

Embrace the promise of Christ's return: *Our Vision and Mission*

LESSON AT A GLANCE

Facilitator Notes:

- For Your Journey episodes can be found on the [NAC USA YouTube](#) channel and in the [NAC USA mobile app](#)

I wonder...

- What is the Vision of the New Apostolic Church?
- What is the Mission of the New Apostolic Church?

I believe...

- Our vision is a church in which people feel at home and, inspired by the Holy Spirit and their love for God, align their lives to the gospel of Jesus Christ and thus prepare themselves for His return and eternal life.
- Our mission is reaching out to all people in order to teach them the gospel of Jesus Christ and to baptize them with water and the Holy Spirit, and providing soul care and cultivating a warm fellowship in which everyone shall experience the love of God and the joy of serving Him and others.

Materials:

- IGNITE Bible
- Catechism Q&A
- Something to play a video clip with (computer, TV, tablet, phone, etc.)

References:

- Bible: Matthew 20:28, 22:36-40, 28:18-20, Galatians 5:13, Colossians 3:23-24, Revelation 22:3
- 9th Article of Faith (Articles of Faith are found on page 251 of the Catechism Q&A)
- For Your Journey
 - [Episode 22 – Feeling at home](#)
 - [Episode 23 – Aligning our lives](#)
 - [Episode 24 – Mission statement](#)
 - [Episode 71 – The Promise of Christ's Return](#)

PRE DISCUSSION MESSAGE TO PARENTS AND STUDENT (TO BE SENT VIA EMAIL OR TEXT)

Where are we headed? How are we going to get there? Join us tomorrow for small group at _____ and we'll be talking about direction.

POST DISCUSSION MESSAGE TO PARENTS (TO BE SENT VIA EMAIL OR TEXT)

Facilitator Notes:

- Please feel free to add local information and customize as necessary
- Consider including a link to one of the For Your Journey episodes listed in the "References" section above.

Dear Parents,

This week the "I wonder..." questions clearly covered the New Apostolic Church International's Vision and Mission Statements. It was explained that a vision statement helps clarifying purpose/where you are going and a mission statement helps clarify how you will accomplish and reach the vision. If you haven't already, consider taking time as a family and creating vision and/or mission statements for your family. What do you want your family to represent? What course of action is important to help accomplish this?

As always, if you have any question about the topic, feel free to contact us.

Your Youth Leaders

SUNDAY SERMON REFLECTIONS (up to 10 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week.

- What Bible verse was used for the basis of last Sunday's sermon?
- What were some of the main takeaways? What did you learn?
- So far this week, how have you applied what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?
- Going forward, how will you apply what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

HOOK (up to 10 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week.

- How are you and how are you feeling today?
- Who would like to share their point to ponder or call to action from last week?
- Ask the students if they have seen the original Alice in Wonderland cartoon from 1951.
- Continue to play the clip "Alice in Wonderland – Do you know where you are going?" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yvbsJ8brtN4>
- Ask the students what stood out about the clip.
- If it doesn't come out in the discussion, draw attention to, and summarize the discussion with, the thought: ***If you don't know where you are going then it doesn't matter which way you go.***
- Say something like: in today's discussion, we'll be exploring the church's vision and mission statements.

SET THE STAGE (1 minute)

Facilitator Notes:

- Preview the "I wonder" questions with the students.

I wonder...

- What is the Vision of the New Apostolic Church?
- What is the Mission of the New Apostolic Church?

LESSON (up to 25 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

Student Question #1 What is a vision statement?

- Allow the students to share their thoughts on what they think a vision statement is.

Student Question #1 What is a vision statement? (continued)

- After the students have had an opportunity to share their thoughts, summarize, or correct any misunderstandings, with the following definition:

- The Vision and Mission statements of the New Apostolic Church can be found:
 - In the first few pages of the Catechism
 - In the first few pages of the Catechism Q&A
 - On a placard at the church
 - In "About" tab of the NAC USA mobile app
 - In the THRIVE Membership Expectations booklet
- It may seem like the Vision and Mission statements of the New Apostolic Church are brought up a lot in the Youth THRIVE Small Group curriculum. This is intentional. It is important for students to know why the church exists, what the church is trying to achieve (Vision), and how the church plans on achieving it (Mission).

- A vision statement is an organization's road map, indicating what the organization wants to become by setting a defined direction for the organization. The statement is a declaration of an organization's objectives, intended to guide its internal decision-making. (adapted from Wikipedia)

Student Question #2 What are some examples of organizations that would have a vision statement?

- On a whiteboard or chart paper, ask the students to respond with:
 - A fast food restaurant they like to go to
 - A sports team they like to watch
 - Their school or school district
- If the students have smart phones, and have them in class, ask them to look up the vision statement of one of the items on the board. If you have enough students to break them into groups, divide them up and assign an item from the board so that they all research something different.
 - If your students don't have smart phones, or don't normally have them in class with them, you may need to research vision statements prior to the discussion and either print them out or write them on the board.
 - Have the students share with the whole group the vision statements they were able to find online for the various organizations
- Highlight how the vision statements define the organization's objectives and direction.

Student Question #3 What is the vision statement of the New Apostolic Church?

- *A church in which people feel at home and, inspired by the Holy Spirit and their love for God, align their lives to the gospel of Jesus Christ and thus prepare themselves for His return and eternal life. To help answer this, we will turn to Scripture.*
 - This statement is for the New Apostolic Church International. Meaning, all congregations worldwide are striving for the description set out in the vision statement.
 - This is what the New Apostolic Church believes to be the ideal church.

In an organization, the vision statement is where you are going, and the mission statement helps define how you're going to get there.

Student Question #4 What is the mission statement of the New Apostolic Church?

- *Reaching out to all people in order to teach them the gospel of Jesus Christ and to baptize them with water and the Holy Spirit.* (continued on next page)

- For the sake of preparing for the discussion, the full Bible passage is included in the facilitator guide. However, in the actual discussion with the students, it is encouraged that the facilitator look up the passages in a physical Bible along with the students to reinforce the importance of using one's Bible and Bible literacy.
- It is important to highlight that the New Apostolic Church exists for a purpose. Church isn't just a 'club' or a place to go on Sunday mornings. Rather, Jesus gave His Apostles and the Church He established specific responsibilities, to which we all help contribute.
- The Articles of Faith can be found on page 251 of the Catechism Questions and Answers book.

Providing soul care and cultivating a warm fellowship in which everyone shall experience the love of God and the joy of serving Him and others.

- Like the vision statement, the mission statement is also for the New Apostolic Church International. Meaning, all congregations worldwide are striving to do the actions set forth in the mission statement.

Student Question #5 What are the New Apostolic Church vision and mission statements based on?

- The New Apostolic Church vision and mission statements have their root in Scripture.
- Ask a student, or multiple students, to read Matthew 22:36-40:
 - "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."
 - Jesus is saying that it is all about loving God and loving one another. Ask the students something like: "Which specific phrases from the New Apostolic Church vision and mission statements are examples of loving God and one another?"
- Another passage that the vision and mission statements are based on is the Great Commission. Ask a student, or multiple students, to read Matthew 28:18-20:
 - "And Jesus came and spoke to them saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.'"
 - Jesus is giving His Apostles direct authority and responsibility. Ask the students something like: "Which specific phrases from the New Apostolic vision and mission statements align with the responsibilities given by Jesus in the Great Commission?"

Preparing for His return

- The vision statement specifically mentions preparing for Christ's return. The previous discussion was on the plan of salvation. Based on the 9th Article of Faith, what will happen at Jesus' return?

As Christians, we eagerly await for His return to claim His bride, which is the next step in the plan of salvation. While we wait, we strive to continually align our lives to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and transform our nature using Jesus as our example.

- Proclaim Christ's return
- Profess activity of occupied Apostle ministry helping souls prepare for Christ's return
- Give the Holy Spirit opportunity to influence you so you can transform to become more like Jesus
- Allow divine virtues to develop in you

	<p>The 9th Article of Faith articulates and summarizes what the New Apostolic Church believes about the return of Christ. Ask a student, or multiple students, to read the 9th Article of Faith from the Catechism Questions and Answers book. Tell the students that we will have a discussion in a few weeks (Eg – Our Future), about the future events.</p> <p>The mission statement ends with the phrase ‘...the joy of serving Him (God) and others.’ If needed, additional Bible verses that emphasize our call to serve others are below. Consider asking a student, or multiple students, to read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matthew 20:28 • Galatians 5:13 • Colossians 3:23-34 • Revelation 22:3
WHAT’S IN IT FOR ME? (up to 10 minutes)	
Facilitator Notes:	<p>Additional videos</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ If time permits, consider showing and discussing one of the For Your Journey episodes listed on the front of the facilitator guide. These specific episodes breakdown specific phrases from the New Apostolic Church vision and/or mission statements. <p>Close with the “I Wonder...” questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Review the “I wonder...” questions and “I believe...” statements. ➤ As you review each question and answer, stop and check in with the group to be sure there are no misunderstandings or misconceptions. <p>I wonder...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What is the Vision of the New Apostolic Church? ➤ What is the Mission of the New Apostolic Church? <p>I believe...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Our vision is a church in which people feel at home and, inspired by the Holy Spirit and their love for God, align their lives to the gospel of Jesus Christ and thus prepare themselves for His return and eternal life. ➤ Our mission is reaching out to all people in order to teach them the gospel of Jesus Christ and to baptize them with water and the Holy Spirit and providing soul care and cultivating a warm fellowship in which everyone shall experience the love of God and the joy of serving Him and others. <p>Point to Ponder...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Both the New Apostolic Church’s vision and mission statements mention the phrase “Gospel of Jesus Christ.” If we are to align our lives to it and teach all people about it, we must know what “it” is. How would you describe the Gospel of Jesus Christ? <p>A Call to Action...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Look at the New Apostolic Church’s vision and mission statements. Extract the action phrases and come up with ideas how to better accomplish those actions, both personally and collectively in the youth group.

Weekly Reflections

What Bible verse was used for the basis of last Sunday's sermon?

What were some of the main takeaways? What did you learn?

So far this week, how have you applied what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

Going forward, how will you apply what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

Point to Ponder...

Call to Action...

Embrace the promise of Christ's return: *Our Vision and Mission*

<p>I wonder...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What is the Vision of the New Apostolic Church? ➤ Mission of the New Apostolic Church? 	<p>I believe...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Our vision is a church in which people feel at home and, inspired by the Holy Spirit and their love for God, align their lives to the gospel of Jesus Christ and thus prepare themselves for His return and eternal life. ➤ Our mission is reaching out to all people in order to teach them the gospel of Jesus Christ and to baptize them with water and the Holy Spirit and providing soul care and cultivating a warm fellowship in which everyone shall experience the love of God and the joy of serving Him and others.
<p>Bible: Matthew 20:28, 22:36-40, 28:18-20, Galatians 5:13, Colossians 3:23-24, Revelation 22:3 Article of Faith 9</p>	

1. What is a vision statement?

2. What are some examples of vision statements?

3. What is the vision statement of the New Apostolic Church?

4. What is the mission statement of the New Apostolic Church?

5. What are the New Apostolic Church vision and mission statements based on?

Point to Ponder: Both the New Apostolic Church's vision and mission statements mention the phrase "Gospel of Jesus Christ." If we are to align our lives to it and teach all people about it, we must know what "it" is. How would you describe the Gospel of Jesus Christ?.

Call to Action: Look at the New Apostolic Church's vision and mission statements. Extract the action phrases and come up with ideas how to better accomplish those actions, both personally and collectively in the youth group.