

Help spread the gospel: *Doctrine without borders*

LESSON AT A GLANCE

Facilitator Notes:	<p>I wonder...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What is the Apostles' doctrine? ➤ Why is it called the Apostles' doctrine? ➤ Is the Apostles' doctrine taught today? <p>I believe...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Apostles' doctrine is the gospel of the life, death, resurrection, and return of Jesus (Catechism Q&A question 619) ➤ This message is referred to in the Bible as the apostles' doctrine because it is the message that the apostles preached and taught about after Jesus' ascension (Catechism Q&A question 619) ➤ The Apostles' doctrine is the message of Jesus and is still what is taught in the church today. (Catechism Q&A question 619) <p>Materials:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ IGNITE Bible ➤ Catechism ➤ Catechism Q&A ➤ Index cards (4 per student) <p>References:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Catechism 6.4.1.4 ➤ Catechism Q&A questions #37, 137, 392, 393, 619 ➤ Bible: Matthew 24:14, 28:19-20, Mark 16:20, Luke 9:6, John 3:16, Acts 2:42, Acts 8:12, Ephesians 5:15-17, Philippians 1:27, Colossians 3:16, 2 Timothy 3:16, 1 John 1:1-3, 1 John 3:16
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PRE DISCUSSION MESSAGE TO PARENTS AND STUDENT (TO BE SENT VIA EMAIL OR TEXT)

	<p>How do you know what you know? In small group this week, we'll be talking about how we know about Jesus and what our responsibility is because of that knowledge.</p>
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POST DISCUSSION MESSAGE TO PARENTS (TO BE SENT VIA EMAIL OR TEXT)

Facilitator Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please feel free to add local information and customize as necessary. 	<p>Dear Parents,</p> <p>This week the "I Wonder...." questions are about the apostles' doctrine, what it is, and more importantly what it is not. We highlighted how the apostles' doctrine referenced in Acts 2:42 is not the teaching or doctrine ABOUT the apostles, but rather the teaching OF the apostles. The apostles taught about Jesus Christ. A verse that was highlighted was Philippians 1:27. In it, Apostle Paul admonishes the congregations to have conduct that is worthy of the gospel of Christ. This week, consider having a conversation with your student about what conduct according to the gospel would look like and then ask each other to hold the other one accountable to that conduct. 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 (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 15 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 the previous discussion (H1 – Extra! Extra! Read all about it!) we referenced John 3:16. This verse is undoubtedly one of the most popular verses in Scripture. We can learn a lot about God's love for us from this one verse. However, there are several other "3:16" verses in the New Testament that also teach us a lot about the Christian faith. Ask students to use their Bibles and write out the following verses on index cards:

- John 3:16
- Colossians 3:16
- 2 Timothy 3:16
- 1 John 3:16

SET THE STAGE (1 minute)

Facilitator Notes:

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

I wonder...

- What is the Apostles' doctrine?
- Why is it called the Apostles' doctrine?
- Is the Apostles' doctrine taught today?

LESSON (up to 25 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

Student question #1

What does the word “doctrine” mean?

- A body or system of teachings relating to a particular subject.
- A doctrine is something that is taught.

Ask the students, “What subject(s) should be taught at church?”

- Hopefully there are answers such as: love, peace, Jesus Christ, etc.
- After the students have had a chance to offer some answers, summarize their answers and refer the students to the “I believe...” statements from the H1 small group discussion.
- Ultimately, the church teaches and preaches the gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - The gospel of Jesus Christ is the message of the grace, love, and reconciliation that God grants us in Jesus Christ (Catechism Q&A question 137).

Read Acts 2:42:

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Student question #2

How are “the apostles’ doctrine” and “the gospel of Jesus Christ” related?

- In addition to the gospel of Jesus Christ being a message of grace, love, and reconciliation that God grants us in Jesus Christ, it is also a message of hope that is evident in Jesus’ life, death, resurrection, ascension, and promise to return.
- The doctrine that the apostles taught was the message of Jesus Christ.
- **1 John 1:1-3** demonstrates that the apostles preached and taught about Jesus Christ based on what they had experienced with Jesus.
 - Highlighting verse 3, “...that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.”

It is important to emphasize that the apostles’ doctrine is not the teaching ABOUT the apostles, but rather the teaching OF the apostles. The apostles taught and preached about Jesus Christ.

- The apostolic doctrine is the unadulterated message of the death, resurrection, and return of Christ, according to the teaching of the early Christian Apostles, as attested in the New Testament, and as believed and practiced by the early Christians. (Catechism 6.4.1.4)

- **1 John 1:1-3**
 (Not included due to length)

Student question #3

Why did the apostles feel that they had to teach about Christ?

- Jesus commanded His disciples and apostles to teach and preach about the kingdom of God.
 - **Matthew 24:14** – *And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.*
 - **Matthew 28:19-20** – *"...Go therefore and make disciples of all 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." Amen.*

How was the gospel taught in biblical times?

- The apostles went to different countries telling people about Jesus and baptizing them. Apostles also wrote letters to various congregations and groups of believers to strengthen their faith and instruct them on how to interact with each other according to God's will.
 - **Mark 16:20** – *And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs.*
 - **Acts 8:12** – *But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized.*
 - **Also reference Catechism Q&A questions 392 and 393.**

Student question #4

Is the apostles' doctrine still taught today?

- Yes. The apostles' doctrine, which is the gospel teaching of Jesus Christ's life, death, resurrection, and return, is also proclaimed in the divine services by the ministers acting in the commission of the apostles. (Catechism Q&A question 619)
- I believe that the Lord Jesus rules His church and thereto sent His Apostles, and until His return still sends them with the commission to teach, to forgive sins in His name, and to baptize with water and Holy Spirit. (4th Article of Faith, from Catechism Q&A question 37)

Student question #5

Having heard the gospel message, what is our responsibility as Christians ?

- After the students have provided some answers, direct them to the below verses to summarize.
 - **Ephesians 5:15-17** – *See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.*
 - **Philippians 1:27** – *Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.*

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

Facilitator Notes:

- Our Vision is to create 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. 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.

Wrap up the lesson with an overview reminder that the apostles' doctrine is not the teaching about apostles, but rather the teaching of the apostles, which is, the gospel of Jesus Christ.

- Also as a reminder, this whole semester is based on the "H" statement of the THRIVE membership expectations, "Help spread the gospel". In order to help spread the gospel, we have to know what it is.
- We help spread the gospel by being credible witnesses and aligning our lives to the gospel of Jesus Christ. (reference New Apostolic Church international vision and mission statements)

Close with the "I Wonder..." questions

- As you review each question, stop and check in with the group to be sure there are no misunderstandings or misconceptions.
- Allow the students to answer with an "I Believe..." statement, or state an "I Believe..." statement in their own words, for each of the "I Wonder..." questions.
- Remind the students that on their Confirmation day, they will or have already promised and committed to avoid evil and surrender themselves to the Triune God as they help spread the gospel message.

I wonder...

- What is the Apostles' doctrine?
- Why is it called the Apostles' doctrine?
- Is the Apostles' doctrine taught today?

I believe...

- The Apostles' doctrine is the gospel of the life, death, resurrection, and return of Jesus (Catechism Q&A question 619)
- This message is referred to in the Bible as the apostles' doctrine because it is the message that the apostles preached and taught about after Jesus' ascension (Catechism Q&A question 619)
- The Apostles' doctrine is the message of Jesus and is still what is taught in the church today. (Catechism Q&A question 619)

Point to Ponder....

- The apostles of Jesus' time spread the same message we spread today thousands of years later.

A Call to Action....

- Using the index cards with the "3:16" Bible verses on them from the hook activity, imagine that these few verses were the only passages of Scripture you had ever read. Write a paragraph in your own words summarizing what you know about the Christian faith based on these important verses.

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...

Help spread the gospel: *Doctrine without borders*

I wonder... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What is the Apostles' doctrine? ➤ Why is it called the Apostles' doctrine? ➤ Is the Apostles' doctrine taught today? 	I believe... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Apostles' doctrine is the gospel of the life, death, resurrection, and return of Jesus (Catechism Q&A question 619) ➤ This message is referred to in the Bible as the apostles' doctrine because it is the message that the apostles preached and taught about after Jesus' ascension (Catechism Q&A question 619) ➤ The Apostles' doctrine is the message of Jesus and is still what is taught in the church today.
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1. What does the word "doctrine" mean?

2. How are "the apostles' doctrine" and "the gospel of Jesus Christ" related?

3. Why did the apostles feel that they had to teach about Christ?

4. Is the apostles' doctrine still taught today?

5. Having heard the gospel message, what is our responsibility as Christians ?

Point to Ponder: The apostles of Jesus' time spread the same message we spread today thousands of years later.

Call to Action: Using the index cards with the "3:16" Bible verses on them from the hook activity, imagine that these few verses were the only passages of Scripture you had ever read. Write a paragraph in your own words summarizing what you know about the Christian faith based on these important verses