**Connected: Created to Belong**

**Module 4: Belonging to What?**

**Lesson 3: Belonging to the Global Church**

**Spiritual Aims**

Students will hopefully:

* ground their identities in Jesus (not their youth group or church)
* solidify their understanding of the basic foundation of Christian belief
* be equipped when they encounter distorted presentations of the gospel not to be taken in or turned off Christianity

**Lesson Objectives**

Students will:

* detect at least 3 foundational markers of the global church
* identify 3 differences that exist across the global church
* perceive that local churches are expressions of a global faith

**Materials Needed**

* Foreign currency or printed pictures of foreign currency
* New Canadian bills in any denomination (enough to pass around for students to see)
* 1 copy of Appendix C
* 1 copy of 1 section (there are 3) of Appendix D per student
* Half a sheet of blank chart paper per group
* 1 pen per student
* Placemat template sample in Appendix E (print the sample included with this module or draw your own)
* Video equipment to show the following clips:
  + [www.youtube.com/watch?v=L1mfbjfOWlM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L1mfbjfOWlM) (Kenya) 1:28
  + [www.youtube.com/watch?v=M3o0PN55zgE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M3o0PN55zgE) (Brazil) 1:04
  + [www.youtube.com/watch?v=brlvV8hHWVQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=brlvV8hHWVQ) (Korea) 1:53
  + [www.youtube.com/watch?v=1kuScFcPU38](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1kuScFcPU38) (Montreal, Canada) 3:21
* Recording paper and pen
* 1 piece of play money (e.g., Monopoly money) per student
* Optional: Tape to mount placemats on wall

**Minds On** (approx. 10 min.)

**International Currency:**

**Prompt:** Around the world different currencies are used and money is identified in different ways. Forgery is also an international issue with people trying to pass off their own creations as real money.

Show your students some examples of foreign currency or pictures of money from around the world. Then ask for a volunteer to choose 1 type, and point out all the ways to tell whether it is a fake.

Ask your students if they know how to identify genuine Canadian currency. Ask for a volunteer to point out the security features that exist in a Canadian bill. (Appendix C outlines these new security features.) If he or she is not able to identify them all, ask students to raise their hands and guess until the group has figured it out or is stumped — then show them the remaining security features.

**Prompt:** When people are trained on how to identify forged currency, they do not waste their time learning about all the ways fake money can be passed off. Instead they focus on the true markers of genuine currency. We can do the same when it comes to Christianity. Instead of focusing on all the differences that Christians have, we can focus on the true markers. Last week we learned that our foundation is the prophets and apostles — basically the Old and New Testaments tell us what we need to know. Jesus is the cornerstone, and the Holy Spirit lives in us, so our beliefs about Jesus and evidence of the Holy Spirit are the keys to identifying sincere faith.

**Action** (approx. 40 min.)

**Placemats:** (approx. 25 min.)

1. Students will form groups of 3 people.
2. Each group will look at 1 page of verses from Appendix D (each student should have their own copy).
3. Each group will also receive pens and a blank half-piece of chart paper to create a placemat— or a copy of the template on Appendix E printed on large paper.
4. To create the placemat, draw a large circle in the middle of the blank paper and draw 3 lines coming off it to divide the paper into 3 large outer sections. Show students the example in Appendix E.
5. Each student will choose a different verse to start with and will write the scripture reference at the top of their sections in the placemat (1 of the 3 outer sections).
6. Each student will read his or her verse individually and write an explanation of what it says on the placemat.
7. After 5 minutes (you will track the time), the students will rotate their placemats and read the notes written by the person before them.
8. Then they will read the passage for themselves and add any comments they wish on the placemat.
9. After 5 minutes this process will be repeated once more.
10. Finally, each group should discuss amongst themselves which passage stood out to them and what it means.
11. Each group will agree on one central idea of what the Bible says on their topic (i.e., Jesus, the Holy Spirit or living as a believer), and this idea will be written in the middle section of the placemat.
12. At the end of the activity, each group will share their topic and what they wrote in the center of the placemat with everyone.
13. Optional: You may tape the placemats up on the wall after they have been presented.

**Prompt:** We have just examined some of the things that Christians all have in common. Now we are going to see some different examples of ways that Christians worship around the world. Even though we believe the same things, look for the differences in these different churches.

Show the 4 video clips of churches services in Kenya, Brazil, Korea and Montreal [teaching tip 1].

**Brainstorm:** (5 min.)

Ask students to brainstorm, by raising their hands, differences that exist between Christians around the world, from things they saw in the video clips or from their own experiences. Some ideas are:

* languages
* clothing
* styles of music
* written or spontaneous prayers
* small and large congregations
* short and long sermons
* different kinds of good deeds (e.g., food bank/food baskets, pregnancy care centre, emergency shelter, visiting sick people, visiting people in jail)

**Consolidate/Debrief** (approx. 5 min.)

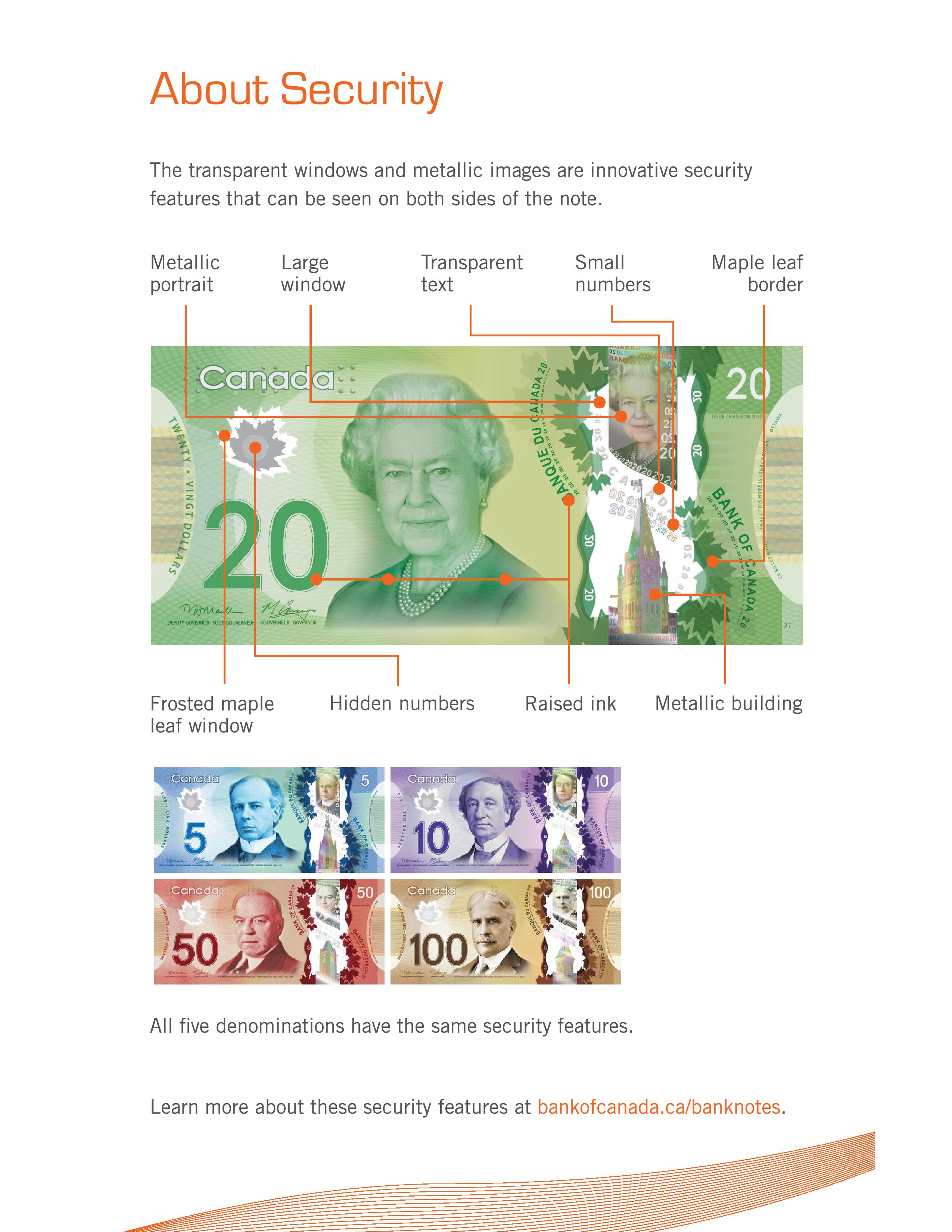
**Prompt:** Remember the opening activity and all the different kinds of currency that exist in the world? Christianity is kind of like money because it takes different forms around the world. That doesn’t mean there aren’t fakes out there, but if we know what to look for in a genuine bill hopefully we won’t be fooled. This money obviously isn’t real, but it can help us remember our lesson today.

1. Distribute play money to your students and ask them to write something that stood out from the lesson as a defining marker of Christianity. They can keep these in their wallets or at home as reminders of the lesson.
2. Ask them to choose a partner to share what they wrote and to check in with that partner 4 days later to ask how they’re doing.

**Leader’s note:** Within the Christian church, there are disagreements about what the genuine markers may be, depending on which church tradition you’re a part of. While a worthwhile topic, this may not be the best time to have that discussion [teaching tip 19].

Close in prayer, asking God to help your students remember what is true and not to be distracted by any counterfeit lies about their identity, their value or God’s love.

**Appendix C**



**Appendix D: Bible Verses**

1. **These verses tell us about Jesus:**

Mark 1:1, 9–11 (NIV)

The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God… Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

Luke 24:1–7 (NIV)

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb.They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them.In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead?He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee:‘The Son of Manmust be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’”

Luke 24:44, 46–52 (NIV)

Jesus said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.”… He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day,and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them.While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven.Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy.

1. **These verses tell us about the Holy Spirit:**

Galatians 5:22–26 (NIV)

But the fruit of the Spirit is love,joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

Romans 8:11 (NIV)

And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because ofhis Spirit who lives in you.

1 Corinthians 12:4–11 (NIV)

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healingby that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues.All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

1. **These verses tell us about living as believers:**

Matthew 22:35–40 (NIV)

One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question:“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Romans 12:4–18 (NIV)

For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function,so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith;if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach;if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully. Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.Be devoted to one another in love.Honor one another above yourselves.Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you;bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone.If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

Romans 14:17–19 (NIV)

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peaceand joy in the Holy Spirit,because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and receives human approval.Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.

**Appendix E**

