

## Embrace the promise of Christ's return: *IGNITE*

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

#### Facilitator Notes:

- Sunday Sermon Reflections, Point to Ponder and Call to Action should still be shared at the beginning of the lesson.
- Since the format of this lesson is less structured, facilitators can incorporate a light meal or snack into the evening such as pizza or popcorn. Be sure to include this in your Message to Parents so they are aware and can contribute.
- During these activities, the facilitator may need to assist when students struggle with answers or clarify when students misunderstand or have misconceptions.

This lesson is designed for review, reflection, re-teaching or application of the topics taught the past semester. Facilitators can decide what type of lesson is needed based on the learning outcomes the students experienced during the semester. Listed below are suggestions for the type of lesson that should be conducted based on the needs of the students. A descriptor for the type of lesson is provided to assist the facilitator in choosing the appropriate lesson. Suggested activities are listed below each type of lesson. The scheduled time for this discussion can also be used to discuss how the students can implement and engage in spiritual disciplines in their families, congregations, and communities in an ongoing basis.

#### When to use each type of lesson:

**Review Lesson:** when a general understanding about a topic exists, rather than a solid, deep understanding.

- Choose 1 or both of the following activities depending on the needs of the group:
  - **Pick a Card...** Have the "I wonder..." questions on separate index cards and the corresponding "I believe..." statements on separate index cards. Shuffle all of the cards and have each student pick 1 or 2 cards (depending on the size of your group). Students should not show their cards to each other. Always start with someone reading an "I wonder..." question, and the person with the corresponding "I believe..." statement should respond.
  - **Break it Down...** Choose the "I wonder..." question that needs review and write it on chart paper. On a separate piece of chart paper write only the words "I believe...". Have each student come up and add something, change something, or delete something until the statement is complete and accurate.

**Reflection Lesson:** when students show real interest and excitement about a topic.

- Choose 1 or both of the following activities depending on the needs of the group:
  - **Relive...** Have students share their Call to Action experiences from the topic, and invite them to share more experiences related to that topic.
  - **Dig Deep...** Further investigate the topic by examining Bible verses or stories that further define or explain the topic. Let the students search for additional events in the Bible that demonstrate or provide examples of the topic.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It would be helpful to give any guest speakers the facilitator guides from previous topics so that they know what has been discussed.</li> <li>• Because of safety for minors, any For Your Journey episodes that are made should not be posted online nor shared privately without the student's and parent's consent.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Re-teaching Lesson:</b> when students do not understand or have misconceptions about the topic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Choose 1 or both of the following activities depending on the needs of the group:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>True or False...</b>Have the students pick a topic from the semester. Make 5-7 true or false statements about the topic. Distribute notecards and have the students write "True" on one card and "False" on a different card. Then ask students to hold up either the True or False cards for each statement you make (have students face the cards to the outside of the circle). The facilitator should walk around the circle, review the answers, and choose students with the correct answer to explain their answer to the group.</li> <li>• <b>Be Our Guest...</b>Invite a minister to share his explanation about the topic and have him revisit the questions from the student lesson copy (from the corresponding lesson) with the students to ensure students have mastered the topic.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Application Lesson:</b> when students have a good understanding of the topic and/ or great interest and excitement about the topic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Choose 1 or a combination of the following activities depending on the needs of the group:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>FYJ....</b>Have the students pair up. Give each pair an "I wonder..." question to discuss. Then have them video tape a 1-2 minute "For Your Journey" episode to later share with the class.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ While the students can be fun and creative, they should still take the exercise seriously. This isn't to be a parody or skit, but rather a genuine exploration of the question(s).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Take Your Show on the Road....</b>Take the students to visit a widow, to a nursing home, to a local restaurant and encourage them to share with others one of the "I believe..." statements and what it means.</li> <li>• <b>Thank you notes...</b> Have the students write thank you notes to people in the congregation as a way to show others that the youth (as a group or individually) value the Church and the community of believers that are able to worship together.</li> <li>• <b>Pass a prayer...</b> Have the students sit at a table. Each one has a paper in front of them and starts writing the first 1-2 lines of a prayer. After a set time (60-90 seconds) the students pass the paper to the next person and they add to the prayer. This continues until the paper goes around the table and returns to person that started it.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The prayer can be to someone in their family or congregation, or a general prayer that the group contributes to.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Have students work together to complete the questions on the student lesson copy. If time allows, come back together and let students share their responses.</b></p>
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### MESSAGE TO PARENTS (TO BE SENT VIA EMAIL OR TEXT)

<p><b>Facilitator Notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This message can be customized to include local information.</li> </ul>	<p>Dear Parents,</p> <p>This week is the last discussion of the "E" semester of the THRIVE curriculum. This semester's lessons encouraged us to "Embrace the promise of Christ's return." Throughout the semester we learned about the events of the future as well as what the church offers here and now to help us prepare for Christ's return. It's our hope that, throughout this semester, your student grew in their understanding of the future and how our actions demonstrate that we value and embrace Christ's promise to return.</p> <p>In order to truly embrace something, it is critical to know and understand what that thing/person/opportunity/etc. adds and offers. In this semester, we continued our exploration of the mission and vision of the New Apostolic Church, and what the church provides to help us THRIVE in our relationship with God (including ministries, divine service experiences, and sacraments).</p> <p>Consider sharing with your child how you have embraced the promise of Christ's return. As always, if you have questions about the topic, please feel free to contact us.</p> <p>Your Youth Leaders</p>
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### SUNDAY SERMON REFLECTIONS (10 minutes)

<p><b>Facilitator Notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ What Bible verse was used for the basis of last Sunday's sermon?</li> <li>➤ What were some of the main takeaways? What did you learn?</li> <li>➤ So far this week, how have you applied what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?</li> <li>➤ Going forward, how will you apply what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?</li> </ul>
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### WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME? (15 minutes)

<p><b>Facilitator Notes:</b></p>	<p><b>Wrap up the lesson with the "E" message from THRIVE: Embrace the promise of Christ's return by:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>being future-oriented and focusing on His promise. (Philippians 3:12-14)</li> <li>preparing for it by applying the Gospel to every part of your life. (John 14:3)</li> </ul> <p><b>A Point to Ponder....</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Scripture tells us that we don't know the exact moment Christ will return. If you found out that Christ was coming today, would you be excited (because you are ready and prepared for His coming) or would you be worried (because you know your relationship with Jesus Christ isn't what it could or should be)?</li> </ul> <p><b>A Call to Action...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Share with someone in your family, your congregation, and your community (school/friends/team) the hope that you have because Christ promised to return.</li> </ul>
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## Weekly Reflections

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

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

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

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

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**Point to Ponder...**

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**Call to Action...**

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## Embrace the promise of Christ's return: *IGNITE*

How have your actions and motivations demonstrated that you're preparing for Christ's return?

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What actions and/or motivations could prevent you from preparing for Christ's return?

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Why is it important to also be concerned about the present and not just the future?

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How have you seen God's love, guidance, and protection in your life so far? Realizing how God has been with you so far can give the confidence and assurance that He wants the best for you and helps us prepare for Christ's return.

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After spending a semester learning and discussing how to embrace the promise of Christ's return, how will you approach the divine service experience differently?

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### A Point to Ponder....

- Scripture tells us that we don't know the exact moment Christ will return. If you found out that Christ was coming today, would you be excited (because you are ready and prepared for His coming) or would you be worried (because you know your relationship with Jesus Christ isn't what it could or should be)?

### A Call to Action...

- Share with someone in your family, your congregation, and your community (school/friends/team) the hope that you have because Christ promised to return.