



Future-proofing our children

Confirmation 1

Lesson Title: The Albury Circle

A Parent's Guide

Sunday School Home Schooling



Dear Parent

Welcome to **The Albury Circle** lesson.

This document provides you with a minimum guide on how to present the lesson.

How to prepare and present the lesson

Below are some tips on how to go about preparing and presenting the lesson:

Step	Action
1	Access the New Apostolic Church Website by keying-in or clicking on the following link from WhatsApp: https://bit.ly/3NACSSHS
2	Gather the following tools to ensure that you are ready for the lesson: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bible • The lesson in PDF format that is already prepared • Child's workbook and a pen, etc. • The Video Clip which is an additional/ optional resource tool • Catechism and Questions and Answers (especially for Confirmation) <p>Note:</p> <p>2.1: An ideal time preferably to present the lesson is after the Sunday morning service in line with the normal Sunday School time to maintain the routine.</p> <p>2.2: Please keep the lesson as concise (brief) as possible, bearing in mind the attention span (to focus on the lesson) of our children - you know your child best! <i>Sunday School normally does not exceed 45 minutes.</i></p> <p>2.3: The lesson is class specific (Confirmation 1).</p> <p>2.4: Please contact your Confirmation Teacher if you need any assistance or if you need any of the above resources.</p>
3	Pray (see the prayer at the end of this document) and ask God to use you as a tool to present the lesson the way He would want us to present it.



Present a Confirmation Lesson at Home

How to prepare and present the lesson

We continue to share some tips on how to go about preparing and presenting the lesson:

Step	Action
4	Create a pleasant, disturbance free learning environment where you and the child/ren are at the same level. Example: Sit around a table.
5	Read through the lesson. Re-read the lesson so that you understand it. Watch the video-clip of the lesson to get a better understanding of the lesson.
6	Make notes for yourself on important points that you would like to remember.
7	Understand the objective of the lesson that your child must remember.
8	Present the lesson to your child.
9	Show your child the video and recap on the meaning.
10	Refer your child to the activity in the child's workbook (I Also Want To.....)
11	Pray, or ask your child to pray and close the lesson.

Available tools in terms of Home Schooling

Herewith some tools to enhance the quality of the lesson:

1. WhatsApp chat the lesson with another Sunday school family.
2. Discuss the lesson with other parents to obtain clarity regarding the lesson before it is presented.
3. Feel free to conduct (do) your own research for additional (extra) information.



The Lesson

Lesson Title	The Albury Circle
Lesson Objective	The children gain an awareness of the beginnings of a Christian revival movement. This movement prepared the way for the re-establishment of the church of Christ with ministries and spiritual gifts.
Bible text	John 5: 39-40 and John 16:12-13

Lesson Summary:

Introduction:

Today we will have a history lesson. We will go back approximately 200 years in time. We will refer to a time period when a few Christian circles began to show a growing interest in the Bible and particularly the prophecies regarding that time and the future. This lesson focuses on what happened amongst clergyman (church ministers) and learned laymen around England and Scotland during the 19th Century. These men got together at conferences to discuss prophetic writings and intensively study Old Testament prophecies. These conferences were known as the Albury conferences. As we learn about the activities of the Christians of that time, it is important to recognize the Holy Spirit as the one who reveals God's plans.

Content:

Several clergymen of the Anglican church and other Christian denominations as well as learned laymen got together regularly to discuss biblical promises. The main point of their discussions was the prophecies of the Holy Bible about that time and the future. They were very interested in statements referring to the Lord's return and God's judgments of mankind.

The men who participated in these discussions met regularly at a conference from 1826-1830 during the first week of Advent. They met in a place called Albury which is situated 50km outside London. They became known as members of the Albury Circle. Only the last gathering in 1830 took place in July. They got together earlier as there was a report about the miracle of healing the sick and the uttering of prophecies in Scotland. This report led to intense prayers for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Until then the participants of the conference had agreed on the interpretation of the prophetic books. However, they did not agree on the gifts out of the Holy Spirit which were appearing in Scotland. This led to the break-up of the Albury Circle.

Here are a few notable clergymen and laymen of that time:

Lewis Way was an Anglican clergyman who wrote some articles on biblical promises. He invited seven men to join him in London for discussions and study the Old Testament prophecies. A friend (and banker) of Way, Henry Drummond (who later became an Apostle) offered his country estate in Albury and that's how the conferences started.

Edward Irving was an active clergyman in the London congregation of the Church of Scotland. He was a powerful preacher and attracted thousands of listeners.



At that time, more people were beginning to show interest in religious matters again. Not only in England but also in other European countries. People were interested in what the bible said about the prophecies of the time they lived in and the future. People who believed came together to pray and study the Bible. The Albury Circle was one such group.

Not all Christians agreed upon all the matters that were discussed. It became clear, that the disagreements were due to the fact that the Apostle ministry was not active (occupied) at that time and many of the gifts of the Holy Spirit that had been evident in the early church, had been lost. For this reason, they wanted to pray for the activation (reoccupation) of the Apostle ministry and for the gifts of the Spirit.

Searching the Bible and understanding properly what is said, helps to answer questions of faith. Jesus mentioned this when He said the Scriptures testify of Him: John 5:39-40

“You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.”

We need to accept Jesus as our Saviour in order to have eternal life.

Jesus also told the Apostles in John 16:12-13

“I have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. However, when He, the Holy Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for he will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will tell you things to come”.

Jesus did not tell his disciples everything. The Holy Spirit would continue instructing them. The Apostles of that time experienced this in their work.

Conclusion:

It is important for you to understand that there was a time period in the history of Christianity when the Apostle ministry was not active (occupied). The gift of the Holy Spirit could not be dispensed on anyone. This needed to change. The members of the Albury Circle recognized the need to pray for the activation (reoccupation) of the Apostle ministry and the gifts of the Spirit.

What does this lesson mean for us today?

- It is good to have knowledge of the development of God’s work in our time.
- History shows the beginning of a Christian revival movement in the 19th Century.
- This movement prepared the way for the re-establishment of the Church of Christ.
- The Albury Conferences were instrumental in preparing the way for the reoccupation of the Apostle ministry and for the gifts of the Holy Spirit through discussions and prayers. It paved the way for the development of God’s work in our time.



Some questions that we can ask:

1. *Were there no Apostles from the time of the New Testament until the 19th Century?*

No. There is no historical evidence that the Apostles were active during the time between the end of the New Testament (the early church) until the time when the members of the Albany Circle recognized the need to pray for the revival of the Apostle ministry.

2. *Is reading your Bible only not good enough to become worthy?*

It is important to read your Bible as it helps you to understand God's plan for mankind. However, believing in Jesus as our Saviour, following his teaching **and** God's grace are all necessary to be worthy for God's return.

3. *What is God's will?*

God wants all people (mankind) to be saved. God wants to complete His work.



A Prayer for Daddy and Mommy to pray before the lesson:

Dear God, thank you for this day

Bless all parents and children

May we feel your presence

Bless the lesson we will have

Please teach us how to serve you

And help us to do your will

So that we grow closer to you

Send Jesus to fetch us

And may we be ready to meet Him

Amen