

SUNDAY SERMON REFLECTIONS (up to 10 minutes)

<p>Facilitator Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What Bible verse was used for the basis of last Sunday’s sermon? ➤ What were some of the main takeaways? What did you learn? ➤ So far this week, how have you applied what you learned from the sermon last Sunday? ➤ Going forward, how will you apply what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?
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HOOK (up to 10 minutes)

<p>Facilitator Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ How are you and how are you feeling today? ➤ Who would like to share their point to ponder or call to action from last week? ➤ Play the NAC USA History video ➤ Ask the students what from the video stood out to them. ➤ Highlight how the Church of Christ is rooted in God’s will to save.
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SET THE STAGE (1 minute)

<p>Facilitator Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preview the “I wonder” questions with the students. 	<p>I wonder...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What are the identifying features of the Church of Christ? ➤ What is the function of the Church of Christ? ➤ Who belongs to the Church of Christ?
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LESSON (up to 25 minutes)

<p>Facilitator Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider writing the student’s answers on a whiteboard, and supplement or summarize with the bullet points. For more information on images of the church, see Catechism section 6.2.3 	<p><u>Student Question #1 – What is the Church of Christ?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The church of Jesus Christ has been established on earth by the Lord Himself. ➤ The church developed after Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the believers. ➤ Within the church, believers have fellowship with the triune God already today. ➤ The church of Jesus Christ is described in the New Testament as the “body of Christ”(See Romans 12:4-5), “the people of God”, “the city of God”, “the kingdom of God”, “the flock of God”.
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- Refer to John 13:34 – Discuss the effect of the love of Jesus upon His church.

- The Articles of Faith can be found on page 251 of the Catechism Q&A.

- The “Respond to the call to serve” point in Question 5 is an opportunity to remind and/or introduce that phrase as part of the THRIVE acronym (THRIVE membership expectations, and Youth THRIVE Small Group curriculum).

Student Question #2 – What are the identifying features of the church of Christ?

- The Creed of Nicaea-Constantinople states that the church is the one, holy, universal, and apostolic church.
- Like Jesus Christ, the church has both an invisible and a visible side. The invisible side is perfect and corresponds to the divine nature of Jesus Christ. The visible side corresponds to the human nature of Jesus Christ. However, unlike Jesus Christ who was sinless, the visible side of the church is imperfect because it is comprised of imperfect human beings. (Catechism Q&A question 376)
- Oneness – The profession of the one church arises from the belief in the one God. Jesus described oneness with one another and love for one another as identifying features of those who belong to Him and follow Him. (see John 13:34; 17:20-23) (Catechism Q&A question 382)
- Holiness – The church of Christ is holy because the Triune God is holy. He is present through the activity of the Holy Spirit in word and sacrament. (Catechism Q&A question 383)
- Universal – Means that there are no boundaries for the preaching of the gospel. Jesus Christ and His church are there for the people of all nations, for both the living and the dead. Therefore the church is all-encompassing and universal: it is both of this world and of the next, both present and future. (Catechism Q&A question 384)
- Apostolic – The church of Christ is apostolic in two respects: in it the apostolic doctrine is proclaimed and in it the apostolic ministry is active. (Catechism Q&A question 385)
 - Read, or have a student read the 3rd Article of Faith

Student Question #3 – What is the purpose of Christ’s church?

- The purpose of the church of Jesus Christ is to make salvation and eternal fellowship with God available to human beings and to allow human beings to bring adoration, worship, and praise to God. (Catechism Q&A question 370)

Student Question #4 – Who is a part of the church of Christ?

- All those who belong to Jesus Christ because they are baptized, believe in Him, and profess Him as their Lord. (Catechism Q&A question 375)

Student Question #5 – How do you demonstrate that you value the church?

- By being an active participant both within the physical church building during divine services (hearing the Word of God; participating in the sacrament; fellowship with fellow believers) and by being the church everywhere you go.
- Share with others your faith by talking to them about what Jesus means to you.
- Pray for and with others.
- Responding to the call to serve Christ by using your spiritual gifts in your family, congregation, and community.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME? (up to 10 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- **1 Corinthians 12:27:** Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

Wrap up the lesson with this question: How do I know if I am a part of the body of Christ? What is my purpose?

Close with the "I Wonder..." questions

- Ask a student to read an "I Wonder..." question, and invite another student to answer with an "I Believe..." statement or an "I Believe..." statement in their own words.
- As you review each question and answer, stop and check in with the group to be sure there are no misunderstandings or misconceptions.
- Remind the students that on their Confirmation day, they will or have already promised and committed to surrendering themselves to God in belief and obedience.

I wonder...

- What are the identifying features of the Church of Christ?
- What is the function of the Church of Christ?
- Who belongs to the Church of Christ?

I believe...

- The identifying features of the Church of Christ are oneness, holiness, universality, and apostolicity. (Catechism Q&A question 381)
- The function of the Church of Christ is to make salvation and eternal fellowship with God available to human beings and to bring worship to God. (Catechism Q&A question 370)
- Those who are baptized believe in Christ and profess Him as their Lord belong to the Church of Christ. (Catechism Q&A question 375)

Point to Ponder...

- What does being a part of the church of Christ mean to me?

A Call to Action...

- Take some time for prayerful reflection and introspection, and ask God why He has called you to be a part of His family? Write down what you feel God is calling you to do as a part of the body of Christ. Memorize the 6th Article of Faith.

Weekly Reflections

What Bible verse was used for the basis of last Sunday's sermon?

What were some of the main takeaways? What did you learn?

So far this week, how have you applied what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

Going forward, how will you apply what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

Point to Ponder...

Call to Action...

Value the Church: *The Church of Christ*

<p>I wonder...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What are the identifying features of the Church of Christ? ➤ What is the function of the Church of Christ? ➤ Who belongs to the Church of Christ? 	<p>I believe...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The identifying features of the Church of Christ are oneness, holiness, universality, and apostolicity. (Catechism Q&A question 381) ➤ The function of the Church of Christ is to make salvation and eternal fellowship with God available to human beings and to bring worship to God. (Catechism Q&A question 370) ➤ Those who are baptized, believe in Christ, and profess Him as their Lord belong to the Church of Christ. (Catechism Q&A question 375)
<p>References:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Bible: John 13:34; John 17:20-23; Romans 12:4-5; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 ➤ Articles of Faith 4 and 6 ➤ Catechism 6, 6.2.3, 6.4 ➤ Catechism Q&A questions: 365-410 	

1. What is the Church of Christ?

2. What are the identifying features of the church of Christ?

3. What is the purpose of Christ's church?

4. Who is a part of the church of Christ?

5. How do demonstrate that you value the church?

Point to Ponder: What does being a part of the church of Christ mean to me?

A Call to Action: Take some time for prayerful reflection and introspection, and ask God why He has called you to be a part of His family? Write down what you feel God is calling you to do as a part of the body of Christ. Memorize the 6th Article of Faith.