



Future-proofing our children

Confirmation 1

Lesson Title Our divine service

A Parent's Guide
Sunday School Home Schooling



Dear Parent

Welcome to the “**Our divine service**” Confirmation 1 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. <i>Example:</i> 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 Confirmation 1 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	Our divine service
Text	John 16: 13, 2 Corinthians 13: 14 and Acts 2: 42
Lesson Objective	The children recognize that the divine services serve for the completion of their soul.

Lesson Summary:

Preparation before the divine service:

- The altar is prepared for the divine service
 - Ø The Bible is on the altar.
 - Ø The communion chalices have been set up.
 - Ø The altar is decorated with flowers.

Not only the altar is prepared for the divine service. Other work is also done.

- The property is cared for and
- The church is cleaned regularly.
- When we enter the church we are greeted at the door.

All this contributes to the preparation of the church building for a divine service.

How do we prepare ourselves for a divine service?

A divine service is an encounter between God and human beings.

- We dress in a manner that is appropriate for God's house.
- We are aware that we need God's word, forgiveness of sins, and Holy Communion.
- We pray before the divine service and try to distance ourselves from the routine of everyday life.
- Quietly we await the beginning of the divine service and occupy ourselves with the opening hymn.

The liturgical order of the divine service:

Our divine services have a fixed pattern:

- The opening hymn sets the mood for the divine service - there is a link between the hymn and the sermon.
- The Opening Prayer - starts with the first words: "In the name of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit ...". Therefore, everything in a divine service takes place under God's authority. Through the opening prayer we seek the connection to God.
- The bible word - a text is taken from the Bible and serves as the basis for the word/the sermon.
- In many congregations a choir supports the ministers' sermon with appropriate hymns.
- The sermon is a declaration of God's word. The ministers, inspired by the Holy Spirit, teach the gospel. Read **John 16: 13**



- The hymn of repentance - introduces the celebration of Holy Communion.
- It is followed by the Lord's Prayer which is prayed together as a congregation, in which we confess our sins.
- The absolution (forgiveness of sin) is granted, and the peace of the Risen One is conveyed.
- The Eucharistic prayer is a prayer of thanks which follows the forgiveness of sins. We give thanks that Jesus brought the sacrifice for our redemption, that He instituted the church and sent - and still sends - Apostles.
- The Consecration of the elements of bread and wine (wafer), the body and blood of Jesus Christ becomes present.
- By receiving Holy Communion, we assume the nature of Jesus in us and receive strength to overcome. It also guarantees continued fellowship with Christ.
- The divine service ends with a prayer - an expression of thanks for the presence of God, and for Word and sacrament. This is followed by petitions for ourselves and for our neighbour and a request for God's blessing on our offerings.
- The Benediction – a blessing: “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen” (2 Corinthians 13: 14).
- In a divine service the following ministrations can also take place:
 - Ø Holy Baptism, Holy Sealing and Confirmation take place before the congregation receives Holy Communion.
 - Ø All other acts of blessing take place following Holy Communion (such as wedding blessings, wedding anniversary blessings, ordinations, etc.).

Regular attendance of the divine services is important for me. Why?

- I have fellowship with the triune God.
- I find out about God's will and my faith is strengthened.
- I am made aware of my sins and they are forgiven.
- I receive Holy Communion, which preserves the continued close fellowship with Jesus Christ, it is important for my soul.
- the sacraments are dispensed there.
- it provides fellowship with God's children here and in the beyond.

Acts 2: 42: “And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.”

God expects steadfastness from us in these important areas.

What does this lesson mean for us today?

- The importance of my preparation for a divine service.
- Understanding the meaning behind the order of a divine service (the liturgical order).
- Understanding why I attend divine services.



A family activity

Here follows an activity for the whole family:

Match the concept in column A with the explanation of the concept in Column B. Then arrange the sections into the correct sequence according to the events in the divine service.

COLUMN A	COLUMN B
1. The Our Father	A. serves as the basis for the word
2. The Benediction	B. the body and blood of Jesus Christ become present in the bread and wine
3. Consecration of Holy Communion	C. is the declaration and teaching of the gospel
4. Absolution	D. sets the mood for the divine service
5. The choir	E. fosters fellowship with Jesus Christ
6. Bible word – a text	F. sets the mood for the celebration of holy Communion
7. The sermon	G. with this the divine service begins; we seek a God
8. Opening prayer – “In the name of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit”	H. a prayer we say together in which among other things we profess our sins
9. The Eucharist Prayer	I. thanks, petitions and intercessions for ourselves and our neighbours.
10. Celebration of Holy Communion	J. proclamation of the forgiveness of sins in the name of Jesus Christ
11. The opening hymn	K. supports the serving of the ministers
12. Hymn of repentance	L. the expression of thanks for Christ’s sacrifice, for the institution of the church and sending of the Apostles.
13. Prayer at the end of the divine service before the Benediction	M. God turns to us and assures us of His grace, love and fellowship

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