

Embrace the promise of Jesus Christ's return: *The Trinity*

LESSON AT A GLANCE

Facilitator Notes:

- The Trinity is a concept that has its origins in the Bible, although the word is never found in the Bible. In that regard it is similar to other aspects of the doctrine, such as the sacraments. The three sacraments are not specifically mentioned by the name that we refer to them today, but they have biblical origins.
- For more information about the triune God, see the full Catechism sections 3.1 and 3.2.
- For Your Journey episodes can be found on the [NAC USA YouTube](#) channel *and* in the [NAC USA mobile app](#)

I wonder...

- Who is the triune God?

I believe...

- God is a spiritual, perfect, and completely independent being. He is eternal, without beginning and without end. The one God is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. (Catechism Q&A questions 51, 61)

Materials:

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

References:

- Bible: Genesis 1:26, Matthew 28:18-20, 2 Corinthians 13:14, 1 John 5:6-8
- Catechism Q&A questions 34-37, 51-66
- For Your Journey
 - [Episode 69 – God is...](#)
- Song
 - [This I believe](#)

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

God is three in one. What does this really mean? This week we will be discussing the Trinity. Join us tomorrow for small group at _____.

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

Facilitator Notes:

- Please keep the main message intact, but feel free to add local information as necessary.

Dear Parents,
 This week the "I Wonder..." question was about the triune God and who He is. Talk with your student this week about the different Persons of God. Consider sharing with them how you have experienced God, the Father, God, the Son, and God, the Holy Spirit. As always, if you have questions about the topic, please 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?

In front of the students, stir together lemonade mix and water in the pitcher. You can also have each student pour some water into the lemonade mix and stir it themselves.

Ask the students: Now that the lemonade mix and the water have been stirred together, can you separate them again? (The answer is no.)

Make sure the students understand that the lemonade is made up of two different parts (lemonade mix and water), and yet, they are also one (lemonade) and cannot be separated.

SET THE STAGE (1 minute)

Facilitator Notes:

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

I wonder...

- Who is the triune God?

LESSON (up to 25 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

Tell the students: The hook activity we did is one way that we can begin to understand that God is three Persons in one. However, no matter what analogy we may use or activity we might do to understand how God is three Persons but also one God, we will never truly be able to grasp the mystery of the Trinity. We have to use our faith. There are really no words to describe this mystery – our analogies will always fall short, but they at least allow us to start thinking about the one God as three Persons, which is why we did that activity.

- For Your Journey episodes can be found on the [NAC USA YouTube](#) channel *and* in the [NAC USA mobile app](#)
- If you seem to be running short on time, you can stop the video at 7:12.

Student Question #1 Who is the triune God?

Tell the students: Before diving into the Persons of the Trinity, let's first reflect on who God is.

- Watch For Your Journey [Episode 69 – God is...](#)

Ask the students to take notes during this video. They should be listening for the different aspects of God and what they mean:

- God is perfect.
- God is love.
- God is Jesus Christ.
- God is triune.
- God is peace.

Discuss with the students the aspects of God mentioned in the video. If further clarification is needed on one or more of these aspects, you can also reference the Catechism Q&A questions 53-60.

Student Question #2 Who are the Persons of God?

Read Catechism Q&A question 66. Ask the students: Who are the three Persons of God?

Tell the students: The Catechism Q&A question 66 lists different points of emphasis for each Person of God. Based on these descriptions, what are names of God that are relevant to the Persons of God? (can be found in various Bible verses if help is needed)

- God, the Father – Father, Creator, Almighty, Alpha and Omega, Sustainer
- God, the Son – Savior, Redeemer, Friend of Sinners, Light of the World
- God, the Holy Spirit – Giver of Life, Spirit of Truth, Comforter, Guide, Helper

Student Question #3 Why is recognizing and praising the Trinity important to our faith?

Tell the students: Belief in the triune God is essential to our faith. We can understand this by looking at the early church creeds that came together between the second and fourth centuries. The two early creeds that are most important to our own New Apostolic Creed are the Apostolicum and the Creed of Nicaea-Constantinople. Let's read these together in the Catechism Q&A questions 34 and 35.

- The Articles of Faith can be found on page 251 of the Catechism Questions and Answers book.

- This I Believe:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FtUNQpu2b7Q>

Ask the students:

- What do these creeds tell you about the Trinity?
- How are these creeds similar to our creed (Articles of Faith) and what they say about the Trinity?

While the word “trinity” does not appear in the Bible, the 3 Persons of the Trinity are referenced in Scripture

- Ask a student, or multiple students, to read a combination of the following Bible passages that reference the Trinity:
 - The Great Commission: Matthew 28:18-20
 - In Apostle Paul’s benediction: 2 Corinthians 13:14
 - In Apostle John’s letter: 1 John 5:6-8

Tell the students: Now let’s listen to “This I Believe” by Hillsong.

Tell the students: Beyond this song, many other Christian songs and hymns make reference to the Trinity and encourage us to praise the triune God.

Ask the students: After looking at the early creeds and our creed, and then listening to this song, why do you think recognizing and praising the Trinity, and each Person of the Trinity, is important to our faith?

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME? (up to 10 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

Consider adding that for God, the past, present, and future are equally before Him.

Wrap up the lesson with who the Triune God is.

Close with the "I Wonder...." questions

- Ask a student to read an "I Wonder..." question, and invite another student to answer with an "I Believe..." statement or an "I Believe..." statement in their own words.
- As you review each question and answer, stop and check in with the group to be sure there are no misunderstandings or misconceptions.
- Remind the students that on their Confirmation day, they will or have already vowed to surrender themselves to the triune God in belief, obedience, and the earnest resolution to remain faithful until their end.

I wonder...

- Who is the triune God?

I believe...

- God is a spiritual, perfect, and completely independent being. He is eternal, without beginning and without end. The one God is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. (Catechism Q&A questions 51, 61)

Point to Ponder....

- The mystery of the divine Trinity comes to expression in various ways in the Bible. However, the Bible doesn't mention the term "Trinity." Read Genesis 1:26 for an example of how the Trinity is revealed in Scripture.

A Call to Action....

- Next time you hear the benediction blessing at the end of the divine service, from 2 Corinthians 13:14, share with someone after service what it means to you to have this blessing pronounced over you and the congregation.

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 Jesus Christ's return: *The Trinity*

I wonder... <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Who is the triune God?	I believe... <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ God is a spiritual, perfect, and completely independent being. He is eternal, without beginning and without end. The one God is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. (Q&A question 51, 61)
References: Bible: Genesis 1:26, Matthew 28:18-20, 2 Corinthians 13:14, 1 John 5:6-8 Catechism Q&A questions 34-37, 51-66	

1. Who is the Triune God?

2. Who are the Persons of God?

3. Why is recognizing and praising the Trinity important to our faith?

Point to Ponder: The mystery of the divine Trinity comes to expression in various ways in the Bible. However, the Bible doesn't mention the term "Trinity." Read Genesis 1:26 for an example of how the Trinity is revealed in Scripture.

Call to Action: Next time you hear the benediction blessing at the end of the divine service, from 2 Corinthians 13:14, share with someone after service what it means to you to have this blessing pronounced over you and the congregation.

Embrace the promise of Jesus Christ's return: *God, the Father*

LESSON AT A GLANCE

Facilitator Notes:

- For more information about God, the Father, see the full Catechism sections 3-3
- For Your Journey episodes can be found on the [NAC USA YouTube](#) channel *and* in the [NAC USA mobile app](#)

I wonder...

- Why can I call God my Father?
- What is the relationship between man and His Creator?
- What is the position of man in the creation?

I believe...

- I can call Him Father because He created me and loves me and wants to have a relationship with me. (Catechism Q&A question 67)
- Human beings are dependent on God in their existence. (Catechism Q&A question 84)
- God gave human beings a special position by creating us in His image. (Catechism Q&A question 80)

Materials:

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

References:

- Bible: Psalm 139, Matthew 6:25-26, John 8:28, John 14:9
- Catechism Q&A questions: 67-69, 80-84
- For Your Journey
 - [Episode 73 – Made in the image of God](#)

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

God is our Father. Have you ever taken the time to think about how wonderful that is? This week, we'll discuss God, the Father – one Person of the Trinity. Join us tomorrow for small group at _____.

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

Facilitator Notes:

- Please keep the main message intact, but feel free to add local information as necessary.

Dear Parents,
 This week the "I Wonder..." questions were about God, the Father. Share with your student how you have felt the loving care of God, the Father. Considering that the previous lesson was about the Trinity, try to help your student understand that God, the Father is not a part of God that is separate from Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. They are all God, all the time. As always, if you have questions about the topic, please feel free to contact us.

Your Youth Leaders

SUNDAY SERMON REFLECTIONS (up to 10 minutes)	
Facilitator Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 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? <p>Tell the students: Take your age and subtract 5. Then take that number and multiply it by 52.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ i.e. Your age = 15 ➤ $15 - 5 = 10$ ➤ $10 \times 52 = 520$ <p>Tell the students: This is a rough estimate of how many times you have prayed the Lord's Prayer and called God your Father. This equation assumes you didn't start praying the Lord's Prayer until you were 5 and that you attended church every week since then. While it may seem a little silly, and the equation doesn't completely give you an accurate number of how many times you have called God your Father, it starts to give you the idea of just how often you call out to Him as your Father.</p>
SET THE STAGE (1 minute)	
Facilitator Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Preview the "I wonder" questions with the students. 	I wonder... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Why can I call God my Father? ➤ What is the relationship between man and His Creator? ➤ What is the position of man in the creation?

LESSON (up to 25 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- For the sake of preparing for the discussion, the full Bible passage from Matthew 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.

Student Question #1 Why can I call God my Father?

Tell the students: At the time that Jesus taught His disciples the Lord's Prayer, He introduced a concept that was revolutionary for that time – that God wants to have an intimate relationship with believers, a relationship that is characterized by the intimacy that exists between a child and a loving father. The actual name of God was never spoken by the Jewish people, except sometimes by the High Priest. God was almighty, holy and revered. He was perceived as being distant, but this changed when Jesus came to earth.

Jesus constantly referred to His Father as the source of all that is good, as His guide in all decisions. The deep relationship that Jesus has with His Father is what He desires for us. The Psalmist, in chapter 139, speaks of a God who searches us, knows us, and is acquainted with all our ways. Let's read this together.

- Ask a student, or group of students, to read Psalm 139 (not included in facilitator guide due to length)

After reading Psalm 139, ask the students:

What does it mean to you that God, the Father, knows you, and that He wants you to know Him?

Student Question #2 What is the relationship between man and His Creator?

Tell the students: **Psalm 139:13-14 gives us a look at the relationship between us and God. What is this relationship?**

- He is our Creator.

Tell the students: God is the Creator and Sustainer. He has made all things, including us! For thousands of years, people have studied the creation, and we still have not come to the end! Everything that exists has emanated from God's creative activity and is subject to Him.

Catechism Q&A question 84 brings up a similar idea: Human beings are dependent on God in their existence.

Sometimes it's hard to depend on others, and it may be even harder to completely trust and rely on God to care for us because we don't physically see Him. But let's read an excerpt from Matthew 6 that also speaks to this.

- Ask a student, or multiple students, to read Matthew 6:25-26.
 - *Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for*

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For Your Journey episodes can be found on the NAC USA YouTube channel <i>and</i> in the NAC USA mobile app Make sure to emphasize with the students about the fall and our broken relationship with God. 	<p><i>they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ask the students: What do these verses tell you about God the Creator and God our Sustainer? ➤ Ask the students: How might these verses help you through a time of worry or being in a situation where you have to completely depend on God? <p><u>Student Question #3</u> What is the position of man in the creation?</p> <p>Tell the students: We have been given a special place in God's creation. We are made in His image. Let's watch a For Your Journey episode about this topic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ For Your Journey <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Episode 73 – Made in the image of God <p>Ask the students: What does this video tell us about our position in creation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ We are made in God's image. ➤ He's given us His attributes with the intent that we would live in perfect harmony with Him, each other, and the rest of creation. ➤ We have speech, senses, freedom, the ability to reason and love, responsibility. ➤ Sin broke the relationship that we had with God, each other, and creation. Man became remote from God. ➤ Sin causes men and women to try to be over one another, but men and women were created equal. ➤ Only Jesus Christ can restore us so that we can again have a perfect relationship with God, each other, and creation. <p>Ask the students: Understanding our position in the creation, that we fell out of harmony with God but that we want a perfect relationship with Him again, what is our responsibility going forward?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Love and care for one another ➤ Don't exploit the resources we have – take care of the earth ➤ Other answers could include: follow the Ten Commandments, share the gospel with others, encourage others, pray, follow God's will, etc.
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WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME? (up to 10 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

Wrap up the lesson with who God, the Father, is.

Close with the "I Wonder...." questions

- Ask a student to read an "I Wonder..." question, and invite another student to answer with an "I Believe..." statement or an "I Believe..." statement in their own words.
- As you review each question and answer, stop and check in with the group to be sure there are no misunderstandings or misconceptions.
- Remind the students that on their Confirmation day, they will or have already vowed to surrender themselves to the triune God in belief, obedience, and the earnest resolution to remain faithful until their end.

I wonder...

- Why can I call God my Father?
- What is the relationship between man and His Creator?
- What is the position of man in the creation?

I believe...

- I can call Him Father because He created me and loves me and wants to have a relationship with me. (Catechism Q&A question 67)
- Human beings are dependent on God in their existence. (Catechism Q&A question 84)
- God gave human beings a special position by creating us in His image. (Catechism Q&A question 80)

Point to Ponder....

- When Jesus was on the earth, He wanted people to discover who the Father was by seeing what He, Jesus, was doing. Jesus said to the people in the temple, *I do nothing of Myself, but as My Father taught Me...* (John 8:28). God, the Father, was revealed to the world through the actions of Jesus: *He who has seen Me has seen the Father* (John 14:9). When we call God our Father, we are making profound commitments. First, we are committing to grow in our understanding of the Father by continually studying the life of Jesus, who perfectly reflected the character of His Father on earth. Secondly, we are making a bold statement that our actions reflect the nature of Christ to the world around us. These are the commitments that belong to a true Christian.

A Call to Action....

- The next time you pray the Lord's Prayer, focus on or emphasize the opening phrase, "Our Father." Let this lesson help you bring new expression to these words as you pray them with the rest of the congregation.

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 Jesus Christ's return: *God, the Father*

I wonder... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Why can I call God my Father? ➤ What is the relationship between man and His Creator? ➤ What is the position of man in the creation? 	I believe... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ I can call Him Father because He created me and loves me and wants to have a relationship with me. (Catechism Q&A question 67) ➤ Human beings are dependent on God in their existence. (Catechism Q&A question 84) ➤ God gave human beings a special position by creating us in His image. (Catechism Q&A question 80)
References: Bible: Psalm 139, Matthew 6:25-26, John 8:28, John 14:9 Catechism Q&A questions: 67-69, 80-84	

1. Why can I call God my Father?

2. What is the relationship between man and His Creator?

3. What is the position of man in the creation?

Point to Ponder: When Jesus was on the earth, He wanted people to discover who the Father was by seeing what He, Jesus, was doing. Jesus said to the people in the temple, *I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me...* (John 8:28). God, the Father, was revealed to the world through the actions of Jesus: *He who has seen Me has seen the Father* (John 14:9). When we call God our Father, we are making profound commitments. First, we are committing to grow in our understanding of the Father by continually studying the life of Jesus, who perfectly reflected the character of His Father on earth. Secondly, we are making a bold statement that our actions reflect the nature of Christ to the world around us. These are the commitments that belong to a true Christian.

Call to Action: The next time you pray the Lord's Prayer, focus on or emphasize the opening phrase, "Our Father." Let this lesson help you bring new expression to these words as you pray them with the rest of the congregation.

Embrace the promise of Jesus Christ's return: *God, the Son*

LESSON AT A GLANCE

Facilitator Notes:

- For more information about God, the Son, see the full Catechism sections 3.4

I wonder...

- Who is God, the Son?
- Who is Jesus Christ?
- How is Jesus true Man and true God?

I believe...

- God, the Son, is the second person of the triune God. (Catechism Q&A question 93)
- In Jesus Christ God, the Son, became human and yet remained God. (Catechism Q&A question 94)
- Jesus Christ has two natures, a human one and a divine one. (Catechism Q&A question 103-106)

Materials:

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

References:

- Bible: Matthew 4:1-11, John 6:35, 8:12, 10:9, 11, 11:25, 14:6, 15:1
- Catechism Q&A questions: 93-94, 100, 103-106, 376-380
- Catechism sections: 3.4, 3.4.3
- 2nd Article of Faith (Articles of Faith are found on page 251 of the Catechism Q&A)

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

Jesus Christ is both true Man and true God. What exactly does this mean? This week, we will discuss God, the Son – one Person of the Trinity. Join us tomorrow for small group at _____.

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

Facilitator Notes:

- Please keep the main message intact, but feel free to add local information as necessary.

Dear Parents,
 This week the "I Wonder..." questions were about God, the Son, as true Man and true God. We encourage you and your student to look at the different I AM statements Jesus made to discover more about Him. Considering that the previous lessons were about the Trinity and God, the Father, try to help your student understand that Jesus Christ is not a part of God that is separate from the Father and the Holy Spirit. They are all God, all the time. As always, if you have questions about the topic, please 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.

- "What a Beautiful Name":
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nQWFzMvCfLE>

- 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?

Listen to "What a Beautiful Name" by Hillsong Worship.

Tell the students: The song says that Jesus' name is beautiful, wonderful, and powerful. This lesson will help us to discover why.

SET THE STAGE (1 minute)

Facilitator Notes:

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

I wonder...

- Who is God, the Son?
- Who is Jesus Christ?
- How is Jesus true Man and true God?

LESSON (up to 25 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

Student Question #1 Who is God, the Son?

Ask a student to read Catechism Q&A question 93. Highlight that God, the Son, is the second Person of the Trinity.

- The Articles of Faith can be found on page 251 of the Catechism Questions and Answers book.

Student Question #2 Who is Jesus Christ?

Ask a student to recite, or read, the 2nd Article of Faith.

- Encourage student to know the Articles of Faith because they are statements of profession for a Christian in the New Apostolic Church.
- Particularly, a way to remember the 2nd Article of Faith is realizing that it goes through the events of Jesus Christ's life.
- The 2nd Article of Faith contains the phrase "only begotten Son of God..."

Ask a student to read Catechism Q&A question 100 and the note about pre-existence on the same page.

Ask the students: Did you know that Jesus Christ existed before He came to earth? Does knowing this change the way you think about Him, especially in regards to Christmas time when we celebrate the birth of Jesus? Why do we celebrate His birth if He existed before?

- Encourage the students to explore this thought. Maybe they knew Jesus existed before He came to earth, but still only think of His "beginning" as a baby. Maybe this knowledge helps them to realize that the three Persons of the Trinity are truly equal, as they all existed even before creation.

Additionally, when answering the question, "Who is Jesus Christ?" it is important to look at how Jesus Christ described Himself. In the gospel book of John, Jesus provides 7 distinct statements, known as the "I am" statements to describe Himself.

Ask a student, or divide the list among multiple students, to read the 7 "I am" statements:

Verse	I am...	Explanation
John 6:35	<i>The bread of life</i>	As bread sustains physical life, so Christ offers and sustains spiritual life
John 8:12	<i>The light of the world</i>	To a world lost in darkness, Christ offers Himself as a guide
John 10:9	<i>The door of the sheep</i>	Jesus protects His followers as shepherds protect their flocks
John 10:11	<i>The good shepherd</i>	Jesus is committed to caring and watching over those who are His
John 11:25	<i>The resurrection and the life</i>	Death is not the final word for those in Christ. His sacrifice brings us life
John 14:6	<i>The way, the truth, the life</i>	Jesus is the way to God as well as the source of truth and knowledge about God
John 15:1	<i>The true vine</i>	By attaching ourselves to Christ, we enable His life to flow in and through us.

- For the sake of preparing for the discussion, the 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.

- For more information about Jesus Christ being true man and true God, see the full Catechism sections 3.4.3

- For more information about the duality of the church (perfect and invisible/imperfect and visible) see Catechism Q&A questions 376-380.

Highlight the I Am statement from John 14:6.

Ask a student to read the **White Hot Topic: *The Only Way To God*** on page 1114.

Student Question #3 How is Jesus true Man and true God?

Tell the students: We've started to see evidence that Jesus is both true Man and true God. He lived on earth as a Man, and yet He also remained God. As humans, it's sort of hard to understand how that's possible. Let's read together Catechism Q&A questions 103-106 to try and get a better understanding.

Ask the students if they have any questions about what they just read. Try to answer their questions as best as possible.

Ask the students: Why did Jesus have to have two natures and become a Man on earth? Why couldn't He just come to earth as the true God?

- One possible answer: When Jesus became a Man, it shows that He can relate to us. He struggled as we struggle. He felt different emotions as we feel different emotions. His nature as a Man makes Him more personal to us.
- Jesus Christ was to bridge the gap between man and God, created by original sin.

Have the students look through the Gospel books (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) for different scenarios where Jesus' two natures are revealed, and have them share what they find.

- If after a couple minutes, the students cannot think of or find examples of the two natures of Jesus, have them read Matthew 4:1-11 and then discuss how the two natures of Christ are revealed in this passage.
- An example of this could be Jesus in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11). His human nature is revealed in the fact that He was hungry. His nature as true God is revealed in the way He resists the temptation of the devil.

In His dual nature, Jesus was perfect.

This dualality is reflected in other elements of Christianity as well, yet are not perfect because of their human element.

For instance:

	Invisible	Visible
The church of Jesus Christ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When God forgives sins When the blessing of God is laid upon the congregation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When people profess Jesus Christ When ministers preach
Sacraments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Original sin being washed away 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The physical sign of a sacrament (water, laying on of hands, bread and wine)
Ordained Ministry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The responsibility a minister has to care for souls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The imperfect and sinful human that serves God through ordained ministry

Even though Jesus was human, He was perfect. This is why He is the only one that has conquered sin and death.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME? (up to 10 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

Wrap up the lesson with who God, the Son, is.

Close with the "I Wonder...." questions

- Ask a student to read an "I Wonder..." question, and invite another student to answer with an "I Believe..." statement or an "I Believe..." statement in their own words.
- As you review each question and answer, stop and check in with the group to be sure there are no misunderstandings or misconceptions.
- Remind the students that on their Confirmation day, they will or have already vowed to surrender themselves to the triune God in belief, obedience, and the earnest resolution to remain faithful until their end.

I wonder...

- Who is God, the Son?
- Who is Jesus Christ?
- How is Jesus true Man and true God?

I believe...

- God, the Son, is the second person of the triune God. (Catechism Q&A question 93)
- In Jesus Christ God, the Son, became human and yet remained God. (Catechism Q&A question 94)
- Jesus Christ has two natures, a human one and a divine one. (Catechism Q&A questions 103-106)

Point to Ponder....

- Listen to "What a Beautiful Name" by Hillsong Worship. Why is Jesus' name beautiful, wonderful, and powerful to you?
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r5L6QIAH3L4>

A Call to Action....

- If someone asked you, "Who is Jesus Christ?" how would you answer that question? Who is Jesus Christ to you? Reflect on the lesson to help you write down your answer.
- Learn the 2nd Article of Faith

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 Jesus Christ's return: *God, the Son*

I wonder... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Who is God, the Son? ➤ Who is Jesus Christ? ➤ How is Jesus true Man and true God? 	I believe... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ God, the Son, is the second person of the triune God. (Catechism Q&A question 93) ➤ In Jesus Christ God, the Son, became human and yet remained God. (Catechism Q&A question 94) ➤ Jesus Christ has two natures, a human one and a divine one. (Catechism Q&A questions 103-106)
References: Bible: Matthew 4:1-11, John 6:35, 8:12, 10:9, 11, 11:25, 14:6, 15:1 Catechism Q&A questions: 93-94, 100, 103-106, 376-380	

1. Who is God, the Son?

2. Who is Jesus Christ?

3. How is Jesus true Man and true God?

Point to Ponder: Listen to "What a Beautiful Name" by Hillsong Worship. Why is Jesus' name beautiful to you?

Call to Action: If someone asked you, "Who is Jesus Christ?" how would you answer that question? Who is Jesus Christ to you? Reflect on the lesson to help you write down your answer. Learn the 2nd Article of Faith.

Embrace the promise of Jesus Christ's return: *God, the Holy Spirit*

LESSON AT A GLANCE

Facilitator Notes:

- For more information about God, the Holy Spirit see the full Catechism section 3.5.
- For Your Journey episodes can be found on the [NAC USA YouTube](#) channel *and* in the [NAC USA mobile app](#)

I wonder...

- Who is the Holy Spirit?
- How does the Holy Spirit show Himself as a divine person?
- How can I recognize the activity of the Holy Spirit?

I believe...

- The Holy Spirit is true God and is the third person of God, who is worshipped as Lord and God along with the Father and the Son. (Catechism Q&A question 197)
- The Holy Spirit shows Himself as a person of the trinity of God by sending human beings to spread the gospel, just as God, the Son. (Catechism Q&A question 198)
- We recognize the activity of the Holy Spirit in that He grants human beings knowledge of divine truth especially through experiencing preaching and the sacraments. (Catechism Q&A questions 203, 212, 213, 626)

Materials:

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

References:

- Bible: John 3:8, John 14:15-18, John 14:25-26, John 16:13-14
- Catechism Q&A questions 197-214, 626
- For Your Journey
 - [Episode 15 – The Power of the Holy Spirit](#)

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

How do you know that the Holy Spirit is with you? This week, we will discuss God, the Holy Spirit – one Person of the Trinity. Join us tomorrow for small group at _____.

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

Facilitator Notes:

- Please keep the main message intact, but feel free to add local information as necessary.

Dear Parents,
 This week the "I Wonder..." questions were about God, the Holy Spirit, as the third Person of the Trinity. Reflect on a time where you have felt the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Consider sharing this with your student, and ask if they have ever felt His guidance in their lives. As always, if you have questions about the topic, please 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?

Set up the trash can with the fan pointing at the can on the highest speed setting. Take a few sheets of paper and roll them up into balls. The purpose of the game is to toss a paper ball into the trashcan. Let each student have a few turns trying to get the ball in. Each time they throw, they'll get a better understanding of the wind from the fan and how fast/slow they need to throw the ball and at what angle to throw it in order to get it in the trashcan.

After the activity, ask the students:

- Why was it so difficult to get the ball in the trashcan? (Because of the wind from the fan)
- Did you see the wind coming out of that fan? (No – you can't see wind)
- How did you know the wind was there? (Because it blew the paper)
- When you go outside on a windy day, you also can't see it, but how do you know it's there? (You feel the wind blowing against you or you see it blow against other things)

SET THE STAGE (1 minute)

Facilitator Notes:

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

I wonder...

- Who is the Holy Spirit?
- How does the Holy Spirit show Himself as a divine person?
- How can I recognize the activity of the Holy Spirit?

LESSON (up to 25 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- 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.

Ask a student to read John 3:8:

- *The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.*

Tell the students: To help us start to understand the Holy Spirit, we can consider how He is like the wind. We cannot see wind, but we know it is there; just like the Holy Spirit. The wind from the fan moved the balls of paper as you tried to throw them. Similarly, the Holy Spirit guides our movements. Sometimes we even feel this guidance. We'll talk a little bit more about this throughout the lesson.

Student Question #1 Who is the Holy Spirit?

Tell the students: God, the Holy Spirit, is the third Person of the Trinity.

Ask a student, or multiple students, to read John 14:15-18.

- *If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever – the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.*

After reading the verses, tell the students: Jesus had just told His disciples that He was about to leave them and they could not go with Him. He divulged that they would face great hostility and many challenges. The disciples were confused by what Jesus was telling them. But Jesus offered hope and encouragement by saying, *I pray the Father will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever....*

Jesus gave His disciples the assurance of His eternal presence, love, and strength. He said "another" would come, which in Greek (*allos*) means, "another of the same kind." Jesus also used the word "Helper" to describe the Holy Spirit. The Greek word for "helper," *parakletos*, has the meaning of "one called to stand alongside" to assist during a struggle. Therefore, Jesus literally meant that the Father would send one like Him, who is called to stand alongside them, whose role is to support them during struggles and impart strength.

This gives us insight that the Holy Spirit is "of the same kind," equal to God, the Father and God, the Son, and that we also need to worship and glorify Him as we would the other Persons of the Trinity.

Ask the students: What are ways that we can worship God, the Holy Spirit?

- Some possible answers are: sing songs of praise about Him, try to listen more intently to His guidance, etc.

Student Question #2 How does the Holy Spirit show Himself as a divine person?

Tell the students: Let's read further in John 14 to learn more about the Holy Spirit.

Read together John 14:25-26.

- *These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.*

Tell the students: Jesus is the One speaking in these verses. Just as He taught and spoke truth to His disciples on this earth, Jesus assures us that the Holy Spirit does the same. He teaches and points us to the gospel of Jesus. This is how He reveals Himself as a divine Person. By reminding us of the teachings of Jesus, we then can go out and spread the gospel to others.

Ask the students: Imagine what the disciples felt in this moment as Jesus spoke to them. Jesus had told them He wouldn't be with them any longer. How might they be feeling? (sad, confused, upset, angry)

Tell the students: But then Jesus reassures them that a Helper will come and remind them of Him, and support them during difficulties. It makes sense then that the Holy Spirit is referred to as a Helper and Comforter.

Ask the students: When was the last time you were comforted by the Holy Spirit? Really think about this. The Holy Spirit can act in many different ways in order to offer us strength.

- Maybe they were reminded of a Bible verse that offered hope during a tough situation.
- Maybe a sense of peace overcame them during a stressful situation.
- Maybe someone, who didn't know what they were going through, reached out or encouraged them.

Student Question #3 How can I recognize the activity of the Holy Spirit?

Ask the students: How do you know when something is true? Is there evidence or indicators that you look for to know if something is true?

- See if the students can think beyond, "My parents told me it's true," etc. If someone tells you something is true, there is a chance that it actually isn't, so then how can you know if something is true?
- For Your Journey
 - [Episode 15 – The Power of the Holy Spirit](#), minute marker 4:13 – 5:26.

Ask the students: What did this video clip tell you about the Holy Spirit?

- The Holy Spirit reveals truth to us.
- He reminds us of the truth about our actions and deeds.
- Through His truth, we find inspiration, confidence, and joy.

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

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For more information about the activity of the Holy Spirit in the sacraments, see the full Catechism section 3.5.5.2 	<p>Tell the students: We know that the Holy Spirit is active in the world because He reveals truth to us. And we can trust in the things that He tells us to be true.</p> <p>Ask the students: Why can we trust what the Spirit reveals to us as truth?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well, think back to what we just talked about for the last question. The Holy Spirit's responsibility is to point us to Jesus and remind us of His teachings. Therefore, what the Holy Spirit reveals to us as true is based on Jesus and His gospel. And this is why we can have confidence when the truth is revealed to us, because we know it is directly from God and is according to His will and the gospel of Christ. <p>Ask a student, or multiple students, to read Catechism Q&A questions 203, 213, and 626</p>
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WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME? (up to 10 minutes)

<p>Facilitator Notes:</p>	<p>Wrap up the lesson with who God, the Holy Spirit, is.</p> <p>Close with the "I Wonder...." questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask a student to read an "I Wonder..." question, and invite another student to answer with an "I Believe..." statement or an "I Believe..." statement in their own words. As you review each question and answer, stop and check in with the group to be sure there are no misunderstandings or misconceptions. Remind the students that on their Confirmation day, they will or have already vowed to surrender themselves to the triune God in belief, obedience, and the earnest resolution to remain faithful until their end. <p>I wonder...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who is the Holy Spirit? How does the Holy Spirit show Himself as a divine person? How can I recognize the activity of the Holy Spirit? <p>I believe...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Holy Spirit is true God and is the third person of God, who is worshipped as Lord and God along with the Father and the Son. (Catechism Q&A question 197) The Holy Spirit shows Himself as a person of the trinity of God by sending human beings to spread the gospel, just as God, the Son. (Catechism Q&A question 198) We recognize the activity of the Holy Spirit in that He grants human beings knowledge of divine truth. (Catechism Q&A questions 203, 212, 213, 626) <p>Point to Ponder....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jesus says, in John 16:13-14, <i>However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.</i> <p>A Call to Action....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What do you currently let guide you in life and help you make decisions? Your parents or friends? The opinions of others? Write a prayer to God asking to be more open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit in your life.
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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 Jesus Christ's return: *God, the Holy Spirit*

I wonder... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Who is the Holy Spirit? ➤ How does the Holy Spirit show Himself as a divine person? ➤ How can I recognize the activity of the Holy Spirit? 	I believe... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Holy Spirit is true God and is the third person of God, who is worshipped as Lord and God along with the Father and the Son. (Catechism Q&A question 197) ➤ The Holy Spirit shows Himself as a person of the trinity of God by sending human beings to spread the gospel, just as God, the Son. (Catechism Q&A question 198) ➤ We recognize the activity of the Holy Spirit in that He grants human beings knowledge of divine truth. (Catechism Q&A questions 203, 212, 213, 626)
References: Bible: John 3:8, John 14:15-18, John 14:25-26, John 16:13-14 Catechism Q&A questions: 197-214, 626	

1. Who is the Holy Spirit?

2. How does the Holy Spirit show Himself as a divine person?

3. How can I recognize the activity of the Holy Spirit?

Point to Ponder: Jesus says, in John 16:13-14, *However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.*

Call to Action: What do you currently let guide you in life and help you make decisions? Your parents or friends? The opinions of others? Write a prayer to God asking to be more open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit in your life.

Embrace the promise of Christ's return: *The Plan of Salvation*

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 meant by the term "plan of salvation"?
- What is the foundation for salvation?
- How can salvation be attained today?

I believe...

- The events between the fall into sin and the new creation are described as God's "plan of salvation" (Catechism Q&A question 244)
- Jesus Christ is the Savior, the Redeemer, and in Him human beings find salvation from the harm caused by sin. (Catechism Q&A question 247)
- Human beings attain salvation by believing in Jesus Christ, by partaking of the sacraments and the word of God (Catechism Q&A question 250)

Materials:

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

References:

- Bible: John 8:24, Acts 4:12, Romans 5:12-16, 1 Timothy 2:3-6
- Catechism Q&A questions: 240, 243-259
- 9th Article of Faith
- Community Magazine article "The return of Christ" – Quarter 4, 2019
 - [Click HERE to access the Q4 2019 community magazine](#)
- For Your Journey –
 - [Episode 75 – Salvation – Part 1](#)
 - [Episode 76 – Salvation – Part 2](#)

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

This week we will be discussing the big picture. Join us tomorrow for small group at _____.

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

Dear Parents,

This week the "I wonder..." questions focused on the plan of salvation. Consider taking some time this week to talk with your student about when you came to understand and appreciate the salvation that Jesus Christ offers. If you need a way to start the conversation, consider asking your child to watch episodes 75 and/or 76 of **For Your Journey** together.

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

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 any of the Marvel superhero movies over the past few years.
 - If no, introduce the topic with the summary points below
 - If yes, go on to ask them which movies they liked the most.
 - Continue the conversation by asking them what all of the Marvel superhero movies have in common. OR why the MCU (Marvel Cinematic Universe) was such a big deal with the *Avengers: Endgame* movie, which was released in 2019.
 - If the below summary points don't come out in the student's answers, supplement as needed
 - Summary points
 - *Avengers: Endgame* is the culmination of 22 Marvel movies released over the course of 10 years.
 - All of the previous movies (Iron Man, Captain America, etc.) are parts of the larger story that we see come to an end in *Avengers: Endgame*.
 - Similarly, the Bible isn't a bunch of random stories, but the compilation of many stories that are all a part of God's plan of salvation.

SET THE STAGE (1 minute)

Facilitator Notes:

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

I wonder...

- What is meant by the term "plan of salvation"?
- What is the foundation for salvation?
- How can salvation be attained today?

LESSON (up to 25 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- Throughout discussions about the Plan of Salvation, and future events, the term “first resurrection” may appear in various explanations or timelines. This term is found in Revelation 20:5-6, 11-15.
- 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.
- For additional clarity, consider also reading Romans 5:12-16 in the NLT version.

Student Question #1 What does the term ‘plan of salvation’ mean?

- The events between the fall into sin and the new creation are described as God’s “plan of salvation” (Catechism Q&A question 244)
- Human beings may not know the entire plan of God in all its fullness, but from the course of salvation history revealed in Scripture, we can recognize that it is God’s intention to help mankind.

Student Question #2 How do we know God wants to help mankind? How do we know God wants people to be saved?

- To help answer this, we will turn to Scripture.
- Ask a student to read 1 Timothy 2:3-6
 - *For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.*
- Apostle Paul, an Apostle of Jesus Christ, wrote this letter to Timothy and from it we see eternally valid truths, that God wants all people to be saved.

Student Question #3 What is the foundation for salvation?

- Jesus Christ is the Savior, the Redeemer, and in Him human beings find salvation from the harm caused by sin. (Catechism Q&A question 247)
- To help answer this, we will turn to Scripture.
- Ask a student to read Acts 4:12
 - *Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.*
 - This name, of course, is Jesus Christ
- To get more context on the passage that was just read, ask a student to read the “**White Hot Topic – Salvation**” on page 1134 of the IGNITE Bible
 - After the “White Hot Topic – Salvation” is read, highlight the “Live It” questions and discuss:
 - “Do you ever look for salvation in places other than Jesus?”
 - “How might that change your thoughts about Jesus today?”

Student Question #4 We know that salvation is rooted in Jesus, but why did Jesus even come to earth and die? What are we being saved from?

- Perfect and ultimate salvation is about being saved from the domination of evil.
- The effects of original sin separate us from God.
- Ask a student, or multiple students, to read Romans 5:12-16
 - *Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—(For until the law sin was in the world, but sin is not imputed when there is no law. Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who*

- For additional context or information about the return of Christ, the facilitator can read the [Community Magazine article "The return of Christ" – Quarter 4, 2019](#)
- The Articles of Faith can be found on page 251 of the Catechism Questions and Answers book.
- [For Your Journey – Episode 75](#) is 6:26 long. If you don't have time to watch it in class, consider sending it to the students in the day or two after the discussion to serve as a follow up. Both Episode 75 and Episode 76 are suggested in the follow up parent email.

had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come. But the free gift is not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many.

- Sin was introduced into the world with Adam and Eve, and Christ came to reconcile the broken relationship with God as a result of sin.
- Jesus spoke directly about the danger of sin. Ask a student to read John 8:24
 - "Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins."

Student Question #5 How can salvation be attained?

- Human beings attain salvation by believing in Jesus Christ, by partaking of the sacraments and the word of God (Catechism Q&A question 250)
- To be saved, one must believe in Jesus Christ. Believing in Jesus Christ is essential for someone to consider themselves a CHRISTian. A Christian's actions and motivations are guided by the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ (His birth, life, death, resurrection, and promise to return) is an essential foundation for the plan of salvation.

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.

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 (E9 – Our Future), about the future events.

For Your Journey – Episode 75 – Salvation (part 1)

- If time allows, consider watching Episode 75 of For Your Journey as a group. In it, District Apostle Kolb starts the two part series speaking about salvation and the salvation opportunities that make up the plan of salvation.
- The points from the episode are summarized as:
 - As New Apostolic Christians, we understand that salvation is the deliverance from the domination of evil, and living in perfect fellowship with God and man. This salvation will come to completion in the new heaven and the new earth.
 - When Jesus Christ died on the cross, He opened the way for us to be saved. Therefore, salvation is not necessarily a singular event, but a state of being – we are being saved from evil, from other influences, and even ourselves.

- The Lord continuously: forgives our sinfulness if we repent, helps us overcome evil, and invites us to have fellowship with Him and others. We most closely have this fellowship with Him and others in Holy Communion and the divine service. With this, we can already experience a foretaste of the kingdom today; however, it is not the end state of salvation. The Chief Apostle described three opportunities in which human beings men will have the possibility to obtain salvation.
- The first opportunity is Christ's return. The goal of our faith is to be accepted by Him at during this time, this is why we prepare for His return by resisting evil, conforming to the example of Christ, partaking worthily of Holy Communion, repenting for our sins, and letting ourselves be guided by His divine word to walk in the newness of life.
- God wants us to be successful, and so He helps us in this preparation. That is why He made us part of the community of believers, so we can strive together to be part of the bride and have early access to fellowship with Him. If we are invited to embrace this first opportunity of salvation, why would we want to wait to experience perfect fellowship with God when Christ returns?

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME? (up to 10 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

Close with the "I Wonder..." questions

- 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.

I wonder...

- What is meant by the term "plan of salvation"?
- What is the foundation for salvation?
- How can salvation be attained today?

I believe...

- The events between the fall into sin and the new creation are described as God's "plan of salvation" (Catechism Q&A question 244)
- Jesus Christ is the Savior, the Redeemer, and in Him human beings find salvation from the harm caused by sin. (Catechism Q&A question 247)
- Human beings attain salvation by believing in Jesus Christ, by partaking of the sacraments and the word of God (Catechism Q&A question 250)

Point to Ponder...

- God loves us so much that He established the plan of salvation in order to reconcile the broken relationship caused by sin. In salvation, we will have full and eternal fellowship with God.

A Call to Action...

- Memorize the 9th Article of Faith (found on page 252 of the Catechism Q&A).

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: *The Plan of Salvation*

I wonder... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What is meant by the term "plan of salvation"? ➤ What is the foundation for salvation? ➤ How can salvation be attained today? 	I believe... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The events between the fall into sin and the new creation are described as God's "plan of salvation" (Catechism Q&A question 244) ➤ Jesus Christ is the Savior, the Redeemer, and in Him human beings find salvation from the harm caused by sin. (Catechism Q&A question 247) ➤ Human beings attain salvation by believing in Jesus Christ, by partaking of the sacraments and the word of God (Catechism Q&A question 250)
Bible: John 8:24, Acts 4:12, Romans 5:12-16, 1 Timothy 2:3-6 Catechism Q&A questions: 240, 243-259 Article of Faith 9	

1. What does the term 'plan of salvation' mean?

2. How do we know God wants to help mankind? How do we know God wants people to be saved?

3. What is the foundation for salvation?

4. We know that salvation is rooted in Jesus, but why did Jesus even come to earth and die? What are we being saved from?

5. How can salvation be attained?

Point to Ponder: God loves us so much that He established the plan of salvation in order to reconcile the broken relationship caused by sin. In salvation, we will have full and eternal fellowship with God.

Call to Action: Memorize the 9th Article of Faith (found on page 252 of the Catechism Q&A).

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*

I wonder... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What is the Vision of the New Apostolic Church? ➤ Mission of the New Apostolic Church? 	I believe... <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.
Bible: Matthew 20:28, 22:36-40, 28:18-20, Galatians 5:13, Colossians 3:23-24, Revelation 22:3 Article of Faith 9	

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.

Embrace the promise of Christ's return: *Holy Baptism*

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 original sin?
- What occurs in Holy Baptism with water?

I believe...

- Original sin is the condition of separation from God that came into being through the fall into sin. Since the fall into sin, sin has weighed upon all human beings. (Catechism Q&A question 482)
- Through Holy Baptism with water a fundamental change in the relationship between a human being and God comes into being. Through the washing away of original sin, the baptized is led out of his original state of remoteness from God and enters the proximity of God. Through baptism, a person becomes a Christian. (Catechism Q&A question 481)

Materials:

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

References:

- Bible: Genesis 3, Matthew 3:13-17, 28:18-20, Acts 16:31-33, 19:3-5
- Catechism Q&A questions: 229, 472, 481-493
- Catechism 8.1.2.2
- 6th Article of Faith (Articles of Faith are found on page 251 of the Catechism Q&A)
- For Your Journey
 - [Episode 51 – Holy Baptism](#)
 - [Episode 57 – Infant Baptism](#)

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

How would you define 'commitment'? What are you committed to? Join us tomorrow for small group at _____ where we'll be talking about our relationship with God .

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 were about Holy Baptism. It was explained that Holy Baptism is a sacrament of the church and how it isn't purely a ritual, but a fundamental act of God's grace. Holy Baptism washes away original sin (the fall into sin by Adam and Eve) and leads the soul out of remoteness from God. Consider discussing with your child the importance of commitments and what it means to be committed to God. If your child has been baptized, consider sharing a picture of their baptism with them and/or share details you remember from that day.

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.
- Consider writing the responses on the chartpaper or whiteboard.

- 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?
- Following up from the pre discussion message: Ask the students how they would define the word 'commitment'. What are some examples of commitments?
- Some examples could be:
 - Going to school
 - Being married
 - Participating on a sports team or band/orchestra (or any other extra curricular activity)
 - Having a car
- Ask the students what signifies the commitment, meaning, what makes it a commitment?
- Some possible answers could be:
 - Going to school→ **registering for classes**
 - Being married → **making vows to each other, marriage license, ceremony**
 - Participating on a sports team→ **trying out and making the team, signing up to play a certain sport or extra curriculuar activity**
 - Having a car→ **the purchase documents (contract/lease), registration document**
- Commitments are made, they usually signify a change, and there is some event that happens to indicate a commitment has been made.
- Holy Baptism is a commitment that God makes to us and we make to God.

SET THE STAGE (1 minute)

Facilitator Notes:

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

I wonder...

- What is original sin?
- What occurs in Holy Baptism with water?

LESSON (up to 25 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- The definition of sin is also covered in discussion T8 from the "Transform your nature using Jesus as your example" semester.
- Throughout the discussion, it is important to not refer to 'original sin' as 'inherited sin,' especially when referring to baptism. The term 'inherited sin' can cause confusion and contribute to the incorrect notion that we inherit sins from our family.
- Consider asking the students what the three sacraments of the New Apostolic Church are (Holy Baptism, Holy Communion, and Holy Sealing).
- Consider reviewing the definition of a sacrament from V6 : "sacraments are fundamental acts of grace bestowed by God on a human being; sacraments are essential for salvation, at least until the day of the Lord. (Catechism Q&A question 472)

Continue the lesson by saying something like: before we see what original sin is, let's take a step back and define sin in general.

Student Question #1 What is sin?

- Allow the students to share their thoughts on what they understand sin to be.
- Summarize, or correct if needed, with the definition from the Catechism Q&A
 - Sin is everything that opposes the will of God and is contrary to His being. This includes all words, deeds, and thoughts that are contrary to the will and being of God. It is also sin to intentionally neglect to do good. (Catechism Q&A question 229)

Student Question #2 What is original sin?

- Original sin is the condition of separation from God that came into being through the fall into sin. Since the fall into sin, sin has weighed upon all human beings. (Catechism Q&A question 482)

If time allows, ask a student or multiple students to read the full account of the fall into sin found in Genesis 3.

Ask a student, or multiple students, to read the "**Spotlight: God Gives Humans A Choice**" on page 9 of the IGNITE Bible.

This choice that is written about in the "*Spotlight*" commentary is given to us as well today; The choice to choose for God, or against God.

When we decide to choose for God, He expects and encourages us to make that choice known. That is one of the elements of baptism, professing the decision to follow Jesus Christ and relying on Him as our Savior.

Holy Baptism is a real act of God's loving care. It is the first and fundamental sacramental act of grace by the triune God on a human being who believes in Jesus Christ. In baptism, a fundamental change in the relationship between a human being and God occurs.

Student Question #3 What occurs in Holy Baptism with water?

- Through Holy Baptism with water a fundamental change in the relationship between a human being and God comes into being. Through the washing away of original sin, the baptized is led out of his original state of remoteness from God and enters the proximity of God. Through baptism, a person becomes a Christian. (Catechism Q&A question 481)
- Holy Baptism with water signifies the end of a life in remoteness from God and the beginning of life in Christ. It imparts strength to wage the battle against sin. (Catechism Q&A question 490)

- If students want an expanded explanation of why the New Apostolic Church believes in infant baptism, please share For Your Journey – [Episode 57 – Infant Baptism](#). This could also be shared with the students during the week after the discussion as a follow up.
- For more information on the difference between John's baptism and modern Christian baptism, please see the full Catechism section 8.1.2.2
- The Articles of Faith can be found on page 251 of the Catechism Questions and Answers book.

For those that are baptized as children, the time of Confirmation becomes the opportunity to make a public profession of faith and vow to renounce satan and remain faithful to God.

Student Question #4 What Biblical support is there for being baptized? Isn't faith in Jesus enough?

- Ask a student, or multiple students, to read a combination of the following Bible passages (full text of passages not included due to length):
 - Jesus is baptized: Matthew 3:13-17
 - It was not necessary for Jesus to be baptized, nevertheless He submitted to the baptism of John the Baptist. In so doing He put Himself on the same level as sinners. He thereby showed the way in which righteousness before God can be attained. The baptism of John was only a baptism unto repentance. (Catechism Q&A question 485)
 - Jesus commissions His Apostles to baptize all nations: Matthew 28:19
 - The Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20 has been highlighted a few times in the Youth THRIVE Small Group Curriculum, most recently in E6 about the church's vision and mission statements. This is an opportunity to point out how things are connected.
 - Paul and Silas baptize their prison guard: Acts 16:31-33
 - This encounter that states "...and immediately he and all his family were baptized." Is another support for children being baptized. It is believed that when Scripture mentions a family or household being baptized, that the reference includes the children.
 - Paul at Ephesus: Acts 19:3-5
 - This encounter shows that there was a difference between the baptisms John had performed and the baptism in the name of Jesus Christ.

Student Question #5 Which article of faith describes Holy Baptism? What is the content of that article?

- The 6th article of faith states:
 I believe that the Holy Baptism with water is the first step to a renewal of a human being in the Holy Spirit, and that the person baptized is adopted into the fellowship of those who believe in Jesus Christ and profess Him as their Lord.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME? (up to 10 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

Embrace the promise of Christ's return

- This discussion is included in this semester because the sacrament of Holy Baptism removes the remoteness from God and helps us on our journey as we prepare for the return of Christ.

Additional videos

- If time permits, consider showing and discussing one of the For Your Journey episodes listed on the front of the facilitator guide.

Close with the "I Wonder..." questions

- Ask a student to read an "I Wonder..." question, and invite another student to answer with an "I Believe..." statement or an "I Believe..." statement in their own words.
- As you review each question and answer, stop and check in with the group to be sure there are no misunderstandings or misconceptions.
- Remind the students that on their Confirmation day they will make, or have already made (if they have been Confirmed), a vow to renounce evil and be faithful to God.

I wonder...

- What is original sin?
- What occurs in Holy Baptism with water?

I believe...

- Original sin is the condition of separation from God that came into being through the fall into sin. Since the fall into sin, sin has weighed upon all human beings. (Catechism Q&A question 482)
- Through Holy Baptism with water a fundamental change in the relationship between a human being and God comes into being. Through the washing away of original sin, the baptized is led out of his original state of remoteness from God and enters the proximity of God. Through baptism, a person becomes a Christian. (Catechism Q&A question 481)

Point to Ponder...

- What does it mean to you to make a public profession of faith in Jesus Christ?

A Call to Action...

- Memorize the 6th Article of Faith

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: *Holy Baptism*

I wonder... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What is original sin? ➤ What occurs in Holy Baptism with water? 	I believe... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Original sin is the condition of separation from God that came into being through the fall into sin. Since the fall into sin, sin has weighed upon all human beings. (Catechism Q&A question 482) ➤ Through Holy Baptism with water a fundamental change in the relationship between a human being and God comes into being. Through the washing away of original sin, the baptized is led out of his original state of remoteness from God and enters the proximity of God. Through baptism, a person becomes a Christian. (Catechism Q&A question 481)
Bible: Genesis 3, Matthew 3:13-17, 28:18-20, Acts 16:31-33, 19:3-5 Catechism Q&A questions: 229, 472, 481-493 Article of Faith 6	

1. What is sin?

2. What is original sin?

3. What occurs in Holy Baptism with water?

4. What Biblical support is there for being baptized? Isn't faith in Jesus enough?

5. Which article of faith describes Holy Baptism? What is the content of that article?

Point to Ponder: What does it mean to you to make a public profession of faith in Jesus Christ?

Call to Action: Memorize the 6th Article of Faith

Embrace the promise of Christ's return: *Holy Sealing*

LESSON AT A GLANCE

Facilitator Notes:

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

I wonder...

- What is Holy Sealing?
- Why should someone get sealed?
- What does 'rebirth out of water and Spirit' mean?

I believe...

- Holy Sealing is the sacrament whereby the believer receives the gift of the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands and prayer of an Apostle. (Catechism Q&A question 515)
- A believing and baptized soul should be sealed because in Holy Sealing, the believer is enduringly filled with the Holy Spirit and God thereby allows the believer to share in His being. Holy Sealing completes the rebirth out of water and Spirit. (Catechism Q&A question 530)
- The two sacraments of Holy Baptism with water and Holy Sealing together comprise the rebirth out of water and Spirit. Through these sacraments, God creates a new creation. The human being has been called to be a firstling. (Catechism Q&A question 528, 530)

Materials:

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

References:

- Bible: John 3:1-8, Acts 2:38, 8:14-17, 19:1-6, 2 Corinthians 5:5, Ephesians 1:13-14, James 1:18
- Catechism Q&A questions: 204, 472, 481, 490, 494, 500, 505, 515-530
- 8th Article of Faith (Articles of Faith are found on page 251 of the Catechism Q&A)
- Nac.today article
 - ["The Pledge of Divine Inheritance For All"](#)
- Midweek Experience Curriculum
 - [June 2019 – Session 2 – The Holy Spirit and the Sacraments](#)
- For Your Journey
 - [Episode 50 – The gift of the Holy Spirit](#)

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

Have you purchased anything lately that comes with a guarantee or warranty? Join us tomorrow for small group at _____ where we'll be discussing a guarantee.

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 videos listed in the "References" section above.

Dear Parents,

This week the "I wonder..." questions were about Holy Sealing. It was explained that Holy Sealing completes the rebirth of water and Spirit started in Holy Baptism. This rebirth gives the guarantee of the opportunity of salvation. We don't have a 'ticket' to salvation and just wait like at a bus stop. We must strive to continually transform our nature using Jesus as our example to help prepare us for Christ's return.

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.
- Consider writing the responses on the chartpaper or whiteboard.

- 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?
- Following up from the pre discussion message: Ask the students if they've purchased, or received, anything recently that comes with a guarantee or warranty?
- What is the purpose of a guarantee?
- If needed, review with the students what a guarantee is:
 - Noun - *a formal promise or assurance (typically in writing) that certain conditions will be fulfilled, especially that a product will be repaired or replaced if not of a specified quality and durability. The guarantee can be voided, however, if the product is not used for the purpose intended, or not maintained (e.g., oil changes for an automobile motor).*
- Explain that in this small group, we'll be discussing the guarantee of the opportunity of salvation, and specifically the sacrament of Holy Sealing.

SET THE STAGE (1 minute)

Facilitator Notes:

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

I wonder...

- What is Holy Sealing?
- Why should someone get sealed?
- What does 'rebirth out of water and Spirit' mean?

LESSON (up to 25 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

Continue the lesson by saying something like: **before we explore the sacrament of Holy Sealing, what can you tell me about sacraments as a whole, and the other 2 sacraments of the New Apostolic Church?**

Summarize and/or correct any misunderstandings with these previous "I believe..." statements:

- Sacraments
 - Sacraments are fundamental acts of grace bestowed by God on a human being; sacraments are essential for salvation, at least until the day of the Lord. (Catechism Q&A question 472)
- Holy Baptism
 - Through Holy Baptism with water a fundamental change in the relationship between a human being and God comes into being. Through the washing away of original sin, the baptized is led out of his original state of remoteness from God and enters the proximity of God. Through baptism, a person becomes a Christian. (Catechism Q&A question 481)
 - Holy Baptism with water signifies the end of a life in remoteness from God and the beginning of life in Christ. It imparts strength to wage the battle against sin. (Catechism Q&A question 490)
- Holy Communion
 - Holy Communion is celebrated in every divine service because it sustains human beings in their fellowship of life with Jesus Christ. (Q&A question 505)
 - Jesus instituted Holy Communion with His Apostles in the Last Supper. (Catechism Q&A question 494)
 - Those who partake in Holy Communion thereby profess their belief in the death, resurrection, and return of Jesus Christ. (Catechism Q&A question 500)

Holy Sealing is the third and final sacrament of the New Apostolic Church.

Student Question #1 What is Holy Sealing?

- Allow the students to share their thoughts on what they understand Holy Sealing to be.
- Summarize, or correct if needed, with the definition from the Catechism Q&A
 - Holy Sealing is the sacrament whereby the believer receives the gift of the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands and prayer of an Apostle. (Catechism Q&A question 515)
- Consider watching an excerpt from the Midweek Experience Curriculum – [June 2019 Session 2 – The Holy Spirit and the Sacraments](#)
 - The excerpt to highlight is 4:04-5:14 (Starts with "In the sacrament of Holy Sealing..." and ends with "...transform into the nature of Christ.")

Student Question #2 What is the difference between the Holy Spirit and the gift of the Holy Spirit?

- Consider playing the entire For Your Journey – [Episode 50 – The gift of the Holy Spirit.](#)

- Midweek Experience Curriculum videos can be found on the [NAC USA YouTube](#) channel *and* in the [NAC USA mobile app](#)
- Depending on time, you can show the entire Midweek Experience Curriculum video or just the highlighted excerpt.
- For Your Journey episodes can be found on the [NAC USA YouTube](#)

channel and in the [NAC USA mobile app](#)

- Please emphasize the distinction between the Holy Spirit as a Person of the Trinity, and the gift of the Holy Spirit imparted in Holy Sealing.

- The Articles of Faith can be found on page 251 of the Catechism Questions and Answers book.

- Either after the episode, or if the episode isn't shown, summarize and/or correct any misunderstandings with the explanation from the Catechism Q&A.
 - A distinction must be made between the Holy Spirit as a person of the Godhead (Holy Trinity) and the Holy Spirit as a gift of God. The Holy Spirit as a gift of God is a power that emanates from the triune God. The believer who receives this gift is at the same time filled with the love of God. Baptised individuals who receive the gift of God, thereby also receive childhood in God. (Catechism Q&A question 204)

Student Question #3 Why should someone get sealed?

- A believing and baptized soul should be sealed because in Holy Sealing, the believer is enduringly filled with the Holy Spirit and God thereby allows the believer to share in His being. Holy Sealing completes the rebirth out of water and Spirit. (Catechism Q&A question 530)

Student Question #4 What does 'rebirth out of water and Spirit' mean?

- The two sacraments of Holy Baptism with water and Holy Sealing together comprise the rebirth out of water and Spirit. Through these sacraments, God creates a new creation. The human being has been called to be a firstling. (Catechism Q&A question 528, 530)
- Ask a student, or multiple students, to read part of the conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus in John 3:1-8 (not included due to length).
 - Highlight that: In this conversation, Jesus establishes the rebirth out of water and Spirit as a prerequisite to see and enter the kingdom.
- Through rebirth out of water and Spirit the believer is called to be a firstling, or firstfruit, one who will go with the Lord at His coming (rather than at the last judgment). The believer is called to work along with Jesus Christ during the kingdom of peace. (Catechism Q&A question 530)
- Consider asking a student to read a Bible reference containing the term "firstfruit", James 1:18:
 - *Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.*

The 8th Article of Faith is the article from the creed that refers to Holy Sealing. Ask a student to read, or recite, the 8th Article of Faith.

The 8th Article of Faith directly mentions the receiving of the gift of the Holy Spirit and the Apostle ministry.

Student Question #5 What Biblical support is there for being sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit by an Apostle?

- Ask a student, or multiple students, to read a combination of the following Bible passages:
 - Gift of the Holy Spirit: Acts 2:38
 - Laying on of hands by an Apostle (Peter and John): Acts 8:14-17
 - Laying on of hands by an Apostle (Paul): Acts 19:1-6
 - The gift of the Holy Spirit is granted by God through the laying on of hands and prayer of an Apostle. (Catechism Q&A question 205)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The article about this service, “The Pledge of Divine Inheritance For All” can be found on nac.today 	<p>Student Question #6 What does the rebirth out of water and Spirit guarantee?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ From the 2018 Pentecost service in Washington D.C. – Chief Apostle Schneider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ With our sealing God confirmed His will to save us, the Chief Apostle said. “No power, no spirit can hinder the completion of God’s plan of redemption. Those who are sealed have the guarantee that they will be able to be saved despite their mistakes and weaknesses. Don’t give up. Keep working. You can do it.” ○ “God will provide all we need to enter into His kingdom.” The Chief Apostle said that God will never allow anything to prevent our salvation. “However, this guarantee will only work for those who are willing to be prepared for the return of Christ, for those who make it a priority.” ➤ Ask a student, or multiple students, to read a combination of the following Bible passages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Spirit as a guarantee: 2 Corinthians 5:5 ○ Sealed as a guarantee: Ephesians 1:13-14
<p>WHAT’S IN IT FOR ME? (up to 10 minutes)</p>	
<p>Facilitator Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This discussion is included in this semester because the sacrament of Holy Sealing completes the rebirth of water and Spirit and gives us the guarantee of the possibility of salvation. The earliest opportunity of salvation is Christ’s return. The opportunities of salvation will be covered in more detail in the next discussion Eg – Our Future 	<p>Close with the “I Wonder...” questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ask a student to read an “I Wonder...” question, and invite another student to answer with an “I Believe...” statement or an “I Believe...” statement in their own words. ➤ 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 Holy Sealing? ➤ Why should someone get sealed? ➤ What does ‘rebirth out of water and Spirit’ mean? <p>I believe...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Holy Sealing is the sacrament whereby the believer receives the gift of the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands and prayer of an Apostle. (Catechism Q&A question 515) ➤ A believing and baptized soul should be sealed because in Holy Sealing, the believer is enduringly filled with the Holy Spirit and God thereby allows the believer to share in His being. Holy Sealing completes the rebirth out of water and Spirit. (Catechism Q&A question 530) ➤ The two sacraments of Holy Baptism with water and Holy Sealing together comprise the rebirth out of water and Spirit. Through these sacraments, God creates a new creation. The human being has been called to be a firstling. (Catechism Q&A question 528, 530) <p>Point to Ponder...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What do you have control over that you can guarantee? God has infinite wisdom and power and guarantees the possibility for us to be with Him in perfect and eternal fellowship. <p>A Call to Action...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Memorize the 8th Article of Faith

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: *Holy Sealing*

I wonder... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What is Holy Sealing? ➤ Why should someone get sealed? ➤ What does 'rebirth out of water and Spirit' mean? 	I believe... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Holy Sealing is the sacrament whereby the believer receives the gift of the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands and prayer of an Apostle. (Catechism Q&A question 515) ➤ A believing and baptized soul should be sealed because in Holy Sealing, the believer is enduringly filled with the Holy Spirit and God thereby allows the believer to share in His being. Holy Sealing completes the rebirth out of water and Spirit. (Catechism Q&A question 530) ➤ The two sacraments of Holy Baptism with water and Holy Sealing together comprise the rebirth out of water and Spirit. Through these sacraments, God creates a new creation. The human being has been called to be a firstling. (Catechism Q&A question 528, 530)
Bible: John 3:1-8, Acts 2:38, 8:14-17, 19:1-6, 2 Corinthians 5:5, Ephesians 1:13-14, James 1:18 Catechism Q&A questions: 204, 472, 481, 490, 494, 500, 505, 515-530; 8 th Article of Faith	

1. What is Holy Sealing?

2. What is the difference between the Holy Spirit and the gift of the Holy Spirit?

3. Why should someone get sealed?

4. What does 'rebirth out of water and Spirit' mean?

5. What Biblical support is there for being sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit by an Apostle?

6. What does the rebirth out of water and Spirit guarantee?

Point to Ponder: What do you have control over that you can guarantee? God has infinite wisdom and power and guarantees the possibility for us to be with Him in perfect and eternal fellowship.

Call to Action: Memorize the 8th Article of Faith

Embrace the promise of Christ's return: *Back to the Future*

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 future event is the goal of Christians in the New Apostolic Church?
- What events are considered the end time?

I believe...

- Jesus Christ is coming again- that is a central statement of the gospel. Since His ascension into heaven the Apostles have proclaimed the return of the Lord. It is the goal of faith of New Apostolic Christians to be accepted by Him on this occasion. (Catechism Q&A question 550).
- The events of the end time are comprised of: Christ's return, the marriage in heaven, the great tribulation, the thousand-year kingdom of peace, the last judgment, the new heaven and the new earth. (Catechism chapter 10)

Materials:

- IGNITE Bible
- Catechism Q&A
- Something to play a video clip with (computer, TV, tablet, phone, etc.)
- Chartpaper or whiteboard/markers
- "God's Plan of Salvation" cards and answer sheet

References:

- Bible: Matthew 24:42-44, John 14:3, Acts 1:11, 1 Corinthians 15:20-28, Philippians 3:20-21, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17, James 1:18, Revelation 3:11, 20:1-9
- Catechism Q&A questions: 549-581
- 9th Article of Faith (Articles of Faith are found on page 251 of the Catechism Q&A)
- Community Magazine article "The return of Christ" – Quarter 4, 2019
 - [Click HERE to access the Q4 2019 community magazine](#)
- For Your Journey
 - [Episode 48 – What is the bridal congregation?](#)
 - [Episode 63 – The Last Judgment](#)
 - [Episode 71 – The promise of Christ's return](#)

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

If you could know the future, would you want to? Join us tomorrow for small group at _____ where we'll be discussing this question, and more.

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 videos listed in the "References" section above.

Dear Parents,
This week the "I wonder..." questions were about the future events, triggered by Christ's return. The youth were encouraged in the "Point to Ponder" component of the discussion to think about how their belief about the future impacts their decisions today. Consider reinforcing this point by asking/sharing how their/your belief about future events (return of Christ, desire to live a long life, pursuing education, wanting to reach certain health goals, saving for a car, etc.) has impacted their/your decisions in the present.
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.
- Consider writing the responses on the chartpaper or whiteboard.
- In this semester "Embrace the promise of Christ's return" and the previous semester "Value the church", the topic of the Plan of Salvation has appeared a few times. This is not meant to be purely redundant, but rather as an emphasize on what Christ has promised of what is to come. The multiple discussions that include this topic should also show how elements of faith are woven together to create a cohesive understanding of what Christians in the New Apostolic Church are hoping and preparing for.

- 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?
- Following up from the pre discussion message: Ask the students if they had the ability to know the future, would they want to? Why or why not?
- Some 'why' responses could include:
 - Use it to your financial advantage (stock market, lottery, betting)
 - To avoid danger or pain
 - Don't have to worry or fear about the unknown (what job you'll have, where you may live, whether you'll get married or not, etc.)
- Some 'why not' responses could include:
 - Knowing the outcome of certain situations ahead of time (particularly with a financial outcome like the stock market) would be cheating
 - Takes the excitement out of the "unknown" of life and could lead to a lazy "going through the motions" attitude
 - The anxiety of knowing that something unpleasant is coming (e.g death of loved one, or injury to yourself), and nothing can change it - it could have a paralyzing effect
- After the students have had a chance to share their perspectives, explain that in this small group, we'll be discussing the future events of the Plan of Salvation.

SET THE STAGE (1 minute)

Facilitator Notes:

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

I wonder...

- What future event is the goal of Christians in the New Apostolic Church?
- What events are considered the end time?

LESSON (up to 25 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- 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.
- For Your Journey – Episode 71 is 6:18 long. If you don't have time to watch it in class, consider sending it to the students in the day or two after the discussion to serve as a follow up and/or include the link in the follow up parent email.
- For additional background on Christ's return, consider reading the Community Magazine article "The return of Christ" – Quarter 4, 2019 prior to the discussion.
 - [Click HERE to access the Q4 2019 community magazine](#)

Student Question #1 What future event is the goal of Christians in the New Apostolic Church?

- Jesus Christ is coming again- that is a central statement of the gospel. Since His ascension into heaven the Apostles have proclaimed the return of the Lord. It is the goal of faith of New Apostolic Christians to be accepted by Him on this occasion. (Catechism Q&A question 550).

Student Question #2 How do we know Jesus Christ is coming again?

- Jesus Himself told us that He is coming again.
- Ask a student to read John 14:3
 - And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.*
- It is one of the fundamental certainties of the gospel that Jesus Christ will return and take His bride unto Himself. (Catechism Q&A question 555)
- If we believe the Bible to be true, and Jesus accurately predicted His death, resurrection, and ascension, that give us reason to believe His future promises as well.
- Consider playing the For Your Journey – [Episode 71 – The promise of Christ's return](#).
- In addition to Jesus Himself promising His return, others proclaimed that Jesus would return to witnesses of Jesus' ascension.
- Ask a student to read Acts 1:11
 - "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."*

Student Question #3 When is Jesus going to return?

- We don't know.
- Since no man knows the moment in time of Christ's return, the believer is called upon to remain prepared for this event every day. Jesus made it clear in parables that believers are to be watchful in faith and expect His return at any hour. (Catechism Q&A 553)
- Ask a student, or group of students, to read Matthew 24:42-44
 - "Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."*

- Throughout the Plan of Salvation and Future discussions, the terms firstling, or firstfruit, may appear in supporting material. These are those who will go with the Lord at His coming rather than at the last judgment. (Catechism Q&A question 530)
 - Consider asking a student to read a Bible reference containing the term “firstfruit”, James 1:18:
 - Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.*
- The Articles of Faith can be found on page 251 of the Catechism Questions and Answers book.
- The events of “God’s Plan of Salvation” activity can be cut out using the included pages, or students can write them out on index cards as an additional component to the activity.
- The “God’s Plan of Salvation” activity is also an opportunity to review the points from E5 – The Plan of Salvation.
- For Your Journey episodes can be found on the [NAC USA YouTube](#) channel *and* in the [NAC USA mobile app](#)

Student Question #4 What events are considered the end time?

- The events of the end time are comprised of: Christ’s return, the marriage in heaven, the great tribulation, the thousand-year kingdom of peace, the last judgment, the new heaven and the new earth. (Catechism chapter 10)
- The 9th Article of Faith gives the events of the end time, as triggered by Christ’s return. Ask a student, or multiple students to recite, or read, the 9th Article of Faith.

Plan of Salvation activity (10-15 minutes)

- The events of the end time continue God’s Plan of Salvation, which was already started in the Old Testament.
- Using the “God’s Plan of Salvation” activity at the end of this facilitator guide, ask the students to put the events of God’s Plan of Salvation in order.
- Remind the students that Jesus’ promise to return and the possibility of eternal life with the Triune God is part of the ‘good news’ of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The phrase ‘the gospel of Jesus Christ’ is featured in both the vision and mission statements of the New Apostolic Church. Preparing for these future events is why we exist as a church.

Additional supporting Bible verses

- If time allows, consider asking a student, or multiple students, to read any combination of the below Bible verses regarding events of the future:
 - Death will be destroyed: *1 Corinthians 15:20-28*
 - Our body will be transformed: *Philippians 3:20-21*
 - The comfort of Christ’s coming: *1 Thessalonians 4:13-17*
 - Christ will return; 1,000 Kingdom of Peace: *Revelation 3:11, 20:1-9*

Additional supporting For Your Journey episodes

- If time allows, consider showing one, or both, of the For Your Journey episodes below to expand on these two specific components of the future.
- If you have enough students, consider breaking them into two groups and assign each group one of the episodes to watch. After they’ve watched the episodes, they can share with the whole group what the takeaways from their assigned For Your Journey episode are.
- For Your Journey
 - [Episode 48 – What is the bridal congregation?](#)
 - [Episode 63 – The Last Judgment](#)

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME? (up to 10 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

Close with the "I Wonder..." questions

- Ask a student to read an "I Wonder..." question, and invite another student to answer with an "I Believe..." statement or an "I Believe..." statement in their own words.
- As you review each question and answer, stop and check in with the group to be sure there are no misunderstandings or misconceptions.

I wonder...

- What future event is the goal of Christians in the New Apostolic Church?
- What events are considered the end time?

I believe...

- Jesus Christ is coming again- that is a central statement of the gospel. Since His ascension into heaven the Apostles have proclaimed the return of the Lord. It is the goal of faith of New Apostolic Christians to be accepted by Him on this occasion. (Catechism Q&A question 550).
- The events of the end time are comprised of: Christ's return, the marriage in heaven, the great tribulation, the thousand-year kingdom of peace, the last judgment, the new heaven and the new earth. (Catechism chapter 10)

Point to Ponder...

- How does your belief in the events of the future influence your decisions and behavior today?

A Call to Action...

- Write down why you want to be part of the bridal congregation when Jesus returns. Within the next 2 weeks, share your answers with at least 1 person in the congregation. Ask them why they want to be part of the bridal congregation when Jesus returns.

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: *Back to the Future*

<p>I wonder...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What future event is the goal of Christians in the New Apostolic Church? ➤ What events are considered the end time? 	<p>I believe...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Jesus Christ is coming again- that is a central statement of the gospel. Since His ascension into heaven the Apostles have proclaimed the return of the Lord. It is the goal of faith of New Apostolic Christians to be accepted by Him on this occasion. (Catechism Q&A question 550). ➤ The events of the end time are comprised of: Christ's return, the marriage in heaven, the great tribulation, the thousand-year kingdom of peace, the last judgment, the new heaven and the new earth. (Catechism chapter 10)
<p>Bible: Matthew 24:42-44, John 14:3, Acts 1:11, 1 Corinthians 15:20-28, Philippians 3:20-21, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17, James 1:18, Revelation 3:11, 20:1-9 Catechism Q&A questions: 549-581 Article of Faith 9</p>	

1. What future event is the goal of Christians in the New Apostolic Church?

2. How do we know Jesus Christ is coming again?

3. When is Jesus going to return?

4. What events are considered the end time?

Point to Ponder: How does your belief in the events of the future influence your decisions and behavior today?

Call to Action: Write down why you want to be part of the bridal congregation when Jesus returns. Within the next 2 weeks, share your answers with at least 1 person in the congregation. Ask them why they want to be part of the bridal congregation when Jesus returns.

"God's Plan of Salvation"¹

The respective events can be cut out from the included sheets or written on cards. The participants are requested to arrange them in the appropriate chronological order. Cards arranged side by side represent events expected to take place at the same time, i.e. in parallel.

Deliverance of Noah			
Election and blessing of the patriarchs			
Covenant with Israel			
Birth, sacrifice, resurrection, ascension into heaven of Jesus Christ			
Outpouring of the Holy Spirit			
Spread of the Gospel by the early Apostles			
Development of Christianity without occupied Apostle ministry			
Reoccupation of the Apostle ministry			
Preparation of the bridal congregation			
Return of Christ	Rapture of the bridal congregation	Resurrection of the dead in Christ	First Resurrection ²
Marriage feast in heaven	Great tribulation		
Coming of the Lord with power and great glory, Satan bound	Resurrection of the martyrs	Establishment of the kingdom of peace	First Resurrection ²
Satan released			
Ultimate defeat of Satan			
Resurrection of the dead	Judgement		
God's new creation			

¹ cf. CNC, Part 4, no. 4.4 as well as Part 10

² The term does not refer to a point in time, but should be explained as describing the order of the resurrection. The first resurrection includes the resurrection of the dead in Christ and the transformation and rapture of the firstlings as well as the resurrection of the martyrs from the great tribulation (cf. CNC, no. 10.5).

Deliverance of Noah

**Election and blessing of
the patriarchs**

Covenant with Israel

**Birth, sacrifice, resurrec-
tion, ascension into heaven
of Jesus Christ**

Outpouring of the Holy Spirit

Spread of the Gospel by the early Apostles

Development of Christianity without occupied Apostle ministry

Reoccupation of the Apostle ministry

**Preparation of the bridal
congregation**

Return of Christ

**Rapture of the bridal
congregation**

**Resurrection of the dead in
Christ**

First Resurrection

First Resurrection

Marriage feast in heaven

Great tribulation

**Coming of the Lord with
power and great glory,
Satan bound**

**Resurrection of the
martyrs**

**Establishment of the
kingdom of peace**

Satan released

**Ultimate defeat of
Satan**

Resurrection of the dead

Judgement

God's new creation

Embrace the promise of Christ's return: *Own It*

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 does it mean to 'live your faith?'
- Why am I New Apostolic?

I believe...

- Living your faith means that your belief and trust in God influences your decisions and behavior.
- I have decided, or will decide, to be a Christian within the New Apostolic Church because I want to be prepared for the return of Christ in order to have eternal fellowship with God as soon as possible.

Materials:

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

References:

- Bible: Matthew 16:24, 22:35-40, Luke 9:23, 1 Corinthians 10:31, Colossians 3:12-17, James 2:14-26
- Catechism Q&A questions: 296, 745-750
- Articles of Faith (found on page 251 of the Catechism Q&A)
- For Your Journey
 - [Episode 23 – Aligning our Lives \(to the gospel\)](#)
 - [Episode 26 – Practice and Profession \(credible witnesses of Jesus\)](#)
 - [Episode 27 – Aligning \(practice what you preach\)](#)

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

Do you know any basketball players? Join us tomorrow for small group at _____ where we'll be discussing this question, and more.

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 videos listed in the "References" section above.

Dear Parents,

This week the "I wonder..." questions were about living your faith. It was explained that being a disciple of Jesus Christ is a decision that requires daily focus and attention.

A quote from American athlete and evangelist Billy Sunday was shared, "Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than going to a garage makes you an automobile."

Consider asking your child what they think about this quote and share your thoughts as well. Ask your child what they think it means to live their faith in the context of the family (seeking forgiveness and reconciliation, helping others, making the gospel a priority in decision making, etc.).

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.
- Consider writing the responses on chartpaper or a whiteboard.

- 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?
- Following up from the pre discussion message: Ask the students if they know any basketball players (either from an NBA team or perhaps from their school)? If they know them by name, they can name them.
- Ask the students if they didn't actually see this person play basketball during an actual game, how would they know they are a basketball player?
 - Some responses could be:
 - Have seen them wearing their uniform
 - Was told they were a basketball player
 - Have seen them practicing outside of a game
 - Have seen the basketball player make decisions that contribute to their conditioning/ability to play the sport well, such as:
 - Not stay out late so that they can get a good night's rest
 - Not eat certain foods so that they can have optimal nutrition for playing
 - Not participate in inappropriate behavior (like a prank at school) that could damage their permission to play on the team
- The point is, the basketball player isn't just a player because they participate in the games on the court, but rather make many decisions off the court as well that contribute to them being a basketball player.
- After the students have had a chance to share their perspectives, explain that in this small group, we'll be discussing what it means to live your faith.

SET THE STAGE (1 minute)

Facilitator Notes:

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

I wonder...

- What does it mean to 'live your faith'?
- Why am I New Apostolic?

LESSON (up to 25 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- Consider asking a student to review the definition of a steward from V9 – Stewardship, Student Question #1.
- Consider writing the responses on chartpaper or a whiteboard.
- Additional **Flashpoints** on **Making Your Faith Your Own** can be found at these Bible chapters and pages of the IGNITE Bible. Consider reading through each one as a group, or divide the readings up among the students and have them share with the group.
 - o **Isaiah 6** pg. 698
 - o **Joshua 24** pg. 242
 - o **Acts 16** pg. 1153
 - o **2 Timothy 2** pg. 1272
 - o **Hebrews 11** pg. 1293

Say something like: *In this semester we've discussed some elements that are very future focused (quickly review if necessary or ask the students to contribute answers). While keeping the goal of the future is important, we can't only look to the future and disregard our responsibility on earth here and now. We strive to be good stewards* (responsible managers) of what God has given us. He has given us our life, time, preached (sermons) and written (Scripture) Word, sacraments, relationships, and more. We prepare for Christ's return and eternal fellowship with Him BY living our faith and growing in spiritual maturity.*

Ask the students if they've heard the phrase "live your faith" before. Ask what they think it means.

Summarize, correct any misunderstandings if needed, with the succinct statement from Student Question #1 below.

Student Question #1 What does it mean to live your faith?

- Living your faith means that your belief and trust in God influences your decisions and behavior.

Student Question #2 Constantly transforming our motivations and behavior is tough. Isn't faith in Jesus enough? Why isn't faith in Jesus enough?

- Jesus expects us to follow the example He set.
- Ask a student to read James 2:14-26 (not included in facilitator guide due to length)
- Ask a student to summarize these verses by reading the **Flashpoint: Making Your Faith Your Own** on page 1302.
- It isn't a matter of having faith OR works, but rather faith AND works.
- Think of a row boat that has an oar on each side. Both oars are needed to make progress and move through the water. If only one oar on one side is used, you just end up going in circles. Both faith and works are needed to 'move through the water/have a growing and mature relationship with God' as we journey through life.
 - It is important to highlight that when speaking about works, that we aren't just talking about works for the sake of works or for credit and accolades. But rather, works that are motivated by our faith and love for God.
- If the students have already gone through the **Transform your nature using Jesus as your example** semester of material, feel free to reference the semester (either as a whole or individual parts) and/or mention that the group will dive deeper into what it practically means to transform your nature using Jesus as your example in the upcoming semester.
- Ask the students if they think just attending church is enough to be considered 'living your faith.'
- After the students have responded, share the following quote from Billy Sunday (an American athlete and evangelist that lived 1862-1935) - "Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than going to a garage makes you an automobile."

- 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.
- For Your Journey – Episode 27 is 7:19 long. If you don't have time to watch it in class, consider sending it to the students in the day or two after the discussion to serve as a follow up and/or include the link in the follow up parent email.
- Similar For Your Journey episodes are below. If the facilitator feels a different episode is more suitable for the group, they can be swapped out.
 - [Episode 23 – Aligning our Lives \(to the gospel\)](#)
 - [Episode 26 – Practice and Profession \(credible witnesses of Jesus\)](#)
- For Your Journey episodes can be found on the [NAC USA YouTube](#) channel and in the [NAC USA mobile app](#)

Student Question #3 What areas of life should I be aligning with God's purposes and teaching? What areas of life shouldn't I be influenced by God?

- Yes, this is slightly a trick question. We should strive to align every area of our lives to God's purposes and teaching.
- Ask a student, or group of students, to read 1 Corinthians 10:31
 - *"Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."*
- Consider playing the For Your Journey – [Episode 27 – Aligning](#)
 - Ask the students what from the episode stood out to them.

Student Question #4 The Bible is a lot of reading, Jesus taught many things, and we've heard many preached sermons in our lifetime. How are we to remember all of it for our journey of developing our faith?

- Yes, the Bible teaches many things. The Bible gives us the Ten Commandments.
- Ask a student to read Catechism Q&A question 296
 - In the Ten Commandments, God is addressing all human beings. The individual bears responsibility to God for his conduct and the way he leads his life.
- The Ten Commandments are important and we should follow them. In Matthew, a lawyer tried to trick Jesus and get Him to make one of the ten more important than another.
 - Ask a student to read Matthew 22:35-40 (not included in facilitator guide due to length).
 - Jesus highlights loving God and others. If we keep those commandments, the Ten Commandments naturally are kept.
- Ask a student to read Colossians 3:12-17 (not included in facilitator guide due to length)
 - Ask the students to identify the actionable items from the verse. Consider writing them on a whiteboard or chartpaper.
 - Highlight the phrase "but above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection."
- How can we apply the Ten Commandments and Christ's teaching of love in these spheres of influence? (consider writing ideas the group comes up with on a whiteboard or chart paper)
 - Family
 - Congregation
 - Community

Student Question #5 How often do I have to follow Jesus' example?

- Again, a slightly trick/rhetorical question to get the students to think and come to the conclusion, we should always follow Jesus' example.
- Ask a student to read Matthew 16:24
 - *Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me."*
- Following Jesus is a decision that requires daily attention and focus.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the student(s) reveal that they don't feel loved, accepted, and supported in their congregation, a larger discussion may need to be had with the rector/district leader/apostle to address any specific concerns that arise. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In the Confirmation Vow, the believer declares to renounce satan and surrender to the Triune God. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To keep consistently focus on this declaration, suggest to the students that they consider reciting the Confirmation Vow every day. <p>Knowing about Jesus' teaching isn't enough. Jesus established His church and wants us to live out our faith in the context of community.</p> <p><u>Student Question #6 Why am I New Apostolic?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ I have decided, or will decide, to be a Christian within the New Apostolic Church because I want to be prepared for the return of Christ in order to have eternal fellowship with God as soon as possible. ➤ In the congregation, I feel loved, accepted, and supported as I continue my journey of a deepening relationship with God. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the students don't feel that the congregation is a loving, accepting, and supporting environment, ask them to share their perspective (as much as they feel comfortable doing). We all contribute to a church in which people feel at home.
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WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME? (up to 10 minutes)

<p>Facilitator Notes:</p>	<p>Close with the "I Wonder..." questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ask a student to read an "I Wonder..." question, and invite another student to answer with an "I Believe..." statement or an "I Believe..." statement in their own words. ➤ 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 does it mean to 'live your faith?' ➤ Why am I New Apostolic? <p>I believe...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Living your faith means that your belief and trust in God influences your decisions and behavior. ➤ I have decided, or will decide, to be a Christian within the New Apostolic Church because I want to be prepared for the return of Christ in order to have eternal fellowship with God as soon as possible. <p>Point to Ponder...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ When we really believe what we say we believe, and really love our neighbor, then we will want to share our belief in Jesus and His gospel with others. <p>A Call to Action...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Read the White Hot Topic – Love Looks Good on You! from the IGNITE Bible, page 1253. Write a note as described in the "Live It" section.
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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: *Back to the Future*

I wonder... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What does it mean to 'live your faith?' ➤ Why am I New Apostolic? 	I believe... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Living your faith means that your belief and trust in God influences your decisions and behavior. ➤ I have decided, or will decide, to be a Christian within the New Apostolic Church because I want to be prepared for the return of Christ in order to have eternal fellowship with God as soon as possible.
Bible: Matthew 16:24, 22:35-40, Luke 9:23, 1 Corinthians 10:31, Colossians 3:12-17, James 2:14-26 Catechism Q&A questions: 296, 745-750	

1. What does it mean to live your faith?

2. Constantly transforming our motivations and behavior is tough. Isn't faith in Jesus enough?

3. What areas of life should I be aligning with God's purposes and teaching? What areas of life shouldn't I be influenced by God?

4. The Bible is a lot of reading, Jesus taught many things, and we've heard many preached sermons in our lifetime. How are we to remember all of it for our journey of developing our faith?

5. How often do I have to follow Jesus' example?

6. Why am I New Apostolic?

Point to Ponder: When we really believe what we say we believe, and really love our neighbor, then we will want to share our belief in Jesus and His gospel with others.

Call to Action: Read the **White Hot Topic – Love Looks Good on You!** from the IGNITE Bible, page 1253. Write a note as described in the "Live It" section.

Embrace the promise of Christ's return: *Life after Death*

LESSON AT A GLANCE

Facilitator Notes:

I wonder...

- What happens when someone dies?
- Can the condition of the souls in the beyond be changed?
- How does the New Apostolic Church provide help for those that have died?

I believe...

- A human being consists of a body, soul, and spirit. When the body dies, soul and spirit are immortal and live on. The soul and spirit enter the realm of the dead in the same condition (proximity to or remoteness from God) as they were on earth. (Catechism Q&A questions 531, 537, 541)
- Since the sacrifice of Christ, it has been possible to change the condition of the souls in the beyond for the better. (Catechism Q&A question 543).
- Three times a year, special divine services are celebrated in which the Chief Apostle and District Apostles (and their assigned Helpers) dispense all three sacraments to the departed (who receive them as they are prepared and desire to receive them). As a believing Christian, we can pray to God that those in the beyond come to believe in Jesus Christ and receive the sacraments. (Catechism Q&A questions 659, 546)

Materials:

- IGNITE Bible
- Catechism Q&A
- Bucket, bowl, cup, water, dish sponge

References:

- Bible: Genesis 6:9-9:17, Isaiah 55:8-9, Wisdom of Solomon 2:23, John 5:25, 11:25, Romans 14:8-9, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, 1 Timothy 2:3-6, 1 Peter 3:18-20, 2 Peter 3:9
- Catechism Q&A questions: 20, 21, 91, 92, 472, 531-548, 659
- 9th Article of Faith (Articles of Faith are found on page 251 of the Catechism Q&A)

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

What happens when someone dies? Join us tomorrow for small group at _____ and we'll be talking about life after death.

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.

Dear Parents,

This week the "I wonder..." questions addressed life after death. While death can be a somber topic, the discussion focused around the physical death not being the end, but rather our hope for eternal life because of Jesus Christ. Consider reading Romans 14:8-9 and praying through the hope for eternal life that Jesus's sacrifice brings.

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.
- For the water activity, it doesn't necessarily have to be a small cup, bowl, and bucket. The idea is to show 2-3 different volumes of water with the smallest container being able to be absorbed by the sponge.
- 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.

- 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?
- Prior to the discussion, fill the cup, bowl, and bucket with water and have the sponge nearby.
- Ask the students if they think the sponge would be able to absorb the water in the smallest container. After the students have shared their answer, ask about the other two containers.
- Move the sponge from container to container showing that it absorbs the water from the smallest container, but eventually there is too much water to absorb.
 - Ultimately, a sponge would not be able to absorb all of the water in a bucket.
- Take the image a step further, ask the students if they think a household sponge would be able to absorb the entirety of an ocean.
 - Obviously the answer is "no".
- Similarly, our human understanding and intellect is limited. Even the smartest person in the world, can't fully understand the entirety and complexity of the Triune God.
 - Ask a student to read Isaiah 55:8-9
 - *"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts."*
- Since we can't understand everything, that is why we need faith and trust.
- Today's discussion will focus on life after death and what the New Apostolic Church believes about help for the souls in the departed. Not everything about what happens after we die can be easily explained intellectually. We see what the Bible says about certain components and then exercise faith.

SET THE STAGE (1 minute)

Facilitator Notes:

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

I wonder...

- What happens when someone dies?
- Can the condition of the souls in the beyond be changed?
- How does the New Apostolic Church provide help for those that have died?

LESSON (up to 25 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- The term 'Apocrypha' is derived from the Greek word *apokryphos*, which means "hidden, dark". The Apocrypha ("hidden Scriptures") are biblical books that are not contained in all editions of the Bible. They represent a binding link between the Old and New Testaments, and contain statements of faith that are important for understanding the New Testament.
- The IGNITE Bible does not contain the Apocrypha.
- To reference any part of the account of Noah and the flood, see Genesis 6:9-9:17
- The fact that salvation and eternal fellowship with God are possible because of Christ's sacrifice is the 'good news' of the gospel. Consider referencing the **Help Spread the gospel** semester as a whole, or specifically **H1**. Referencing the gospel shows how the whole plan of salvation is connected.

Student Question #1 What happens when someone dies?

- A human being consists of a body, soul, and spirit. When the body dies, soul and spirit are immortal and live on. The soul and spirit enter the realm of the dead in the same condition (proximity to or remoteness from God) as they were on earth. (Catechism Q&A questions 91, 531, 537, 541)

Student Question #2 How do we know the soul and spirit are immortal?

- Ask a student to read Catechism Q&A question 531
- The answer to this question references Wisdom of Solomon 2:23
 - "For God created man to be immortal, and made him to be an image of his own eternity."
 - This verse is taken from the Apocrypha. For additional information on the Apocrypha, see Catechism Q&A questions 20 and 21.

Student Question #3 Can the condition of the souls in the beyond be changed?

- Since the sacrifice of Christ, it has been possible to change the condition of the souls in the beyond for the better. (Catechism Q&A question 543).
- One of the primary Bible passages that supports the belief that there is help for the souls in the beyond is 1 Peter 3:18-20
- Ask a student to read 1 Peter 3:18-20
 - *For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison, who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.*
- In summary, when Jesus entered the realms of the departed between His death on Good Friday and resurrection on Easter, this verse tells us that He went to those that died as a result of the sin flood and preached to them.
 - The New Apostolic Church teaches that what Jesus preached to these souls is consistent with what Jesus preached and taught on earth as well, salvation and eternal fellowship with God are possible because of His sacrifice.

Student Question #4 Is it really God's desire to save all souls, both living and of those that have died?

- Yes! God wants as many as possible to be saved and have eternal fellowship with Him.
- Ask a student to read 1 Timothy 2:3-6 (shown 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.
- The word "longsuffering" is synonymous with "patient" and "forgiving".
- Consider reviewing the definition of a sacrament from V6 : "sacraments are fundamental acts of grace bestowed by God on a human being; sacraments are essential for salvation, at least until the day of the Lord. (Catechism Q&A question 472)
- The 9th Article of Faith also references those that have died and have hoped for and prepared for the Lord's coming. Articles of Faith can be found on page 251 of the Catechism Questions and Answers book.

- *For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, **who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.** For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time..."*
- The truth mentioned here is that Jesus is the way to eternal fellowship with God.
- God has given us everything we need (His promises, ministers, preached and written Word, sacraments, community of believers, time) to develop into the bride of Christ.
- Ask a student to read John 5:25
 - *Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of god; and those who hear will live.*
- God is patient so that as many people as possible come to the decision to love Him.
- Ask a student to read 2 Peter 3:9
 - *The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering* toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.*

Student Question #5 How does the New Apostolic Church provide help for those that have died?

- Sacraments have an effect on the salvation of the soul, not the body. Because of God's divine will to save, the New Apostolic Church teaches that sacraments are also available to those souls that have passed away.
- Three times a year, special divine services are celebrated in which the Chief Apostle and District Apostles (and their assigned Helpers) dispense all three sacraments to the departed (who receive them as they are prepared and desire to receive them). As a believing Christian, we can pray to God that those in the beyond come to believe in Jesus Christ and receive the sacraments. (Catechism Q&A questions 659, 546)
 - Services for the departed (3 times a year) are different than when Holy Communion for the departed is celebrated. In divine services on Sundays and church holy days, the Chief Apostle and designated Apostles celebrate Holy Communion for the departed. Proxies (those occupying a priestly or apostle ministry) receive the sacraments on behalf of the departed because every sacrament has a physical element.
- Those souls in the realm of the departed that have received the sacraments (whether while they were alive on earth or after their body died) are considered the 'dead in Christ' that are mentioned from Eg – The Plan of Salvation. This phrase comes from 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17. (Catechism Q&A questions 542)
- Ask a student to read 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17
 - *For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.*

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME? (up to 10 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

In Summary

- Christ is Lord of the living and the dead
 - Ask a student to read Romans 14:8-9
 - *For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living.*
- When we believe in Jesus Christ, strive to transform our nature using Jesus as our example, and depend on the grace that His sacrifice makes possible, we will justified hope in our own resurrection and eternal life.
 - Ask a student to read John 11:25
 - *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live."*

Close with the "I Wonder..." questions

- 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.

I wonder...

- What happens when someone dies?
- Can the condition of the souls in the beyond be changed?
- How does the New Apostolic Church provide help for those that have died?

I believe...

- A human being consists of a body, soul, and spirit. When the body dies, soul and spirit are immortal and live on. The soul and spirit enter the realm of the dead in the same condition (proximity to or remoteness from God) as they were on earth. (Catechism Q&A questions 91, 92, 531, 537, 541)
- Since the sacrifice of Christ, it has been possible to change the condition of the souls in the beyond for the better. (Catechism Q&A question 543).
- Three times a year, special divine services are celebrated in which the Chief Apostle and District Apostles (and their assigned Helpers) dispense all three sacraments to the departed (who receive them as they are prepared and desire to receive them). As a believing Christian, we can pray to God that those in the beyond come to believe in Jesus Christ and receive the sacraments. (Catechism Q&A questions 659, 546)

Point to Ponder...

- Think about the fact that you've known many people in your life. Think about the amount of strangers you've seen this week (at school, the store, driving around town). Reread 1 Timothy 2:4-6. Christ died for all.

A Call to Action...

- For the next Service for the departed, start praying to God that the souls that have died and that long for the sacraments can accept the grace that God offers to them.

Additional Facilitator Notes

Death can be a difficult subject to discuss for some. In an effort to provide comfort, we sometimes may say something that is incorrect, or just pure speculation. Below are points that have been shared with the priestly ministries of the New Apostolic Church regarding phrases/ideas that are appropriate and inappropriate when conducting funerals. Please be aware of these understandings as some of these thoughts may come up in the youth discussion about life after death.

One prominent concern is over providing false assurances. As ministers, it is natural for us to have a desire to comfort those who are grieving or try to explain things that are not explainable. We must be careful, however, not to provide the bereaved, or anyone seeking answers, with false assurances when it comes to the state of the soul and future circumstances that go beyond our understanding. Only God is omniscient; only He knows the true nature and status of the deceased.

Fundamental truths and beliefs that comfort:

- God is perfect; what He does and allows is right. Because of His omniscience, He understands our grief and loneliness and will provide. Further, He alone knows this soul and will provide for its place and care in the beyond.
- God is love (1 John 4:8) and will provide strength and comfort in many ways, i.e. in His divine word, in the Holy Communion, in providing those around us as His helpers for our need, etc.
- God wants all men to be saved (1 Timothy 2:4). Regardless of our sinfulness and lifestyle [or that of the deceased], He will always turn and reach for us. We must also turn to Him.
- Jesus Christ is compassionate (Matthew 9:36) and full of grace and truth (John 1:14).
- Jesus is the Lord of the living and the dead (Romans 14:9, CNAC 9.6.3). Subsequently, salvation is available to those who enter into the beyond (1 Peter 3:18-20; 1 Peter 4:6; CNAC 9.6.3), and sacraments can be dispensed to them (1 Corinthians 15:29, CNAC 9.6.1). The sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Sealing are dispensed during services for the departed for the departed desiring and prepared to receive them. In divine services on Sunday and church holy days, the Chief Apostle and designated Apostles celebrate Holy Communion for the departed. Proxies (those occupying a priestly or apostle ministry) receive the sacraments on behalf of the departed because every sacrament has a physical element.
- The power of the Holy Spirit transcends death and He works in the realms of eternity to enlighten and develop those who seek Jesus Christ.
- After physical death, the soul lives on in the realm of the dead. The term "realm" is sometimes used in connection with proximity to, or remoteness from, God (CNAC 9.5).
- The place in which a person's soul dwells after death depends upon his conduct with regard to God's will during his lifetime (Luke 16:19-31, CNAC 9.4).

We cannot stretch the truth in an effort to comfort the bereaved or try to explain something that we simply don't know.

Inappropriate

- Indicating that the deceased is "now in heaven."
- Suggesting that the deceased is "in the arms of Jesus," or that they now have a glorified body. It is our belief that they are in the same closeness to Jesus as they were when they were living (CNAC 9.5).
- Suggesting that those amongst the living need to do something to ensure the departed soul's freedom.
- Suggesting that the deceased is now an angel, flying around to help others on earth, or that they're reincarnated and living amongst us again.

For those interested, additional online courses about *Pastoral Care at the end of life* and *Understanding Greif* are available on NDI, <https://ndi.nac-usa.org>

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: *Life after Death*

<p>I wonder...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What happens when someone dies? ➤ Can the condition of the souls in the beyond be changed? ➤ How does the New Apostolic Church provide help for those that have died? 	<p>I believe...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A human being consists of a body, soul, and spirit. When the body dies, soul and spirit are immortal and live on. The soul and spirit enter the realm of the dead in the same condition (proximity to or remoteness from God) as they were on earth. (Catechism Q&A questions 531, 537, 541) ➤ Since the sacrifice of Christ, it has been possible to change the condition of the souls in the beyond for the better. (Catechism Q&A question 543). ➤ Three times a year, special divine services are celebrated in which the Chief Apostle and District Apostles (and their assigned Helpers) dispense all three sacraments to the departed (who receive them as they are prepared and desire to receive them). As a believing Christian, we can pray to God that those in the beyond come to believe in Jesus Christ and receive the sacraments. (Catechism Q&A questions 659, 546)
<p>Bible: Genesis 6:9-9:17, Isaiah 55:8-9, Wisdom of Solomon 2:23, John 5:25, 11:25, Romans 14:8-9, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, 1 Timothy 2:3-6, 1 Peter 3:18-20, 2 Peter 3:9 Article of Faith 9</p>	

1. What happens when someone dies?

2. How do we know the soul and spirit are immortal?

3. Can the condition of the souls in the beyond be changed?

4. Is it really God's desire to save all souls, both living and of those that have died?

5. How does the New Apostolic Church provide help for those that have died?

Point to Ponder: Think about the fact that you've known many people in your life. Think about the amount of strangers you've seen this week (at school, the store, driving around town). Reread 1 Timothy 2:4-6. Christ died for all.

Call to Action: For the next Service for the departed, start praying to God that the souls that have died and that long for the sacraments can accept the grace that God offers to them.

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"> • It would be helpful to give any guest speakers the facilitator guides from previous topics so that they know what has been discussed. • 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. 	<p>Re-teaching Lesson: when students do not understand or have misconceptions about the topic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Choose 1 or both of the following activities depending on the needs of the group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • True or False...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. • Be Our Guest...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. <p>Application Lesson: 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"> ➤ Choose 1 or a combination of the following activities depending on the needs of the group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FYJ....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"> ▪ 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). • Take Your Show on the Road....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. • Thank you notes... 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. • Pass a prayer... 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"> ▪ The prayer can be to someone in their family or congregation, or a general prayer that the group contributes to. <p>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.</p>
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MESSAGE TO PARENTS (TO BE SENT VIA EMAIL OR TEXT)

<p>Facilitator Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This message can be customized to include local information. 	<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>Facilitator Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 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?
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WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME? (15 minutes)

<p>Facilitator Notes:</p>	<p>Wrap up the lesson with the "E" message from THRIVE: Embrace the promise of Christ's return by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> being future-oriented and focusing on His promise. (Philippians 3:12-14) preparing for it by applying the Gospel to every part of your life. (John 14:3) <p>A Point to Ponder....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 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)? <p>A Call to Action...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Share with someone in your family, your congregation, and your community (school/friends/team) the hope that you have because Christ promised to return.
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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: *IGNITE*

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

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

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

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.

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?

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.