

Third Grade: Lesson 18

God's Authority Over the World

Lesson Objective:

The secular culture in which we live is very human-centered; however, these outcomes remind children that God is the creator of all and therefore the source of all authority. People in authority should always act and make laws that are consistent with God's law. These lessons also teach the children that God cares for all people, and that as a Church, we have a particular responsibility to those who are marginalized.

Learning Outcomes: Students will ...

- Explain that God is the source of all authority (CCC 1899).
- Identify persons with legitimate authority in the family, local church community, school community, civic community, etc...
- Demonstrate obedience to rules, regulations, and legitimate authority and define the common good (CCC 1905-1912).

Materials Needed:

- Prayer space items, Bibles, pencils, crayons
- Copies: One of the opening activities linked below, Positive People in Authority, Saint Report on a Pope

As Students Enter Class:

- Consider having something for students to work on, such as the linked coloring page or Unscramble Puzzle
- [The Great Commission Coloring Page](#)
- [Authority of the Church Unscramble the Words](#)

Beginning of Class:

- Gather around your prayer space and pray a traditional Catholic prayer you have been working on memorizing.

| Lesson Order | Implementation Ideas |
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| Lesson 18 Video | <p>This video is 1:56 in length.</p> <p>Highlights: In our previous lesson, we learned how we need to rise above the culture and focus on Christ by following the Ten Commandments, plus the two Great Commandments: Love God with all your heart and soul and love your neighbor as yourself. This requires us to live in a humble and selfless way. This tends to go against our secular culture. Secular refers to attitudes and behaviors that do not have a religious basis.</p> <p>We know that God is the Creator and source of all authority. When we follow God's laws, we are being obedient to His authority over humanity. Can you think of people with authority in our Church, schools, and community?</p> <p>STOP AND SHARE – Provide students an opportunity to answer the above question.</p> <p>When we follow rules and laws that are in accordance with God's laws, then we follow the common good, which is how we reach our fulfillment as people. The common good means we need to show respect for others and it will uphold the well-being and development of the whole group. Common good promotes peace and security. It leads everyone to look after each other, like we do in our families. Because, really, we are one family in the body of Christ. When one part of the body suffers, we all suffer.</p> <p>In the next modules, you will discover how the authority of Jesus has been passed down through the centuries of the Church, how and why we should love and obey God, and why it is so important to care for the life and dignity of all people.</p> |
| Who Gave the Bishops Authority? | This video is 3:33 in length. |

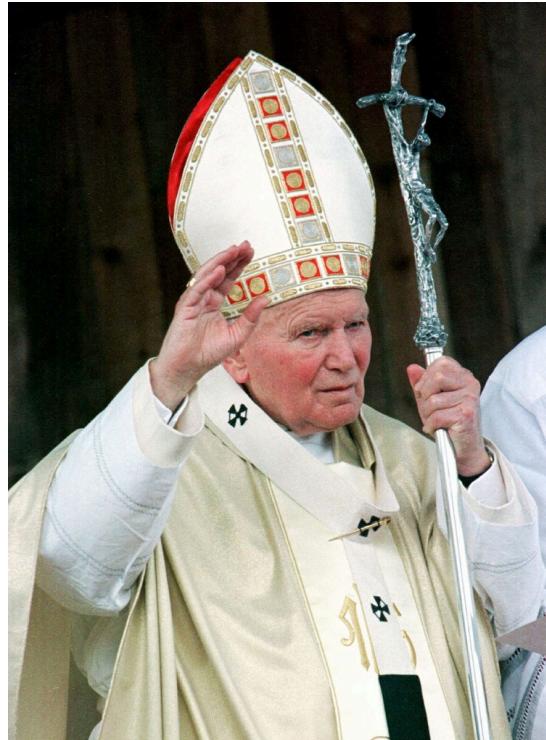
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| | <p>Highlights: We live in a country that is 200 years old; yet we belong to a Church that is 2000 years old. How can the bishops tell me what to do? As Catholics we believe Jesus handed over His power to proclaim forgiveness, the truth of His Gospel, the message of salvation, to His Apostles. Apostolic Succession is the lineage of Bishops that can be traced back to Jesus, who ordained Simon Peter.</p> <p>The hierarchy of the Church is one of service, not of rule. Just as the roots of a tree are deep in the soil, the hierarchy is buried in Christ, rooted in Christ, to help the rest of the body flourish. The Church is here to help us, the laity, with our role of proclaiming the gospel.</p> <p>QUESTIONS: Thinking about what we have learned so far, we see an emphasis that although the Church is Hierarchical, it is rooted in service. How does this make you feel? How can you, a sixth grader, serve the Catholic Church in its mission?</p> |
| <p>How and Why to Love and Obey God- The Story of Abraham and Isaac</p> | <p>This video is 4:04 in length.</p> <p>Highlights: This story comes from Genesis. Abraham loved God and God talked to Abraham. One day God told Abraham to do something scary. He told him to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice to God. Abraham was sad and confused by God's request. But he agreed to do as God told him because he trusted God with his whole heart. Just as Abraham was about to give up his son, God sent an angel to stop Abraham. God made a promise to reward Abraham for his faith, saying: I will bless you abundantly because you obeyed.</p> <p>Obeying can be hard. We want to do what we want and not what we are told. We must learn to obey, trust, and love God. We need faith to do this. God loves us and he sacrificed His son Jesus for us.</p> |

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| | <p>One time Jesus was walking up a mountain with three of his Apostles. Jesus was transfigured and God spoke: This is my beloved son, listen to Him.</p> <p>This shows us that Jesus is both human and God. He understands human nature and we should love and trust Jesus with our whole hearts.</p> <p>STOP AND SHARE: Ask students to share their thoughts about this video. If they are reluctant, then ask some questions. Such as, have you ever had to do something you really didn't want to do, but you trusted God or your parents and did it?</p> |
| <p>Catholics Promote the Common Good</p> | <p>This video is 1:43 in Length.</p> <p>Highlights: This video has meaningful pictures and interesting narration that will help students learn how we, as Catholics, are called to promote the Common Good.</p> <p>DISCUSSION: What did you learn from this video about how Catholics are called to promote the common good?</p> <p>What can you do as a third grader to promote the common good? What can you do with your family to promote the common good?</p> <p>How does the common good fit with the 10 Commandments?</p> |
| <p>Positive People in Authority?</p> | <p>Students are asked to reflect upon who they know that are positive figures of authority in your community, Church, and home?</p> |
| <p>Saint Report on a Past Pope</p> <p>If you have access to a current picture book of Popes or Saints, that could also be a good resource for this activity.</p> | <p>Recognizing that you may not have the time to complete this activity well, here is a variation that could work for you:</p> <p>Consider having information to share with students about one Pope, such as the one linked below about Pope St. John Paul II. Read the information and then have students orally share how this person is a</p> |

good role model for them? What facts did they learn about the Pope?

If you have time, students can share the new facts and thoughts in writing on a large sheet of paper that has a picture of the Pope glued on.

[Information about Pope St. John Paul II](#)



Closing Prayer

Gather around your prayer space and pray the Our Father.