

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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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).

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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.

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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

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Point to Ponder...

Call to Action...

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

<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>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</p>	

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

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.