

Value the Church: *The Church of Christ*

LESSON AT A GLANCE

Facilitator Notes:

- Keep in mind, as you discuss and teach today's lesson: Being a part of the Church of Christ means that you belong to God, you are His child, and a part of a big family.

- The NAC USA History video can be found on the [NAC USA YouTube channel](#)

I wonder...

- What are the identifying features of the Church of Christ?
- What is the function of the Church of Christ?
- Who belongs to the Church of Christ?

I believe...

- The identifying features of the Church of Christ are oneness, holiness, universality, and apostolicity. (Catechism Q&A question 381)
- The function of the Church of Christ is to make salvation and eternal fellowship with God available to human beings and to bring worship to God. (Catechism Q&A question 370)
- Those who are baptized, believe in Christ, and profess Him as their Lord belong to the Church of Christ. (Catechism Q&A question 375)

Materials:

- IGNITE Bible
- Catechism Q&A
- Chart paper or whiteboard
- [NAC USA History video](#)
- Something to play a video clip with (computer, TV, tablet, phone, etc.)

References:

- Bible: John 13:34; John 17:20-23; Romans 12:4-5; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27;
- Articles of Faith 3 and 6
- Catechism 6, 6.2.3, 6.4
- Catechism Q&A questions: 365-410

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

Do you know what it's like to be a part of a big family? Do you know what it's like to work with a team for a distinct purpose? 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 customize and add local information as necessary.
- Consider sharing the NAC USA History video link with parents to watch with their families.

Dear Parents,

This week the "I wonder..." questions are about the Church of Christ, the features of His church, it's function, and who belongs within it. God has established His church with a distinct purpose that His children are unified in their striving for. This week, consider having a discussion with your student about what it means to be a part of the Church of Christ. As always, if you have any question about the topic, feel free to contact us.

Your Youth Leaders

SUNDAY SERMON REFLECTIONS (up to 10 minutes)

Facilitator Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What Bible verse was used for the basis of last Sunday's sermon? ➤ What were some of the main takeaways? What did you learn? ➤ So far this week, how have you applied what you learned from the sermon last Sunday? ➤ Going forward, how will you apply what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?
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HOOK (up to 10 minutes)

Facilitator Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ How are you and how are you feeling today? ➤ Who would like to share their point to ponder or call to action from last week? ➤ Play the NAC USA History video ➤ Ask the students what from the video stood out to them. ➤ Highlight how the Church of Christ is rooted in God's will to save.
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SET THE STAGE (1 minute)

Facilitator Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preview the "I wonder" questions with the students. 	I wonder... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What are the identifying features of the Church of Christ? ➤ What is the function of the Church of Christ? ➤ Who belongs to the Church of Christ?
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LESSON (up to 25 minutes)

Facilitator Notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider writing the student's answers on a whiteboard, and supplement or summarize with the bullet points. For more information on images of the church, see Catechism section 6.2.3 	<u>Student Question #1 – What is the Church of Christ?</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The church of Jesus Christ has been established on earth by the Lord Himself. ➤ The church developed after Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the believers. ➤ Within the church, believers have fellowship with the triune God already today. ➤ The church of Jesus Christ is described in the New Testament as the "body of Christ" (See Romans 12:4-5), "the people of God", "the city of God", "the kingdom of God", "the flock of God".
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- Refer to John 13:34 – Discuss the effect of the love of Jesus upon His church.

- The Articles of Faith can be found on page 251 of the Catechism Q&A.

- The “Respond to the call to serve” point in Question 5 is an opportunity to remind and/or introduce that phrase as part of the THRIVE acronym (THRIVE membership expectations, and Youth THRIVE Small Group curriculum).

Student Question #2 – What are the identifying features of the church of Christ?

- The Creed of Nicaea-Constantinople states that the church is the one, holy, universal, and apostolic church.
- Like Jesus Christ, the church has both an invisible and a visible side. The invisible side is perfect and corresponds to the divine nature of Jesus Christ. The visible side corresponds to the human nature of Jesus Christ. However, unlike Jesus Christ who was sinless, the visible side of the church is imperfect because it is comprised of imperfect human beings. (Catechism Q&A question 376)
- Oneness – The profession of the one church arises from the belief in the one God. Jesus described oneness with one another and love for one another as identifying features of those who belong to Him and follow Him. (see John 13:34; 17:20-23) (Catechism Q&A question 382)
- Holiness – The church of Christ is holy because the Triune God is holy. He is present through the activity of the Holy Spirit in word and sacrament. (Catechism Q&A question 383)
- Universal – Means that there are no boundaries for the preaching of the gospel. Jesus Christ and His church are there for the people of all nations, for both the living and the dead. Therefore the church is all-encompassing and universal: it is both of this world and of the next, both present and future. (Catechism Q&A question 384)
- Apostolic – The church of Christ is apostolic in two respects: in it the apostolic doctrine is proclaimed and in it the apostolic ministry is active. (Catechism Q&A question 385)
 - Read, or have a student read the 3rd Article of Faith

Student Question #3 – What is the purpose of Christ’s church?

- The purpose of the church of Jesus Christ is to make salvation and eternal fellowship with God available to human beings and to allow human beings to bring adoration, worship, and praise to God. (Catechism Q&A question 370)

Student Question #4 – Who is a part of the church of Christ?

- All those who belong to Jesus Christ because they are baptized, believe in Him, and profess Him as their Lord. (Catechism Q&A question 375)

Student Question #5 – How do you demonstrate that you value the church?

- By being an active participant both within the physical church building during divine services (hearing the Word of God; participating in the sacrament; fellowship with fellow believers) and by being the church everywhere you go.
- Share with others your faith by talking to them about what Jesus means to you.
- Pray for and with others.
- Responding to the call to serve Christ by using your spiritual gifts in your family, congregation, and community.

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

Facilitator Notes:

- **1 Corinthians 12:27:** Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

Wrap up the lesson with this question: How do I know if I am a part of the body of Christ? What is my purpose?

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 are the identifying features of the Church of Christ?
- What is the function of the Church of Christ?
- Who belongs to the Church of Christ?

I believe...

- The identifying features of the Church of Christ are oneness, holiness, universality, and apostolicity. (Catechism Q&A question 381)
- The function of the Church of Christ is to make salvation and eternal fellowship with God available to human beings and to bring worship to God. (Catechism Q&A question 370)
- Those who are baptized believe in Christ and profess Him as their Lord belong to the Church of Christ. (Catechism Q&A question 375)

Point to Ponder...

- What does being a part of the church of Christ mean to me?

A Call to Action...

- Take some time for prayerful reflection and introspection, and ask God why He has called you to be a part of His family? Write down what you feel God is calling you to do as a part of the body of Christ. Memorize the 6th Article of Faith.

Weekly Reflections

What Bible verse was used for the basis of last Sunday's sermon?

What were some of the main takeaways? What did you learn?

So far this week, how have you applied what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

Going forward, how will you apply what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

Point to Ponder...

Call to Action...

Value the Church: *The Church of Christ*

I wonder... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What are the identifying features of the Church of Christ? ➤ What is the function of the Church of Christ? ➤ Who belongs to the Church of Christ? 	I believe... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The identifying features of the Church of Christ are oneness, holiness, universality, and apostolicity. (Catechism Q&A question 381) ➤ The function of the Church of Christ is to make salvation and eternal fellowship with God available to human beings and to bring worship to God. (Catechism Q&A question 370) ➤ Those who are baptized, believe in Christ, and profess Him as their Lord belong to the Church of Christ. (Catechism Q&A question 375)
References: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Bible: John 13:34; John 17:20-23; Romans 12:4-5; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 ➤ Articles of Faith 4 and 6 ➤ Catechism 6, 6.2.3, 6.4 ➤ Catechism Q&A questions: 365-410 	

1. What is the Church of Christ?

2. What are the identifying features of the church of Christ?

3. What is the purpose of Christ's church?

4. Who is a part of the church of Christ?

5. How do demonstrate that you value the church?

Point to Ponder: What does being a part of the church of Christ mean to me?

A Call to Action: Take some time for prayerful reflection and introspection, and ask God why He has called you to be a part of His family? Write down what you feel God is calling you to do as a part of the body of Christ. Memorize the 6th Article of Faith.

Value the Church: *My Church*

LESSON AT A GLANCE

Facilitator Notes:

- Keep in mind, as you discuss and teach today's lesson: We come together on Sunday as a community of believers, to hear the Word, celebrate the sacraments, and to worship together.

I wonder...

- Why is fellowship essential for the church?
- How does prayer value the church?
- Why should I share my faith with others?

I believe...

- God created us to live, worship, and grow in faith as a community of believers.
- Praying for others demonstrates our commitment to love and serve others.
- Christians have a responsibility to profess their faith in Jesus Christ.

Materials:

- IGNITE Bible
- Catechism
- For Your Journey: Episode 5 | What is true Christian Fellowship, Episode 7 | Why go to church?
 - For Your Journey episodes can be found on the [NAC USA mobile app](#) and at the [NAC USA YouTube channel](#)

References:

- Bible: Acts 2:42-47, 1 Corinthians 12:25-27, Hebrews 10:25, 1 John 1:3
- Catechism Q & A questions: 365-367, 472, 473, 618, 619, 724, 727, 728

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

The definition of community is: a group of people with a common characteristic or interest living together within a larger society. Think about the different "communities" to which you belong and the benefits of that membership. Join us tomorrow for small group at _____.

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

Facilitator Notes:

- Please customize the information as necessary.
- This week's "Call to action" encourages students to watch one of the referenced For Your Journey episodes with someone from their family. Consider including links to the episodes.

Dear Parents,
 This week the "I wonder..." questions are about the Church, our journey of faith together, the benefits of fellowship, and the value of prayer. Discuss with your son or daughter ways in which congregational life strengthens you as a believer, and ways you can help to strengthen other believers. As always, if you have any question about the topic, feel free to contact us.

Your Youth Leaders

SUNDAY SERMON REFLECTIONS (up to 10 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week.

- What Bible verse was used for the basis of last Sunday's sermon?
- What were some of the main takeaways? What did you learn?
- So far this week, how have you applied what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?
- Going forward, how will you apply what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

HOOK (up to 10 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week.

- How are you and how are you feeling today?
- Who would like to share their point to ponder or call to action from last week?
- Have the students list the different communities to which they belong and the benefits they receive from their membership (ex. school community, neighborhood, sports team, youth group etc.)
 - Common interests, learn from each other
 - Support, protect each other
 - Contribute to the common good

SET THE STAGE (1 minute)

Facilitator Notes:

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

I wonder...

- Why is fellowship essential for the church?
- How does prayer value the church?
- Why should I share my faith with others?

LESSON (up to 25 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

Ask the students something like: What do you think of when you hear the word "church"?

- Consider writing their answers on a whiteboard or flip chart
- Summarize the student's answers using Catechism Q&A question 365
 - The term "church" has three different meanings in general usage. On the one hand, it is used in reference to a **Christian place of worship** (e.g. the local parish) in which the believers gather for divine service. Another meaning of "church" refers to **the congregation in a particular place**. Beyond that, "church" can be used in reference to a **Christian community (denomination)**, for example the New Apostolic Church or the Catholic Church. (Catechism Q&A question 365)

- Consider watching [Episode 5 of For Your Journey | What is true Christian Fellowship?](#)

Say something like: God made us for community. This is evident already in Genesis when God says “It is not good that man should be alone;...” (Genesis 1:18). At our most fundamental level, God created us to desire community with Him and each other.

Even the Holy Trinity, God, the Father, God, the Son, God, the Holy Spirit, are constantly in community with each other. God invites us into this community and togetherness so that we are not isolated.

In the church, believers have fellowship with one another. The focal point of church life is the divine service. In the divine service, believers bring worship and praise to God and God turns to believers in both word and sacrament. (Catechism Q&A 366)

It is important to emphasize that when talking about ‘fellowship’, it is not in reference to refreshments or a meal. While sharing something to eat creates a space for sharing life together and the opportunity for fellowship to take place, simply eating together and talking about the weather or current events does not automatically constitute Christian fellowship.

Student Question #1 – When we gather together at church we have the opportunity to contribute to and experience fellowship. Why is fellowship essential for the church?

- Our corporate worship, hearing God’s word, prayer, and partaking of the sacraments are the elements when true Christian fellowship is shared.
- As a whole, these elements are indispensable for attaining salvation.
- From this we derive the basic elements of the divine service: the Apostles’ doctrine, fellowship, the breaking of bread, and prayer. (Catechism Q&A question 618)

Student Question #2 – When we gather together at church we have the opportunity to worship God together. Why do you think worship is a vital element of both the early church and of congregational life today?

- The knowledge of the majesty of God prompts human beings to worship and adore Him.
- In the early church public worship was not always safe, some congregations had to meet in secret. These moments of worship and praise were personal proclamations of God’s omnipotence.
- Worship and praise was strengthening, and motivated the early believers to continue to share and spread the gospel message.
- Worshipping God together with other believers allows us to express to God what He means to us.

- If the students have already gone through the “Help spread the gospel” semester of the Youth THRIVE Small Group curriculum, remind them that telling others about their faith in Jesus Christ is a component of helping to spread the gospel.

- Consider watching [Episode 7 of For Your Journey | Why go to church?](#)

Student Question #3 – As a body of believers, we have a responsibility to pray and pray for one another. What are the effects of prayer on the church/congregation?

- Prayer is communication with God, and because God is personal, all people can offer prayer, individually or communally.
- We can worship, praise, and adore God through prayer.
- Prayer can make a difference in the lives of others. Love for one another inspires us to pray for each other so others can experience God’s fullness, knowledge of Christ’s love, discernment, filling with the fruits of righteousness, knowledge of God’s will, spiritual understanding, comfort, love for God, and equipment for every good work that is pleasing to God.
- Not all prayers are answered. God answers our prayers according to His will, in the way that is best for us and for those we pray for.

Student Question #4 – Why should I share my faith with others?

- Just like the word “church”, the word “faith” has multiple meanings as well.
- “Faith” can mean one’s church, like the New Apostolic Church, and also mean one’s belief in Jesus Christ.
- As believers we want to share our belief in Jesus Christ with those in a circles of influence (our families, congregations, communities). When sharing our belief in Jesus Christ, it isn’t just sharing THAT we believe in Jesus Christ, but also how a deepening relationship with Jesus has impacted your life.
- Additionally, when we value the church and the elements encompassed in the church (the preached word, celebrating sacraments, true fellowship, true worship), we can feel compelled to share with others that we have experienced Jesus Christ in the New Apostolic Church.
 - Those that have received the gift of the Holy Spirit are to testify of the occupied Apostle ministry and it’s function.

Ultimately, when we see the importance of the church, and coming together, we can better value the church.

- The writer of Hebrews emphasized the need for coming together, - *“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.”* Hebrews 10:25

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

Facilitator Notes:

- The Vision and Mission statements of the New Apostolic Church:
 - In the first few pages of the Catechism
 - In the first few pages of the Catechism Q&A
 - On a placard at the church
 - In "About" tab of the NAC USA mobile app
 - In the THRIVE Membership Expectations booklet
- It may seem like the Vision and Mission statements of the New Apostolic Church are brought up a lot in the Youth THRIVE Small Group curriculum. This is intentional. It is important for students to know why the church exists, what the church is trying to achieve (Vision), and how the church plans on achieving it (Mission).

Wrap up the lesson with the New Apostolic Church Vision statement:

- *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.*
- The students don't have to share these answers to the following questions, but should genuinely ponder their answers after contemplating the questions:
 - Do you value your home (where you live)?
 - Do you feel at home in this church/congregation?
 - Why or why not?
- Remind the students that you are available to answer any questions they may have and if there is something, whether specific or general, that has prevented them from feeling like the congregation is their home, that you are happy to listen to them and process that together.

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. The church is a place to strengthen them on their life-long journey of surrendering to God and aligning their lives to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

I wonder...

- Why is fellowship essential for the church?
- How does prayer value the church?
- Why should I share my journey of faith with others?

I believe...

- God created us to live, worship, and grow in faith as a community of believers.
- Praying for others demonstrates our commitment to love and serve others.
- Christians have a responsibility to profess their faith.

Point to Ponder...

- In addition to seeking fellowship, worshipping God, and praying, how else can my attitude and actions demonstrate that I value the church?

A Call to Action...

- Watch either Episode 5 | What is true Christian fellowship? Or Episode 7 | Why go to church? With someone from your family. Discuss which point stood out the most to 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...

Value the Church: *My Church*

I wonder... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Why is fellowship essential for the church? ➤ How does prayer value the church? ➤ Why should I share my faith with others? 	I believe... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ God created us to live, worship, and grow in faith as a community of believers. ➤ Praying for others demonstrates our commitment to love and serve others. ➤ Christians have a responsibility to profess their faith.
References: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Bible: Acts 2:42-47, 1 Corinthians 12:25-27, 1 John 1:3, Hebrews 10:25 ➤ Catechism Q & A questions: 365- 367, 472, 473, 618, 619, 724, 727, 728 	

1. When we gather together at church we have the opportunity to contribute to and experience fellowship. Why is fellowship essential for the church?

2. When we gather together at church we have the opportunity to worship God together. Why do you think worship is a vital element of both the early church and of congregational life today?

3. As a body of believers, we have a responsibility to pray and pray for one another. What are the effects of prayer on the church/congregation?

4. Why should I share my faith with others?

Point to Ponder: In addition to seeking fellowship, worshipping God, and praying, how else can my attitude and actions demonstrate that I value the church?

A Call to Action: Watch either Episode 5 | What is true Christian fellowship? Or Episode 7 | Why go to church? With someone from your family. Discuss which point stood out the most to you.

Value the Church: *The Apostolate – Part 1*

LESSON AT A GLANCE

Facilitator Notes:

I wonder...

- Why did Jesus establish the Apostle ministry?
- How did Jesus establish the Apostle ministry?
- Where were the first Apostles active?

I believe...

- The Apostle ministry was established by Jesus Christ in order to grant human beings access to the sacrifice brought by Him and the salvation resulting from it. By preaching the gospel, proclaiming the forgiveness of sins in Jesus' name, and dispensing the sacraments, Apostles prepare believers for His return. (Catechism Q&A question 421,424)
- The Apostles are ambassadors of Jesus Christ. The Apostle ministry is the only ministry Jesus directly gave to His church. He authorized, blessed, and sanctified the Apostles and equipped them with the Holy Spirit: "As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." And when He had said this He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy spirit..." (Catechism Q&A question 421, 425)
- In fulfillment of the Great Commission given them by Jesus Christ, the Apostles spread the gospel throughout present day Europe, Asia, and Africa. (Catechism Q&A question 392)

Materials:

- IGNITE Bible
- Catechism Q&A
- Chart paper or whiteboard and markers

References:

- Bible: Matthew 10:1-4; 28:16-20, Mark 3:13-19, Luke 6:12-16, John 20:21-23, 2 Corinthians 1:24
- Catechism Q&A questions: 392, 400, 421-459
- 4th Article of Faith

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

"New Apostolic" is more than just a name of a church. This week we will be talking about the only ministry Jesus established. 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
- Consider including the link to [the NAC Catechism](#)

Dear Parents,

This week the "I wonder..." questions are about Jesus establishing the Apostle ministry. Being the New Apostolic Church, it is important to understand why Jesus established this ministry. Consider taking some time this week to review Section 7.4 of the Catechism and refresh your understanding of the Apostle ministry. The Catechism is available online and as a mobile app.

As always, if you have any question about the topic, feel free to contact us.

Your Youth Leaders

SUNDAY SERMON REFLECTIONS (up to 10 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week.

- What Bible verse was used for the basis of last Sunday's sermon?
- What were some of the main takeaways? What did you learn?
- So far this week, how have you applied what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?
- Going forward, how will you apply what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

HOOK (up to 10 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week.
- Have a large piece of paper and markers ready to write if you want to create a visible list.
- If someone suggests Mark and Luke to the list of Apostles, clarify that Mark and Luke are writers of those Gospel books, but not Apostles.

- How are you and how are you feeling today?
- Who would like to share their point to ponder or call to action from last week?

- Ask the students if they can remember any of the names of the Apostles in the Bible:

From the Gospel books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John:

Simon (who is called Peter)
 Andrew
 James
 John
 Philip
 Bartholomew
 Thomas
 Matthew
 James
 Thaddaeus
 Simon (the Canaanite)
 Judas Iscariot

From other New Testament books:

Barnabas and Paul (Acts 14:14)
 Apollos (1 Corinthians 4:9)

- Ask the students if they know the name of their District Apostle and Apostle:

USA Apostles as of September 2022

District Apostle Leonard Kolb
 Apostle John Fendt
 Apostle Robert Ferguson
 Apostle Mark Fuerbach
 Apostle Lonnie Klein
 Apostle Karl Orlofski
 Apostle Thomas Schmidt
 Apostle John Schnabel
 Apostle Brett Steinbrueck

SET THE STAGE (1 minute)

Facilitator Notes:

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

I wonder...

- Why did Jesus establish the Apostle ministry?
- How did Jesus establish the Apostle ministry?
- Where were the first Apostles active?

LESSON (up to 25 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- **John 20:21**
So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."
- For more information, watch [Episode 48 of For Your Journey | What is the bridal congregation?](#)
- Consider asking the students, frequently throughout discussions, "What is the gospel?" whenever it may tie in. Christians, not just those in ordained ministry, need to be able to summarize and articulate what the gospel is.
- In addition to **Luke 6:12-16**, the account of Jesus choosing the Apostles is also documented in **Matthew 10:1-4** and **Mark 3:13-19**.
- After the time of The Great Commission, there were only 11 Apostles, as Judas had committed suicide.

Student Question #1 What does the word 'Apostle' mean?

- The word 'Apostle' means "ambassador" and is derived from the Greek word *apostolos*. The Apostles are ambassadors of Jesus. Jesus Christ directly linked His sending with their sending in John 20:21. (Catechism Q&A question 423)

Student Question #2 Why did Jesus establish the Apostle ministry?

- There is work to be done and a message to spread.
- The Apostle ministry was established by Jesus Christ in order to grant human beings access to the sacrifice brought by Him and the salvation resulting from it. Apostles proclaim the gospel and prepare the believers for His return. We believe that Jesus is coming back to gather His bride. (Catechism Q&A question 421, 424)
- This proclaiming of the gospel (See H1 discussion guide from the 'Help spread the gospel' semester for additional information and references) is the message that the Apostles are messengers of. The Apostles are messengers of the good news (translation of 'gospel') that salvation is accessible through Jesus Christ and that Jesus promised to return again.

Student Question #3 How did Jesus establish the Apostle ministry?

- The Apostles are ambassadors of Jesus Christ. The Apostle ministry is the only ministry Jesus directly gave to His church. He authorized, blessed, and sanctified the Apostles and equipped them with the Holy Spirit: "As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." And when He had said this He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy spirit..." (Catechism Q&A question 421, 425)
- Not all of the disciples that followed Jesus were chosen by Him to be Apostles. Luke 6:12-16 describes the moment some disciples became Apostles. Ask a student to read Luke 6:12-16. Being an Apostle indicates delegated authority.
- While it was before Jesus was crucified that He chose the 12 Apostles, it was after He resurrected and just before His ascension that He gave them what is commonly referred to as "The Great Commission"

- The Articles of Faith can be found on page 251 of the Catechism Q&A.

- The Great Commission can be found in Matthew 28:16-20. Ask a student, or a few students, to read The Great Commission.

The Great Commission and the New Apostolic Church Mission Statement

- The mission statement of the New Apostolic Church is tied directly to the Great Commission.
- Ask the students to read, or recite if they know it, the vision and mission statements of the New Apostolic Church.
 - The vision and mission statements of the New Apostolic Church can be found:
 - In the first few pages of the Catechism
 - In the first few pages of the Catechism Q&A
 - On a placard at the church
 - In the "About" tab of the NAC USA mobile app
 - In the THRIVE Membership Expectations booklet
- Discuss the similarities between the mission statement and the Great Commission.

Student Question #4 What is the 4th Article of Faith?

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 baptise with water and Holy Spirit.

Student Question #5 Where were the first Apostles active?

- In fulfillment of the Great Commission given them by Jesus Christ, the Apostles spread the gospel throughout present day Europe, Asia, and Africa. (Catechism Q&A question 392)

Did the Apostle ministry cease to exist after the death of the early Apostles?

The Apostle ministry continued to exist despite the fact that the Apostles died. This ministry has been instituted by Jesus Christ for His church. Even during the time when there were no bearers of this ministry on earth, the ministry established by Him was still present.

The Apostles are to be witnesses of Christ until the end of the age (cf. Matthew 28: 19-20). In order to fulfil this comprehensive task in view of His return, Jesus Christ also sends Apostles today. (Catechism Q&A question 447)

How long did this interruption in the activity of Apostles last?

According to extra-biblical sources, John was the last of the early Christian Apostles to die, and he did so near the end of the first century. The activity of the Apostles was thus interrupted until the renewed occupation of the Apostle ministry in the nineteenth century. (Catechism Q&A question 448)

Why was the activity of the Apostles interrupted?

This interruption in the activity of the Apostles has its source in the will of God. For human beings this remains a mystery. Nevertheless, the Holy Spirit remained active even in the time without Apostles, and assured the preservation and development of the gospel. (Catechism Q&A question 449)

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

Facilitator Notes:

Close with the "I Wonder..." questions

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

I wonder...

- Why did Jesus establish the Apostle ministry?
- How did Jesus establish the Apostle ministry?
- Where were the first Apostles active?

I believe...

- The Apostle ministry was established by Jesus Christ in order to grant human beings access to the sacrifice brought by Him and the salvation resulting from it. By preaching the gospel, proclaiming the forgiveness of sins in Jesus' name, and dispensing the sacraments, Apostles prepare believers for His return. (Catechism Q&A question 421,424)
- The Apostles are ambassadors of Jesus Christ. The Apostle ministry is the only ministry Jesus directly gave to His church. He authorized, blessed, and sanctified the Apostles and equipped them with the Holy Spirit: "'As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.' And when He had said this He breathed on them, and said to them, 'Receive the Holy spirit...'" (Catechism Q&A question 421, 425)
- In fulfillment of the Great Commission given them by Jesus Christ, the Apostles spread the gospel throughout present day Europe, Asia, and Africa. (Catechism Q&A question 392)

Point to Ponder...

- "In 2 Corinthians 1:14, Apostle Paul writes, 'Not that we have dominion over your faith, but we are fellow workers for your joy; for by faith you stand.' Paul describes the members of the congregation in Corinth as 'fellow workers'. With respect to the Great Commission and the NAC Mission Statement, in what ways is the work of Apostle Paul the same as the members of the congregation? In what ways is it different?"

A Call to Action...

- Over the next month, consider memorizing the Great Commission that Jesus gave the Apostles, found in Matthew 28:18-20.

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...

Value the Church: *The Apostolate – Part 1*

<p>I wonder...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Why did Jesus establish the Apostle ministry? ➤ How did Jesus establish the Apostle ministry? ➤ Where were the first Apostles active? 	<p>I believe...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Apostle ministry was established by Jesus Christ in order to grant human beings access to the sacrifice brought by Him and the salvation resulting from it. By preaching the gospel, proclaiming the forgiveness of sins in Jesus' name, and dispensing the sacraments, Apostles prepare believers for His return. (Catechism Q&A question 421,424) ➤ The Apostles are ambassadors of Jesus Christ. The Apostle ministry is the only ministry Jesus directly gave to His church. He authorized, blessed, and sanctified the Apostles and equipped them with the Holy Spirit: "As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." And when He had said this He breathed on them, and said to them, 'Receive the Holy spirit...' (Catechism Q&A question 421, 425) ➤ In fulfillment of the Great Commission given them by Jesus Christ, the Apostles spread the gospel throughout present day Europe, Asia, and Africa. (Catechism Q&A question 392)
<p>References: Matthew 10:1-4; 28:16-20, Mark 3:13-19, Luke 6:12-16, John 20:21-23, 2 Corinthians 1:24 Catechism Q&A questions: 392, 400, 421-459, 4th Article of Faith</p>	

1. What does the word 'Apostle' mean?

2. Why did Jesus establish the Apostle ministry?

3. How did Jesus establish the Apostle ministry?

4. What is the fourth Article of Faith?

5. Where were the first Apostles active?

Point to Ponder: "In 2 Corinthians 1:14, Apostle Paul writes, 'Not that we have dominion over your faith, but we are fellow workers for your joy; for by faith you stand.' Paul describes the members of the congregation in Corinth as 'fellow workers'. With respect to the Great Commission and the NAC Mission Statement, in what ways is the work of Apostle Paul the same as the members of the congregation? In what ways is it different?"

Call to Action: Over the next month, consider memorizing the Great Commission that Jesus gave the Apostles, found in Matthew 28:18-20.



Source: Michigan Department of Transportation

Value the Church: *The Apostolate – Part 2*

LESSON AT A GLANCE

Facilitator Notes:

I wonder...

- How was the Apostle ministry re-occupied after the death of the first Apostles?
- What is special about the Chief Apostle ministry?
- How is the Apostolate active today?

I believe...

- Believers of various confessions (denominations) prayed and hoped that the Holy Spirit would once again become active. As of 1832, the Apostle ministry was once again personally occupied in accordance with God's will, for the preparation of the bridal congregation. The re-occupation of the apostle ministry was a gift to the church of Christ – the new Apostles did not intend to start a new denomination (Catechism Q&A question 400, 403, 452)
- In his spiritual authority, the Chief Apostle promotes oneness among the church and the Apostolate. (Catechism Q&A question 457, 459)
- The Apostle ministry properly proclaims the gospel throughout the world, proclaims the forgiveness of sins in Jesus' name, dispenses sacraments for the living and the dead, and ordains ministers. The bridal congregation is prepared for the return of Christ through the activity of the Apostles (Catechism Q&A question 402)

Materials:

- IGNITE Bible
- Catechism Q&A
- Chart paper or whiteboard and markers

References:

- Bible: Matthew 6:26, 16:18-19, Luke 22:32, John 21:15-17, Romans 8:32, Philippians 4:19, Hebrews 11:6, Revelation 19:6-7
- Catechism Q&A questions: 392, 404, 421-459
- 4th Article of Faith

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

This week we will be continuing the conversation about the only ministry Jesus established, specifically, what it means for us today. 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 mentioned the re-occupation of the Apostle ministry and how the Apostles are active today. Consider taking some time this week to talk with your student about how you've valued the Church and what value the Apostles have for the Church.
 As always, if you have any question about the topic, feel free to contact us.
 Your Youth Leaders

SUNDAY SERMON REFLECTIONS (up to 10 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week.

- What Bible verse was used for the basis of last Sunday's sermon?
- What were some of the main takeaways? What did you learn?
- So far this week, how have you applied what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?
- Going forward, how will you apply what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

HOOK (up to 10 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week.

- How are you and how are you feeling today?
- Who would like to share their point to ponder or call to action from last week?
- Ask the students if any have tried to memorize the Great Commission since the previous discussion (V3 – The Apostolate – Part 1)
- Whether someone has taken time to learn it or not, as a group, read Matthew 28:18-20. If the students don't know the Great Commission yet, they should know where to find it in the Bible.

SET THE STAGE (1 minute)

Facilitator Notes:

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

Say something like: Last session we discussed WHY and HOW Jesus established the Apostle ministry and briefly touched on the interruption after the last Apostles of the early time died. This week we'll discuss the re-occupation of the Apostle ministry and what that means for us today.

I wonder...

- How was the Apostle ministry re-occupied after the death of the first Apostles?
- What is special about the Chief Apostle ministry?
- How is the Apostolate active today?

LESSON (up to 25 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- Review the Catechism Q&A questions to the right, especially if they were not covered in the previous discussion.
- Consider brainstorming some answers on a white board or flip chart.
- For more information on the re-occupation of the Apostle ministry, read Catechism 6.4.2.3

Did the Apostle ministry cease to exist after the death of the early Apostles?

The Apostle ministry continued to exist despite the fact that the Apostles died. This ministry has been instituted by Jesus Christ for His church. Even during the time when there were no bearers of this ministry on earth, the ministry established by Him was still present.

The Apostles are to be witnesses of Christ until the end of the age (cf. Matthew 28: 19-20). In order to fulfil this comprehensive task in view of His return, Jesus Christ also sends Apostles today. (Catechism Q&A question 447)

How long did this interruption in the activity of Apostles last?

According to extra-biblical sources, John was the last of the early Christian Apostles to die, and he did so near the end of the first century. The activity of the Apostles was thus interrupted until the renewed occupation of the Apostle ministry in the nineteenth century. (Catechism Q&A question 448)

Why was the activity of the Apostles interrupted?

This interruption in the activity of the Apostles has its source in the will of God. For human beings this remains a mystery. Nevertheless, the Holy Spirit remained active even in the time without Apostles, and assured the preservation and development of the gospel. (Catechism Q&A question 449)

Ask the students something like:

Have you ever wanted something? Have you ever felt like you couldn't live without something? Did you pray for those things? Were they things that are according to God's will? What do we know about God's character and His will that would indicate that we should get what we want? Supplement/summarize with these 3 points:

- God is a great provider (Matthew 6:26)
- God gives us what we need for our ultimate salvation (Romans 8:32, Hebrews 11:6)
- God gives us what we need to be strengthened on our daily journey and spiritual development (Philipians 4:19)

Student Question #1 How was the Apostle ministry re-occupied after the death of the first Apostles?

- Believers of various confessions prayed and hoped that the Holy Spirit would once again become active. As of 1832, the Apostle ministry was once again personally occupied in accordance with God's will, for the preparation of the bridal congregation. The re-occupation of the apostle ministry was a gift to the church of Christ – the new Apostles did not intend to start a new denomination (Catechism Q&A question 400, 403, 452)

Jesus designated Peter as a leader among the Apostles. Additionally, Jesus gave Peter specific responsibility.

Read, or have students read, the following passages:

- Matthew 16:18-19 – “On this rock I will build My church...”
- Luke 22:32- strengthen the brethren, that is the Apostles
- John 21:15- 17 – tends the “lambs and sheep” of the flock of Christ

These passages are the basis for the Chief Apostle ministry today.

Student Question #2 What is special about the Chief Apostle ministry?

- The Chief Apostle is the leading spiritual authority to promote oneness among the church and the Apostolate.(Catechism Q&A question 459)

The following responsibilities are specific to the Chief Apostle ministry:

- Maintaining unity among the Apostles and strengthens the Apostles
- Ensures that the gospel is proclaimed in unadulterated fashion (properly and purely proclaimed)
- Through the Holy Spirit, he opens up new insights and interconnections in the doctrine of the Church as is responsible for its uniform spread.
- Establishes the order within the Church
- Ordaining ministers who according to divine calling have been selected to become apostles

All of these duties comprise the ‘authority’ of the keys’ of the Chief Apostle ministry.

Student Question #3 How is the Apostolate active today?

- The Apostle ministry proclaims the gospel throughout the world, proclaims the forgiveness of sins in Jesus’ name, dispenses sacraments for the living and the dead, and ordains ministers. The bridal congregation is gathered and prepared for the return of Christ through the activity of the Apostles (Catechism Q&A question 402)

Consider showing a Community magazine or have the youth pull up the website, nac.today on their phones to find articles and stories of the Apostles of today being active throughout the world.

- *Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.*

Revelation 19:7

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

Facilitator Notes:

Close with the "I Wonder..." questions

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

I wonder...

- How was the Apostle ministry re-occupied after the death of the first Apostles?
- What is special about the Chief Apostle ministry?
- How is the Apostolate active today?

I believe...

- Believers of various confessions (denominations) prayed and hoped that the Holy Spirit would once again become active. As of 1832, the Apostle ministry was once again personally occupied in accordance with God's will, for the preparation of the bridal congregation. The re-occupation of the apostle ministry was a gift to the church of Christ – the new Apostles did not intend to start a new denomination (Catechism Q&A question 400, 403, 452)
- In his spiritual authority, the Chief Apostle promotes oneness among the church and the Apostolate. (Catechism Q&A question 457, 459)
- The Apostle ministry properly proclaims the gospel throughout the world, proclaims the forgiveness of sins in Jesus' name, dispenses sacraments for the living and the dead, and ordains ministers. The bridal congregation is prepared for the return of Christ through the activity of the Apostles (Catechism Q&A question 402)

Point to Ponder...

- The Apostles of today proclaim (preach) the same message of salvation that Jesus proclaimed thousands of years ago. How cool is that?

A Call to Action...

- Memorize the 4th Article of Faith (found on page 251 of the Catechism Q&A).

Weekly Reflections

What Bible verse was used for the basis of last Sunday's sermon?

What were some of the main takeaways? What did you learn?

So far this week, how have you applied what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

Going forward, how will you apply what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

Point to Ponder...

Call to Action...

Value the Church: *The Apostolate – Part 2*

<p>I wonder...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ How was the Apostle ministry re-occupied after the death of the first Apostles? ➤ What is special about the Chief Apostle ministry? ➤ How is the Apostolate active today? 	<p>I believe...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Believers of various confessions (denominations) prayed and hoped that the Holy Spirit would once again become active. As of 1832, the Apostle ministry was once again personally occupied in accordance with God's will, for the preparation of the bridal congregation. The re-occupation of the apostle ministry was a gift to the church of Christ – the new Apostles did not intend to start a new denomination (Catechism Q&A question 400, 403, 452) ➤ In his spiritual authority, the Chief Apostle promotes oneness among the church and the Apostolate. (Catechism Q&A question 457, 459) ➤ The Apostle ministry properly proclaims the gospel throughout the world, proclaims the forgiveness of sins in Jesus' name, dispenses sacraments for the living and the dead, and ordains ministers. The bridal congregation is prepared for the return of Christ through the activity of the Apostles (Catechism Q&A question 402)
<p>References: Bible: Matthew 6:26, 16:18-19, Luke 22:32, John 21:15-17, Romans 8:32, Philippians 4:19, Hebrews 11:6, Revelation 19:6-7 Catechism Q&A questions: 392, 404, 421-459, 4th Article of Faith</p>	

1. How was the Apostle ministry re-occupied after the death of the first Apostles?

2. What is special about the Chief Apostle ministry?

3. How is the Apostolate active today?

Point to Ponder: The Apostles of today proclaim (preach) the same message of salvation that Jesus proclaimed thousands of years ago. How cool is that?

Call to Action: Memorize the 4th Article of Faith (found on page 251 of the Catechism Q&A).

Value the Church: *The Ministries*

LESSON AT A GLANCE

Facilitator Notes:

I wonder...

- What are the tasks of a deacon?
- What are the tasks of a priest?
- What are the tasks of an apostle?

I believe...

- A deacon's tasks are to properly proclaim (preach) the word of God in the divine service, dispense the Trinitarian blessing, offer support, and pastoral care. (Catechism Q&A question 470)
- In addition to the tasks of a deacon, the priest can dispense Holy Baptism, Holy Communion, and proclaim forgiveness of sins. (Catechism Q&A question 469)
- An Apostle can dispense the gift of the Holy Spirit in Holy Sealing and ordain ministers, in addition to the deacon and priestly tasks. (Catechism Q&A question 424)

Materials:

- IGNITE Bible
- Catechism Q&A

References:

- Bible: Exodus 3:12, 1 Samuel 16:7, 12, Matthew 16:18-19, Luke 22:32, John 21:15-17, Acts 6:6, 1 Corinthians 12:4-6, 12-17
- Catechism Q&A questions: 411-418, 424, 443-444, 469, 470, 644, 647
- 5th Article of Faith
- Nac.today article – ["Ministry: Authority with Limits"](#)

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

This week we will be continuing the conversation about ministries in the church. 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
- Consider sharing the [Nac.today article, "Ministry: Authority with Limits"](#) in the post-discussion email.

Dear Parents,

This week the "I wonder..." questions focused on the 3 ministries of the church: deacon, priest, and apostle. Consider taking some time this week to talk with your student about what it means for ordained ministers to have accepted responsibility and why we want to respect both the person and the ministry.

As always, if you have any question about the topic, feel free to contact us.

Your Youth Leaders

SUNDAY SERMON REFLECTIONS (up to 10 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week.

- What Bible verse was used for the basis of last Sunday's sermon?
- What were some of the main takeaways? What did you learn?
- So far this week, how have you applied what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?
- Going forward, how will you apply what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

HOOK (up to 10 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week.

- How are you and how are you feeling today?
- Who would like to share their point to ponder or call to action from last week?
- Ask the students if they have ever been a part of a team (sports team, project at school, drama club, etc.) where they had to work with other people.
 - Encourage the students to share an experience or something they learned from working together with others.
 - Ultimately, summarize how there are different responsibilities and roles that contribute to the same goal (winning the game, getting a good grade, putting on a play, etc.).
- Ask the students to name some of the ministers they know from their congregation/district.

SET THE STAGE (1 minute)

Facilitator Notes:

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

I wonder...

- What are the tasks of a deacon?
- What are the tasks of a priest?
- What are the tasks of an apostle?

LESSON (up to 25 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- **Acts 6:6**, and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them.
- The 5th Article of Faith can be found on page 251 of the Catechism Q&A book.
- Additional information about the authorization, blessing, and sanctification that happen in an ordination can be found in Catechism Q&A questions 415-417.

Student Question #1 What does the term 'ministry mean?

- In general, the term 'ministry' is understood as a function or official position associated with specific tasks and responsibilities. (Catechism Q&A question 411)
- It is important to distinguish the difference between a ministry (children's ministry, youth ministry) and an ordained ministry (deacon, priest, apostle).

Student Question #2 What is the difference between a ministry and an ordained ministry?

- A spiritual, or ordained, ministry constitutes the authorization, blessing, and sanctification issued through ordination for service in the church of Christ. A spiritual ministry is exercised in the power of the Holy Spirit and also includes a mandate. A mandate consists of a specific time and location of when and where to exercise a given spiritual ministry. (Catechism Q&A question 412)
- A spiritual ministry is founded upon the sending of Jesus Christ by God, the Father. Jesus is thus the One sent by God. As such, He is authorized, blessed, and sanctified for the redemption of mankind. The Apostles are those who have been sent by Jesus Christ. (Catechism Q&A question 413)
- In an ordination, the Apostle lays their hands on the person receiving the ministry and prays. This laying on of hands by the Apostle is taken directly from Acts 6:6. God provides the authorization, blessing and sanctification (Catechism Q&A question 412,443-444).
- Ask a student to read the 5th Article of Faith.

Student Question #3 How are ministers selected?

- Being ordained into a ministry isn't a promotion or a position for fame or self-gain, but rather a calling by God for specific work and responsibility. For this God also provides necessary signs and indications.
- Biblical examples of God calling people for responsibilities:
 - God spoke to Moses from a burning bush. He commissioned Moses to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt. Moses gave various reasons which he considered a hindrance to fulfilling his commission. God however, had chosen him and no one else. He told Moses, "I will certainly be with you" (Exodus 3:12).
 - God once sent the prophet Samuel to Bethlehem where he was to anoint one of Jesse's sons king. Jesse introduced seven of his sons to Samuel, but not one of them was the chosen one. Samuel then asked Jesse if these were all of his children. Jesse had one more son. He was the youngest and tended the sheep. Samuel requested that he be brought to him. God then said to the prophet, "Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!" (1 Samuel 16:12). This is how David was called to be king. God had told Samuel what is decisive for such a selection: "Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7).

- This point about Peter is taken directly from the V4 discussion on the Apostolate. This is an opportunity to review this point from the previous discussion to show how these topics connect.

- Can also reference Nac.today article – [“Ministry: Authority with Limits”](#) in this section.

- It is important to note that it is God who forgives sins. The priest, in the commission of their sender the Apostle, proclaims the assurance that sins have been forgiven, in Jesus’ name.
- The Apostle, in commission of Jesus, proclaims the same assurance that sins have been forgiven, in Jesus’ name. The Apostle does not forgive the sins. (Catechism Q&A questions 644, 647)

- Jesus designated Peter as a leader among the Apostles. Additionally, Jesus gave Peter specific responsibility.
 - i. Read, or have students read, the following passages:
 - Matthew 16:18-19
 - Luke 22:32
 - John 21:15- 17

Ordained ministries in the New Apostolic Church

- The 3 ordained ministries in the New Apostolic Church are:
 - Deacon
 - Priest
 - Apostle

Like on a sports team, group project, etc., the 3 ministries have unique roles and responsibilities.

Student Question #4 What are the tasks of a deacon?

- A deacon’s tasks are to offer support, pastoral care, blessing, and to proclaim (preach) the word in the divine services. (Catechism Q&A question 470)

Student Question #5 What are the tasks of a priest?

- In addition to the tasks of a deacon, the priest can dispense Holy Baptism, Holy Communion, and proclaim forgiveness of sins. (Catechism Q&A question 469)

Student Question #6 What are the tasks fo an apostle?

- In addition to the deacon and priestly tasks, an Apostle can dispense the gift of the Holy Spirit, and ordain ministers.(Catechism Q&A question 424)

Even though the roles and responsibilities are different, Apostle Paul reminds us through his letter to the Corinthians that we all serve the same Lord.

- **1 corinthians 12:4-6** *There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.*

	<p><u>Student Question #7</u> Are ordained ministers the only ones called to serve God?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ No. Every baptized believer is called upon to serve the Lord in active love for his neighbor and by professing their faith. (Catechism Q&A question 418). ➤ An image that the Bible uses to emphasize the point that there is both unity and diversity and how we all contribute, is the image of the body. ➤ Have the students take turns reading through 1 Corinthians 12:12-17. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ After reading the Bible passage, ask the students to summarize the verses in their own words. ○ If there is time, consider reading the “<i>White Hot Topic: Identity</i>” on page 1205 of the IGNITE Bible.
WHAT’S IN IT FOR ME? (up to 10 minutes)	
<p>Facilitator Notes:</p>	<p>Close with the “I Wonder...” questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ask a student to read an “I Wonder...” question, and invite another student to answer with an “I Believe...” statement or an “I Believe...” statement in their own words. ➤ As you review each question and answer, stop and check in with the group to be sure there are no misunderstandings or misconceptions. <p>I wonder...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What are the tasks of a deacon? ➤ What are the tasks of a priest? ➤ What are the tasks of an Apostle? <p>I believe...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A deacon’s tasks are to properly proclaim (preach) the word of God in the divine service, dispense the Trinitarian blessing, offer support, and pastoral care. (Catechism Q&A question 470) ➤ In addition to the tasks of a deacon, the priest can dispense Holy Baptism, Holy Communion, and proclaim forgiveness of sins. (Catechism Q&A question 469) ➤ An Apostle can dispense the gift of the Holy Spirit in Holy Sealing and ordain ministers, in addition to the deacon and priestly tasks. (Catechism Q&A question 424) <p>Point to Ponder...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The ministers that we see in our church aren’t seeking fame or higher status. Ponder that they have accepted a call to serve the Lord with unique responsibilities. <p>A Call to Action...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Memorize the 5th Article of Faith (found on page 251 of the Catechism Q&A).

Weekly Reflections

What Bible verse was used for the basis of last Sunday's sermon?

What were some of the main takeaways? What did you learn?

So far this week, how have you applied what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

Going forward, how will you apply what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

Point to Ponder...

Call to Action...

Value the Church: *The Apostolate – Part 2*

I wonder... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What are the tasks of a deacon? ➤ What are the tasks of a priest? ➤ What are the tasks of an apostle? 	I believe... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A deacon's tasks are to properly proclaim (preach) the word of God in the divine service, dispense the Trinitarian blessing, offer support, and pastoral care. (Catechism Q&A question 470) ➤ In addition to the tasks of a deacon, the priest can dispense Holy Baptism, Holy Communion, and proclaim forgiveness of sins. (Catechism Q&A question 469) ➤ An Apostle can dispense the gift of the Holy Spirit in Holy Sealing and ordain ministers, in addition to the deacon and priestly tasks. (Catechism Q&A question 424)
Bible: Exodus 3:12, 1 Samuel 16:7, 12, Matthew 16:18-19, Luke 22:32, John 21:15-17, Acts 6:6, 1 Corinthians 12:4-6, 12-17 Catechism Q&A questions: 411-418, 424, 443-444, 469, 470, 644, 647 Article of Faith 5	

1. What does the term 'ministry' mean?

2. What is the difference between a ministry and an ordained ministry?

3. How are ministers selected?

4. What are the tasks of a deacon?

5. What are the tasks of a priest?

6. What are the tasks for an apostle?

7. Are ordained ministers the only ones called to serve God?

Point to Ponder: The ministers that we see in our church aren't seeking fame or higher status. Ponder that they have accepted a call to serve the Lord with unique responsibilities.

Call to Action: Memorize the 5th Article of Faith (found on page 251 of the Catechism Q&A).

Value the Church: *Sacraments*

LESSON AT A GLANCE

Facilitator Notes:

- In preparation for this discussion, the facilitator may also find benefit in [these supporting articles](#).

I wonder...

- What is a sacrament?
- Why are the three sacraments important?
- What are the four elements of a sacrament?

I believe...

- Sacraments are fundamental acts of grace bestowed by God on a human being; sacraments are essential for salvation, at least until the day of the Lord. (Catechism Q&A question 472)
- Receiving Holy Baptism and Holy Sealing are the first steps in preparing a soul for Christ's return, and Holy Communion provides continuous strengthening in our striving. (Catechism Q&A question 491, 505, 528)
- The four elements of sacraments are the sign, the content, the dispenser, and faith. (Catechism Q&A question 474)

Materials:

- IGNITE Bible
- Catechism Q&A
- Printout of road signs

References:

- Bible: Matthew 26:26-29
- Catechism Q&A questions: 377-378, 472, 475-478, 481, 490-491, 505, 512, 515, 530
- 6th, 7th, 8th Articles of Faith

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

Do you know what a sacrament really is? This week we will be discussing the importance of sacraments in the life of a believer. 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 sacraments, what they are and why they're important. If your student was baptized and sealed as a baby, talk with them about what it was like to make those vows on their behalf. You can also talk with them about Holy Communion. Since this sacrament is dispensed regularly, brainstorm some ideas with your student about how to make sure celebrating communion does not just become something that is done out of habit. As always, if you have questions about the topic, please feel free to contact us.

Your Youth Leaders

SUNDAY SERMON REFLECTIONS (up to 10 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week.

- What Bible verse was used for the basis of last Sunday's sermon?
- What were some of the main takeaways? What did you learn?
- So far this week, how have you applied what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?
- Going forward, how will you apply what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

HOOK (up to 10 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week.

- How are you and how are you feeling today?
- Who would like to share their point to ponder or call to action from last week?

Show the students your printout of road signs. Ask them what each one means.

- Stop sign = stop your car
- Pedestrian crossing sign = this is a place where people cross the street, so vehicles need to be on the lookout
- No parking sign = vehicles cannot park here
- Lane merging sign = this lane is going to end soon, so vehicles will have to merge into the other lane

Make sure your students understand that they knew what the signs meant even though a description wasn't given of the sign. The signs are just a representation of what they know and understand needs to happen in these traffic situations.

Tell the students: When we witness sacraments in the congregation, we are seeing the sign (or the visible representation) of what is really happening. We'll talk more about this later in the lesson.

SET THE STAGE (1 minute)

Facilitator Notes:

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

I wonder...

- What is a sacrament?
- Why are the three sacraments important?
- What are the four elements of a sacrament?

LESSON (up to 25 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

Student Question #1 What is a sacrament?

Read Catechism Q&A question 472 together as a group.

- The Q&A describes a sacrament as a fundamental act of God's grace.

- If the students have trouble defining grace, consider watching [Episode 38 of For Your Journey | Grace](#)
 - For Your Journey episodes can be found on the [NAC USA YouTube channel](#) and in the [NAC USA mobile app](#).
- The New Apostolic Church is a church of sacraments
- **While it is important for the students to know what the sacraments are, it is equally important to emphasize the effects of the sacraments.**
- The Articles of Faith can be found on page 251 of the Catechism Q&A.
- Remind students that, when they were (or will be) confirmed, they are making a proclamation of faith that they believe in the creed of the New Apostolic Church (the 10 Articles of Faith). Because of this, it is important to learn them, and refresh our understanding from time to time.

Student Question #2 What is grace?

- In addition to the sacraments, how have you experienced God's grace in your life?

Tell the students: As an act of grace, God reaches out to us in our lives, even though we are sinful. The sacraments can also be seen as moments when God reaches out to us in His grace to establish and strengthen our relationship with Him.

Ask the students: What are the three sacraments in our church?

- Holy Baptism
- Holy Sealing
- Holy Communion

Student Question #3 Why are the three sacraments important?

Tell the students: Sacraments are fundamental acts of God's grace. They are holy acts that are performed upon a human being in order to allow him to attain salvation, be adopted into the fellowship of life with God, and be preserved in it. Receiving the three sacraments opens up the possibility for being united with the Lord at the return of Christ. (Catechism 8)

Holy Baptism

- Read Catechism Q&A question 481 together as a group.
- Have the students define Holy Baptism in their own words.
- Ask the students: Now that we've talked about what Holy Baptism is, why do you think it's important?
 - Some possible answers are: the baptized person becomes a Christian, they enter into a relationship with God that can never be broken, they enter into the church of Christ and belong to a body of people who all profess Christ.
 - You can refer to Catechism Q&A question 490 for other answers.
- Summarize Holy Baptism by reading, or having a student read, the 6th Article of Faith

Holy Sealing

- Read Catechism Q&A question 515 together as a group.
- Ask the students: What two things happen in Holy Sealing?
 - The believer receives the gift of the Holy Spirit.
 - The believer becomes a child of God.
- Read Catechism Q&A question 530 to get a better understanding of what it means to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit and become a child of God.
 - Tell the students: Because the Holy Spirit indwells and is active within us, we are able to call God, "Abba, Father." What does it mean to you that you can address God, the Creator of heaven and earth, as "Father"?
- Summarize Holy Sealing by reading, or having a student read, the 8th Article of Faith

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matthew 26:26-29: <i>And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body." Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say to you, I will not drink of this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom."</i> 	<p>Holy Communion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tell the students: Jesus instituted Holy Communion, also known as the Lord's Supper, right before He was arrested and crucified. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read Matthew 26:26-29 together. Ask the students: Knowing what He was about to go through, what do you think Jesus was trying to establish in these verses with His disciples? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Read Catechism Q&A question 512 to help answer this question (specifically the first sentence). Holy Communion is the one sacrament that we celebrate repeatedly. Read Catechism Q&A question 505 to understand why. Summarize Holy Communion by reading, or having a student read, the 7th Article of Faith
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visible: The person presses the brake, the car stops. Invisible: The person saw the sign and interpreted it as the command to "Stop." 	<p><u>Student Question #4</u> What are the four elements of a sacrament?</p> <p>Tell the students: Have you ever heard of Jesus described as both true Man and true God? He had a dual nature. This duality is seen throughout Christianity. Often it is described as both the visible and invisible. For example, there's the visible church of Christ and the invisible church of Christ. The visible side includes things like celebrating divine services and prayer (ref. Catechism Q&A question 378), and the invisible side includes things like God's forgiveness of sins and the blessing God gives at the time of Confirmation (ref. Catechism Q&A question 377). The sacraments also have this dual nature – something visible and invisible is happening when each sacrament is celebrated.</p> <p>Tell the students: For the sacraments, there are four elements that make up the visible and the invisible (sign, dispenser, content, faith).</p> <p>Visible</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The sign – Read Catechism Q&A question 475 together. The dispenser – Reach Catechism Q&A question 477 together. <p>Invisible</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The content – Read Catechism Q&A question 476 together. The faith – Read Catechism Q&A question 478 together. <p>Ask the students: Think back to the activity we did at the beginning of the lesson with the road signs. Imagine you're driving and you come to a stop sign. What are the visible and invisible elements of this situation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> While this is a somewhat silly example when compared to the sacraments, it can help the students to understand this dual nature.

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

Facilitator Notes:

Wrap up the lesson with why the sacraments are important in the life of a believer.

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 confirmed the vow their parents made on their behalf at Holy Baptism.

I wonder...

- What is a sacrament?
- Why are the three sacraments important?
- What are the four elements of a sacrament?

I believe...

- Sacraments are fundamental acts of grace bestowed by God on a human being; sacraments are essential for salvation, at least until the day of the Lord. (Catechism Q&A question 472)
- Receiving Holy Baptism and Holy Sealing are the first steps in preparing a soul for Christ's return, and Holy Communion provides continuous strengthening in our striving. (Catechism Q&A question 491, 505, 528)
 The four elements of sacraments are the sign, the content, the dispenser, and faith. (Catechism Q&A question 474)

Point to Ponder....

- The sacraments are fundamental to our relationship with God. He is present in the celebration of each sacrament.

A Call to Action....

- Since Holy Communion is the sacrament that we celebrate repeatedly, it can easily become a mindless routine. Next time you have the opportunity to celebrate Holy Communion, be fully present and focus on this celebration. Realize that the Lord is fully present in Holy Communion, as if He is sitting across the table from you. Record your experience in a journal.

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...

Value the Church: *Sacraments*

I wonder... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What is a sacrament? ➤ Why are the three sacraments important? ➤ What are the four elements of a sacrament? 	I believe... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sacraments are fundamental acts of grace bestowed by God on a human being; sacraments are essential for salvation, at least until the day of the Lord. (Catechism Q&A question 472) ➤ Receiving Holy Baptism and Holy Sealing are the first steps in preparing a soul for Christ's return, and Holy Communion provides continuous strengthening in our striving. (Catechism Q&A question 491, 505, 528) ➤ The four elements of sacraments are the sign, the content, the dispenser, and faith. (Catechism Q&A question 474)
References: Matthew 26:26-29, Catechism Q&A questions: 377-378, 472, 475-478, 481, 490-491, 505, 512, 515, 530, 6 th , 7 th , 8 th Articles of Faith	

1. What is a sacrament?

2. What is grace?

3. Why are the three sacraments important?

4. What are the four elements of a sacrament?

Point to Ponder: The sacraments are fundamental to our relationship with God. He is present in the celebration of each sacrament.

Call to Action: Since Holy Communion is the sacrament that we celebrate repeatedly, it can easily become an automated routine. Next time you have the opportunity to celebrate Holy Communion, be fully present and focus on this celebration. Realize that the Lord is fully present in Holy Communion, as if He is sitting across the table from you. Record your experience in a journal.

Value the Church: *Preparation and Responsibility*

LESSON AT A GLANCE

Facilitator Notes:

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

I wonder...

- What are we preparing for?
- What are my social and civic responsibilities?

I believe...

- We are preparing for the return of Christ with the goal of being accepted by Him when He returns. (Catechism Q&A question 550)
- I am obligated to contribute to the benefit of society and to obey the laws provided no godly laws are violated. (Catechism Q&A question 745, 750)

Materials:

- IGNITE Bible
- Catechism
- Catechism Q&A
- For Your Journey: Episode 13 | What does Scripture say about the end times?

References:

- Bible: John 14:1-4, Romans 13:1-7
- Catechism Q&A questions: 550, 745-748, 750
- Catechism 2.4.10
- 9th and 10th Articles of Faith

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

This week we will be discussing the 9th and 10th Articles of Faith, which focus on the future and our responsibility here on earth. Where do you fit into this plan? 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 customize add local information as necessary.

Dear Parents,
This week the "I Wonder..." questions were about our future with Christ and our responsibility to society. The discussion focused on how our actions today help prepare us for our future. Talk with your student about your anticipation for the return of Christ. Tell them what you are doing today in order to prepare for His return. With your student, brainstorm ideas of activities or values that you can both do together or incorporate into your lives in order to prepare for Christ's return. As always, if you have questions about the topic, please feel free to contact us.

Your Youth Leaders

SUNDAY SERMON REFLECTIONS (up to 10 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week.

- What Bible verse was used for the basis of last Sunday's sermon?
- What were some of the main takeaways? What did you learn?
- So far this week, how have you applied what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?
- Going forward, how will you apply what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

HOOK (up to 10 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week.

- How are you and how are you feeling today?
- Who would like to share their point to ponder or call to action from last week?

Have the students think about their future for a couple minutes.

- Maybe they are planning on going to college and/or choosing a certain career.
- Maybe they want to join the military.

Now have them write down what they are doing now to prepare for that future.

- They are trying to get good grades in school, so they can get into college.
- They are doing extracurricular activities to help them learn certain skills they think will be useful.

SET THE STAGE (1 minute)

Facilitator Notes:

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

I wonder...

- What are we preparing for?
- What are my social and civic responsibilities?

LESSON (up to 25 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

Student Question #1 What are we preparing for?

Ask the students: Why do you go to church? Why do you try to follow Jesus' teachings and live a good life?

- Encourage your students to be honest.
- Take note if any of the students provide a future-oriented answer.

Tell the students: Part of why we go to church and live a good life is because we love Jesus and this is how we can express that love. Also, God wants us to be in fellowship with other believers, and we want what He wants. Another reason why we do these things is because of the future. We're preparing for Jesus' return and a future when we live eternally with God.

- The Articles of Faith can be found on page 251 of the Catechism Q&A book.
- If the students are interested in learning more about the future events that are listed in the 9th Article of Faith, they can read Catechism Q&A questions 557-581 on their own time.
- Additional information about eschatology (the doctrine of future things), will be covered in greater detail in the upcoming "Embrace the promise of Christ's return" semester of the Youth THRIVE Small Group curriculum.
- For an additional talking point, consider having a student read "Flashpoint: Authority" on page 1188 of the IGNITE Bible.
- On the topic of obedience/submission, consider referencing and/or reminding the students about the I3 lesson from the "Invest in your spiritual health" semester.

Read Catechism Q&A question 550 together as a group.

Tell the students: Let's also read together our 9th Article of Faith.

- I believe that the Lord Jesus will return as surely as He ascended into heaven and that He will take to Himself the firstfruits of the dead and living who have hoped for and were prepared for His coming; that after the marriage in heaven He will return to earth with them to establish His kingdom of peace, and that they will reign with Him as a royal priesthood. After the conclusion of the kingdom of peace, He will hold the Last Judgement. Then God will create a new heaven and a new earth and dwell with His people.

Student Question #2 So we know that we are preparing for Jesus' return, it is what we're looking forward to, but what does this really mean?

- Let's watch [For Your Journey, Episode 13 | What Does Scripture Say About The End Times?](#) to learn a little more about this.
- After watching the For Your Journey episode, ask the students: Why is it important to prepare for our future with God?

Student Question #3 What are my social and civic responsibilities?

Tell the students: We have been given commands by God as part of our preparation for Jesus' return to help us live a godly life. In addition to these commands are many helpful instructions, or pieces of advice, that aid us in living the way God wants us to. We can read one of these instructions in Romans 13:1-7.

- Read the 10th Article of Faith together
 - To help understand the scope of the 10th Article of Faith, consider reading, or take turns reading, Catechism section 2.4.10 verbatim from the full Catechism book/mobile app.
- It is common for people to justify breaking a law or rule because "it won't hurt anyone" or "everyone else is doing it and they don't get in trouble". God expects us to follow the laws and rules, **provided no godly laws are thereby transgressed.**
- Even if we think the law/rule is inconvenient, or not a 'big deal', like going a few miles per hour over the speed limit, it is still a violation of a law.
 - Consider observing the laws/rules, again **provided that no godly laws are thereby transgressed**, as an exercise in the spiritual discipline of obedience.

Tell the students: Not only are we told to follow the laws of our time, but more is asked of us.

- Read Catechism Q&A questions 745 and 746.

Student Question #4 How can you contribute to the benefit of society and help promote the common good?

Tell the students: Just because you aren't an adult yet doesn't mean that you can't help society. In light of this, let's brainstorm some ideas of how you/we can do this, whether individually or as a youth group.

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

Facilitator Notes:

Wrap up the lesson with why our actions today help prepare us for the future.

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 surrendered themselves to the triune God in obedience.

I wonder...

- What are we preparing for?
- What are my social and civic responsibilities?

I believe...

- We are preparing for the return of Christ with the goal of being accepted by Him when He returns. (Catechism Q&A question 550)
- I am obligated to contribute to the benefit of society and to obey the laws provided no godly laws are violated. (Catechism Q&A question 745, 750)

Point to Ponder....

- Jesus says to His disciples: *Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And where I go you know, and the way you know (John 14:1-4).* What do these verses mean to you? How do they give you strength and hope?

A Call to Action....

- In this lesson, we talked a lot about our actions today in connection with preparing for the future. It may be overwhelming to you to think about all the things you should or can do in order to prepare for your future with God. Write a prayer to God asking for His help, patience, and the Spirit's guidance in your preparation.
- Learn the 9th Article of Faith.

Weekly Reflections

What Bible verse was used for the basis of last Sunday's sermon?

What were some of the main takeaways? What did you learn?

So far this week, how have you applied what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

Going forward, how will you apply what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

Point to Ponder...

Call to Action...

Value the Church: *Preparation and Responsibility*

I wonder... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What are we preparing for? ➤ What are my social and civic responsibilities? 	I believe... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ We are preparing for the return of Christ with the goal of being accepted by Him when He returns. (Q&A question 550) ➤ I am obligated to contribute to the benefit of society and to obey the laws provided no godly laws are violated. (Q&A question 745, 750)
References: John 14:1-4, Romans 13:1-7, Catechism Q&A questions: 550, 745-748, 750, Catechism 2.4.10, 9 th and 10 th Articles of Faith	

1. What are we preparing for?

2. So we know that we are preparing for Jesus' return, it is what we're looking forward to, but what does this really mean?

3. What are my social and civic responsibilities?

4. How can you contribute to the benefit of society and help promote the common good?

Point to Ponder: Jesus says to His disciples: *Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And where I go you know, and the way you know* (John 14:1-4). What do these verses mean to you? How do they give you strength and hope?

Call to Action: In this lesson, we talked a lot about our actions today in connection with preparing for the future. It may be overwhelming to you to think about all the things you should or can do in order to prepare for your future with God. Write a prayer to God asking for His help, patience, and the Spirit's guidance in your preparation. Learn the 9th Article of Faith.

Value the Church: *Confirmation*

LESSON AT A GLANCE

Facilitator Notes:

I wonder...

- What is confirmation?
- What am I vowing to?
- Why is a confirmation blessing important?

I believe...

- I am taking on the responsibility that my parents/guardians took on at my baptism and sealing. (Q&A question 663)
- I am vowing to renounce Satan and to be faithful to God. (Q&A question 667)
- The blessing strengthens me in my effort to keep my vow and to profess Jesus in word and deed. (Q&A question 666)

Materials:

- IGNITE Bible
- Catechism Q&A
- Nametag for each student (see handout)
- Safety pin for each student
- ["Confirmation" video](#) from NAC USA YouTube channel

References:

- Bible: Galatians 5:22-23
- Catechism Q&A questions: 472, 660-667, 675

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

This week we will be discussing confirmation. For those who have been confirmed, what was it like? For those who will be confirmed in the future, what are you hoping it will be like? 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.
- Consider including the ["Confirmation" video](#) link in the post-discussion email and encourage families to watch it together

Dear Parents,
 This week the "I Wonder..." questions were about confirmation – what it is, what vow we make at our confirmation, and why it is important. Talk with your student about your confirmation day. How did you celebrate it? What was it like? How has the blessing you received on that day strengthened and helped you remain faithful to God? 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.
- The text of the Confirmation vow is included in Catechism Q&A question 667.

- 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 take a nametag. Next, ask them to choose a phrase from the confirmation vow that sticks out to them.

- "I renounce Satan and all his work and ways, and surrender myself to You, O triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in belief, obedience, and the earnest resolution to remain faithful to You until my end. Amen."

Once they have chosen their phrase, tell them to write it as a promise on their nametag. For example,

- I promise to renounce Satan.
- I promise to surrender myself to God.
- I promise to be obedient to God.
- I promise to remain faithful to God until my end.

Tell the students: When we make promises, especially ones that we make to God, we want to take them seriously. Our actions and words should reflect the promises that we make because our promises define who we are, as much as our names define who we are.

Have the students pin their nametags to their shirt for the rest of the day.

SET THE STAGE (1 minute)

Facilitator Notes:

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

I wonder...

- What is confirmation?
- What am I vowing to?
- Why is a confirmation blessing important?

LESSON (up to 25 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- If you, as the facilitator, have been confirmed in the New Apostolic Church, consider bringing a picture from your Confirmation to share with the students.

Student Question #1 What is confirmation?

Read Catechism Q&A question 663 together.

Ask the students: Was there anything we read that you didn't know?

- If the students indicate something they didn't know previously (i.e. that making the confirmation vow also means they publicly profess the New Apostolic faith), make sure they understood it before moving on.

Tell the students: Through the baptism with water and Holy Spirit, each of us became a child of God, even if we don't remember our baptism or sealing. The promise to surrender ourselves to God in faith is linked to receiving these sacraments. Your parents/guardians promised to raise you as a Christian and guide you in your faith, so that on your confirmation day, you could take responsibility for your faith and make this confirmation vow to God. Confirmation isn't a "graduation" or just a celebration with a party; rather, it is a commitment to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

It is important to distinguish between an act of blessing and a sacrament.

- The sacraments are dispensed in the divine service, after the forgiveness of sins and the Eucharistic prayer. The acts of blessing generally take place after the celebration of Holy Communion. Since Confirmation has a direct relationship with the sacraments of Holy Baptism with water and Holy Sealing, this act of blessing is performed before the celebration of Holy Communion. (Catechism Q&A question 675)

Student Question #2 Why is it necessary/important for you to take responsibility for your faith?

- Some possible answers are:
 - It shows God that I believe in Him and want to follow Jesus.
 - It's proof to myself and others that I am serious about my faith.
 - My parents cannot always be responsible for me, especially as I become an adult.
- In answering this question, hopefully the students start to realize the significance of their confirmation, and come to look forward to it (if they have not already been confirmed) as they mature in their faith.

Student Question #3 What am I vowing to?

Tell the students: Let's read the confirmation vow again and list what we are promising to believe and do when we make that vow.

- "I renounce Satan and all his work and ways, and surrender myself to You, O triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in belief, obedience, and the earnest resolution to remain faithful to You until my end. Amen." (Catechism Q&A question 667)

- **Galatians 5:22-23:** *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.*

- Make sure the students' answers include the following points. If they don't say them, make sure to summarize with these points:
 - I vow to renounce Satan and strive to do no evil.
 - I vow to completely entrust myself to God.
 - I vow to believe in the Trinity.
 - I vow to obey God's word/commands.
 - I vow to live according to His will and put it above my own.

Taking responsibility for your faith and subsequent actions can be intimidating. When making a vow, whether a marriage vow or Confirmation vow, it isn't a vow indicating that you know it all. Rather, it is a vow indicating that you are committing to the life-long process and journey of growth and development. In a marriage, it is a vow to grow and develop with someone else and to love them along the way (in the good and the bad). Similarly in Confirmation, you are making a vow to renounce Satan and surrender yourself to God and that you will continue to pursue an ongoing and deepening relationship with God throughout your life.

Consider the act of making a vow like the image of a starting line rather than a finish line of a race.

Student Question #4 Why is a confirmation blessing important?

Tell the students: At confirmation, we receive a blessing on our vow. When God grants this blessing, it means He offers us His help, grace, and compassion in upholding our vow (ref. Catechism Q&A question 661). This blessing is different from a sacrament in that sacraments are acts of God's grace through which we can attain salvation (ref. Catechism Q&A question 472).

Ask the students: With God's help in keeping your vow to Him, what qualities or values do you think will flourish inside of you as a result of the confirmation blessing?

- Some possible answers are:
 - Peace – this will help you to remain calm during times of difficulty you are likely to face in the future.
 - Love – this will help you to love your neighbor as yourself, which is one of Jesus' commands.
 - Joy – this will help you to continue living out your vow.
 - Wisdom – this will help you recognize and accept God's will in all situations, and respond appropriately.
 - Faith – this will help you to always turn to God and understand Him as the almighty and all-powerful God who created you.
- If the students have trouble answering, have them read Galatians 5:22-23 for inspiration.

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

Facilitator Notes:

Wrap up the lesson with what their confirmation day means to them.

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

- Ask a student to read an "I Wonder..." question, and invite another student to answer with an "I Believe..." statement or an "I Believe..." statement in their own words.
- As you review each question and answer, stop and check in with the group to be sure there are no misunderstandings or misconceptions.
- Remind the students that on their confirmation day, they will make or have already made a vow to God that they have promised to keep for the rest of their lives.
- If there is time, consider showing the brief ["Confirmation" video](#) from the NAC USA YouTube channel.

I wonder...

- What is confirmation?
- What am I vowing to?
- Why is a confirmation blessing important?

I believe...

- I am taking on the responsibility that my parents/guardians took on at my baptism and sealing. (Catechism Q&A question 663)
- I am vowing to renounce Satan and to be faithful to God. (Catechism Q&A question 667)
- The blessing strengthens me in my effort to keep my vow and to profess Jesus in word and deed. (Catechism Q&A question 666)

Point to Ponder...

- A vow taken before God has greater significance than any other promise we will ever make. This vow may never be questioned, we often think about it, we endeavor to keep it, and we live our life in accordance with it. The resolution to remain faithful to God until our end needs to be deeply rooted in our hearts.

A Call to Action....

Speak with three members in the congregation about their confirmation and what it meant to them. Ask them how the blessing they received from God on their confirmation has helped them in their life to remain faithful to Him.

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...

Value the Church: *Confirmation*

I wonder... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What is confirmation? ➤ What am I vowing to? ➤ Why is a confirmation blessing important? 	I believe... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ I am taking on the responsibility that my parents/guardians took on at my baptism and sealing. (Catechism Q&A question 663) ➤ I am vowing to renounce Satan and to be faithful to God. (Catechism Q&A question 667) ➤ The blessing strengthens me in my effort to keep my vow and to profess Jesus in word and deed. (Catechism Q&A question 666)
References: Galatians 5:22-23, Catechism Q&A question: 472, 661, 663, 675	

1. What is confirmation?

2. Why is it necessary/important for you to take responsibility for your faith?

3. What am I vowing to?

4. Why is a confirmation blessing important?

Point to Ponder: A vow taken before God has greater significance than any other promise we will ever make. This vow may never be questioned, we often think about it, we endeavor to keep it, and we live our life in accordance with it. The resolution to remain faithful to God until our end needs to be deeply rooted in our hearts.

Call to Action: Speak with three members in the congregation about their confirmation and what it meant to them. Ask them how the blessing they received from God on their confirmation has helped them in their life to remain faithful to Him.

Hello, my name is...

Hello, my name is...

Hello, my name is...

Hello, my name is...

Hello, my name is...

Hello, my name is...

Value the church: *Stewardship*

LESSON AT A GLANCE

Facilitator Notes:

Keep in mind, as you discuss and teach today's lesson: All that we have is from God and belongs to Him. He has trusted us to steward it all properly for His purpose.

I wonder...

- What am I a steward of?
- How do I become a responsible steward?

I believe...

- I am a steward of all God has given me.
- By becoming increasingly aware that what God has given me is intended to accomplish His purpose.

Materials:

- IGNITE Bible
- Chart paper or whiteboard

References:

- Bible: Psalm 24:1; Matthew 25:14-30; 1 Peter 4:10-11

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

Do you know that you've been entrusted by God with His possessions? How do you properly care for all that is His? This week we will be talking stewardship. 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.
- Consider including the link to [Episode 35 of For Your Journey | Stewardship of time](#) and encourage families to watch and discuss the episode together.

Dear Parents,

This week the "I wonder..." questions are about stewardship and recognizing how to properly steward all that God has given. This week consider having a discussion with your student about stewardship and list everything that you have received from Him as a family. As always, if you have any question about the topic, feel free to contact us.

Your Youth Leaders

SUNDAY SERMON REFLECTIONS (up to 10 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week.

- What Bible verse was used for the basis of last Sunday's sermon?
- What were some of the main takeaways? What did you learn?
- So far this week, how have you applied what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?
- Going forward, how will you apply what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

HOOK (up to 10 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week.

- How are you and how are you feeling today?
- Who would like to share their point to ponder or call to action from last week?
- Ask the students: Who do you know that you would consider to be a 'responsible' person? Why do you consider them responsible?

SET THE STAGE (1 minute)

Facilitator Notes:

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

I wonder...

- What am I a steward of?
- How do I become a responsible steward?

LESSON (up to 25 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- Consider writing the student's answers on a whiteboard, and supplement or summarize with the bullet points.
- Consider reading "**Flashpoint: Kindness**" on page 1001 of the IGNITE Bible for a call to steward opportunities.
- For more information on stewarding time, consider watching [Episode 35 of For Your Journey | Stewardship of time.](#)

Student Question #1 – Who is a steward?

- A steward is an old English term describing a person responsible for managing the property of another.
- Simply put, a steward is someone who manages the possession of another with the highest level of trust.
- Stewardship begins with the knowledge that God has called us to follow a unique path of service and love to Him and to others, according to the teachings of Jesus Christ.
- Stewardship is the care and management of that which belongs to another.
- He has given us many gifts to equip us on our paths.

Student Question #2 – What has God given to us?

- God has gifted us with everything that we have. While He has put it into our care, everything we have is His. (Psalm 24:1 – The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to him.)
- God has given us the gift of our physical existence; our time; the grace of Jesus; the presence of the Holy Spirit; our unique spiritual giftedness; our relationships (parents, siblings, family, friends, time); our wealth or material possessions.

- Remind students that a parable is not an actual account, but an illustration or story using real-world examples in order to teach a point.
- The following VISION Newsletter editions have articles on stewardship, if you are looking for more context/information or if you'd like to assign follow up reading to the students. An archive of VISION Newsletters is available at <https://ndi.nac-usa.org/en/resources/read/vision-newsletter> and in the [NAC USA mobile app](#).
 - Autumn 2012
 - Winter 2015
 - Autumn 2015
 - Spring 2016

- These things really belong to Him, not to us. As children of God and disciples of Jesus, we are stewards of all these things.

Student Question #3 – Why does God provide us with and put us in charge of all these things?

- God has given us all that we have in order for us to glorify Him and to serve His purpose.
- We begin to recognize that all we have is God's and that we are to use what He has given for His purpose when we understand the Gospel and recognize how faith in Jesus Christ not only changes our relationship with God, but it also changes our relationship with everything else.
- We know that we are living and stewarding according to His purpose when our lives are fruitful.

Read together the parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14-30

Ask the students some questions like:

- Have you heard this story before?
- What are the lessons to be learned from the story?
- Which was the good steward?

Student Question #4 – How do I become a responsible steward?

- Each servant received something different "to each according to his own ability" from his "lord." We see here that not everyone receives the same gifts.
- The lord of the parable then leaves these servants to care for his talents "in trust" during his absence.
- But each one is expected to give an accounting for their use of the lord's talent. He expected them to be good stewards over His gifts.
- It was not acceptable to ignore the talent or to plead ignorance as to what to do with it.
- Work of developing the discipline of stewardship by asking God to help you use what He has provided you with as you become bombarded with requests.
- Recognize and use your spiritual gifts to help your congregation and to share the gospel in your community.
- Share with a purpose – To make Jesus known and glorify God.

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

Facilitator Notes:

- **1 Peter 4:10-11:** God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen.

Wrap up the lesson with this question: Do you recognize that everything you have today and everything you'll have in the future belongs to God and has been given to you for His glory? Are you being a good steward?

- Read 1 Peter 4:10-11 together.

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 am I a steward of?
- How do I become a responsible steward?

I believe...

- I am a steward of all God has given me.
- By becoming increasingly aware that what God has given me is intended to accomplish His purpose.

Point to Ponder...

- What has God given you to be a steward of?

A Call to Action...

- Pick one of the items you've listed from the 'Point to Ponder' and make a plan of how to be a better steward of that item/relationship over the next 6 months. What is the next level of responsibility for that area of your life?

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...

Value the church: *Stewardship*

I wonder... <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ What am I a steward of?➤ How do I become a responsible steward?	I believe... <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ I am a steward of all God has given me.➤ By becoming increasingly aware that what God has given me is intended to accomplish His purpose.
References: Psalm 24:1; Matthew 25:14-30; 1 Peter 4:10-11	

1. Who is a steward?

2. What has God given to us?

3. Why does God provide us with and put us in charge of all these things?

4. How do I become a responsible steward?

Point to Ponder: What has God given you to be a steward of?

Call to Action: Pick one of the items you've listed from the 'Point to Ponder' and make a plan of how to be a better steward of that item/relationship over the next 6 months. What is the next level of responsibility for that area of your life?

Value the Church: *Sacrifice*

LESSON AT A GLANCE

Facilitator Notes:

- Keep in mind, as you discuss and teach today's lesson: we don't sacrifice to earn God's favor, but in response to what He's already done for us.

I wonder...

- What was the significance of sacrifice in the old covenant?
- What was the significance of sacrifice in the new covenant?
- How should a Christian view sacrifice?

I believe...

- Through their sacrifices, the people in the old covenant sought to express gratitude, turn away the punishment of God, and/or bring about reconciliation. (Catechism Q&A question 732)
- In the sense of the New Testament, sacrifice implies leading a life in accordance with the gospel. (Catechism Q&A question 733)
- A sacrifice in the Christian sense should not be considered an enforced obligation. Neither should it be made in expectation or reward. Rather, the willingness to sacrifice should spring forth from faith, gratitude, and love for God. (Catechism Q&A question 735)

Materials:

- IGNITE Bible
- Chart paper or whiteboard
- *Giving is...Intro video* - https://youtu.be/_-QiXKSFKoY
- Catechism Q&A

References:

- Bible: Genesis 14:18-20, 28:20-22, Leviticus 23:35-41, Malachi 3:9-10, Matthew 10:8, Luke 3:11, 6:30, 38, 11:42, Acts 20:35, Hebrews 11:4
- Catechism section 13
- Catechism Q&A 729-738

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

Do you hold tight to all that you have; or do you willingly share with others? Giving is a part of who we are as Christians. This week we will start talking about Christian giving. Join us tomorrow for small group at _____.

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 referenced in the discussion to help promote conversations between the students and parents at home.

Dear Parents,
 This week the "I wonder..." questions are about giving. What do we know about giving from the Old Testament? What is taught in the New Testament? How does the New Apostolic Church view giving? Giving is a part of who we are as followers of Jesus and it's important for us to understand why. As always, if you have any question about the topic, feel free to contact us.
 Your Youth Leaders

SUNDAY SERMON REFLECTIONS (up to 10 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week.

- What Bible verse was used for the basis of last Sunday's sermon?
- What were some of the main takeaways? What did you learn?
- So far this week, how have you applied what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?
- Going forward, how will you apply what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

HOOK (up to 10 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week.
- Giving Is...Intro video:
<https://youtu.be/-QixKSFKoY>
- **Acts 20:35:** *And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."*

- 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?
- Play the Giving Is...Intro video.
- Ask the students what stuck out from the video? A certain phrase or image?
- Ask the students – What is giving?
- Ask the students to read Acts 20:35. Have they heard this verse before?

SET THE STAGE (1 minute)

Facilitator Notes:

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

I wonder...

- What was the significance of sacrifice in the old covenant?
- What was the significance of sacrifice in the new covenant?
- How should a Christian view sacrifice?

LESSON (up to 25 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- If time permits, read together Malachi 3:9-10 and discuss how it should be viewed with a New Testament perspective.

- Bible verses to reference:
 Luke 6:30; Matthew 10:8;
 Luke 6:38; Luke 3:11

Student Question #1 – What was the significance of sacrifice in the old covenant?

- The offerings of Cain and Abel. Both brought an offering to the Lord from the fruits of their work. God accepted Abel's offering but not Cain's because Abel offered out of faith, as referred to in Hebrews 11:4.
- Sacrifices – We find references to sacrifices offered to God by individuals expressing their thankfulness and seeking God's good pleasure or blessing. These sacrifices often took the form of burnt offerings on an altar made of stones. (Refer to CNAC section 13.2.1 – From Old Testament sacrificial service to devoting one's life to God)
- Tithing – Tithing literally means "a tenth." (See Genesis 14:18-20; Genesis 28:20-22). In the Mosaic law, giving was required and was based upon the concept of the tithe. The Israelites were expected to tithe at various times for specific purposes (priestly service, festival tithe, for the poor and needy).
- The people of Israel were instructed to remember and celebrate what God had done for them by setting aside days to rest, worship, and participate in annual days and weeks of festivals. As God had been generous with them, they were to be generous in their giving, in reflection of their feelings toward their God laid out in part of the description of the Feast of the Tabernacles in Leviticus 23:35-41).

Student Question #2 – What was the significance of sacrifice in the new covenant?

- Jesus introduced a different path. He was and is the solution path that reconciles mankind with God and fulfills the requirements of the law.
- Jesus points out to the Pharisees in the conversation recorded for us in Luke 11:42, that performing an outward gesture lacks meaning and genuineness when the inward motivation isn't right. The Pharisees were acting according to the strictest interpretation of the law, but were neglecting two basic things that the prophets had warned about: justice and love.
- Jesus' teaching is so open-ended and limitless, much like the generosity of God in giving us grace for our sins and life eternal through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. But in removing the limits of the law, we find ourselves in a sometimes uncomfortable place governed not by a finite formula, but by self responsibility.
- Our giving is defined by our personal decision to live as Christians. This is Christian giving.
- Jesus gave beyond the law: He gave everything, including His life, because He loved God and thereby became the embodiment of God's love towards us. It was what God wanted and what we needed.
- We can see from Jesus' words and stories that giving and serving is an essential part of life because of the needs that exist amongst mankind. The human condition will always necessitate a need for those willing to give and serve. Jesus teaches His followers to be ready to take action when they recognize someone in need.

- For more information and context on The willingness to offer and sacrifice, read Catechism section 13.

It is important to note, when talking about sacrifice, Jesus Christ is the greatest example of willingness to sacrifice. Out of love for mankind, He gave His life as an offering and a sacrifice.

Even though no other sacrifice can be compared to the sacrifice of the Lord, His willingness to sacrifice is nevertheless an example that calls upon us to follow Him. (Catechism Q&A question 734)

Student Question #3 How should a Christian view sacrifice?

- Offering and sacrifices bring to expression worship, gratitude, devotion, and submission to God.
- No other sacrifice can be compared with the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Nevertheless, Jesus' willingness to sacrifice is an example that calls believers to follow Him.
- Willingness to sacrifice springs forth from love.
- Believers also express their gratitude and love for God and His work in concrete gifts, be it in monetary form or in the form of natural produce.
- The willingness to offer and sacrifice is also expressed in congregational life when brethren in faith dedicate a substantial amount of their leisure time, energy, and talents into the service of God and the congregation without compensation.
- The blessing associated with offering can indeed be experienced in earthly matters, but it is primarily of a spiritual nature.

Student Question #4 – What comes to your mind when “Christian giving” is mentioned?

- Giving allows us to give expression to our passions, interests, and feelings by offering ourselves and our resources to help advance them.
- As Christians, giving is an integral part of our faith and a vital part of our profession to the world that we are followers of Jesus.
- As believers grow spirituality and mature in their faith, they gain the understanding that all they have is given by God and belongs to Him. With the guidance and inspiration of the Holy Spirit, believers learn to trust in God and recognize how they can use what they have been given to give generously to others to help all people come to know Jesus and fulfill the Great Commission

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

Facilitator Notes:

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

Wrap up the lesson with this question: **Why is the willingness to give an important characteristic for Christians to have? What is the purpose for your giving?**

- If time permits, consider watching one/both of these For Your Journey episodes:
 - [Episode 60 | Sacrifice](#)
 - [Episode 66 | Humanitarian giving vs. Christian giving](#)

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 was the significance of sacrifice in the old covenant?
- What was the significance of sacrifice in the new covenant?
- How should a Christian view sacrifice?

I believe...

- Through their sacrifices, the people in the old covenant sought to express gratitude, turn away the punishment of God, and/or bring about reconciliation. (Catechism Q&A question 732)
- In the sense of the New Testament, sacrifice implies leading a life in accordance with the gospel. (Catechism Q&A question 733)
- A sacrifice in the Christian sense should not be considered an enforced obligation. Neither should it be made in expectation or reward. Rather, the willingness to sacrifice should spring forth from faith, gratitude, and love for God. (Catechism Q&A question 735)

Point to Ponder...

- Jesus exemplified a life of giving out of love for God and compassion for the needs of others. He gave beyond the law. He gave what was needed, even His life.

A Call to Action...

- Answer in your notebook: how have your understandings of 'sacrifice' and 'giving' evolved since you were 5 years old, 10 years old?

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...

Value the Church: *Sacrifice*

<p>I wonder...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What was the significance of sacrifice in the old covenant? ➤ What was the significance of sacrifice in the new covenant? ➤ How should a Christian view sacrifice? 	<p>I believe...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Through their sacrifices, the people in the old covenant sought to express gratitude, turn away the punishment of God, and/or bring about reconciliation. (Catechism Q&A question 732) ➤ In the sense of the New Testament, sacrifice implies leading a life in accordance with the gospel. (Catechism Q&A question 733) ➤ A sacrifice in the Christian sense should not be considered an enforced obligation. Neither should it be made in expectation or reward. Rather, the willingness to sacrifice should spring forth from faith, gratitude, and love for God. (Catechism Q&A question 735)
<p>References: Genesis 14:18-20, 28:20-22, Leviticus 23:35-41, Malachi 3:9-10, Matthew 10:8, Luke 3:11, 6:30,38, 11:42, Acts 20:35, Hebrews 11:4; Catechism Q&A questions 729-738; Catechism section 13.</p>	

1. What was the significance of sacrifice in the old covenant?

2. What was the significance of sacrifice in the new covenant?

3. How should a Christian view sacrifice?

4. What comes to your mind when "Christian giving" is mentioned?

Point to Ponder: Jesus exemplified a life of giving out of love for God and compassion for the needs of others. He gave beyond the law. He gave what was needed, even His life.

Call to Action: Answer in your notebook: how have your understandings of 'sacrifice' and 'giving' evolved since you were 5 years old, 10 years old?

Value the Church: *Giving is...*

LESSON AT A GLANCE

Facilitator Notes:

I wonder...

- What are some characteristics of giving?

I believe...

- Giving is love, faith, joy, mission, sacrifice, secret, and worship.

Materials:

- IGNITE Bible

References:

- Bible: Matthew 6:1-4, Matthew 22:37-39, Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 12:41-44, John 4:23, John 13:34, 2 Corinthians 8:9
- "Giving is..." resources – <https://ndi.nac-usa.org/en/resources/giving>

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

This week we will continue our discussion on giving and look at some of the characteristics of giving. Join us tomorrow for small group at _____.

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

Facilitator Notes:

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

Dear Parents,
 This week the "I Wonder..." question was about various characteristics of giving: giving is love, faith, joy, mission, sacrifice, secret, and worship. Take time this week to talk with your student about giving. Perhaps your understanding of giving has developed as you have matured as a Christian. When you reflect on giving, what do you think about it? How do you give in your own life? You can also review the "Giving is..." articles that have been published in the VISION Newsletters so far (Autumn 2017, Spring 2018, Autumn 2018, Summer 2019). As always, if you have questions about the topic, please feel free to contact us.

Your Youth Leaders

SUNDAY SERMON REFLECTIONS (up to 10 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week.

- What Bible verse was used for the basis of last Sunday's sermon?
- What were some of the main takeaways? What did you learn?
- So far this week, how have you applied what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?
- Going forward, how will you apply what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

HOOK (up to 10 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week.

- How are you and how are you feeling today?
- Who would like to share their point to ponder or call to action from last week?

Ask the students to reflect individually and make a list of what they have given to others in the last month.

- This could include energy or time they've spent doing an activity or project that helps others (whether for school, charity, a family member, etc.), or material goods that they're donated (clothes to Goodwill, food items to a food pantry, etc.)

After they're thought about this for a few minutes, have them look at their lists and identify what motivated them to do or give these things. Talk about these different motivators aloud with the group.

SET THE STAGE (1 minute)

Facilitator Notes:

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

I wonder...

- What are some characteristics of giving?

LESSON (up to 25 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- [Click here for the Giving is...introduction video](#)
- Clarify with the students that there may be more characteristics of giving (i.e. obedience, etc.), but these are the ones that the lesson will focus on.

What are some characteristics of giving?

Tell the students: As Christians, giving is an integral part of our faith and a vital part of our profession to the world that we are followers of Jesus.

Ask the students: Different motivations for giving can also give us insight as to some characteristics of giving. Based on the hook activity and what motivated you to give, what do you think are some characteristics of giving?

After a few minutes of discussion, tell the students: Today, we'll focus on the following characteristics of giving – love, faith, joy, mission, sacrifice, secret, and worship.

- Please note that “mite” is a Jewish coin with little value. Make sure the students don’t confuse this coin with the word “might.” The Bible story is not about how strong the widow was or the effort she gave, but rather about the money she gave.

- [Click here for the *Giving is...love* video](#)

- **John 4:23** – *But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.*

Student Question #1 How is giving a sacrifice?

Together, read Mark 12:41-44.

Ask the students: What do you think this story about the widow’s mite says about giving?

- Some possible answers are:
- We should give all that we have to God.
- We shouldn’t be greedy with our money or try to hold onto it.
- Sometimes, in giving, we make sacrifices.

Brainstorm with the students sacrifices that are made for the sake of giving.

- Answers can range from small sacrifices to very big sacrifices, such as sacrificing one’s life.

Student Question #2 How is giving an example of love?

Tell the students: Our desire to give begins and ends with God. It is because God loves us, that He sought us out to have fellowship with Him. It is the love God has shown us that fuels our passion to share with others what we have been given. When we recognize that we are unworthy to receive all that God has given us, we must respond in love towards our God and our neighbors. This love prompts us to give freely from what we’ve been blessed with.

Ask the students: What has God given you that demonstrates His love for you?

- Some possible answers are: my family, my friends, His Son, etc.
- Read Jesus’ commandments in Matthew 22:37-39 and John 13:34.

Ask the students: How does giving fulfill Jesus’ command to love God and our neighbor?

Student Question #3 How is giving a form of worship?

Tell the students: In the last semester, under “Invest in your spiritual health,” we learned the definition of worship. Worship means to ascribe value or worth to something or someone, usually an idol or a deity. For Christians, this means recognizing and expressing who God is and what He is worth to us.

Together, read the “**Flashpoint: Worship**” on page 1096 of the IGNITE Bible.

Ask the students: How is giving a form of worship? How does giving help us to worship in spirit and truth as referenced in John 4:23?

- [Click here for the *Giving is...faith* video](#)
- The widow's mite example in Mark 12 is also an example of faith.
- Giving to the furtherance of the church could include tithes and offerings, along with giving of our time, energy, possessions, passions, talents, etc.
- **Matthew 28:19-20** – *Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*
- [Click here for the *Giving is...joy* video](#)

Student Question #4 How is giving an example of faith?

Together, watch the video, "Giving is Faith."

After watching the video, ask the students: How is giving an example of faith?

- Some possible answers are:
- We have faith that God will use our giving to make a difference in others' lives.
- We have faith that our giving will leave us with enough for our own well-being.
- Giving shows that we are faithful to God through our serving

Student Question #5 How does giving contribute to the mission of Christ?

Tell the students: As part of the family of God, we are on a mission. It was given to us by Jesus Christ through the apostles. And when we choose to follow and give to the furtherance of the church, then we are choosing to give to the mission of the church. Jesus' mission when He came to the earth was to rescue humankind from their sin and re-establish their relationship with God, the Father. Before ascending back to His Father, Jesus placed His mission into the hands of His Apostles, which we can read together in Matthew 28:19-20

Ask the students: How can you specifically give to contribute to the mission of Christ?

- Some possible answers are:
- I can talk with other people about Jesus.
- I can make offerings, which helps the church to teach people about Jesus and make disciples.
- I can serve others so that they see and feel the love of Jesus.

Student Question #6 How does giving bring joy?

Tell the students: Think back to a moment when you gave someone a Christmas present. Choose a moment when you were excited to give this person a gift because you chose it specifically for them, rather than just getting them a gift because it was the nice thing to do.

Ask the students: What did it feel like to give this person their gift?

- Some possible answers are:
- They were excited to give the gift.
- They were joyful because of the person's response.
- They felt happy that they could give something nice to this person.

Ask the students: How did the person receiving the gift react?

- Ideally, they would answer that the person was happy that they received this gift.

Tell the students: Now imagine being able to give to something (a charity, church, etc.) or someone, and it truly helps them! Maybe your gift helps them to have food the next day. Maybe it helps them to come to know Jesus. Maybe it helps a charity that is serving people in your community or in a community in a different country. When we give out of our own joy, because we know and are thankful that God has given us so much, our giving has the ability to cause joy in others.

	<p><u>Student Question #7 Why should I give secretly?</u></p> <p>Together, read Matthew 6:1-4.</p> <p>Ask the students: Why do you think Jesus teaches His disciples, and us, that we should give in secret?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some possible answers are: • We don't want to give just so others can see how great we are. • If other people know what we give and think highly of us for it, we might lost our humility. • We want to glorify God in our giving, and only He needs to know what we give. • We find joy knowing that we have given in order to serve God and others.
WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME? (up to 10 minutes)	
<p>Facilitator Notes:</p>	<p>Wrap up the lesson with why giving is important.</p> <p>Close with the "I Wonder...." questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ask a student to read an "I Wonder..." question, and invite another student to answer with an "I Believe..." statement or an "I Believe..." statement in their own words. ➤ As you review each question and answer, stop and check in with the group to be sure there are no misunderstandings or misconceptions. ➤ Remind the students that on their Confirmation day, they will or have already vowed to surrender themselves to the triune God and be obedient to Him. <p>I wonder...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are some characteristics of giving? <p>I believe...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Giving is love, faith, joy, mission, sacrifice, secret, and worship. <p>Point to Ponder....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The concept of Christian giving is integrated within the broader concept of discipleship. Christian giving is more than money: it is our offering of time, spiritual giftedness, and financial support. <p>A Call to Action....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Read "Flashpoint: Money" on page 1024 of the IGNITE Bible with a parent or someone else in your family.

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...

Value the Church: *Giving is...*

I wonder... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are some characteristics of giving? 	I believe... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Giving is love, faith, joy, mission, sacrifice, secret, and worship.
References: Matthew 6:1-4, Matthew 22:37-39, Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 12:41-44, John 4:23, John 13:34, 2 Corinthians 8:9	

1. How is giving a sacrifice?

2. How is giving an example of love?

3. How is giving an example of worship?

4. How is giving an example of faith?

5. How does giving contribute to the mission of Christ?

6. How does giving bring joy?

7. Why should I give secretly?

Point to Ponder: The concept of Christian giving is integrated within the broader concept of discipleship. Christian giving is more than money: it is our offering of time, spiritual giftedness, and financial support.

Call to Action: Read "**Flashpoint: Money**" on page 1024 of the IGNITE Bible with a parent or someone else in your family.

Value the Church: *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. The scheduled time for this discussion can also be used to discuss how the students can implement and engage in spiritual disciplines in their families, congregations, and communities in an ongoing basis.

When to use each type of lesson:

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

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

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

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

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It would be helpful to give any guest speakers the facilitator guides from previous topics so that they know what has been discussed. • Because of safety for minors, any For Your Journey episodes that are made should not be posted online nor shared privately without the student's and parent's consent. 	<p>Re-teaching Lesson: when students do not understand or have misconceptions about the topic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Choose 1 or both of the following activities depending on the needs of the group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • True or False...Have the students pick a topic from the semester. Make 5-7 true or false statements about the topic. Distribute notecards and have the students write "True" on one card and "False" on a different card. Then ask students to hold up either the True or False cards for each statement you make (have students face the cards to the outside of the circle). The facilitator should walk around the circle, review the answers, and choose students with the correct answer to explain their answer to the group. • Be Our Guest...Invite a minister to share his explanation about the topic and have him revisit the questions from the student lesson copy (from the corresponding lesson) with the students to ensure students have mastered the topic. <p>Application Lesson: when students have a good understanding of the topic and/ or great interest and excitement about the topic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Choose 1 or a combination of the following activities depending on the needs of the group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FYJ....Have the students pair up. Give each pair an "I wonder..." question to discuss. Then have them video tape a 1-2 minute "For Your Journey" episode to later share with the class. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ While the students can be fun and creative, they should still take the exercise seriously. This isn't to be a parody or skit, but rather a genuine exploration of the question(s). • Take Your Show on the Road....Take the students to visit a widow, to a nursing home, to a local restaurant and encourage them to share with others one of the "I believe..." statements and what it means. • Thank you notes... Have the students write thank you notes to people in the congregation as a way to show others that the youth (as a group or individually) value the Church and the community of believers that are able to worship together. • Pass a prayer... Have the students sit at a table. Each one has a paper in front of them and starts writing the first 1-2 lines of a prayer. After a set time (60-90 seconds) the students pass the paper to the next person and they add to the prayer. This continues until the paper goes around the table and returns to person that started it. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The prayer can be to someone in their family or congregation, or a general prayer that the group contributes to. <p>Have students work together to complete the questions on the student lesson copy. If time allows, come back together and let students share their responses.</p>
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MESSAGE TO PARENTS (TO BE SENT VIA EMAIL OR TEXT)

<p>Facilitator Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This message can be customized to include local information. 	<p>Dear Parents,</p> <p>This week is the last discussion of the "V" semester of the THRIVE curriculum. This semester's lessons focused on "Value the Church." It's our hope that, throughout this semester, your student grew in their understanding of 'value' and how our actions demonstrate that we value something.</p> <p>In order to truly value something, it is critical to know and understand what that thing/person/opportunity/etc. adds and offers. In this semester, we explored what the New Apostolic Church offers, including ministries, divine service experiences, and sacraments. Consider sharing with your child how you find value in the world around you, and in the Church.</p> <p>As always, if you have questions about the topic, please feel free to contact us.</p> <p>Your Youth Leaders</p>
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SUNDAY SERMON REFLECTIONS (10 minutes)

<p>Facilitator Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What Bible verse was used for the basis of last Sunday's sermon? ➤ What were some of the main takeaways? What did you learn? ➤ So far this week, how have you applied what you learned from the sermon last Sunday? ➤ Going forward, how will you apply what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?
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WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME? (15 minutes)

<p>Facilitator Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider watching the "Value the Church" video from the THRIVE Small Group curriculum. 	<p>Wrap up the lesson with the "V" message from THRIVE: Value the Church by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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) <p>A Point to Ponder....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What does value come from? What makes something valuable? <p>A Call to Action...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ As a youth group, work with your youth leader(s) to brainstorm a way to value the church by engaging in intentional community with others in the congregation. Consider organizing a prayer evening or some other activity at church or at someone's home to create a time and space to share life together.
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Weekly Reflections

What Bible verse was used for the basis of last Sunday's sermon?

What were some of the main takeaways? What did you learn?

So far this week, how have you applied what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

Going forward, how will you apply what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

Point to Ponder...

Call to Action...

Value the Church: *IGNITE*

How is giving of our time and resources connected to how we value the Church?

What does it mean to be a steward of what God has given us?

Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19. Consider what God has given you. Do you feel that you are rich enough to live your life according to the command in verse 18?

After spending a semester learning and discussing how to Value the Church, how will you approach the divine service experience differently?

A Point to Ponder...

- What does value come from? What makes something valuable?

A Call to Action...

- As a youth group, work with your youth leader(s) to brainstorm a way to value the church by engaging in intentional community with others in the congregation. Consider organizing a prayer evening or some other activity at church or at someone's home to create a time and space to share life together.