

Third Grade: Lesson 6: The Beginning of the Church and its Mission

Lesson Objective:

These outcomes help the children understand what the Church is and why it was founded. This will lay the groundwork for the teachings on the Church and creed in the subsequent lessons. Through the Scriptures, the children can come to understand that the building of the kingdom of God that began with Jesus' earthly ministry now continues in and through the Church through the power of the Holy Spirit. It is important to make this connection so that children understand the context for the sacramental life of the Church.

Learning Outcomes: Students will ...

- Retell the call of the Apostles (Mark 1:16-20; Mark 3:13-19).
- Tell that Peter was appointed the leader of the new Church and was the first pope (Matt 16:13-20; CCC 880-881).
- Describe the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Explain that this is the beginning of the "new age" of the Church when Christ lives and acts in and with His Church (Acts 2:1-11; CCC 1076).
- Identify how evangelization in Acts of the Apostles caused the Church to grow and discuss how evangelization could benefit today's world.

Materials Needed:

- Prayer space items, Bible, crayons, pencils, sticky notes
- Copies Needed: Descent of the Holy Spirit Art Activity, Peter: Leader of the New Church, 12 Disciples Coloring Activity

As Students Enter Class:

- Word Sort Activity: You will need one set for every two children. In anticipation of today's lesson, write the following words on index cards, or print the attachment to this lesson.
- Students are to place the cards in a sequential order they feel makes sense.
- The goal of this activity is to encourage children to start thinking about today's topic, to be able to explain their thinking, and to learn the meaning of religious vocabulary words.

Beginning of Class:

- Invite students around the prayer space to pray the Our Father or other traditional Catholic prayer of your choice.

Lesson Order	Implementation Ideas
Lesson 6 Video	<p>This video is 8:51 in length. This is a video you will want to show your students.</p> <p>It covers the very important and potentially difficult topic of the history of the church and its mission. Who created the world. What is the church? Why was it founded? Etc...</p> <p>The video has very good images to help students understand this topic.</p> <p>Highlights: Creation: There has always been a plan in God's mind to bring creation in fullness of life. Our Earth is 4 billion years old! Genesis 1:1 tells us: In the beginning, God created the Heavens and the Earth. God has always existed and he existed before he created the Earth. God prepared the Earth for humans by creating the sky, sea, land, rocks, minerals, mountains, animals, trees, etc... God built into His great plan a unique role for the work of the human hand guided by love. We are to be thankful and love God because of the beautiful world he created for us. Carla uses an example of algae, which God created for man to use. Through the mind and hands of a scientist, algae was used to help create penicillin, an important antibiotic to help people who are sick.</p> <p>Our hands help us to be guardians of the Earth. As history continues, the time between now and the Parousia, is known as the blank page. Each person writes this page together with God.</p> <p>Creation Redemption Parousia</p> <p>(God is working out a plan of salvation from Creation, through Redemption, to the Parousia. God calls us to participate in this plan. Jesus shows us the way to live together in peace and</p>

	joy. Jesus calls us to abide in Him through the Eucharist and Baptism.)
Jesus and his First Disciples Video	This video is (2:28 in length). Using engaging cartoon-like graphics, it tells the story of when Jesus meets Simon and Andrew and they follow him, along with their friends, James and John. They are the first 4 Disciples.
Lesson 6, Part 2	<p>This video is 7:58 in length. It contains good images to help students understand the topic.</p> <p>Highlights: In Mark: 3:13-19, we are given the names of the 12 Apostles. You can read this verse to your students or play the video. T</p> <p>Then read Matthew 16:13-20 this is Peter's declaration about Jesus when he answers Jesus's question: You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God. Jesus then states, Peter, you are my rock, and upon this foundation, I will build my church. Peter is the first Pope of the Catholic Church.</p> <p>Stop for a Question/Answer: What does Jesus mean when he describes Peter as a rock? Why do you think Jesus told the Apostles not to tell others that he is the Son of God, the Savior?</p> <p>The Apostles stayed with Jesus until his death. They stayed in the room where they had the Last Supper with Jesus, on Holy Thursday. The Apostles were afraid. What if the people who put Jesus to death found out they were followers of Jesus? Would they be put to death as well? But our loving God helped the Apostles by sending the Holy Spirit, on what is called Pentecost. Read Acts 2: The Coming of the Holy Spirit. (Also has nice images). When the Holy Spirit came upon the Apostles, there were able to speak in other languages in order to communicate with all people. They could evangelize – share the good news with everyone that Jesus is our Savior.</p> <p>Read Mark 16:15: Jesus tells the Apostles to go into the word and proclaim the Gospel to all people.</p>

	Lastly, St. Pope John Paul says the Catholic Church exists in order to evangelize. We all have this responsibility. When you receive Confirmation in 8 th grade, it is like your own personal Pentecost! Through your words and deeds (actions) you can share the Good News!
Jesus Founded my Church Video	This Christine in Action video is .54 in length and explains how Jesus is the founder of the Catholic Church.
Activity – Holy Spirit	The Descent of the Holy Spirit – invite students to think about what happened by rereading Acts 2. Ask students to share their thoughts about what they heard. Then give them time to complete this activity. If students are willing, offer a few minutes for those who would like to share what they wrote.
Activity - Peter	Reread Matthew 16:13-20. Ask students to explain how Peter was appointed to be the Leader of the Catholic Church. Follow the same format as above.
Activity – Twelve Disciples	Time permitting, do the Twelve Disciples Coloring Activity. This is also done in second grade, so it's okay if you don't have time.
Closing Activity	Invite students back to your prayer space and ask someone to pick a traditional Catholic prayer to say all together.

Opening Activity: Word Sorting Cards

GOD	REDEMPTION	APOSTLES
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CREATION	ANIMALS and HUMANS	EARTH/SKY/SEA
EVANGELIZE	HOLY SPIRIT	PENTECOST
JESUS	DEATH	RESURRECTION