

Respond to the call to serve: *A living sacrifice*

LESSON AT A GLANCE

Facilitator Notes:

- This lesson will focus on serving Christ directly. We will cover serving others later in this semester.

I wonder...

- What compels me to serve Christ?
- How do my reasons for serving Christ affect my life?

I believe...

- I serve and devote myself to Christ out of thankfulness for what He has done and accomplished for me through His sacrifice. I surrender all that I am, have, and do for the sake of His glory.
- I believe that my life should be a profession of Christ, not just in words, but through my actions.

Materials:

- Paper
- Writing utensils
- IGNITE Bible
- Catechism Q&A

References:

- Catechism Q&A questions 732-736
- Bible: Romans 12:1-8, Ephesians 2:1-10

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

This week our discussion will be on serving Christ. Why do you serve Him? Join us tomorrow for small group at _____.

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

Facilitator Notes:

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

Dear Parents,
 This week the "I Wonder...." questions were about what compels us to serve Christ, and how serving Him affects our lives. What are your reasons for believing in and serving Christ? Share your answer to this question with your student. And then ask them why they believe in and serve Christ. 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.
- This hook activity helps the students begin to understand what it means to make a sacrifice for something.

- 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?
- Have the students write down everything they spend time on during the week.
- Ask them to cross out the things that are a necessity (showering, eating, sleeping, school, homework, etc.)
- Out of the "free-time" things that are left, which could they commit to sacrificing an hour of each day for the next week?
- What could they do in that hour each day to grow closer in their relationship to Christ? (Read the Bible, talk to their parents about Sunday's service, pray, etc.)

SET THE STAGE (1 minute)

Facilitator Notes:

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

I wonder...

- What compels me to serve Christ?
- How do my reasons for serving Christ affect my life?

LESSON (up to 25 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

Read Catechism Q&A questions 732-733 with the students.

- Discuss with them the difference between sacrifices in the Old Testament and the New Testament.
 - In the Old Testament, the Jewish people had to bring a sacrifice for their sins, and another sacrifice as an offering of worship. Both of these sacrifices were usually offered in the form of killing an animal.
 - When Christ died on the cross, He sacrificed His life for our sin. This is a sacrifice we do not have to make because Christ's sacrifice is *once brought, eternally valid*.
 - However, this still leaves the sacrifice that we offer as worship.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Romans 12:1-2: I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. • On page 1187 of the IGNITE Bible, there is a FLASHPOINT: Self-Harm in regards to Romans 12:1 about self-harm. If you think that this content is appropriate for your students, please read and discuss this together. 	<p>Read Romans 12:1-2 with the student.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ These verses are part of Apostle Paul's letter to the Romans. ➤ In them, we learn that as our sacrifice of worship to God, we offer Him our lives. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ We dedicate ourselves to doing His will. ○ When we live our lives in a way that is pleasing to God, then we are serving Him and worshipping Him. <p><u>Student Question #1</u> What compels me to serve Christ?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ You can read Ephesians 2:1-10 to begin this discussion. ➤ Some possible answers are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ I serve and devote myself to Christ out of thankfulness for what He has done and accomplished for me through His sacrifice. ○ I am also thankful for what Christ is still doing for me today and will do for me in the future. (He is our Advocate, He has promised to come again, He has brought us into His inheritance...) ○ I surrender all that I am, have, and do for the sake of His glory and because I love Him. ○ My whole life can worship God. ➤ If the students are still having a hard time coming up with answers to this question, consider asking them what feelings are inspired in them when they think about Christ: that He came to earth as a baby, that He lived a sinless life according to His Father's will, that He served and cared for many people, that He was betrayed and mocked, and that He was ultimately crucified so that our sin no longer separated us from a relationship with God.
	<p><u>Student Question #2</u> How do my reasons for serving Christ affect my life?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Our lives should be a profession of Christ, not just in words, but also through our actions. ➤ In Romans 12:2, Paul wrote that we are to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ask the students what they think this means. ○ Ask the students how they can continually "renew their minds." <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible answers are reading the Bible, praying, worshipping, reading devotionals – all these things help us to discover more about God and continually learn about Him and His ways. ➤ When we are a living sacrifice, our lives will look different from others. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ask the students how their lives will look when they live a life committed to serving Christ. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They dedicate their time, energy, talent, and resources (money, etc.) to glorifying God. (Catechism Q&A question 736)

Read with the students Romans 12:3-8.

- Part of God's plan is that while we are to live lives that worship Him, align with His will, and bring others to Christ, we cannot do this alone.
- Ask the students why it would be hard to be a living sacrifice if they had to do it all on their own.
 - The students shouldn't be worried that they can't contribute all the spiritual gifts themselves. Focus their answers on how hard it would be when they are doubtful, or weak, or confused, if they had no one to turn to. Discuss the benefits of having a congregation and family supporting you in your journey with Christ.
- Ask the students how their families and their congregations (and possibly their communities) could support them in living a life that is dedicated to serving Christ. Here are a few examples:
 - Reading the Bible with my family helps me to understand and know Christ more.
 - Members in my congregation remind me of Christ's call to serve Him with my life.
- Emphasize that each person has strengths and weaknesses, and so each one contributes to the areas where they have strengths and have been equipped with the spiritual gifts to help them.

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

Facilitator Notes:

Wrap up the lesson with linking our choice to be a living sacrifice to our desire to respond to the call to serve.

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 in belief and obedience.

I wonder...

- What compels me to serve Christ?
- How do my reasons for serving Christ affect my life?

I believe...

- I serve and devote myself to Christ out of thankfulness for what He has done and accomplished for me through His sacrifice. I surrender all that I am, have, and do for the sake of His glory.
- I believe that my life should be a profession of Christ, not just in words, but through my actions.

Point to Ponder...

- Can you be a Christian and make the decision to not be a living sacrifice?

A Call to Action...

- Refer to the hook activity. Whichever item you chose to give up for the week, replace the time you would spend doing that activity with deepening your relationship with Christ. (You may want to consider continuing your reading of Romans that was begun in the lesson.)

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...

Respond to the call to serve: *A living sacrifice*

I wonder... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What compels me to serve Christ? ➤ How do my reasons for serving Christ affect my life? 	I believe... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ I serve and devote myself to Christ out of thankfulness for what He has done and accomplished for me through His sacrifice. I surrender all that I am, have, and do for the sake of His glory. ➤ I believe that my life should be a profession of Christ, not just in words, but through my actions.
References: Catechism Q&A 732-736; Bible: Romans 12:1-8, Ephesians 2:1-10	

1. What are some differences between sacrifices in the Old Testament and sacrifices in the New Testament?

2. What does it mean to be a living sacrifice?

3. What compels me to serve Christ?

4. How do my reasons for serving Christ affect my life?

Point to Ponder: Can you be a Christian and make the decision to not be a living sacrifice?

Call to Action: Refer to the hook activity. Whichever item you chose to give up for the week, replace the time you would spend doing that activity with deepening your relationship with Christ. (You may want to consider continuing your reading of Romans that was begun in the lesson.)