kings. He is above every name that is appealed to in this world and in the world to come. God placed all things under Christ's rule. He appointed him to be ruler over everything for the church. The church is Christ's body and is filled by Christ. He fills everything in every way.

M.A.P.

3 Pray about what you highlighted.

GOAT> Lesson 1 > What's the G.O.A.T.?

1 Highlight what stands out for Me.

Ephesians 1:16-23

2 How does what I highlighted Affect me?

I have not stopped thanking God for you. I always remember you in my prayers. I pray to the God of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is the glorious Father. I keep asking him to give you the wisdom and understanding that come from the Holy Spirit. I want you to know God better. I pray that you may understand more clearly. Then you will know the hope God has chosen you to receive. You will know that what God will give his holy people is rich and glorious. And you will know God's great power. It can't be compared with anything else. His power works for us who believe. It is the same mighty strength God showed. He showed this when he raised Christ from the dead. God seated him at his right hand in his heavenly kingdom. There Christ sits far above all who rule and have authority. He also sits far above all powers and kings. He is above every name that is appealed to in this world and in the world to come. God placed all things under Christ's rule. He appointed him to be ruler over everything for the church. The church is Christ's body and is filled by Christ. He fills everything in every way.

M.A.P.

3 Pray about what you highlighted.

GOAT> Lesson 1 > What's the G.O.A.T.?

FAMILY QUESTION - ANSWER SHEET

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FAMILY QUESTION - ANSWER SHEET

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IDEAS FOR THE GOAT TEAM PARTY! WOOHOO!

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