



Future-proofing our children

Religious Instruction Class 2

Lesson Title Christ and His Congregation

A Parent's Guide

Sunday School Home Schooling



Dear Parent

Welcome to the “**Christ and His congregation**” 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 Example: 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 Sunday School Coordinator and Teacher.



Lesson Title	Christ and His congregation
Text	1 Corinthians 12: 4-13 and Colossians 1: 18
Lesson Objective	The children learn that each person has his or her place and responsibilities in the congregation, which is ruled by Christ as its head.

Lesson Summary:

- In the New Apostolic Church, we have many congregations all over the world.
- Although, not all our congregations have divine services in a church building, the activities in each congregation are more or less the same for example church cleaning, music (singing or playing an instrument), decorating the altar etc.
- It is therefore, advantageous if somebody in the congregation has a special gift or talent for:
 - Ø Playing an instrument,
 - Ø Singing in the adult choir or children's choir,
 - Ø Conducting the choir or orchestra,
 - Ø Decorating the altar etc.
- God gave us these special natural gifts or talents and it is important for us to use it for the benefit and joy of the congregation. Are you using your gift or talent for God?
- In 1 Corinthians 12: 8-10 the Bible also refers to spiritual gifts, meaning gifts empowered by the Holy Spirit. These are:
 - Ø The gift to speak about wisdom and knowledge,
 - Ø The gift of faith (to believe and trust God no matter what),
 - Ø The gift to perform miracles and make the sick well again,
 - Ø The gift of prophecy (to announce God's will to the congregation),
 - Ø The gift of discerning the spirits (to be able to judge between good and bad influences), and
 - Ø The gift of speaking in tongues (that is, speaking other languages).
- Spiritual gifts are to be of help to all in the congregation and is also necessary to grow the congregation of Christ.
- As recorded in 1 Corinthians 12: 4-6 "There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all." What does this mean?



- Although there are many different kinds of gifts, not everyone receives each of these gifts, however all gifts come from the same Holy Spirit.
- There are various ministries, but each ministry serves the same Lord.
- Different powers come from God and they enable the working of various miracles and wonders. God empowers all gifts that we have.
- Apostle Paul compares the congregation to a body. Read Colossians 1: 18.
- Like the human body, this body (the congregation) has many members, which complement and need one another.
- Jesus Christ is described as the “head of the body” and this emphasizes the special significance of Christ for His congregation.
- We are the body and no member of the body can exist without the head, nothing will function without Christ. He directs His congregation.
- The head is part of the body to form a whole, this means that Christ is closely connected with His congregation.

What does this lesson teach us?

- When everyone in the congregation uses the gifts (natural and or spiritual) we were blessed with, to serve God in the congregation, it will create joy for all and everyone benefits. **Read** 1 Corinthians 12: 7
- As children of God and members of the congregation, we form part of the body of Christ, with Jesus as the head of His congregation.
- Each child of God is important and has his or her place and function in the congregation.
- We have our differences with respect to origin, character, personality and gifts in the congregation, but each sealed soul received the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- The activity of the Holy Spirit is the common bond between us and keeps us together.

What is your gift or talent? Are you using it to serve God and to the joy and benefit of your congregation? If not start now? We get our courage and strength from the Holy Spirit, allow the Holy Spirit to use you in the body of Christ.



Do Exercises 1 and 2 with your child/ren.

Answers to Exercise 1 and 2:

1 Corinthians 12:13 - For by one Spirit we were all baptised into one body.
Additional explanation - The Holy Spirit is the one Spirit that holds everything together.
Chief Apostle said: Everywhere it is like at home, only very different!

Some questions we can ask:

1. Where do we get our gifts and or talents from?
Answer: The Holy Spirit
2. Although we have different ministries, who do we serve?
Answer: we all serve the same God
3. Who empowers the gifts that we have?
Answer: God gives us the power. He enables us to work with our gifts.
4. With what does Apostle Paul compare the congregation?
Answer: a human body
5. Who is the head of the congregation and who is the body?
Answer: Jesus Christ is the head and we the members of the congregation is the body

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.*