



Future-proofing our children

Religious Instruction Class 2

Lesson Title	The Sacraments
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A Parent's Guide
Sunday School Home Schooling



Dear Parent

Welcome to “**The Sacraments**” Religious Instruction 2 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.	<p>Access the New Apostolic Church Website by keying-in or clicking on the following link from WhatsApp:</p> <p>https://bit.ly/3NACSSHS</p>
2.	<p>Gather the following tools to ensure that you are ready for the lesson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bible ● The PDF lesson that is already prepared ● Child’s workbook and pencils, crayons, etc. ● The Video Clip which is an additional optional resource tool <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 as possible, bearing in mind the retention 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 lessons are class specific (i.e. SS, RI, or Confirmation).</p> <p>2.4: Please contact your SS teacher if you need any of the above resources.</p>
3.	<p>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.</p>



Present a Sunday School 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 children are at the same level <i>Example:</i> Sit on the mat or at 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 by telling the story. You can even read the story if you like.
9.	Show your child the video and recap on the meaning/purpose of the lesson.
10.	Refer your child to the activity in the child's workbook.
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 Religious Instruction 2 family.
2. Discuss with other parents to obtain clarity regarding the lesson before it is presented.
3. Feel free to conduct your own research for additional information.
4. Your congregation's Sunday School Coordinator and Teacher is on stand-by to help.



The Lesson

Lesson Title	The Sacraments
Text	John 3: 5, Acts 8: 14-17 and Luke 22: 19-20
Lesson Objective	The children become acquainted with the sacraments.

Lesson Summary:

- The word “sacrament” is derived from Latin and means “oath of service, loyalty or allegiance”.
- Sacraments are holy acts through which God grants man fellowship with Himself.
- These acts symbolize the new covenant between God and man.
- The administering/ dispensation of the sacrament is a visible act and when we receive the sacrament it has inner effects on us, which is invisible.
- Jesus Christ introduced the sacraments and they are dispensed through prayer and the word spoken with power and authority, using water, bread and wine.
- 1 John 5: 8 says: “And there are three that bear witness in earth, the spirit, and the water, and the blood; and these three agree in one.” What does this mean?
 - Ø Here the Spirit represents **Holy Sealing**,
 - Ø Water represents **Holy Baptism** and
 - Ø Blood represents **Holy Communion**.
- The sacraments are the means to man’s perfection and spiritual healing and are necessary to have eternal fellowship with the triune God – to enter His Kingdom.
- These three sacraments are therefore dispensed in the New Apostolic Church.

Holy Baptism: (John 3: 5, Matthew 28:19-20 and Acts 8: 36,38)

- Holy Baptism with water is part of the rebirth, and is necessary for us to enter God’s kingdom. Through baptism, God makes a covenant with man and our original sin is washed away. We become a Christian and become part of the body of Christ.
- Jesus Himself was also baptised by John the Baptist in the river Jordan.
- All people are eligible for Holy Baptism, regardless of their origin or status.
- In our church infants and adults are baptised as follows:
 - Ø A prayer is said over a bowl of water to consecrate/ bless it in the name of the triune God.



Ø The minister performing the baptism then dips his finger/s into the consecrated water, and makes the sign of the cross three times on the forehead of the person being baptised. Saying the words, “The name of the person, I baptise you in the name of God the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit.”

- The one being baptised vows to live his/her life in accordance with God’s will. When children are baptised parents take this responsibility until the child’s Confirmation, when they make the vow themselves.

Holy Sealing: (Ephesians 1: 13-14 and 4: 30)

- Holy Sealing is the dispensation of the gift of the Holy Spirit by Apostles.
- Holy Baptism is a requirement before Holy Sealing can be carried out.
- Holy Sealing is part of the rebirth; it is the basis for the complete renewal of the inner man.
- Through Holy Sealing a person become a child of God after making a vow to:
 - Ø Live his/her life in accordance with the teaching of Jesus and the Apostles,
 - Ø Follow Christ and His Apostles faithfully and
 - Ø Accept God’s word and live accordingly.
- Parents take this vow on behalf of their children until their Confirmation.
- We receive the Holy Spirit directly through prayer and the laying on of hands of a living Apostle. (Acts 8: 14-17 and Acts 19: 1-6)
- After His baptism, Jesus also received the Holy Spirit and God acknowledge Him as His Son. (Luke 3: 22)

Holy Communion: (Luke 22: 19-20, John 6: 53-57 and 1 Corinthians 11: 23-28)

- Holy Communion is the sacrament instituted by Jesus Himself in remembrance of His suffering and death.
- It is also a celebration of joy, thanks and praise.
- As Jesus took bread and wine, and gave thanks, so the congregation comes before God to praise and thank Him for His Son’s sacrifice.
- When we partake of Holy Communion, we receive the body and blood of Christ and the strength to overcome evil – to overcome hindrances to our eternal salvation.
- Holy Communion is preceded by absolution, which brings the forgiveness of sins. (We pray the Lord’s prayer and afterwards the minister performs the absolution.)
- Partaking of it worthily (earnestly) establishes (forms) true fellowship with Jesus Christ – we remain in Christ.



What does this lesson teach us?

Three sacraments are dispensed in the New Apostolic Church:

- Holy Baptism – the rebirth with water and original sin is washed away,
- Holy Sealing – receiving of the Holy Spirit through prayer and laying on of hands by a living Apostle and
- Holy Communion – we receive the body and blood of Jesus, the strength to overcome evil and true fellowship with Jesus Christ.
- All three sacraments are equally important.
- Holy Communion is preceded by the absolution, the forgiveness of sins.
- Acceptance of all three sacraments is a very important requirement for entering the kingdom of God.

The sacraments are a means of God's amazing grace for us and are necessary to have eternal fellowship with Him.

Do Exercises 1, 2, 3 and 4 with your child/ren

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

Dear Heavenly Father, Thank You for another day and for Your Love and Kindness. Please bless my mom and dad, and bless our Ministers and all our friends and family. We pray that we will always treasure You and that we will be obedient to our parents. Bless us that we may be kind and loving and treat everyone we meet with respect and kindness, Please bless this Sunday School lesson and thank you for choosing us to be your children. Help us to remain faithful and obedient to You until You come to take us Home with you. We ask all of this in your Precious Name. Amen

A prayer after the lesson:

Dear Father in heaven, Thank you for keeping us safe and for allowing us to have heard another beautiful Sunday School lesson. Thank you for protecting us and keeping us safe from all danger.

Please help us to always be obedient to our parents and to be kind to everyone we meet. Please also help us with our schoolwork.

Bless our Chief Apostle, the Apostles and all the ministers. Please keep them safe when they travel so they can teach us more about Your great work, dear Lord.

Please help all your children, especially those who are sick and who have no food or shelter. Please come soon and take us all home.

We ask all of this, not because we deserve it, but in Jesus name. Amen.