

## Help spread the gospel: *Extra! Extra! Read all about it!*

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

<p><b>Facilitator Notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The "What is the Gospel?" video can be found on the <a href="#">NAC USA YouTube channel</a> <i>and</i> in the <a href="#">NAC USA mobile app</a> under the "Teaching" section</li> </ul>	<p><b>I wonder...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ What is the gospel?</li> <li>➤ What are the main points of the gospel?</li> <li>➤ How did Jesus teach the gospel?</li> </ul> <p><b>I believe...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The gospel is the message of the grace, love, and reconciliation that God grants us in Jesus Christ. (Catechism Q&amp;A question 137)</li> <li>➤ The major statements are about the kingdom of God, the commandment to love one's neighbor, the attitude of man's heart, and the coming of the Son of Man. (Catechism Q&amp;A question 151)</li> <li>➤ Jesus illustrated the main content of the gospels through more than 40 parables recorded in the first three Gospel books (Matthew, Mark, and Luke). (Catechism Q&amp;A question 150)</li> </ul> <p><b>Materials:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ IGNITE Bible</li> <li>➤ Catechism Q&amp;A</li> <li>➤ <a href="#">"What is the Gospel?" video</a></li> <li>➤ Something to play a video clip with (computer, TV, tablet, phone, etc.)</li> </ul> <p><b>References:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Catechism Q&amp;A questions 89-90, 114, 135, 137, 150-151</li> <li>➤ Bible: Luke 17:21, John 3:13, John 3:16</li> </ul>
--	--

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

	<p>Have you heard any good news lately? Please bring a recent newspaper to our youth discussion tomorrow. We'll be meeting at _____ at 7pm. Hope to see you there!</p>
--	--

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

<p><b>Facilitator Notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please feel free to add local information and customize as necessary. Consider adding a video link from above for families to use as a conversation starter.</li> </ul>	<p>Dear Parents,</p> <p>This week the "I Wonder...." questions are about the gospel, what it is, and how Jesus taught it. As you may know, the word "gospel" translates to "good news". In order to understand good news, we need to be aware of the bad news. The bad news in this context is the sinful nature of man that separates us from God and the good news of the gospel is that Jesus came to reconcile that broken relationship. This week, take some time to share with your student how your understanding of the gospel has changed over the years. As always, if you have questions about the topic, please feel free to contact us.</p> <p>Your Youth Leaders (customizable with your names)</p>
---	---

### 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.
- It may be helpful to have a few extra newspapers or even advertisements that students can use in case they didn't bring one with them.

- 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?
- From the text message sent out before the lesson, ask the students if they have heard any good news lately?
  - Students can share their personal examples of good news
- Say something like: Whether it is in print or online, a headline can usually indicate whether the news being shared is good news or bad news.
- Using the newspapers that they brought to small group, ask the students to take a few moments to find some headlines that they would consider to be good news.
- Students can share the headlines that they found and explain why they consider it to be good news.

### SET THE STAGE (1 minute)

**Facilitator Notes:**

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

**I wonder...**

- What is the gospel? (Catechism Q&A question 137)
- What are the main points of the gospel? (Catechism Q&A question 151)
- How did Jesus teach the gospel? (Catechism Q&A question 150)

## LESSON (up to 25 minutes)

<p><b>Facilitator Notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>John 3:16:</b>          For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.</li> </ul>	<p>This semester focuses on the “H” of the THRIVE membership expectations acronym, which is “Help spread the gospel”. In order to spread the gospel, we need to know what it is.</p> <p><b><u>Student question #1</u></b>  <b>What does the word “gospel” mean?</b></p> <p>Say something like: “gospel” is a Greek word that translates to “good news”. Anytime you hear good news, it is gospel. Do you like Jurassic Park and you just heard that there is a new Jurassic Park movie coming out? That is gospel; that is good news. Or perhaps you like pizza and your friend just told you the news that your class at school has won a pizza party. Again, that is good news and it is true; that is gospel. However, it is not <u>THE</u> gospel.</p> <p><b><u>Student question #2</u></b>  <b>What is the good news of <u>THE</u> gospel?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ When we’re referring to THE gospel, this is specifically the gospel of Jesus Christ.</li> <li>➤ The gospel of Jesus Christ is the message of the grace, love, and reconciliation that God grants us in Jesus Christ (Catechism Q&amp;A question 137).</li> <li>➤ John 3:16 is one of the most recognized verses in the bible and summarizes the gospel message.</li> </ul> <p><b>It is important to distinguish between the gospel as the message of salvation, and the Gospel books at the beginning of the New Testament.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are called the Gospel books because they contain the direct accounts of Jesus’ life and teaching.</li> <li>➤ The Gospel of Matthew, Mark, and Luke are referred to as the Synoptic Gospels because they include many of the same stories, often in a similar sequence and in similar wording. They stand in contrast to John, whose content is distinct.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The “What is the Gospel?” video can be found on the <a href="#">NAC USA YouTube channel</a> <i>and</i> in the <a href="#">NAC USA mobile app</a> under the “Teaching” section</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Play the “What is the Gospel?” video (7 minutes and 40 seconds)</u></b></p> <p><b>Student questions 3-5 are for the students to consider when listening to the video</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b><u>Student question #3</u></b>  <b>If the gospel is the good news, what is the bad news?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The bad news is that because of the fall into sin, human beings experience separation from God. Human beings cannot undo the condition of separation from God on their own. (Reference Catechism Q&amp;A questions 89-90)</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b><u>Student question #4</u></b>  <b>What is the evidence of the bridge being opened between man and God?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ With the incarnation of God in Jesus Christ, His sacrificial death, and resurrection, God created the opportunity for all human beings to be delivered from spiritual death. (Reference Catechism Q&amp;A question 90)</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b><u>Student question #5</u></b>  <b>What are some of the responsibilities of a Christian mentioned in the video?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Pray, hear the preached word, partake worthily in Holy Communion, change our will to conform to God’s will, and align our lives to the example that Jesus set.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

- The IGNITE Bible defines a parable as: *a story that teaches a lesson by comparing two things.*

- **Luke 17:21:**  
 "...nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you."

- **John 3:13:**  
 No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven

### Student question #6

#### **How did Jesus teach the gospel and make it understandable?**

- In His sermons, Jesus often spoke in parables. These stories are taken from daily lives of His listeners so that they might better understand them. With these parables, Jesus illustrated the main content of the gospel. (Reference Catechism Q&A question 150)

**More than 40 parables are recorded in the books of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. In these parables, Jesus illustrated major statements about the kingdom of God, the commandment to love one's neighbor, the attitude of man's heart, and the coming of the Son of Man.**

- **What is meant by the term "kingdom of God"?**
  - The "kingdom of God" is not a national territory, nor is it a political sphere of dominion. Rather the "kingdom of God" means that God is present and rules among mankind. In the person of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the "kingdom of God" has come to all people (Luke 17:21). Jesus Christ is the ruler, He creates justice, He grants grace, He turns to the poor and needy, and He brings salvation. (Reference Catechism Q&A question 135)
- **What is meant by the term "Son of Man"?**
  - When the term "Son of Man" is used as a majestic title, it is not referring to the son of a man, but rather, a heavenly being who judges and rules over mankind. At the time of Jesus, devout Jews were expecting the "Son of Man", who would assume rule over the world from God. According to John 3:13, Jesus also identifies Himself as the Son of Man who came down from heaven. (Reference Catechism Q&A question 114)

## 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 question asking the students "What is the gospel?", linking it to our mission and vision and the "H" member expectation.

- In order to help spread the gospel, we have to know what it is.

### 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 gospel?
- What are the main points of the gospel?
- How did Jesus teach the gospel?

### I believe...

- The gospel is the message of the grace, love, and reconciliation that God grants us in Jesus Christ. (Catechism Q&A question 137)
- The major statements are about the kingdom of God, the commandment to love one's neighbor, the attitude of man's heart, and the coming of the Son of Man. (Catechism Q&A question 151)
- Jesus illustrated the main content of the gospels through more than 40 parables recorded in the first three Gospel books (Matthew, Mark, and Luke). (Catechism Q&A question 150)

### Point to Ponder....

- Think about why Jesus' life, death, resurrection, ascension, and promise to return are necessary for us as human beings.

### A Call to Action....

- Either as a whole group or in smaller groups, at some point before the next small group session, use your phone to make a news report for the good news of the gospel. If time allows, share them the next time the youth group gets together.

### 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: *Extra! Extra! Read all about it!*

<b>I wonder...</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ What is the gospel?</li> <li>➤ What are the main points of the gospel?</li> <li>➤ How did Jesus teach the gospel?</li> </ul>	<b>I believe...</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The gospel is the message of the grace, love, and reconciliation that God grants us in Jesus Christ. (Catechism Q&amp;A question 137)</li> <li>➤ The major statements are about the kingdom of God, the commandment to love one's neighbor, the attitude of man's heart, and the coming of the Son of Man. (Catechism Q&amp;A question 151)</li> <li>➤ Jesus illustrated the main content of the gospels through more than 40 parables recorded in the first three Gospel books (Matthew, Mark, and Luke). (Catechism Q&amp;A question 150)</li> </ul>
<b>References:</b> Catechism Q&A questions 89-90, 114, 135, 137, 150-151; Bible verses: Luke 17:21, John 3:13, John 3:16,	

1. What does the word "gospel" mean?

---



---



---

2. What is the good news of THE gospel?

---



---



---

3. If the gospel is the good news, what is the bad news?

---



---



---

4. What is the evidence of the bridge being opened between man and God?

---



---



---

5. What are some of the responsibilities of a Christian mentioned in the video?

---



---



---

6. How did Jesus teach the gospel and make it understandable?

---



---



---

**Point to Ponder:** Think about why Jesus' life, death, resurrection, ascension, and promise to return are necessary for us as human beings.

**Call to Action:** Either as a whole group or in smaller groups, at some point before the next small group session, use your phone to make a news report for the good news of the gospel. If time allows, share them the next time the youth group gets together.



## Help spread the gospel: *Doctrine without borders*

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

<b>Facilitator Notes:</b>	<p><b>I wonder...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ What is the Apostles' doctrine?</li> <li>➤ Why is it called the Apostles' doctrine?</li> <li>➤ Is the Apostles' doctrine taught today?</li> </ul> <p><b>I believe...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Apostles' doctrine is the gospel of the life, death, resurrection, and return of Jesus (Catechism Q&amp;A question 619)</li> <li>➤ 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&amp;A question 619)</li> <li>➤ The Apostles' doctrine is the message of Jesus and is still what is taught in the church today. (Catechism Q&amp;A question 619)</li> </ul> <p><b>Materials:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ IGNITE Bible</li> <li>➤ Catechism</li> <li>➤ Catechism Q&amp;A</li> <li>➤ Index cards (4 per student)</li> </ul> <p><b>References:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Catechism 6.4.1.4</li> <li>➤ Catechism Q&amp;A questions #37, 137, 392, 393, 619</li> <li>➤ 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</li> </ul>
---------------------------	---

### 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>
--	--

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

<b>Facilitator Notes:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please feel free to add local information and customize as necessary.</li> </ul>	<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>
---	--

### 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. (4<sup>th</sup> 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*

<b>I wonder...</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ What is the Apostles' doctrine?</li> <li>➤ Why is it called the Apostles' doctrine?</li> <li>➤ Is the Apostles' doctrine taught today?</li> </ul>	<b>I believe...</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Apostles' doctrine is the gospel of the life, death, resurrection, and return of Jesus (Catechism Q&amp;A question 619)</li> <li>➤ 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&amp;A question 619)</li> <li>➤ The Apostles' doctrine is the message of Jesus and is still what is taught in the church today.</li> </ul>
<b>References:</b> Catechism 6.4.1.4; Catechism Q&A questions #37, 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	

**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



## Help Spread the Gospel: *We The People*

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

#### Facilitator Notes:

#### I wonder...

- What is a creed?
- How are we like other Christian denominations?

#### I believe...

- A creed contains all the beliefs which the members of a particular religious denomination profess. It is by way of a creed that a religious denomination distinguishes itself from another. (Catechism Q&A question 29)
- Articles of faith 1-3 constitute a binding element among all Christian denominations. (Catechism Q&A question 36)

#### Materials:

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

#### References:

- Catechism Q&A questions 29, 31, 34-40, 366, 371, 407
- The Articles of Faith are on page 251 of the Catechism Q&A book

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

This week we'll be discussing the elements of Christianity that tie us all together. What do you think those are? 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 were about creeds. What defines Christians and the New Apostolic church? We defined a creed as a set of fundamental beliefs or guiding principles. Does your family have a set of belief or value statements for your home? For instance, "In our home, we believe in being motivated by love." Or, "In our home, we believe cell phones don't belong at the dinner table." This week, if you haven't already, consider developing some belief statements that your family and home can subscribe to. As always, if you have questions about the topic, please feel free to contact us.

Your Youth Leaders

<b>SUNDAY SERMON REFLECTIONS (up to 10 minutes)</b>	
<b>Facilitator Notes:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ What Bible verse was used for the basis of last Sunday's sermon?</li> <li>➤ What were some of the main takeaways? What did you learn?</li> <li>➤ So far this week, how have you applied what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?</li> <li>➤ Going forward, how will you apply what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?</li> </ul>
<b>HOOK (up to 10 minutes)</b>	
<b>Facilitator Notes:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week.</li> <li>Be sure to keep this topic non-political as that is not the purpose of this lesson.</li> <li>Do not get into the details of the New Apostolic Creed (Articles of Faith). They will be discussed later in this lesson.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ How are you and how are you feeling today?</li> <li>➤ Who would like to share their point to ponder or call to action from last week?</li> <li>➤ Play all or a portion of the Schoolhouse Rock Video "We the People" <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8_NzZvdsbWI">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8_NzZvdsbWI</a>.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ "WE THE PEOPLE of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."</li> <li>○ The Preamble states the goals and objectives of the forming of the US Government. It is an introduction for the rest of the Constitution and the laws and rights that go along with it.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Discuss the video with the students, using the questions below to determine what they know. If it's helpful, write answers to the questions below on a whiteboard or chart paper:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What's the name of the document that is the basis for our government? (<i>The Constitution.</i>)</li> <li>○ What does the Constitution do for the United States? (<i>It established America's national government and fundamental laws. It contains guiding beliefs for the country.</i>)</li> <li>○ What do some of the articles listed in the Constitution discuss? (<i>The powers of the branches of government, relationship of the government and the states, the ability to add more to the constitution.</i>)</li> <li>○ What do we have as Christians that is the "guiding principle" for our church? (<i>The creed of the church, also known as the Articles of Faith.</i>)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## SET THE STAGE (1 minute)

### Facilitator Notes:

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

### I wonder...

- What is a creed? (Catechism Q&A question 29)
- How are we like other Christian denominations? (Catechism Q&A question 36)

## LESSON (up to 25 minutes)

### Facilitator Notes:

- If students are not familiar with this topic, use the facts in this part of the lesson rather than just asking the questions.
- Be sure to explain to the students that the terms "New Apostolic creed" and "Articles of Faith" are the same thing.

- Ask if the students know what the definition of "creed". Explain to them that:
  - A creed is a set of fundamental beliefs or guiding principles.
  - A creed contains all the beliefs which the members of a particular religious denomination profess. It is by way of a creed that a religious denomination distinguishes itself from another. (Catechism Q&A question 29)

### Student Question #1 What are the early church creeds that all Christian religions have in common?

- Early church creeds:
  - The first Christian creeds are called the "early church creeds". These creeds became necessary because there had been disputes about various contents of faith. (Catechism Q&A question 31).
  - The Apostolic Creed ("Apostolicum") was compiled between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> century. (Catechism Q&A question 34)

### Student Question #2 What is included in the New Apostolic creed in addition to the content of the early church creeds?

- The New Apostolic creed (Articles of Faith) builds upon the early church creeds.
  - What parts of the early church creeds are included in our New Apostolic creed? (*The first three Articles of Faith largely correspond to the Apostolic Creed.*)
  - What do the first three articles of faith include? (*They deal with the triune God – the Father, Jesus, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.*)
  - What was added to the early church creeds to complete the New Apostolic creed? (*The activity of the apostles and other ministers (4 & 5), three sacraments (6, 7, 8), hope for the future (9), and Church's relationship to the authority of the state (10) (Catechism Q&A question 40)*)

- Universality: the quality or state of being present or occurring everywhere.
- Universality does not mean uniformity

**Student Question #3 What do all Christian denominations have in common?**

- Similarities between churches is called “universality”.
- The gospel is for all people. The one church of Jesus Christ is revealed in varying ways and to varying degrees in the New Apostolic Church and in the other Christian churches. (Catechism Q&A question 371)
- All Christians believe in the church of Christ. By “church” we don’t mean a physical building, but instead the group of people who are followers of Christ. (Catechism Q&A question 366)
- Universality among Christians includes:
  - The desire of God for all to be redeemed (or saved) from sin.
  - The commission of the church and people of the church to preach the gospel to all people.

**Student Question #4 How do we differ from other Christian denominations?**

- The multiplicity of Christian communities (denominations) has come about owing to varying interpretations of the gospel, as well as cultural, social, and historical differences. (Catechism Q&A question 407).
  - People and nations have differing cultural features owing to their way of life, their history, their experiences, their religious and political origins, their customs, their worldviews and convictions, etc.
- Other Christians believe in the apostles in the Bible but do not have living apostles.
- The apostle ministry brings clarity to the gospel and proclaims Christ’s message of salvation to the world.

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

**Facilitator Notes:**

Wrap up the lesson with why we must understand our Creed and beliefs, linking it to our desire to help spread the gospel.

**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 promised and committed to surrendering themselves in belief in God.

**I wonder...**

- What is a creed?
- How are we like other Christian denominations?

**I believe...**

- A creed contains all the beliefs which the members of a particular religious denomination profess. It is by way of a creed that a religious denomination distinguishes itself from another. (Catechism Q&A question 29)
- Articles 1-3 constitute a binding element among all Christian denominations. (Catechism Q&A question 36)

**Point to Ponder....**

- Why is it important to have established and consistent belief statements (as a church, family, or even personally) ?

**A Call to Action....**

- This week, discuss your New Apostolic religion with a friend of a different religion and see what the two have in common.

### 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: *We the People*

<b>I wonder...</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ What is a creed?</li> <li>➤ How are we like other Christian denominations?</li> </ul>	<b>I believe...</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ A creed contains all the beliefs which the members of a particular religious denomination profess. It is by way of a creed that a religious denomination distinguishes itself from another. (Catechism Q&amp;A question 29)</li> <li>➤ Articles 1-3 constitute a binding element among all Christian denominations. (Catechism Q&amp;A question 36)</li> </ul>
<b>References:</b> Catechism Q&A questions 29, 31, 34-40, 366, 371, 407	

**Read the Preamble to the US Constitution and discuss with the group.** WE THE PEOPLE of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

**1. What are the early church creeds that all Christian religions have in common?**

---



---



---

**2. What is included in the New Apostolic creed in addition to the content of the early church creeds?**

---



---



---

**3. What do all Christian denominations have in common?**

---



---



---

**4. How do we differ from other Christian denominations?**

---



---



---

**Point to Ponder:** Why is it important to have established and consistent belief statements (as a church, family, or even personally) ?

**Call to Action:** This week, discuss your New Apostolic religion with a friend of a different religion and see what the two have in common.



## Help Spread the Gospel: *Salvation is yours and mine*

### 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...

- Why should I want salvation?
- How can I attain salvation?

#### I believe...

- Salvation liberates us from sin and prepares us for an eternal future with God. (Catechism Q&A question 247)
- Human beings attain salvation by believing in Jesus Christ and using the sacraments and the word of God in their lives. (Catechism Q&A question 250)

#### Materials:

- IGNITE Bible
- Catechism Q&A
- Chart paper or whiteboard and markers (optional)
- For Your Journey
  - [Episode 75 – Salvation part 1](#)
  - [Episode 76 – Salvation part 2](#)

#### References:

- Catechism Q&A questions 244, 247, 250, 253-259, 473
- Bible: John 3:16-17, Acts 4:12

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

This week we'll be discussing salvation and election. Why do we need to be saved? See you there!

### 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 for families to watch together and use as a conversation starter.

Dear Parents,  
 This week the "I Wonder...." questions relate to the sacraments and salvation. Why do we need the sacraments? Why do we want salvation? If your kids were baptized and/or sealed as babies, how has your understanding of the Holy Baptism and Holy Sealing vow(s) you've made for them as their parent evolved as they have grown up? 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.
- If needed, personalize this by finding different Opening Questions that relate to your group.
- Guide the student questions as the students realize that planning or doing something now can help them receive a benefit in the future.

- 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?

Choose one of the Opening Questions below and ask the students for answers. Once you have answers to the Opening Question from more than one student, ask the "Dig Deeper" questions. If it works best with your group, have them discuss the question in small groups first and then come back together to share with the whole group.

**Opening Questions:**

- Why should I open a savings account?
- Why should I get an education?
- Why should I eat healthy foods?

**Dig Deeper:**

- What are the benefits of opening a savings account / getting an education / eating healthy foods?
- What is needed to open a savings account / get an education / eat healthy?
- How else would you prepare to open a savings account / get an education / eat healthy foods?
- What could occur if we chose to NOT open a savings / get an education / eat healthy foods?
- How would you convince your friends that these things are good ideas?

Wrap up the discussion by relating how talking to friends about an important topic shares what you know about that topic. This is one of the ways that we help spread the gospel, which is the component of the THRIVE member expectations we are highlighting this semester.

### SET THE STAGE (1 minute)

#### Facilitator Notes:

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

#### I wonder...

- Why should I want salvation?
- How can I attain salvation?

### LESSON (up to 25 minutes)

#### Facilitator Notes:

- Consider writing the definitions below on chart paper or a whiteboard so the students can refer back to them.
  - Deliverance: The action of being rescued or set free.
  - Salvation: Deliverance from the power and effects of sin; to be saved.
- Third article of faith: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the one, holy, universal, and apostolic church, the community of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the dead, and life everlasting.
- For further reading, see page 1421 in the IGNITE Bible for additional references on salvation.

#### **Student Question #1 What does "salvation" mean? How does it relate to my life?**

Ask the students what they know about salvation and use the questions below to delve further into the topic. If useful, relate these questions to the answers discussed in the hook activity. Students should have their Bibles ready for this section.

- Dictionary definition of "salvation": *Deliverance from the power and effects of sin; to be saved.*
- Who brings us salvation?
  - Salvation for us started with God sending His Son, Jesus Christ.
- How did God give us salvation?
  - Have a student read John 3:16-17 and discuss how this relates to salvation.
  - Jesus made salvation possible through His sacrificial death on the cross.

#### **Student Question #2 What do sacraments have to do with salvation?**

- We attain salvation by believing in Jesus and depending on the sacraments (Holy Baptism, Holy Sealing, and Holy Communion) to create and maintain a growing relationship with Him. (Catechism Q&A question 250)
- The sacraments allow human beings to attain salvation. Through them, human beings are adopted into the fellowship of life with God. (Catechism Q&A question 473)
- Receiving the three sacraments gives a human being the opportunity to be united with the Lord at the return of Christ. (Catechism Q&A question 473)
- What does salvation have to do with our future?
  - Our future with God can only happen by being delivered from our sin through Christ's sacrifice on the cross.
- Who can have salvation?
  - Salvation is available for ALL people who believe in Jesus!
  - Go back to John 3:16-17. God sent His Son, Jesus, so that the world through Him might be saved.

#### **Election by God**

- If the topic of "Election" comes up, please reference Catechism Q&A questions 253-259.
- The topic of "Election" will be covered in greater detail in the "E" semester - Embrace the promise of Christ's return.

#### **Student Question #3: How can we help point others to Christ and receive salvation?**

- As stated in Catechism Q&A question 259, God elects human beings for their own salvation as well as the salvation of others.
- In addition to seeking salvation for ourselves, and finding out what God has elected us to do, we have to help others around us do the same!
- The first step in helping others to salvation is to tell them about Christ.
  - Ask the students to brainstorm and share ideas of possible situations where they could share Christ in their:
    - Families
    - Congregations
    - Communities
- We cannot force others to believe or understand, but by taking the opportunity to talk about our faith in Jesus Christ, we are helping lead others to Him.

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

#### **For Your Journey episodes**

- If there is time, consider watching one of the For Your Journey episodes regarding salvation.
  - [Episode 75 – Salvation part 1](#)
  - [Episode 76 – Salvation part 2](#)
- If time does not allow to watch an episode and discuss as a group, consider following up with the students in a few days by sending them a link to one of the episodes, or perhaps include an episode in the follow up message to the parents so the family can discuss at home.

**WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME? (up to 10 minutes)**
**Facilitator Notes:**

Wrap up the lesson with why we want to be part of God's plan of salvation and also help others to be part of it too. When we help others to understand salvation, we help spread the gospel.

**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 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 promised and committed to belief in God.

**I wonder...**

- Why should I want salvation?
- How can I attain salvation?

**I believe...**

- Salvation liberates us from sin and prepares us for an eternal future with God. (Catechism Q&A question 247)
- Human beings attain salvation by believing in Jesus Christ and using the sacraments and the word of God in their lives. (Catechism Q&A question 250)

**Point to Ponder....**

- Read Acts 4:12. Write your impressions in the space provided on the student sheet.

**A Call to Action....**

- This week, tell one of your friends that Jesus makes salvation possible.

### 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: *Salvation is yours and mine*

### I wonder...

- Why should I want salvation?
- How can I attain salvation?

### I believe...

- Salvation liberates us from sin and prepares us for an eternal future with God. (Catechism Q&A question 247)
- Human beings attain salvation by believing in Jesus Christ and using the sacraments and the word of God in their lives. (Catechism Q&A question 250)

**References:** John 3:16-17, Acts 4:12 Catechism Q&A questions 247, 250, 253-259, 473

### 1. What does "salvation" mean? How does it relate to my life?

---

---

---

---

---

### 2. What do sacraments have to do with salvation?

---

---

---

---

---

### 3. How can we help point others to Christ and receive salvation?

---

---

---

---

---

**Point to Ponder:** Read Acts 4:12. Write your impressions in the space provided on the student sheet.

**Call to Action:** This week, tell one of your friends that Jesus makes salvation possible.



## Help Spread the Gospel: *Why do I need to go to church?*

### 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](#)
- Hard copies of the THRIVE Membership Expectations booklet should be available at your congregation. Online versions can be found at [www.nac-usa.org](http://www.nac-usa.org) → "Welcome" → "Thriving in your faith" and in the [NAC USA mobile app](#) under "Tools"

#### I wonder...

- Why does God want us to come together?
- What does the divine service offer?
- As a member of the New Apostolic Church, what does God expect from me?

#### I believe...

- Christians desire and need to worship God in fellowship with one another. (Catechism Q&A question 367, 613, 681)
- The divine service is an encounter between God and man. (Catechism Q&A question 367, 370, 613, 624, 626)
- I am expected to THRIVE. (Catechism Q&A question 628)

#### Materials:

- IGNITE Bible
- Catechism Q&A
- For Your Journey
  - [Episode 7 - Why go to church?](#)
- Pictures of St. Paul's Cathedral in London, Roussanou Monastery in Greece, and the New Apostolic Church in Tafelsig, South Africa (search Google Images)
- THRIVE Membership Expectations booklet

#### References:

- Catechism Q&A questions 367, 370, 613, 624, 626, 628, 681
- Bible: Matthew 16:18, Hebrews 10:24-25
- THRIVE Membership Expectations booklet

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

With the use of technology, you can virtually do anything from the palm of your hand including watching a divine service from your device. So, why do I need to go to church?

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

<p><b>Facilitator Notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please feel free to add local information and customize as necessary</li> <li>• Consider including a link to one of the For Your Journey episodes listed in the "References" section above for families to watch together and use as a conversation starter.</li> </ul>	<p>Dear Parents,</p> <p>This week the "I Wonder..." questions are why should I go to church, what does the congregational experience offer, and what does God expect from me? As a parent, you may experience a time when your son/daughter does not want to go to church. What do you do? Do you demand they go? Do you give in and let them stay home? In this lesson, the youth discussed the benefits of the congregational experience and the positive impact it can have on their faith. Ask your son/daughter what their favorite part of the divine service / the congregational experience is, and how they encounter God in that moment. As always, if you have questions about the topic, feel free to contact us.</p> <p>Your Youth Leaders</p>
<p><b>SUNDAY SERMON REFLECTIONS (up to 10 minutes)</b></p>	
<p><b>Facilitator Notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ What Bible verse was used for the basis of last Sunday's sermon?</li> <li>➤ What were some of the main takeaways? What did you learn?</li> <li>➤ So far this week, how have you applied what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?</li> <li>➤ Going forward, how will you apply what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?</li> </ul>
<p><b>HOOK (up to 15 minutes)</b></p>	
<p><b>Facilitator Notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ How are you and how are you feeling today?</li> <li>➤ Who would like to share their point to ponder or call to action from last week?</li> </ul> <p><b>Read the following statement and ask students to fill in the blank:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ In the field of _____ Christianity has been the single greatest influence, in the past two millennia. (Ortberg)</li> <li>➤ Allow students to share their answers, and then reveal the real answer:  <b>Architecture</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Share a Google image of London's St. Paul Cathedral, the Roussano Monastery in Greece, the New Apostolic Church in Tafelsig, South Africa</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>SET THE STAGE (1 minute)</b></p>	
<p><b>Facilitator Notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preview the "I wonder" questions with the students.</li> </ul>	<p><b>I wonder...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Why does God want us to come together?</li> <li>➤ What does the congregational experience offer?</li> <li>➤ As a member of the NAC, what does God expect from me?</li> <li>➤</li> </ul>

## LESSON (up to 25 minutes)

### Facilitator Notes:

- **Matthew 16:18:** "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it."

Read Matthew 16:18. This is the first place in the Bible where the word "church" is used in the New Testament. The word church comes from the Greek word "ekklesia", which means "an assembly of believers and/or the whole body of the faithful believers, or congregation". Today, when we use the word "church", we may often think of the physical building, but Christ meant it as the community of believers.

**Student Question #1** For what two purposes do you think Christ created the church?

- For believers to come together to praise and worship God
- For making salvation and eternal fellowship with God accessible to mankind (Catechism Q&A question 370)

### Facilitator Notes:

- **Hebrews 10:24-25**  
 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ***not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together***, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.
- Give students 10-12 minutes to work together. Be sure to listen as they work. If they struggle responding, prompt them by saying "What is the purpose of this moment in the divine service?"

**Student Question #2** Why do you think God wants us to praise and worship together?

- Everyone's experiences of faith and relationship with God is unique. When we share those experiences, we learn more about each other, and we learn more about our God from each other.
- When we praise and worship together, we are professing our belief in God and the Lord Jesus. This unifies us as a congregation.
- Reference Hebrews 10:24-25, with emphasis added

The church building became a place for the believers to gather to praise and worship God and to experience His word and sacrament. God is present in the divine service and the divine service liturgy allows us to experience an encounter with God.

**Student Question #3:**

Work with a partner and discuss how you can encounter God (feel/experience His presence) during this time in the divine service

- Singing hymns of praise and worship (give each pair of students a hymnal)
- Hearing the message from the altar
- Praying individually, and as a congregation
- Participating in Holy Communion

**Come back together and share answers. The following points should be mentioned:**

- **Singing hymns of praise and worship:**
  - This is one way we can praise and worship God.
  - Singing reminds us of the gospel message, and how much God loves us and does for us.
  - Tells God through song that we believe in Him and His Son, and expresses our love to them.
  - Can express feelings that we have that we are not able to put into words.

- **Hearing the sermon message from the altar:**
  - God reveals His will and His way in order for us to transform our nature into the nature of Christ.
  - God reveals His plan of salvation.
  - Reminds us of the Gospel message of hope of an eternal life with the triune God.
  - Provides words of strength, comfort, and wisdom.
- **Praying individually, and/or as a congregation**
  - Individual prayer is a moment of intimate conversation with God.
  - Congregational prayer is a unified call or cry to God.
  - Congregational prayer can speak a prayer on our behalf, when we don't know what or how to pray. We can feel God's love through the prayers of those around us.
- **Participating in Holy Communion**
  - This is a moment when we stand before Christ and He reminds us "This I did for you."
  - As a congregation, we come with thankfulness and in remembrance of His sacrifice.
  - The Lord Jesus invites us to come despite our sinful nature, and eat and drink at His table. This provides us the strength to fight against our sinful nature.

**Summarize by telling the students: Everyone's responses are a little different, but when we experience these moment together and share our encounters with God with each other, we learn so much more about our God, about our neighbor, and about our faith, than if we would do this all on our own.**

**As a member of the New Apostolic Church USA, you are expected to: THRIVE**

THRIVE is an acronym that outlines the expectations for a New Apostolic Church member. It is also the foundation of the Youth Small Group discussion material. You've experienced the T semester, *Transform your nature using Jesus as your example*, and are in the middle of the H semester, *Help Spread the Gospel*.

Divide the group into 2 groups and give each group a printout of the THRIVE acronym, or give them a physical THRIVE Membership booklet, or help them find the content in the NAC USA mobile app.

Give them a few minutes to read through the acronym and the supporting bullets and Bible verses.

Bring the group back together, and ask them some combination of the questions on the following page:

	<p>THRIVE Membership Booklet follow up questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Did they know there are expectations of members?</li> <li>• What expectations were they aware of, what expectations were new to them?</li> <li>• Which expectation(s) do they feel they are practicing and which do they need to work on?</li> <li>• Could you THRIVE without going to church?</li> </ul>
<b>WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME? (up to 10 minutes)</b>	
<p><b>Facilitator Notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For Your Journey episodes can be found on the <a href="#">NAC USA YouTube</a> channel <u>and</u> in the <a href="#">NAC USA mobile app</a></li> </ul>	<p><b>Wrap up the lesson with why going to church is necessary.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Watch For Your Journey             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <a href="#">Episode 7 - Why go to church?</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Close with the "I Wonder...." questions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 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.</li> <li>➤ As you review each question and answer, stop and check in with the group to be sure there are no misunderstandings or misconceptions.</li> <li>➤ Remind the students that on their Confirmation day, they will or have already promised and committed to surrendering themselves to God.</li> </ul> <p><b>I wonder...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Why does God want us to come together?</li> <li>➤ What does the divine service offer?</li> <li>➤ As a member of the New Apostolic Church, what does God expect from me?</li> </ul> <p><b>I believe...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Christians desire and need to worship God in fellowship with one another. (Catechism Q&amp;A question 367, 613, 681)</li> <li>➤ The divine service is an encounter between God and man. (Catechism Q&amp;A question 367, 370, 613, 624, 626)</li> <li>➤ I am expected to THRIVE. (Catechism Q&amp;A question 628)</li> </ul> <p><b>Point to Ponder....</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Think about the different moments in the divine service and choose one to pray about so you will recognize and feel God's presence more.</li> </ul> <p><b>A Call to Action....</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Leave your cell phone in the car next Sunday, so you can completely engage in every moment of the divine service experience. Be prepared to share how this was different from previous Sundays.</li> </ul>

## **THRIVE Membership Expectations – NAC USA**

### **Transform your nature, using Jesus as your example, by...**

- Exemplifying the fruit of the Spirit as Jesus did. Use them to measure your spiritual maturity. (Galatians 5:22-23)
- Forgiving as Jesus forgave, unconditionally and fully (Matthew 6:12, 18:21-22, Luke 17:3)
- Being engaged and present when celebrating Holy Communion to experience its transformational power. (1 Corinthians 11:24)

### **Help spread the Gospel by...**

- Sharing how God's plan of salvation has impacted you. (2 Timothy 2:2, Ephesians 1:13)
- Being a disciple of Jesus Christ. (John 13:34-35)
- Living and leading like Jesus, in word and deed. (Colossians 3:17)

### **Respond to the call to serve by...**

- Discovering and developing your spiritual gifts and engaging in the congregation by using those gifts. (Ephesians 4:11-16)
- Edifying the Body of Christ by acknowledging and appreciating the gifts of others. (1 Corinthians 12:4-27)
- Showing your love for Jesus through helping your family, congregation, community, and those in need. (Luke 10:30-37, Matthew 25:35-40, Mark 9:35)
- Directly serving Jesus Christ. (Romans 14:17-19)

### **Invest in your spiritual health by...**

- Praying. Prayer cultivates a relationship with God and helps deepen your knowledge of Him and yourself. (Colossians 4:2)
- Reading and studying the Bible. The Holy Scripture is inspired by God's word and equips us for righteousness. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
- Actively partaking in the divine service experience and celebrating the presence of the Triune God, allowing the encounter to transform your daily life. (Romans 10:17, 1 Corinthians 11:23-29)
- Continually pursuing knowledge of the Triune God through the Gospel so that your thinking is not static, but is constantly renewed. (Romans 12:2, John 17:3)
- Worshipping together. (Psalm 29:2, 1 Chronicles 29:10-15)

### **Value the Church by...**

- Giving voluntary offerings to God in appreciation and thanksgiving for that which He has provided for you. (1 Chronicles 29:9, Luke 21:1-4)
- Tithing and expressing your desire to participate in the church of Christ which God has established. (2 Corinthians 9:7, Matthew 10:8)
- Engaging in intentional community by sharing your life and spiritual journey with others through fellowship. (Acts 2:42-47, 1 John 1:3, 1 Corinthians 12:25-27)
- Praying for others. (Philippians 2:3-4, Galatians 6:2)

### **Embrace the promise of Jesus Christ's return by...**

- 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)

### 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: *Why do I need to go to church?*

<b>I wonder...</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Why does God want us to come together?</li> <li>➤ What does the congregational experience offer?</li> <li>➤ As a member of the NAC, what does God expect from me?</li> </ul>	<b>I believe...</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Believers desire and need to worship God in fellowship with one another. (Catechism Q&amp;A questions 367, 613, 681)</li> <li>➤ The divine service is an encounter between God and man. (Catechism Q&amp;A questions 367, 370, 613, 624,626)</li> <li>➤ I am expected to THRIVE. (Catechism Q&amp;A question 628)</li> </ul>
<b>References:</b> Catechism Q&A questions 367, 370, 613, 624,626, 628, 681 Bible: Matthew 16:18, Hebrews 10:24-25 THRIVE Membership Expectations booklet	

**Read Matthew 16:18:** "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it."

1. For what two purposes do you think Christ created the church?

---



---

2. Why do you think God wants us to praise and worship together?

---



---

3. How you can encounter God (feel/experience His presence) during these different moments in the divine service?

- Singing hymns of praise and worship (give each pair a hymnal)
- Hearing the sermon message from the altar
- Praying individually, and as a congregation
- Participating in Holy Communion

---



---



---



---



---



---



---



---

**Point to Ponder:** Think about the different moments in the divine service and choose one to pray about so you will recognize and feel God's presence more.

**A Call to Action:** Leave your cell phone in the car next Sunday, so you can completely engage in every moment of the divine service experience. Be prepared to share how this was different from previous Sundays.

## Help Spread the Gospel: *Sharing is Caring*

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

<p><b>Facilitator Notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sermon clips are available in the <a href="#">NAC USA mobile app</a> and in the app web player (link in the list to the right)</li> </ul>	<p><b>I wonder...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ How can I share the gospel?</li> <li>➤ When do I share the gospel?</li> <li>➤ How can I be a credible witness of the gospel?</li> </ul> <p><b>I believe...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ I share the gospel through my conduct and interactions with others. (Catechism Q&amp;A question 358)</li> <li>➤ I am a representative of Christ at all times. (Catechism Q&amp;A questions 286, 582)</li> <li>➤ It is important to be loving and focus on the similarities that our Church shares with other beliefs. (Catechism Q&amp;A question 749)</li> </ul> <p><b>Materials:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ IGNITE Bible</li> <li>➤ Catechism Q&amp;A</li> <li>➤ 4 index cards</li> <li>➤ District Apostle sermon clip 44, Rejoice when one finds their way home: <a href="http://subspla.sh/84fd1f2">http://subspla.sh/84fd1f2</a></li> </ul> <p><b>References:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Catechism Q&amp;A questions 286, 358, 582, 749</li> <li>➤ Bible verses: Matthew 6:19, Mark 12:30-31, John 8:7, Romans 1:15-16, Romans 12:21, Hebrews 11:1</li> </ul>
---	---

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

	<p>If you told your friends that you spent Friday night at a youth gathering, Saturday serving your community, and Sunday at church, would they be shocked, not surprised, or interested to hear more? Let's talk about this in small group.</p>
--	--

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

<p><b>Facilitator Notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please feel free to add local information and customize as necessary</li> </ul>	<p>Dear Parents,</p> <p>This week the "I Wonder...." questions are about sharing the gospel with others. Share with your student an interaction you had this week with a co-worker, friend, neighbor, or stranger where you demonstrated the nature of Christ. Then discuss how easy or hard this was to do. As always, if you have questions about the topic, feel free to contact us.</p> <p>Your Youth Leaders</p>
---	---

### 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.
- Make sure the students understand that they should not compare themselves to or think of themselves as Jesus, but rather, can represent and reflect Him in their lives.

- 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?

Write the following statement on 4 index cards prior to the student's arrival:

***You may be the only Jesus somebody knows.***

Divide the group into 4 groups/pairs, and give each group a card. Give them 5 minutes to talk about what they think this statement means. Then let them share with the group. The purpose of this statement is to start a conversation about how our conduct and interactions with others might be a chance for others to experience Christ through us.

### SET THE STAGE (up to 1 minute)

**Facilitator Notes:**

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

**I wonder...**

- How can I share the gospel?
- When do I share the gospel?
- How can I be a credible witness of the gospel?

### LESSON (up to 25 minutes)

**Facilitator Notes:**

- If needed, refer to points from H1 and H2 to refresh the students' understanding of what the gospel is.

**Read the following story: (Based on a true story)**

*A young Christian boy was in the hospital recovering from an illness. His roommate was a boy suffering from a terminal illness. The terminally ill boy told the Christian boy how afraid he was of dying. The Christian boy told him he didn't need to be afraid because Jesus loved him and wants to spend eternity with him. The Christian boy explained that God loves him so much He sent*

*Jesus to die on the cross so his sins could be forgiven, and that God will send Jesus again to take those who love Him and believe in Him, dead and alive, to heaven to be with Him. The terminally ill boy said he didn't know Jesus and was concerned Jesus wouldn't be able to find him after he died. The Christian boy looked at his roommate and noticed how small he was and then told him, "Jesus knows you, but just in case, raise your hand so He sees you." The next morning the Christian boy woke up to find the bed next to him empty. He asked the nurse where his roommate was, and she replied he had passed away during the night, and that when she found him, strangely, he had one arm raised above his head.*

### **Student Question #1**

#### **How did the boy share the gospel?**

Ask the students to find three examples in the story that showed the boy was confident when sharing the gospel.

- The Christian boy knew the details of God's plan of salvation.
- The Christian boy must have spoken with conviction for his roommate to have believed immediately.
- The Christian boy recognized the fear in his roommate and showed love for him by sharing the gospel message.

### **Student Question #2**

#### **Why is confidence important in our profession of the gospel?**

- Confidence demonstrates that we firmly believe what we are professing.

### **Student Question #3**

#### **Rather than meeting in a hospital room, imagine the boys bumped into each other at school, knocking each other's books to the ground. Should the Christian boy share the same message?**

- YES
- As a Christian, the boy is a representative of Christ at all times.
- It is the boy's responsibility to share the gospel message because he may be the "only Jesus" the other boy may come across. (Reference Hook activity.)
- The knowledge of the gospel should create so much joy in the boy that he can't help but share it with others.
- NO
- For this encounter, sharing why Jesus was sent to earth to die for our sins might be too intense. The Christian boy's conduct (apologizing, helping the other boy pick up his books) might be the best way for him to start sharing the message of the gospel with the other boy.
- The message might not be received well, especially if the other boy does not believe in Christ (Buddhist, Muslim, Jewish, atheist, etc.).
- Go over Q&A question 749 with the students to dive further into this topic.

- The students may answer yes or no. Go over the possible reasons for both answers with the students. This exercise will help the students to learn about discerning when it is appropriate to share the gospel and how.

- **Romans 1:15-16:** So, as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes...
- **Hebrews 11:1 (NIV):** Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.
- **Romans 12:21:** Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.
- **John 8:7:** So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first."
- **Matthew 6:19:** "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal;
- **Mark 12:30-31:** And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

#### Student Question #4

#### **How can I be a credible witness of the gospel?**

- When telling others about the gospel of Christ, we can talk about our own experiences. In doing this, we will be credible when we are:
  - Confident in our faith. (Romans 1:15-16, Hebrews 11:1)
  - Determined to overcome evil. (Romans 12:21)
  - Humble in serving Jesus. (John 8:7)
  - Unbound by material things or our own honor so we are able to forgive. (Matthew 6:19)
  - Filled with love for God and our neighbor. (Mark 12:30-31)

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

### Facilitator Notes:

- Sermon clips are available in the NAC USA mobile app and in the app web player (link in the list to the right)

### Wrap up the lesson with watching:

- District Apostle sermon clip 44, Rejoice when one finds their way home: <http://subspla.sh/84fd1f2>

### 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 promised and committed to surrendering themselves to God, and desire to share His gospel with others.

### I wonder...

- How can I share the gospel?
- When do I share the gospel?
- How can I be a credible witness of the gospel?

### I believe...

- I share the gospel through my conduct and interactions with others. (Catechism Q&A question 358)
- I am a representative of Christ at all times. (Catechism Q&A questions 286, 582)
- It is important to be loving and focus on the similarities that our Church shares with other beliefs. (Catechism Q&A question 749)

### Point to Ponder....

- Think about why you believe the gospel is important to share with others.

### A Call to Action....

- This week, share the gospel in some way each day, either in your conduct towards others or by telling them about it. Even sharing a Bible verse on social media can have an impact.

### 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: *Sharing is Caring*

<b>I wonder...</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ How can I share the gospel?</li> <li>➤ When do I share the gospel?</li> <li>➤ How can I be a credible witness of the gospel?</li> </ul>	<b>I believe...</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ I share the gospel through my conduct and interactions with others. (Q&amp;A question 358)</li> <li>➤ I am a representative of Christ at all times. (Q&amp;A questions 286, 582)</li> <li>➤ It is important to be loving and focus on the similarities that our Church shares with other beliefs. (Q&amp;A question 749)</li> </ul>
<b>References:</b> Catechism Q&A questions 286, 358, 582, 749, Bible: Matthew 6:19, Mark 12:30-31, John 8:7, Romans 1:15-16, Romans 12:21, Hebrews 11:1	

### Read the following story: (Based on a true story)

*A young Christian boy was in the hospital recovering from an illness. His roommate was a boy suffering from a terminal illness. The terminally ill boy told the Christian boy how afraid he was of dying. The Christian boy told him he didn't need to be afraid because Jesus loved him and wants to spend eternity with him. The Christian boy explained that God loves him so much He sent Jesus to die on the cross so his sins could be forgiven, and that God will send Jesus again to take those who love Him and believe in Him, dead and alive, to heaven to be with Him. The terminally ill boy said he didn't know Jesus and was concerned Jesus wouldn't be able to find him after he died. The Christian boy looked at his roommate and noticed how small he was and then told him, "Jesus knows you, but just in case, raise your hand so He sees you." The next morning the Christian boy woke up to find the bed next to him empty. He asked the nurse where his roommate was, and she replied he had passed away during the night, and that when she found him, strangely, he had one arm raised above his head.*

1. How did the boy share the gospel?

---



---

2. Why is confidence important in our profession of the gospel?

---



---



---

3. Rather than meeting in a hospital room, imagine the boys bumped into each other at school, knocking each other's books to the ground. Should the Christian boy share the same message?

---



---



---

4. How can I be a credible witness of the gospel?

---



---



---

**Point to Ponder:** Think about why you believe the gospel is important to share with others.

**A Call to Action:** This week, share the gospel in some way each day, either in your conduct towards others or by telling them about it. Even sharing a Bible verse on social media can have an impact.

## Help Spread the Gospel: *Feed the hungry*

### 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...

- Why should I help those in need?
- How am I supposed to serve those in need?
- How does helping others in need spread the gospel?

#### I believe...

- We are called to meet the physical and spiritual needs of others. (Catechism Q&A question 155)
- God expects us to love and serve those around us wherever possible, not just when it is convenient, and however possible. (Catechism Q&A question 286)
- Because of the love Christ has shown me, I am willing to sacrifice to serve others and share His love with them. (Catechism Q&A question 177, 283)

#### Materials:

- IGNITE Bible
- Catechism Q&A
- White board, dry erase markers
- For Your Journey
  - [Episode 25 - Providing and Cultivating](#)
  - [Episode 66 – Humanitarian Giving vs. Christian Giving](#)
- nac.today - "Many Questions and Many Answers", <http://nac.today/en/158033/523069>

#### References:

- Bible verses: Matthew 25: 35-36
- Catechism Q&A questions 155, 177, 283, 286

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

Have you ever needed something and someone helped you? Come learn how you can help spread the gospel by helping others.

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

#### Facilitator Notes:

- Consider including a link to one of the For Your Journey episodes listed in the "References" section above for families to watch together and use as a conversation starter.

Dear Parents,

This week the "I Wonder...." questions are about how we can spread the gospel by helping others. Talk to your student about ways (big or small) that you can help others in need.

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 15 minutes)

### Facilitator Notes:

- Have white board/paper and markers ready
- Make sure the items the student list are true needs, not just wants

- 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?
- Discuss needs vs. wants (needs are required, wants are not)
- Ask the students if they have ever had a need. Write down 4-6 needs the students have provided (ex. help with schoolwork, a winter coat on a cold day, medicine when ill). Ask the students if the need was met and how it was met (ex. a student needed help with a topic at school – a tutor/teacher/friend helped them understand, a need for an illness – parents/doctors provided antibiotics).
- Then ask the students:
  - How did you feel when your need was met?
  - How do you think God felt when you were helped?

## SET THE STAGE (up to 1 minute)

### Facilitator Notes:

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

### I wonder...

- Why should I help those in need?
- How am I supposed to serve those in need?
- How does helping others in need spread the gospel?

## LESSON (up to 25 minutes)

### Facilitator Notes:

- Matthew 25:35-36: "...for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was

Read Matthew 25:35-36 together. The questions below pertain to these verses.

- Ask the students:
  - Who is the "Me" Jesus was referring to? (Jesus)
  - How are we helping Jesus when we help others?
  - **Student question #1: Why should I help those in need?**
- Ask the students:
  - What needs were filled? (ex. food, drink, shelter, clothing, visiting)
  - Should we only help others with their needs when it is convenient for us? (No, we should help whenever possible. This also means that we **DO** something, not just pray for them.)

sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me."

- IGNITE Bible – Flashpoint: "Kindness" (page 1001)

- Read the Flashpoint titled "Kindness" in your IGNITE Bible.
  - Ask the students:
    - Do you need specific qualities in order to help those in need? If yes, what are those qualities? If no, why not?

### **Student question #2**

#### **How am I supposed to serve those in need?**

- Have the students break into groups of 2 or 3 (if possible) and brainstorm five practical ways they can help those in need in their families, congregations, and communities.
- If time allows, let the groups share a few ideas that they came up with.
- In addition to serving a physical need, it is also worth highlighting how, as Christians, we have an opportunity and responsibility to serve and meet spiritual needs as well.

### **Student question #3**

#### **What are some things you must do in order to feed, clothe, and visit those in need?**

- Possible answers are:
  - You need to be aware/recognize someone has a need.
  - You have to have the resources to help them.
  - You have to give something up or be willing to sacrifice your time/energy/possessions.
  - Ways to prepare for more long-term helping and serving:
    - Consider a career that allows you to help people.
    - Budgeting and being a good steward of what God has given you so that you can help others.

### **Student question #4**

#### **How does helping others in need spread the gospel?**

- Watch For Your Journey – Episode 25, Providing and Cultivating (minute marker 3:04 – 5:00)
  - Before watching the For Your Journey clip, remind the students of the international New Apostolic Church mission statement.
  - Have the students write down possible answers to **Student question #4** while watching the video clip.
  - Have the group share their answers after watching the video clip.

#### **Share the following with the students about helping others in need:**

Excerpt from article on nac.today – [Many Questions and Many Answers](#):

*People often seek help, for example, from their fellow human beings. "No human being can afford to live only for himself today. We are dependent on others, and are grateful for any help our peers can provide." However, people are only people, and their power is limited, noted the Chief Apostle. They cannot solve all problems. "Let us seek help from God! After all, we believe that God is almighty. God can help in every situation."*

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

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

### Facilitator Notes:

- If the topic of 'motives' in serving comes up, feel free to utilize [For Your Journey | Episode 66 – Humanitarian Giving vs. Christian Giving](#). Or consider sending the link to the episode as a follow up a few days after the youth discussion.

### 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 surrendering themselves to God. Being obedient to God means following His command and example to love.

### I wonder...

- Why should I help those in need?
- How am I supposed to serve those in need?
- How does helping others in need spread the gospel?

### I believe...

- We are called to meet the physical and spiritual needs of others. (Catechism Q&A question 155)
- God expects us to love and serve those around us wherever possible, not just when it is convenient, and however possible. (Catechism Q&A question 286)
- Because of the love Christ has shown me, I am willing to sacrifice to serve others and share His love with them. (Catechism Q&A question 177, 283)

### Point to Ponder....

- Think about God as the One who knows all your needs and can fulfill them.

### A Call to Action....

- Over the next week, pay attention to the people around you. Can you find someone who is in need? (This may require you to talk with people to discover any needs they may have.) Make a plan, using some of the ideas brainstormed in the lesson, of how you will help this person in the week following your time of observation.

### 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: *Feed the hungry*

<p><b>I wonder...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Why should I help those in need?</li> <li>➤ How am I supposed to serve those in need?</li> <li>➤ How does helping others in need spread the gospel?</li> </ul>	<p><b>I believe...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ We are called to meet the physical and spiritual needs of others. (Catechism Q&amp;A question 155)</li> <li>➤ God expects us to love and serve those around us wherever possible, not just when it is convenient, and however possible. (Catechism Q&amp;A question 286)</li> <li>➤ Because of the love Christ has shown me, I am willing to sacrifice to serve others and share His love with them. (Catechism Q&amp;A questions 177, 283).</li> </ul>
<p><b>References:</b> Matthew 25: 35-36, Catechism Q&amp;A questions 155, 177, 283, 286</p>	

### 1. Why should I help those in need?

---



---



---

### 2. How am I supposed to serve those in need?

---



---



---

### 3. What are some things you must do in order to feed, clothe, and visit those in need?

---



---



---

### 4. How does helping others in need spread the gospel?

---



---



---

**Point to Ponder:** Think about God as the One who knows all your needs and can fulfill them.

**Call to Action:** Over the next week, pay attention to the people around you. Can you find someone who is in need? (This may require you to talk with people to discover any needs they may have.) Make a plan, using some of the ideas brainstormed in the lesson, of how you will help this person in the week following your time of observation.



## Help Spread the Gospel: *Do You Forgive as Much as You Are Forgiven?*

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

#### Facilitator Notes:

- Sermon clips are available in the [NAC USA mobile app](#) and in the app web player (link in the list to the right)

#### I wonder...

- How am I supposed to forgive?
- Why should I be forgiving?
- How does forgiving help spread the gospel?

#### I believe...

- I must forgive and show mercy to others constantly. (Catechism Q&A question 649)
- God is the judge and takes an account of offenses. (Catechism Q&A question 58)
- Because God is gracious and forgives us, He expects us to likewise forgive those who have wronged us. The gospel is a message of reconciliation. We can demonstrate that by pursuing reconciliation with our neighbor. (Catechism Q&A questions 638 and 651)

#### Materials:

- IGNITE Bible
- Catechism Q&A
- Chief Apostle sermon clip 19, *God Forgives but I Criticize*, <https://subsplash.com/nacusa/media/mi/+1a90576>
- Balloons (not inflated)
- 1-inch wide slips of paper or Post-it notes
- Writing utensils (markers, pencils, pens, etc.)

#### References:

- Catechism Q&A questions: 58, 638, 649, 651
- Bible: Matthew 18:21-35, Mark 11:25, Romans 12:18

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

Think of a time you may have hurt someone and were forgiven. How did it make you feel? This week for small group we'll be meeting at \_\_\_\_\_ and talking about forgiveness.

### 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 are about the parable of the unforgiving servant: how are we supposed to forgive, why we should be forgiving, and how is forgiving spreading the gospel? Have a conversation with your student about times they did something as a small child to upset you as well as times you may have done something to upset them. Continue the conversation with why you decided to forgive each other and what came out of that forgiveness. Try to lead the conversation to a time you have upset God and He has shown forgiveness. 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 15 minutes)

#### Facilitator Notes:

- Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week.
- Prior to the start of the activity, make sure to have post-it notes or small pieces of paper (at least 10 per student).
- At the start of the activity, pass out 10 post-its and a writing utensil to each student. If students need/want more during the lesson, you can give them more.
- If someone in the group has a hard time thinking of or sharing an answer, use the following prompts: Have there been times in your life when you've been angry? What or who made you angry?
- If students cannot come up with an equal number of each, that is okay but it should be close.

- 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?
- On post-its, have the students write down various times someone in their life has upset them. These people can include friends, family, classmates, or maybe someone they just encountered. On the post-its, have students also record on a scale of 1 (not too upset) to 5 (very upset) how upset it made them at the time. Give students 5 minutes to come up with as many as they can.
- On a separate post-it, have students write down times where they have upset someone in their lives and were forgiven or when they forgave someone else. Students should now place a number at the top of the post-it on a scale of 1 (not very good) to 5 (felt amazing) of how it felt to be forgiven. Urge students to try to come up with an even number of each instance.
- Once the 5 minutes are up, have students make 2 piles of their post-its – times they were made angry and times they were forgiven or have forgiven others. Tell the students they are going to read their post-its now and put themselves back into the mindset of the time this happened. Give each student a deflated balloon and tell them to read their first post-it of a time someone upset or wronged them silently to themselves. Once they have read it, ask the students to blow into the balloon for the number they posted at the top of their post-it (i.e. the number 2 would be for 2 breaths). Once every student has completed the first post-it, tell them to move on to the next one in that pile. *(This part of the activity should take no more than 3 minutes)*
- When students have finished their "angry pile," have them look at everyone's balloons. There may be various sizes around the room and some might have even popped their balloons by putting too much air in them (this will add to the point of the activity). Have a discussion with the whole group about what made them so mad (they do not need to explain the details of the instance but a summary of why it hurt them or made them angry will be beneficial). *(2 minutes)*

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When asking students to share their answers, try not to force students to talk. If you're noticing students do not want to share with the whole group.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Now have students start reading through their forgiven post-its. For each number at the top students should let that number of seconds of air out of their balloons. (2 minutes)</li> <li>➤ When students have finished the activity, open up a discussion on things the students noticed and felt as they progressed through the activity. Some key points to draw out:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Did anyone have more post-its in one pile than the other? Why do you think that is?</li> <li>○ How did you feel when you continued to blow more air into the balloon?                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Exhausted, scared it would pop, annoyed and more angered that we had to keep blowing, etc.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ How did you feel when you started to let air out of the balloon?                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Relieved, relaxed, happy (maybe if they thought it was going to pop), etc.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Using our balloons as an example, what happens or could happen in our lives if we are angered more than we are forgiven and forgive others?                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ When you forgave someone or they forgave you, did that take all of the air out of the balloon? Was it a one-time fix?</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
--	---

### SET THE STAGE (1 minute)

<p><b>Facilitator Notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preview the "I wonder" questions with the students.</li> </ul>	<p><b>I wonder...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ How am I supposed to forgive?</li> <li>➤ Why should I be forgiving?</li> <li>➤ How does forgiving help spreading the gospel?</li> </ul>
--	--

### LESSON (up to 25 minutes)

<p><b>Facilitator Notes:</b></p> <p><b>The Lord's Prayer:</b> Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.</p>	<p><b>Have students read through or recite the Lord's Prayer together. After, discuss the following questions with the group:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ In the Lord's Prayer, what does it mean when we have a debt or say "our debts"?</li> <li>○ We have hurt someone in our lives.</li> <li>○ Ultimately this means we have sinned.</li> <li>➤ What does it mean to have a debtor?               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ This is the other who has hurt someone else.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ When we pray this in the Lord's prayer, what does it actually mean?               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Reference the Catechism Q&amp;A question 638: "All human beings incur guilt on account of their sins. With these words, the believers acknowledge that they are sinners before God, and ask Him for forgiveness. Because God is gracious and forgives us, He expects us to likewise forgive those who have wronged us. Therefore, we will only be granted forgiveness if we ourselves are reconcilable and willing to forgive."</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
--	---

- **Matthew 18: 21-35**  
 (Not included due to length of the parable)

**Example to emphasize this point:**  
 God does not say to forgive the person who has stolen \$20 from you, but you don't have to forgive the person who harms you physically.

- **Romans 12:18**  
 If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

**Student Question #1: Why does God want us to continue to forgive others even when they have wronged us numerous times?**

- When we sin, wrong others, or do not forgive others, we are separating ourselves from God. In the Lord's Prayer, we are reminded that God wants us to constantly forgive as we have been forgiven.

**Read together as a class The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant in Matthew 18: 21-35. After reading, discuss with the students the key points of the parable, as well as the purpose of this story. Some important aspects to draw out are:**

- When the Servant had his debt forgiven, why do you think he chose not to forgive the debt that was owed to him?
- This is a story Jesus used to show the importance of forgiveness.
  - When we sin, we are separated from God.
  - If we do not forgive others, that separation becomes larger and we need to erase the separation.
- Jesus said to not just forgive 7 times but 7 times 70.
  - Why is it often difficult for us to forgive someone even just once?
- How many times do you think God has forgiven us?
  - Do you think God's love for us lessens as we sin more? Why?
  - Do you feel that God ever gets tired of forgiving us when we sin? Explain your thoughts.

**How are we supposed to forgive?**

- The Lord understands this is not easy for us. However, we should still try our hardest to forgive. This may not be a one-time fix. Forgiveness can sometimes take a while or a few times in order for it to truly take place and have true meaning (IGNITE Bible, Flashpoint, "Forgiveness" page 993).
  - Remember that God sacrificed His son so we can be redeemed and forgiven for the consequences of sin.
- God told us to forgive everyone always.
  - God does not look at different types of sin and say it is okay to forgive sometimes, but not other times.

**Student Question #2: Why is it necessary to forgive others in God's eyes?**

- Forgiving others even when it is difficult means we accept God's will as our own.
- When we make the choice to forgive others, we are allowing God to work within us because we are also dependent on forgiveness from Him.
- Forgiveness does not justify the reason behind the sin. Forgiveness instead gives us a chance to start healing ourselves.
- When we forgive others, we are helping to spread the gospel.
  - Reference Romans 12:18, when offenses have been forgiven and relationships reconciled, we're able to live peaceably with our neighbor.

**Mark 11:25:** And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses.

**How is forgiving spreading and sharing the gospel?**

- God has given us specific directions when it comes to forgiving.
  - Reference Mark 11:25.
  - When we forgive others, we are following the example Christ gave us.

We are spreading the gospel through the way we lead our lives.

**Student Question #3:** Thinking about the balloon hook activity, what effect does it have on our lives when we do not forgive others and when we are not forgiven?

**Student Question #4:** When you finally make the decision to forgive someone, what impact does it have on you, the other person, as well as God?

**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.
- Sermon clips are available in the [NAC USA mobile app](#) and in the app web player (link in the list to the right)

**Wrap up the lesson with why we must forgive, linking it to our vision and our eternal future with God.**

- If there is time, watch Chief Apostle sermon clip 19, *God Forgives but I Criticize?*
  - <https://subsplash.com/nacusa/media/mi/+1a90576>

**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 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 promised and committed to surrendering themselves to God.

**I wonder...**

- How am I supposed to forgive?
- Why should I be forgiving?
- How does forgiving help spread the gospel?

**I believe...**

- I must forgive and show mercy to others constantly. (Catechism Q&A question 649)
- God is the judge and takes an account of offenses. (Catechism Q&A question 58)
- Because God is gracious and forgives us, He expects us to likewise forgive those who have wronged us. The gospel is a message of reconciliation. We can demonstrate that by pursuing reconciliation with our neighbor. (Catechism Q&A questions 638 and 651)

**Point to Ponder....**What factors contribute to you NOT forgiving someone?

**A Call to Action....**Take time to think about someone who has wronged you recently and you have yet to forgive them. Pray to God for both the strength and kindness to forgive that person. Do your best to work on forgiving that person.

### 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: *Do You Forgive as Much as You Are Forgiven?*

<b>I wonder...</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ How am I supposed to forgive?</li> <li>➤ Why should I be forgiving?</li> <li>➤ How does forgiving help spreading the gospel?</li> </ul>	<b>I believe...</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ I must forgive and show mercy to others constantly. (Catechism Q&amp;A question 649)</li> <li>➤ God is the judge and takes an account of offenses. (Catechism Q&amp;A question 58)</li> <li>➤ Because God is gracious and forgives us, He expects us to likewise forgive those who have wronged us. The gospel is a message of reconciliation. We can demonstrate that by pursuing reconciliation with our neighbor. (Catechism Q&amp;A questions 638 and 651)</li> </ul>
<b>References:</b> Catechism Q&A questions 58, 638, 649, 651 ; Bible verses: Matthew 18:21-35, Mark 11:25, Romans 12:18	

Read through the Parable of The Unforgiving Servant again and then answer the following questions:

1. Why does God want us to continue to forgive others even when they have wronged us numerous times?

---



---



---

2. Why is it necessary to forgive others in God's eyes?

---



---



---

3. Thinking about the balloon hook activity, what effect does it have on our lives when we do not forgive others and when we are not forgiven?

---



---



---

4. When you finally make the decision to forgive someone, what impact does it have on you, the other person, as well as God?

---



---



---

**Point to Ponder:** What factors contribute to you NOT forgiving someone?

**Call to Action:** Take time to think about someone who has wronged you recently and you have yet to forgive them. Pray to God for both the strength and kindness to forgive that person. Do your best to work on forgiving that person.



## Help Spread the Gospel: *Love Your Neighbor*

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

#### Facilitator Notes:

- While similar to the takeaways in H7, this discussion looks at caring for others using the example of the Good Samaritan. Loving and caring for others is an expression that Jesus loves and cares for them.
- Sermon clips are available in the [NAC USA mobile app](#) *and* in the app web player (link in the list to the right)

#### I wonder...

- To whom am I to show love and care?
- How am I expected to love and care for others?

#### I believe...

- I should love and care for my neighbor, who is anyone in need of kindness. (Catechism Q&A questions 155, 287)
- I am expected to do all that I can to help those who are suffering. (Catechism Q&A questions 285, 286)

#### Materials:

- IGNITE Bible
- Catechism Q&A
- Chief Apostle sermon clip 18, Love Your Neighbor <http://subspla.sh/f2bo685>
- Notebook Paper
- White board and markers (if necessary)
- [www.nac-usa.org](http://www.nac-usa.org) article [Bridging the Gaps](#)

#### References:

- Catechism Q&A questions 155, 285-288
- Bible: Luke 10: 25-37, John 13: 34-35

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

How often do you want to help someone but never follow through? Why might that be?

### 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 are about loving our neighbor: who should we show love to and how we are expected to love and care for others, Talk with your student about a time you helped someone you may not have known. Take time to have a discussion about why you chose to help this person and how this made you feel. As always, if you have questions about the topic, please feel free to contact us.

Your Youth Leaders

<b>SUNDAY SERMON REFLECTIONS (up to 10 minutes)</b>	
<b>Facilitator Notes:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ What Bible verse was used for the basis of last Sunday's sermon?</li> <li>➤ What were some of the main takeaways? What did you learn?</li> <li>➤ So far this week, how have you applied what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?</li> <li>➤ Going forward, how will you apply what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?</li> </ul>
<b>HOOK (up to 15 minutes)</b>	
<b>Facilitator Notes:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week.</li> <li>The prompts can be displayed in a number of ways. Some examples include: PowerPoint slides (one prompt for each slide), write them on the board, or simply say them aloud.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ How are you and how are you feeling today?</li> <li>➤ Who would like to share their point to ponder or call to action from last week?</li> <li>➤ Have students make individual lists of the people in their lives that they consider to be their neighbors.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Some students might have a deeper understanding of what a neighbor is and will include people that are not extremely close to them.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Give the students four prompts to think about as they examine their lists of names. Give students about 10 seconds to think and answer each of the prompts.</li> <li>➤ Prompts:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Circle</b> all of the people you truly care about on your list.</li> <li>○ <b>Underline</b> all of the people you would be willing to help at a moment's notice if they were hurt even if you were busy at the time.</li> <li>○ <b>Put a star</b> next to all of the people you would help even if you weren't getting along with them at the time.</li> <li><b>Put a heart</b> next to the names you would stand up for if they were being bullied or treated unfairly.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As a reminder, students do not need to share their responses or read are not comfortable doing so.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Have the students review their lists and the symbols they have drawn. Ask these follow-up questions and discuss .               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Did anyone on your list have all four symbols? Why is that?</li> <li>○ Did anyone on your list not have any symbols? Why do you think that is?</li> <li>○ As you were responding to the prompts, did you focus on the names you knew or the names you didn't?</li> <li>○ When you were read the prompts, was there anyone on your list you had to think twice about before making a symbol next to their name?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## SET THE STAGE (1 minute)

### Facilitator Notes:

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

### I wonder...

- To whom am I to show love and care?
- How am I expected to love and care for others?

## LESSON (up to 25 minutes)

### Facilitator Notes:

- **Luke 10:25-37** - Not included due to length.
- Have students take turns reading the parable out loud for the whole class. A good way to do this would be to have each student read 2-3 verses depending on the number of students in attendance.
- If a student would not like to read, do not force them to. Simply go on to the next student.
- After reading through the parable, you can reference Catechism Q&A question 155.

### Read the parable of the Good Samaritan with the students in Luke 10:25-37.

- Once the group has finished reading, summarize the parable with the students.
- Take 2-3 minutes and open up a discussion on why each of the 3 men in the parable might have responded the way they did.
  - Having the students think about the "why" behind a person's actions will begin to open their hearts on the topic of why we should be helping others.
- Have students put themselves in this exact situation and think for 2 minutes about how they would react to the Jew on the side of the road. Would they be like the priest, the Levite, or the Samaritan? As they are collecting their thoughts, ask them to explain why they think they would be most like that person. Remind the students to be honest with themselves while reflecting.
- Give the students another 2 minutes to turn and talk to a neighbor to share their thoughts.
- Come back as a whole group and ask students to share their thoughts and reasoning.
  - Sharing your own thoughts might be a good way to start the conversation and will lead the students to the type of conversation you wish to have.
- Pose the following questions:
  - Would you feel differently about helping the hurt man if he was someone you knew and cared about? If you would, why?
  - Why is it easier to help someone we know and are close to?
  - Are there certain people we wouldn't help?

### Student Question #1: Who are we supposed to care for and show love to?

- Read the "Get It" portion of the Spotlight in the IGNITE Bible on page 1063 with the students.
- Afterwards, have the students reference their original list of neighbors they created. We need to love everyone we come into contact with and not just our friends and family.

**John 13: 34-35:** A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.

**Student Question #2: How can we become more like the Good Samaritan?**

- Jesus made it very clear to us. We need to follow the principles of the “golden rule” and love and treat everyone as we would like to be treated (Catechism Q&A question 288).
- In John 13: 34-35, God gave us the new commandment: to love one another as He has loved us. Even though we don't always deserve it, God has always stayed with us and helps us whenever we are in need. God is our Good Samaritan.
- By helping others and loving our neighbor as ourselves, we are truly spreading the gospel. He taught us to love one another and we must follow this teaching.

**Student Question #3: Is it harder to help someone that is different than you are? Why or why not?**

- Some examples that could be used to dive deeper into the question could be: those that are homeless, those that are a different race, those that speak a different language, etc.

**Bridging the Gaps**

- In the Pentecost 2020 service, Chief Apostle Schneider mentioned various gaps that can divide people. Since then, this topic has emerged and deepened in subsequent services and articles.
- [This webpage](#) was created to consolidate the various sermon clips and articles that the church has published regarding this topic.
- Please review the articles and clips before the youth discussion and incorporate them as appropriate.
- Additionally, consider including the Bridging the Gaps link in the follow up message to the parents, as those clips and articles may serve as conversation starters within the home.

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

### Facilitator Notes:

- Sermon clips are available in the [NAC USA mobile app](#) and in the app web player (link in the list to the right)

**Wrap up the lesson with why we must love one another, linking it to our desire to help spread the gospel.**

- If time allows, watch Chief Apostle sermon clip 18, Love Your Neighbor? <http://subspla.sh/f2bo685>

### **Close with the "I Believe..." questions**

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

### **I wonder...**

- To whom am I to show love and care?
- How am I expected to love and care for others?

### **I believe...**

- My neighbor is anyone in need of kindness. (Catechism Q&A questions 155, 287)
- I am expected to do all that I can to help those who are suffering. (Catechism Q&A questions 285, 286)

### **Point to Ponder....**

- Refer back to the parable of the Good Samaritan and think about the 3 men who encountered the man on the side of the road. Even though Jews and Samaritans did not get along, he went above and beyond to help him.

### **A Call to Action....**

- This week, every time you see a person, remind yourself that this is someone that Jesus Christ died for. Jesus loves them, and so should you.

### 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: *Love Your Neighbor*

<b>I wonder...</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ To whom am I to show love and care?</li> <li>➤ How am I expected to love and care for others?</li> </ul>	<b>I believe...</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ My neighbor is anyone in need of kindness. (Catechism Q&amp;A questions 155, 287)</li> <li>➤ I am expected to do all that I can to help those who are suffering. (Catechism Q&amp;A questions 285, 286)</li> </ul>
<b>References:</b> Catechism Q&A questions 155, 285 – 288; Bible verses: Luke 10: 25-37, John 13: 34-35	

**Luke 10:25-37** And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?" So he answered and said, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbor as yourself.'" And He said to him, "You have answered rightly; do this and you will live." But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Then Jesus answered and said: "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side.

But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.' So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?"

### 1. Who are we supposed to care for and show love to?

---



---



---

### 2. How can we become more like the Good Samaritan?

---



---



---

### 3. Is it harder to help someone that is different than you are? Why or why not?

---



---



---

**Point to Ponder:** Refer back to the parable of the Good Samaritan and think about the 3 men who encountered the man on the side of the road. Even though Jews and Samaritans did not get along, he went above and beyond to help him.

**Call to Action:** This week, every time you see a person, remind yourself that this is someone that Jesus Christ died for. Jesus loves them, and so should you.



## Help spread the gospel: *Living and Leading Like Christ*

### 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](#)
- Sermon clips are available in the [NAC USA mobile app](#) *and* in the app web player (link in the list to the right)

#### I wonder...

- How should I treat those whose sin is obvious?
- Should I ignore the sins of others?
- How is living and leading like Christ spreading the gospel?

#### I believe...

- I should not focus on the sin of others, but reflect on my own sinful nature. (Romans 14:12)
- I should not accept sinful behavior, but should accept the sinner and seek to save him/her by leading him/her to Christ.
- This is demonstrated by admission of my own sin and my need for Christ's redeeming power. Christ makes us new and we have the opportunity to demonstrate how a relationship with Him impacts our lives. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

#### Materials:

- IGNITE Bible
- For Your Journey
  - [Episode 58 - Repentance](#)
- Chief Apostle sermon clip 17 – *Love like Jesus loves*  
<http://subspla.sh/93b34o6>

#### References:

- Bible: John 8:4-11, Romans 14:12-13, 2 Corinthians 5:17, 1 Peter 2:24

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

Have you ever wondered how to respond when you see someone sin? Come find out at our next discussion!

### 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.
- Consider including a link to one of the videos listed in the "References" section above for families to watch together and use as a conversation starter.

Dear Parents,

This week the "I Wonder...." questions are about how we can spread the gospel by accepting sinners and sharing how much God loves them despite the sin. Talk with your child about a time you have experienced grace and how you felt.

As always, if you have questions about the topic, please feel free to contact your Youth Leaders.

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 15 minutes)

**Facilitator Notes:**

- Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week.
- If no students are willing to answer this question, you can ask if they've ever seen someone do something wrong and get caught. Ask the questions about the person who was caught. If none of the students share an experience, be prepared to share an experience when someone was caught doing something wrong.

- 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?
- Has anyone ever done something wrong and gotten caught?
  - Who caught you?
  - What was the result/consequence?
  - How did/ you feel? (embarrassed, ashamed)
  - Would you have felt the same way if you hadn't been caught?
    - After the students have shared a few answers, remind them that the commandments are "you shall not steal", not "you shall not get caught stealing."
- Today we are going to talk about sin – your own and the sin of those around you- and how we can share with others how Jesus saves.

### SET THE STAGE(1 minute)

**Facilitator Notes:**

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

**I wonder...**

- How should I treat those whose sin is obvious?
- Should I ignore the sins of others?
- How is living and leading like Christ spreading the gospel?

**LESSON(up to 25 minutes)**

**Facilitator Notes:**

➤ **Background: Read John 8:4-11 together**

- **John 8:4-11** - ...they said to Him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery, in the very act. Now Moses, in the law, commanded us that such should be stoned. But what do You say?" This they said, testing Him, that they might have something of which to accuse Him. But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with His finger, as though He did not hear. So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first." And again, He stooped down and wrote on the ground. Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, "Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more."

Review the story and make sure the students understand the following:

- a. Was there a question as to whether or not the woman had sinned? (No, it says she was caught in the act.)
- b. What was the consequence for being caught in adultery? (to be killed/stoned)
- c. Were the Scribes and Pharisees genuinely concerned about the woman/her sin/her welfare? (No, they were trying to test Jesus and find fault in Him.)
- d. What did Jesus say they should do? (That whoever had not sinned should begin to stone the woman.)
- e. What did the people do? (They did not stone her – they left and no one was left to accuse her except Jesus.)
- f. Why didn't they stone her? (Each one realized that they had sinned themselves.)
- g. When Jesus was left alone with the woman, what happened? (He asked where her accusers were. She said no one condemned her. Jesus said He didn't condemn her either – and then said "Go and sin no more.")

**Student Question 1:** How do you think she felt when she was caught? What do you think she expected to happen?

➤ **I should not focus on the sin of others, but reflect on my own sinful nature**

- Was Jesus' reaction to the woman's sin expected or unexpected? (probably unexpected –based on the understanding others had of the law at that time)
- When it says "those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience" – what does that mean? (Each person there realized their own sinfulness and that they could not accuse/stone the woman.)
- Could Jesus have thrown the first stone and rightfully accused the woman? (Yes – He was without sin.)
- Did Jesus realize the woman was doing something wrong? (Yes, - He told her to go and sin no more. He left **her** with responsibility to change her sinful ways.)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Romans 14:12-13</b>            So then each of us shall give account of himself to God. Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or cause to fall in our brother's way.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ We all sin. Is it more beneficial for us to focus on the sins of others or our own sin? (Our own.) Why? (Because we want to grow closer to God. Sin separates us from God. If we repent we grow closer to our Heavenly Father. When we realize that we sin, it should become harder for us to condemn others for their sin.)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reference <b>Romans 14:12-13</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>1 Peter 2:24</b>            who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness-by whose stripes you were healed.</li> <li>• For Your Journey episodes can be found on the <a href="#">NAC USA YouTube channel</a> <i>and</i> in the <a href="#">NAC USA mobile app</a></li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Student question 2: Have you ever had an experience where you should have been punished but weren't? How did you feel?</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Christ taking the punishment that we deserved for our sins is a primary element of the Gospel message. The more we understand our relationship to Christ and His deliverance through grace, the more we're able to appreciate our freedom and respond by living lives that are pleasing to God.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reference <b>1 Peter 2:24</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>○ <b>Contemplating and understanding the impact of our sin is an important step that leads to repentance.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watch <a href="#">For Your Journey   Episode 58 – Repentance</a> together and ask the students to share a point from the episode that stood out to them.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b><u>Student Question 3: How can you show Christ's love to others who sin?</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Think back to the discussion about how you felt when you were caught doing something wrong. You may have felt embarrassed that everyone knew and ashamed that you made a mistake. We have been offered forgiveness through Jesus' sacrifice. How does it make you feel to know that your shame and embarrassment can be washed away? (Relieved, grateful)</li> <li>○ When we realize that we sin – does that/should that give us perspective about the sin of others? (Yes.) What perspective does it provide us? (When we realize that we are sinners and can be saved, we should want the same salvation for others that we would like for ourselves. We don't need to tell others how to change – we just need to love them like Jesus loves them. When they realize how much Jesus loves them, they will want to change because of their love for Jesus.)</li> <li>○ I should not accept sinful behavior, but should accept the sinner and seek to save him/her.</li> </ul> <p>➤ Discussion: When we receive a great present/reward – what is one of the first things we do? (We usually want to tell everyone about it). When we receive the forgiveness we are offered because of Christ's sacrifice, we should want to share that message with others.</p>

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

### Facilitator Notes:

- Sermon clips are available in the [NAC USA mobile app](#) and in the app web player (link in the list to the right)

**Wrap up the lesson with why we must live and lead like Christ, linking it to our desire to help spread the gospel.**

- If time allows, watch the Chief Apostle sermon clip 17 – *Love like Jesus loves* <http://subspla.sh/93b3406>

### 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 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 promised and committed to surrendering themselves in belief in God.

### I wonder...

- How should I treat those whose sin is obvious?
- Should I ignore the sins of others?
- How is living and leading like Christ spreading the gospel?

### I believe...

- I should not focus on the sin of others, but reflect on my own sinful nature. (Romans 14:12)
- I should not accept sinful behavior, but should accept the sinner and seek to save him/her by leading him/her to Christ.
- This is demonstrated by admission of my own sin and my need for Christ's redeeming power. Christ makes us new and we have the opportunity to demonstrate how a relationship with Him impacts our lives. (2 Corinthians 5:17).

### Point to Ponder....

- Think about a situation where you knew someone sinned. How did you react – did you want them to experience the consequences of their sin? Did you react as Jesus would?

### A Call to Action....

- Think about something you've asked to be forgiven for. How relieved were you to be able to know you could access Christ's salvation? Share your feelings with a friend or family member.

### 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: *Living and Leading Like Christ*

<b>I wonder...</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ How should I treat those whose sin is obvious?</li> <li>➤ Should I ignore the sins of others?</li> <li>➤ How is living and leading like Christ spreading the gospel?</li> </ul>	<b>I believe...</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ I should not focus on the sin of others, but reflect on my own sinful nature. (Romans 14:12)</li> <li>➤ I should not accept sinful behavior, but should accept the sinner and seek to save him/her by leading him/her to Christ.</li> <li>➤ This is demonstrated by admission of my own sin and my need for Christ's redeeming power. Christ makes us new and we have the opportunity to demonstrate how a relationship with Him impacts our lives. (2 Corinthians 5:17)</li> </ul>
<b>References:</b> Bible: John 8:4-11, Romans 14:12-13, 2 Corinthians 5:17, 1 Peter 2:24	

1. Today we read about the woman caught in adultery. How do you think she felt when she was caught? What do you think she expected to happen?

---



---



---

2. Have you ever had an experience where you should have been punished but weren't? How did you feel?

---



---



---

3. How can you show Christ's love to others who sin?

---



---



---

**Point to Ponder:** Think about a situation where you knew someone sinned. How did you react – did you want them to experience the consequences of their sin? Did you react as Jesus would?

**Call to Action:** Think about something you've asked to be forgiven for. How relieved were you to be able to know you could access Christ's salvation? Share your feelings with a friend or family member.



## Help spread the gospel: *Am I a Peace Breaker, Faker, or Maker?*

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

#### Facilitator Notes:

#### I wonder, when in a conflict...

- How can I glorify God?
- Why should I look at my own faults?
- How should I approach someone who has caused conflict?
- How can I forgive when someone has hurt me deeply?

#### I believe...

- When I resolve conflict God's way, I glorify Him and serve others.
- When I consider my own faults, it's easier to overlook the faults of other's.
- When I love my neighbor, I can help them see things from a new perspective.
- When I am hurt deeply, I can rely on God's abundant grace to help me forgive others.

#### Materials:

- IGNITE Bible

#### References:

- Bible: Matthew 5:23-24, Matthew 7:5, Galatians 6:1, 1 Corinthians 10:31

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

How do you respond when you face a conflict with a friend or co-worker? Are you the one who takes the first steps to make peace, or do you give the cold shoulder? This week we will discuss how our heavenly Father wants us to resolve conflict.

### 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 are about how we respond to conflict. Are we peace breakers, peace fakers, or peacemakers? God expects us to be peacemakers (someone who works it out, whose goal is to resolve conflict in a way that is pleasing to God, because this is one way we can spread and share the gospel. Share a time in your life when you faced a conflict with a friend, family member, or co-worker and what your immediate response was. Ask your student if your response was that of a peacemaker, faker or breaker. Then ask your student how God wants us to respond. As always, if you have questions 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 15 minutes)

### Facilitator Notes:

- Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week.
- The purpose of this activity is to identify how students respond to conflict.
- They should not share their responses as this is for their own personal information.
- If they can't identify with any of the responses, tell students to choose the one closest to what they would do.

- 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?

**Tell students to read the scenarios on their student sheet, and to choose option A, B, or C in regards to how they would respond to each situation. Tell the students they will have 3 minutes to complete the exercise (tell them to be honest and to go with their "gut reaction"). They should not share their answers with anyone. When finished, have them tally how many A responses they have, B responses, and C responses.** (scenarios taken from "The Peacemaker Student Edition", Sande, 2008)

1. You clash with a friend who has incredibly strong opinions. You try hard to see her point, but she doesn't care much about yours.
  - a. You tell her she's prejudiced and doesn't know what she's talking about.
  - b. You listen and pretend you agree, but you really don't.
  - c. You find her later, when she's more calm, and let her know you would like to hear more about her opinion, and would like to share your opinion with her.
2. You resent the coach who sidelines you for a missed play. You want to mouth off, but you also want to keep your spot on the team.
  - a. You gossip to your teammates about how unfair your coach is.
  - b. You decide to quit the team.
  - c. You go to your coach after practice and ask what skills he recommends you work on.
3. Your parents set boundaries you don't think you need. They say "safe", you say "overprotective".
  - a. You fight with your parents and tell them they are treating you like a 2-year old.
  - b. You go to your room, slam the door, and don't talk to them for several days.
  - c. You ask if a family meeting could be scheduled so the boundaries can be discussed together as a family.

4. You get caught in a verbal crossfire of racial battles in your school or neighborhood.
  - a. You join in one side because your friends have been mistreated by one of the groups involved.
  - b. You don't get involved and don't tell anyone because it's pretty typical behavior in your school or neighborhood.
  - c. You contact a counselor or neighborhood watch leader and share your concern about the tension between these two groups.
5. Your history class is taught by a teacher who is famous for confusing lectures, and when you go and ask him for help, you get treated like it is your fault that you don't understand.
  - a. You tell him he is the worst teacher you've ever had and you've learned nothing in his class.
  - b. You blame him for your confusion because his lectures don't make sense.
  - c. You ask if you could review your notes from his last lecture with him, so he can clear up any misconceptions or misunderstandings.

### SET THE STAGE (1 minute)

#### Facilitator Notes:

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

#### I wonder, when in a conflict ...

- How can I glorify God?
- Why should I look at my own faults?
- How should I approach someone who has caused conflict?
- How can I forgive when someone has hurt me deeply?

### LESSON (up to 25 minutes)

#### Facilitator Notes:

- Students might not have a consistent response.
- We want students to understand that God has a consistent way He wants us to respond in conflict.

#### Share the following with the students.....If you chose response:

- **A – Peace Breaker** This is someone who gets defensive and damages relationships to get what they want
- **B – Peace Faker** This is someone who escapes, making things look good on the outside with a fake smile, and/or pretends everything is ok.
- **C – Peace Maker** This is someone who is a genuine peace *maker*: You work it out, your goal is to resolve conflict by researching solutions that are fair to everyone involved and solutions that create true peace.

	<p>Tell the students to reflect on how they handle conflict and that today they will learn four steps to conflict resolution that is pleasing to God, that align with the gospel message, and will result in true peace.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Step #1: Glorify God: Read <b>1 Corinthians 10:31</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ How can seemingly insignificant things glorify God?</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Step #2 Get the Plank out of Your Eye: Read <b>Matthew 7:5</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Why must you remove the plank from your eye first before seeing the speck in someone else's eye?</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Step #3 Gently Restore: Read <b>Galatians 6:1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Why is gentleness important in restoring peace?</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Step #4 Go and be Reconciled: Read <b>Matthew 5:23-24</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Why is reconciliation between people so important to God?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make sure students' responses for Rebekka don't dwell on what she should've done differently, but rather on what she should do going forward.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Read the following scenario and talk through each step with the group as to how you would resolve this conflict in a way that would please our heavenly Father. Have your group split into two groups, one group representing Rebekka and the other group representing Derek. Each group should go through the steps and share how they would normally respond. What should the response look and sound like using the 4 steps above?</b></p> <p><i>Rebekka was deep in the grip of panic as she contemplated everything she had to accomplish to finish a major research paper that had been hanging over her for nearly two months. She'd been distracted throughout her classes, and she lagged behind at a cross country meet after school. As a friend's dad transported her back from the meet, she sat silent, staring out a window but mentally ticking down a list of everything she had to do once she got home. The car had barely stopped rolling when Rebekka popped the door, stepped out, and yelled thanks for the ride. She had her backpack unzipped before she hit the front step. And as she burst into the kitchen ready to go to work on the family computer....there sat her younger brother Derek, listening to music and instant-messaging friends. Rebekka didn't pause. Grabbing the mouse, she clicked shut Derek's messaging program and bumped him out of his spot in front of the computer. "I need this," she snapped. (Excerpt from "The Peacemaker Student Edition", Sande, 2008)</i></p>

## 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 gospel is about following the model that Jesus Christ demonstrated on earth. Being true man and true God, He embodied how we should act in every situation.**

- Also as a reminder, this whole semester is based on the "H" statement of the THRIVE membership expectations, "Help spread the gospel". If we harbor bad feelings and aren't reconciled to our neighbor, we damage our ability to spread the gospel effectively..
- We help spread the gospel by being credible witnesses and aligning our lives to the gospel of Jesus Christ, which includes making peace and reconciling relationships broken due to conflict. (reference New Apostolic Church international vision and mission statements)

### 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 promised and committed to surrendering themselves to God, which means resolving conflict in a way that glorifies Him.

### I wonder, when in a conflict...

- How can I glorify God?
- Why should I look at my own faults?
- How should I approach someone who has caused conflict?
- How can I forgive when someone has hurt me deeply?

### I believe...

- When I resolve conflict God's way, I glorify Him and serve others.
- When I consider my own faults, it's easier to overlook the faults of other's.
- When I love my neighbor, I can help them see things from a new perspective.
- When I am hurt deeply, I can rely on God's abundant grace to help me forgive others.

### Point to Ponder....

- Think about a recent conflict you had. Did your response classify you as a peacemaker, breaker, or faker?

### A Call to Action....

- Write down a few tips for yourself to help you be a peacemaker in future conflicts you may find yourself in.

### 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: *Am I a Peace Breaker, Faker, or Maker?*

<b>I wonder, when in conflict...</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ How can I glorify God?</li> <li>➤ Why should I look at my own faults?</li> <li>➤ How should I approach someone who has caused conflict?</li> <li>➤ How can I forgive when someone has hurt me deeply?</li> </ul>	<b>I believe...</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ When I resolve conflict God's way, I glorify Him and serve others.</li> <li>➤ When I consider my own faults, it's easier to overlook the faults of other's.</li> <li>➤ When I love my neighbor, I can help them see where they need to change.</li> <li>➤ When I am hurt deeply, I can rely on God's abundant grace to help me forgive others.</li> </ul>
<b>References:</b> Bible: Matthew 5:23-24, Matthew 7:5, Galatians 6:1, 1 Corinthians 10:31	

**Read the following scenarios and choose option A, B, or C in regards to how you would respond to each situation. You will have 3 minutes to complete the exercise (be honest and to go with your "gut reaction"). Do not share your answers with anyone. When finished, tally how many A responses you have, B responses, and C responses.**  
(scenarios taken from "The Peacemaker Student Edition", Sande, 2008)

- You clash with a friend who has incredibly strong opinions. You try hard to see her point, but she doesn't care much about yours.
  - You tell her she's prejudiced and doesn't know what she's talking about.
  - You listen and pretend you agree, but you really don't.
  - You find her later, when she's more calm, and let her know you would like to hear more about her opinion, and would like to share your opinion with her.
- You resent the coach who sidelines you for a missed play. You want to mouth off, but you also want to keep your spot on the team.
  - You gossip to your teammates about how unfair your coach is.
  - You decide to quit the team.
  - You go to your coach after practice and ask what skills he recommends you work on.
- Your parents set boundaries you don't think you need. They say "safe", you say "overprotective".
  - You fight with your parents and tell them they are treating you like a 2-year old.
  - You go to your room, slam the door, and don't talk to them for several days.
  - You ask if a family meeting could be scheduled so the boundaries can be discussed together as a family.
- You get caught in a verbal crossfire of racial battles in your school or neighborhood.
  - You join in one side because your friends have been mistreated by one of the groups involved.
  - You don't get involved and don't tell anyone because it's pretty typical behavior in your school or neighborhood.
  - You contact a counselor or neighborhood watch leader and share your concern about the tension between these two groups.
- Your history class is taught by a teacher who is famous for confusing lectures, and when you go and ask him for help, you get treated like it is your fault that you don't understand.
  - You tell him he is the worst teacher you've ever had and you've learned nothing in his class.
  - You blame him for your confusion because his lectures don't make sense.
  - You ask if you could review your notes from his last lecture with him, so he can clear up any misconceptions or misunderstandings

### Point to Ponder....

Think about a recent conflict you had. Did your response classify you as a peacemaker, breaker, or faker?

### A Call to Action....

Write down a few tips for yourself to help you be a peacemaker in future conflicts you may find yourself in.



## Help spread the gospel: *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 will 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.

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

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

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

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

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

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It would be helpful to give any guest speakers the facilitator guides from previous topics so that they know what has been discussed.</li> <li>• Because of safety for minors, any For Your Journey episodes that are made should not be posted online nor shared privately without the student's and parent's consent.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Re-teaching Lesson:</b> when students do not understand or have misconceptions about the topic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Choose 1 or both of the following activities depending on the needs of the group:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>True or False...</b>Have the students sit in a circle and give each student a set of the True / False cards from the T11 lesson. Make 5-7 true or false statements about the topic and ask students to hold up either the True or False cards (have students face the cards to the outside of the circle). The facilitator should walk around the circle, review the answers, and choose students with the correct answer to explain their answer to the group.</li> <li>• <b>Be Our Guest...</b>Invite a minister to share his explanation about the topic and have him revisit the questions from the student lesson copy (from the corresponding lesson) with the students to ensure students have mastered the topic.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Application Lesson:</b> when students have a good understanding of the topic and/ or great interest and excitement about the topic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Choose 1 or a combination of the following activities depending on the needs of the group:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>FYJ....</b>Have the students pair up. Give each pair an "I wonder..." question to discuss. Then have them video tape a 1-2 minute "For Your Journey" episode to later share with the class.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ While the students can be fun and creative, they should still take the exercise seriously. This isn't to be a parody or skit, but rather a genuine exploration of the question(s).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Take Your Show on the Road....</b>Take the students to visit a widow, to a nursing home, to a local restaurant and encourage them to share with others one of the "I believe..." statements and what it means.</li> <li>• <b>Go therefore and make disciples...</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The youth group can help teach Sunday School for a set period of time and share with the Sunday School students how the message of Jesus has impacted their lives.</li> <li>▪ Take a field trip to a local coffee shop or fast food restaurant and encourage the youth to tell someone about God or demonstrate God's love. Consider the below ideas as a starting point:                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pay for someone in line</li> <li>• Ask someone if they would like you to pray with them</li> <li>• Tell someone that God loves them</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Have students work together to complete the questions on the student lesson copy. If time allows, come back together and let students share their responses.</b></p>
---	---

### MESSAGE TO PARENTS (TO BE SENT VIA EMAIL OR TEXT)

<b>Facilitator Notes:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please keep the main message intact, but feel free to add local information as necessary.</li> </ul>	<p>Dear Parents,</p> <p>This week is the last semester of the "H" lessons of the THRIVE curriculum. This semester's lessons focused on "Helping spread the gospel." It's our hope that this semester your student connected with one or more of the topics and is working on understanding the gospel more deeply, applying the teachings of Jesus to their lives, and sharing the good news of Christ's life, death, resurrection, and promise of return with those around them in both word and deed. Consider asking your student how they plan to spread the gospel and what you can do as their parent to support their efforts.</p> <p>As always, if you have questions about the topic, please feel free to contact us.</p> <p>Your Youth Leaders</p>
---	--

### SUNDAY SERMON REFLECTIONS (10 minutes)

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

### LESSON: CHOOSE THE APPROPRIATE ACTIVITY FOR THE GROUP

### WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME? (15 minutes)

<b>Facilitator Notes:</b>	<p><b>Wrap up the lesson with the "H" message from THRIVE: Help spread the gospel by:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sharing how God's plan of salvation has impacted you. (2 Timothy 2:2, Ephesians 1:13)</li> <li>Being a disciple of Jesus Christ. (John 13:34-35)</li> <li>Living and leading like Jesus, in word and deed. (Colossians 3:17)</li> </ul> <p><b>A Point to Ponder....</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ God wants the gospel message to be spread to everyone.</li> </ul> <p><b>A Call to Action...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ This week, write a letter/prayer to God about the thing that stuck with you the most from this "H" semester. You can thank Him for it, you can ask Him for help in growing in it - just talk with Him about it.</li> </ul>
---------------------------	---

## 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: *IGNITE*

How would you summarize the message of the gospel?

---

---

---

What would you say to someone that claims the gospel is just about a man that lived thousands of years ago and that it isn't relevant for us today?

---

---

---

How can you align your life to the gospel and teaching of Jesus Christ?

---

---

---

Is there anyone that the gospel isn't for?

---

---

---

Is there an area of your life that the gospel just doesn't apply to? Why or why not?

---

---

---

How have you spread the gospel in your life so far?

---

---

---

### A Point to Ponder....

- God wants the gospel message to be spread to everyone.

### A Call to Action...

- This week, write a letter/prayer to God about the thing that stuck with you the most from this "H" semester. You can thank Him for it, you can ask Him for help in growing in it - just talk with Him about it.