

Value the Church: *Sacrifice*

LESSON AT A GLANCE	
<p>Facilitator Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep in mind, as you discuss and teach today's lesson: we don't sacrifice to earn God's favor, but in response to what He's already done for us. 	<p>I wonder...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What was the significance of sacrifice in the old covenant? ➤ What was the significance of sacrifice in the new covenant? ➤ How should a Christian view sacrifice? <p>I believe...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Through their sacrifices, the people in the old covenant sought to express gratitude, turn away the punishment of God, and/or bring about reconciliation. (Catechism Q&A question 732) ➤ In the sense of the New Testament, sacrifice implies leading a life in accordance with the gospel. (Catechism Q&A question 733) ➤ A sacrifice in the Christian sense should not be considered an enforced obligation. Neither should it be made in expectation or reward. Rather, the willingness to sacrifice should spring forth from faith, gratitude, and love for God. (Catechism Q&A question 735) <p>Materials:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ IGNITE Bible ➤ Chart paper or whiteboard ➤ <i>Giving is...Intro video</i> - https://youtu.be/_-QiXKSFKoY ➤ Catechism Q&A <p>References:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Bible: Genesis 14:18-20, 28:20-22, Leviticus 23:35-41, Malachi 3:9-10, Matthew 10:8, Luke 3:11, 6:30, 38, 11:42, Acts 20:35, Hebrews 11:4 ➤ Catechism section 13 ➤ Catechism Q&A 729-738
PRE DISCUSSION MESSAGE TO PARENTS AND STUDENT (TO BE SENT VIA EMAIL OR TEXT)	
	<p>Do you hold tight to all that you have; or do you willingly share with others? Giving is a part of who we are as Christians. This week we will start talking about Christian giving. Join us tomorrow for small group at _____.</p>
POST DISCUSSION MESSAGE TO PARENTS (TO BE SENT VIA EMAIL OR TEXT)	
<p>Facilitator Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider including a link to one of the For Your Journey episodes referenced in the discussion to help promote conversations between the students and parents at home. 	<p>Dear Parents,</p> <p>This week the "I wonder..." questions are about giving. What do we know about giving from the Old Testament? What is taught in the New Testament? How does the New Apostolic Church view giving? Giving is a part of who we are as followers of Jesus and it's important for us to understand why. As always, if you have any question about the topic, feel free to contact us.</p> <p>Your Youth Leaders</p>

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?
---	--

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. Giving Is...Intro video: https://youtu.be/-QiXKSFKoY Acts 20:35: <i>And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."</i> 	<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 Giving Is...Intro video. ➤ Ask the students what stuck out from the video? A certain phrase or image? ➤ Ask the students – What is giving? ➤ Ask the students to read Acts 20:35. Have they heard this verse before?
--	---

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 was the significance of sacrifice in the old covenant? ➤ What was the significance of sacrifice in the new covenant? ➤ How should a Christian view sacrifice?
--	--

LESSON (up to 25 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- If time permits, read together Malachi 3:9-10 and discuss how it should be viewed with a New Testament perspective.

- Bible verses to reference:
 Luke 6:30; Matthew 10:8;
 Luke 6:38; Luke 3:11

Student Question #1 – What was the significance of sacrifice in the old covenant?

- The offerings of Cain and Abel. Both brought an offering to the Lord from the fruits of their work. God accepted Abel’s offering but not Cain’s because Abel offered out of faith, as referred to in Hebrews 11:4.
- Sacrifices – We find references to sacrifices offered to God by individuals expressing their thankfulness and seeking God’s good pleasure or blessing. These sacrifices often took the form of burnt offerings on an altar made of stones. (Refer to CNAC section 13.2.1 – From Old Testament sacrificial service to devoting one’s life to God)
- Tithing – Tithing literally means “a tenth.” (See Genesis 14:18-20; Genesis 28:20-22). In the Mosaic law, giving was required and was based upon the concept of the tithe. The Israelites were expected to tithe at various times for specific purposes (priestly service, festival tithe, for the poor and needy).
- The people of Israel were instructed to remember and celebrate what God had done for them by setting aside days to rest, worship, and participate in annual days and weeks of festivals. As God had been generous with them, they were to be generous in their giving, in reflection of their feelings toward their God laid out in part of the description of the Feast of the Tabernacles in Leviticus 23:35-41).

Student Question #2 – What was the significance of sacrifice in the new covenant?

- Jesus introduced a different path. He was and is the solution path that reconciles mankind with God and fulfills the requirements of the law.
- Jesus points out to the Pharisees in the conversation recorded for us in Luke 11:42, that performing an outward gesture lacks meaning and genuineness when the inward motivation isn’t right. The Pharisees were acting according to the strictest interpretation of the law, but were neglecting two basic things that the prophets had warned about: justice and love.
- Jesus’ teaching is so open-ended and limitless, much like the generosity of God in giving us grace for our sins and life eternal through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. But in removing the limits of the law, we find ourselves in a sometimes uncomfortable place governed not by a finite formula, but by self responsibility.
- Our giving is defined by our personal decision to live as Christians. This is Christian giving.
- Jesus gave beyond the law: He gave everything, including His life, because He loved God and thereby became the embodiment of God’s love towards us. It was what God wanted and what we needed.
- We can see from Jesus’ words and stories that giving and serving is an essential part of life because of the needs that exist amongst mankind. The human condition will always necessitate a need for those willing to give and serve. Jesus teaches His followers to be ready to take action when they recognize someone in need.

- For more information and context on The willingness to offer and sacrifice, read Catechism section 13.

It is important to note, when talking about sacrifice, Jesus Christ is the greatest example of willingness to sacrifice. Out of love for mankind, He gave His life as an offering and a sacrifice.

Even though no other sacrifice can be compared to the sacrifice of the Lord, His willingness to sacrifice is nevertheless an example that calls upon us to follow Him. (Catechism Q&A question 734)

Student Question #3 How should a Christian view sacrifice?

- Offering and sacrifices bring to expression worship, gratitude, devotion, and submission to God.
- No other sacrifice can be compared with the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Nevertheless, Jesus’ willingness to sacrifice is an example that calls believers to follow Him.
- Willingness to sacrifice springs forth from love.
- Believers also express their gratitude and love for God and His work in concrete gifts, be it in monetary form or in the form of natural produce.
- The willingness to offer and sacrifice is also expressed in congregational life when brethren in faith dedicate a substantial amount of their leisure time, energy, and talents into the service of God and the congregation without compensation.
- The blessing associated with offering can indeed be experienced in earthly matters, but it is primarily of a spiritual nature.

Student Question #4 – What comes to your mind when “Christian giving” is mentioned?

- Giving allows us to give expression to our passions, interests, and feelings by offering ourselves and our resources to help advance them.
- As Christians, giving is an integral part of our faith and a vital part of our profession to the world that we are followers of Jesus.
- As believers grow spirituality and mature in their faith, they gain the understanding that all they have is given by God and belongs to Him. With the guidance and inspiration of the Holy Spirit, believers learn to trust in God and recognize how they can use what they have been given to give generously to others to help all people come to know Jesus and fulfill the Great Commission

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

Facilitator Notes:

- For Your Journey episodes can be found on the [NAC USA YouTube channel](#) and in the [NAC USA mobile app](#).

Wrap up the lesson with this question: Why is the willingness to give an important characteristic for Christians to have? What is the purpose for your giving?

- If time permits, consider watching one/both of these For Your Journey episodes:
 - [Episode 60 | Sacrifice](#)
 - [Episode 66 | Humanitarian giving vs. Christian giving](#)

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 was the significance of sacrifice in the old covenant?
- What was the significance of sacrifice in the new covenant?
- How should a Christian view sacrifice?

I believe...

- Through their sacrifices, the people in the old covenant sought to express gratitude, turn away the punishment of God, and/or bring about reconciliation. (Catechism Q&A question 732)
- In the sense of the New Testament, sacrifice implies leading a life in accordance with the gospel. (Catechism Q&A question 733)
- A sacrifice in the Christian sense should not be considered an enforced obligation. Neither should it be made in expectation or reward. Rather, the willingness to sacrifice should spring forth from faith, gratitude, and love for God. (Catechism Q&A question 735)

Point to Ponder...

- Jesus exemplified a life of giving out of love for God and compassion for the needs of others. He gave beyond the law. He gave what was needed, even His life.

A Call to Action...

- Answer in your notebook: how have your understandings of 'sacrifice' and 'giving' evolved since you were 5 years old, 10 years old?

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: *Sacrifice*

<p>I wonder...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What was the significance of sacrifice in the old covenant? ➤ What was the significance of sacrifice in the new covenant? ➤ How should a Christian view sacrifice? 	<p>I believe...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Through their sacrifices, the people in the old covenant sought to express gratitude, turn away the punishment of God, and/or bring about reconciliation. (Catechism Q&A question 732) ➤ In the sense of the New Testament, sacrifice implies leading a life in accordance with the gospel. (Catechism Q&A question 733) ➤ A sacrifice in the Christian sense should not be considered an enforced obligation. Neither should it be made in expectation or reward. Rather, the willingness to sacrifice should spring forth from faith, gratitude, and love for God. (Catechism Q&A question 735)
<p>References: Genesis 14:18-20, 28:20-22, Leviticus 23:35-41, Malachi 3:9-10, Matthew 10:8, Luke 3:11, 6:30,38, 11:42, Acts 20:35, Hebrews 11:4; Catechism Q&A questions 729-738; Catechism section 13.</p>	

1. What was the significance of sacrifice in the old covenant?

2. What was the significance of sacrifice in the new covenant?

3. How should a Christian view sacrifice?

4. What comes to your mind when "Christian giving" is mentioned?

Point to Ponder: Jesus exemplified a life of giving out of love for God and compassion for the needs of others. He gave beyond the law. He gave what was needed, even His life.

Call to Action: Answer in your notebook: how have your understandings of 'sacrifice' and 'giving' evolved since you were 5 years old, 10 years old?