

THE MINISTRIES IN THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Objective

The children become acquainted with the ministries in the church of Christ.

Contents

- The ministries in the first church.
- The ministries in the New Apostolic Church.
- Each spiritual ministry should be holy for us.



Lesson Plan

Lead-In

Workbook, Exercise 1

A child reads the letter aloud.

Implementation

Discussion

Discuss with the children what they notice about this letter.

Emphasize the following:

- In the Old Covenant, according to God's will, it was left to the Levites to perform services in the temple.
- For servants in Christ's congregation, lineage was not important.
- The Deacons were selected by believers in the congregation.
- The Apostles confirmed the selection through prayer and the laying on of hands.

Workbook, Exercise 2

The children find out about further ministries of the first church.

Discussion

Show that, in the New Apostolic Church, we also have the ministries of the first church. Prophets were active until about 1920. The prophet's ministry then merged into the Apostle's ministry.

The growth of the church made it necessary to install additional ministries. These were created following the ministries of the first church. Hence the ministry of Subdeacon is derived from the Deacon's ministry, the District Evangelist's ministry from the Evangelist's ministry.

Question Prompt

What ministries are there in our congregation? Name some of the ministers!

Write the ministries and names on the board. It would be nice, if this opportunity could be used to show the children a group photograph of the ministers of the congregation. As an aid, the following could be written on the board, for example:

Board

Priest Smith, rector

Priest Sharp

Deacon Walker

Subdeacon Miller

etc.

Discussion

Explain that the rector of a congregation can be a Priest, an Evangelist, or a Shepherd. Rector is not a ministry, but an added responsibility within the congregation.

Question Prompt

What other ministries in our church do you know?

The children name additional ministries. Write them on the board in order of ministerial level:

Board

Chief Apostle,

District Apostle,

Apostle,

Bishop,

District Elder,

District Evangelist,

Shepherd,

etc.

Workbook, Exercise 3

With the help of what is written on the board, ask the children to complete the exercise.

Question Prompt

Which tasks of the ministers are you familiar with?

Discussion

Gather the children's previous knowledge, and supplement, if necessary.

■ All ministers have special tasks in the vineyard work and caring for the souls.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Subdeacons and Deacons look after the outward order in the divine services. As a rule, they accompany a Priest, make family visits, and visit the sick. ■ The ministries from Priest to Bishop are the priestly ministries. Just like the Deacons, the priestly ministers also make family visits and visit the sick. Over and above that, they have received the commission and authority from the Apostle to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● conduct divine services, ● perform Holy Baptisms, ● proclaim the forgiveness of sins, and ● consecrate and administer Holy Communion. ■ Districts are headed by district leaders. They adopt souls into the congregation. ■ Bishops are the extended arm of their Apostle, and in particular care for the priestly ministers. ■ Apostles perform Holy Sealing and ordain ministers. ■ District Apostles are in charge of district churches. ■ The Chief Apostle is the head of the Apostles and the leader of the New Apostolic Church International. He ordains District Apostles, Apostles and Bishops.
Teacher's Presentation	<p>With few exceptions, the ministers serve on an honorary basis. They serve the Lord and the congregations out of love and conviction. Although, as human beings, they may also make mistakes, their ministry, through which God blesses the congregation, always remains holy for us.</p>
Conclusion	
Question Prompt	<p>Which qualities of your ministers do you esteem particularly?</p>
Discussion	<p>Collect the children's answers. The children report about situations in which these qualities became clear.</p>

