

## Value the Church: *The Apostolate – Part 1*

LESSON AT A GLANCE	
<b>Facilitator Notes:</b>	<p><b>I wonder...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Why did Jesus establish the Apostle ministry?</li> <li>➤ How did Jesus establish the Apostle ministry?</li> <li>➤ Where were the first Apostles active?</li> </ul> <p><b>I believe...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Apostle ministry was established by Jesus Christ in order to grant human beings access to the sacrifice brought by Him and the salvation resulting from it. By preaching the gospel, proclaiming the forgiveness of sins in Jesus’ name, and dispensing the sacraments, Apostles prepare believers for His return. (Catechism Q&amp;A question 421,424)</li> <li>➤ The Apostles are ambassadors of Jesus Christ. The Apostle ministry is the only ministry Jesus directly gave to His church. He authorized, blessed, and sanctified the Apostles and equipped them with the Holy Spirit: “As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.’ And when He had said this He breathed on them, and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy spirit...’” (Catechism Q&amp;A question 421, 425)</li> <li>➤ In fulfillment of the Great Commission given them by Jesus Christ, the Apostles spread the gospel throughout present day Europe, Asia, and Africa. (Catechism Q&amp;A question 392)</li> </ul> <p><b>Materials:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ IGNITE Bible</li> <li>➤ Catechism Q&amp;A</li> <li>➤ Chart paper or whiteboard and markers</li> </ul> <p><b>References:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Bible: Matthew 10:1-4; 28:16-20, Mark 3:13-19, Luke 6:12-16, John 20:21-23, 2 Corinthians 1:24</li> <li>➤ Catechism Q&amp;A questions: 392, 400, 421-459</li> <li>➤ 4<sup>th</sup> Article of Faith</li> </ul>
PRE DISCUSSION MESSAGE TO PARENTS AND STUDENT (TO BE SENT VIA EMAIL OR TEXT)	
	<p>“New Apostolic” is more than just a name of a church. This week we will be talking about the only ministry Jesus established. Join us tomorrow for small group at _____.</p>
POST DISCUSSION MESSAGE TO PARENTS (TO BE SENT VIA EMAIL OR TEXT)	
<p><b>Facilitator Notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please feel free to add local information and customize as necessary</li> <li>• Consider including the link to <a href="#">the NAC Catechism</a></li> </ul>	<p>Dear Parents,</p> <p>This week the “I wonder...” questions are about Jesus establishing the Apostle ministry. Being the New Apostolic Church, it is important to understand why Jesus established this ministry. Consider taking some time this week to review Section 7.4 of the Catechism and refresh your understanding of the Apostle ministry. The Catechism is available online and as a mobile app.</p> <p>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><b>Facilitator Notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ What Bible verse was used for the basis of last Sunday's sermon?</li> <li>➤ What were some of the main takeaways? What did you learn?</li> <li>➤ So far this week, how have you applied what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?</li> <li>➤ Going forward, how will you apply what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?</li> </ul>
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**HOOK (up to 10 minutes)**

<p><b>Facilitator Notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week.</li> <li>• Have a large piece of paper and markers ready to write if you want to create a visible list.</li> <li>• If someone suggests Mark and Luke to the list of Apostles, clarify that Mark and Luke are writers of those Gospel books, but not Apostles.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ How are you and how are you feeling today?</li> <li>➤ Who would like to share their point to ponder or call to action from last week?</li>   <li>➤ Ask the students if they can remember any of the names of the Apostles in the Bible:</li> </ul> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;"><b>From the Gospel books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John:</b></td> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;"><b>From other New Testament books:</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">                 Simon (who is called Peter)                  Andrew                  James                  John                  Philip                  Bartholomew                  Thomas                  Matthew                  James                  Thaddaeus                  Simon (the Canaanite)                  Judas Iscariot             </td> <td style="padding: 5px;">                 Barnabas and Paul (Acts 14:14)                  Apollos (1 Corinthians 4:9)             </td> </tr> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Ask the students if they know the name of their District Apostle and Apostle:</li> </ul> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;"><b>USA Apostles as of September 2022</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">                 District Apostle Leonard Kolb                  Apostle John Fendt                  Apostle Robert Ferguson                  Apostle Mark Fuerbach                  Apostle Lonnie Klein                  Apostle Karl Orlofski                  Apostle Thomas Schmidt                  Apostle John Schnabel                  Apostle Brett Steinbrueck             </td> </tr> </table>	<b>From the Gospel books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John:</b>	<b>From other New Testament books:</b>	Simon (who is called Peter) Andrew James John Philip Bartholomew Thomas Matthew James Thaddaeus Simon (the Canaanite) Judas Iscariot	Barnabas and Paul (Acts 14:14) Apollos (1 Corinthians 4:9)	<b>USA Apostles as of September 2022</b>	District Apostle Leonard Kolb Apostle John Fendt Apostle Robert Ferguson Apostle Mark Fuerbach Apostle Lonnie Klein Apostle Karl Orlofski Apostle Thomas Schmidt Apostle John Schnabel Apostle Brett Steinbrueck
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**SET THE STAGE (1 minute)**

<p><b>Facilitator Notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preview the "I wonder" questions with the students.</li> </ul>	<p><b>I wonder...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Why did Jesus establish the Apostle ministry?</li> <li>➤ How did Jesus establish the Apostle ministry?</li> <li>➤ Where were the first Apostles active?</li> </ul>
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**LESSON (up to 25 minutes)**

<p><b>Facilitator Notes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>John 20:21</b>  <i>So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."</i></li> <li>• For more information, watch <a href="#">Episode 48 of For Your Journey   What is the bridal congregation?</a></li> <li>• Consider asking the students, frequently throughout discussions, "What is the gospel?" whenever it may tie in. Christians, not just those in ordained ministry, need to be able to summarize and articulate what the gospel is.</li> <li>• In addition to <b>Luke 6:12-16</b>, the account of Jesus choosing the Apostles is also documented in <b>Matthew 10:1-4</b> and <b>Mark 3:13-19</b>.</li> <li>• After the time of The Great Commission, there were only 11 Apostles, as Judas had committed suicide.</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Student Question #1</u> What does the word 'Apostle' mean?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The word 'Apostle' means "ambassador" and is derived from the Greek word <i>apostolos</i>. The Apostles are ambassadors of Jesus. Jesus Christ directly linked His sending with their sending in John 20:21. (Catechism Q&amp;A question 423)</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Student Question #2</u> Why did Jesus establish the Apostle ministry?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ There is work to be done and a message to spread.</li> <li>➤ The Apostle ministry was established by Jesus Christ in order to grant human beings access to the sacrifice brought by Him and the salvation resulting from it. Apostles proclaim the gospel and prepare the believers for His return. We believe that Jesus is coming back to gather His bride. (Catechism Q&amp;A question 421,424)</li> <li>➤ This proclaiming of the gospel (See H1 discussion guide from the 'Help spread the gospel' semester for additional information and references) is the message that the Apostles are messengers of. The Apostles are messengers of the good news (translation of 'gospel') that salvation is accessible through Jesus Christ and that Jesus promised to return again.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Student Question #3</u> How did Jesus establish the Apostle ministry?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The Apostles are ambassadors of Jesus Christ. The Apostle ministry is the only ministry Jesus directly gave to His church. He authorized, blessed, and sanctified the Apostles and equipped them with the Holy Spirit: "As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." And when He had said this He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy spirit..." (Catechism Q&amp;A question 421, 425)</li> <li>➤ Not all of the disciples that followed Jesus were chosen by Him to be Apostles. Luke 6:12-16 describes the moment some disciples became Apostles. Ask a student to read Luke 6:12-16. Being an Apostle indicates delegated authority.</li> <li>➤ While it was before Jesus was crucified that He chose the 12 Apostles, it was after He resurrected and just before His ascension that He gave them what is commonly referred to as "The Great Commission"</li> </ul>
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- The Great Commission can be found in Matthew 28:16-20. Ask a student, or a few students, to read The Great Commission.

#### **The Great Commission and the New Apostolic Church Mission Statement**

- The mission statement of the New Apostolic Church is tied directly to the Great Commission.
- Ask the students to read, or recite if they know it, the vision and mission statements of the New Apostolic Church.
  - The vision and mission statements of the New Apostolic Church can be found:
    - In the first few pages of the Catechism
    - In the first few pages of the Catechism Q&A
    - On a placard at the church
    - In the "About" tab of the NAC USA mobile app
    - In the THRIVE Membership Expectations booklet
- Discuss the similarities between the mission statement and the Great Commission.

#### **Student Question #4 What is the 4<sup>th</sup> Article of Faith?**

I believe that the Lord Jesus rules His church and thereto sent His Apostles, and until His return still sends them with the commission to teach, to forgive sins in His name, and to baptise with water and Holy Spirit.

#### **Student Question #5 Where were the first Apostles active?**

- In fulfillment of the Great Commission given them by Jesus Christ, the Apostles spread the gospel throughout present day Europe, Asia, and Africa. (Catechism Q&A question 392)

#### **Did the Apostle ministry cease to exist after the death of the early Apostles?**

The Apostle ministry continued to exist despite the fact that the Apostles died. This ministry has been instituted by Jesus Christ for His church. Even during the time when there were no bearers of this ministry on earth, the ministry established by Him was still present.

The Apostles are to be witnesses of Christ until the end of the age (cf. Matthew 28: 19-20). In order to fulfil this comprehensive task in view of His return, Jesus Christ also sends Apostles today. (Catechism Q&A question 447)

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

**How long did this interruption in the activity of Apostles last?**

According to extra-biblical sources, John was the last of the early Christian Apostles to die, and he did so near the end of the first century. The activity of the Apostles was thus interrupted until the renewed occupation of the Apostle ministry in the nineteenth century. (Catechism Q&A question 448)

**Why was the activity of the Apostles interrupted?**

This interruption in the activity of the Apostles has its source in the will of God. For human beings this remains a mystery. Nevertheless, the Holy Spirit remained active even in the time without Apostles, and assured the preservation and development of the gospel. (Catechism Q&A question 449)

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

**Facilitator Notes:**

**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.

**I wonder...**

- Why did Jesus establish the Apostle ministry?
- How did Jesus establish the Apostle ministry?
- Where were the first Apostles active?

**I believe...**

- The Apostle ministry was established by Jesus Christ in order to grant human beings access to the sacrifice brought by Him and the salvation resulting from it. By preaching the gospel, proclaiming the forgiveness of sins in Jesus' name, and dispensing the sacraments, Apostles prepare believers for His return. (Catechism Q&A question 421,424)
- The Apostles are ambassadors of Jesus Christ. The Apostle ministry is the only ministry Jesus directly gave to His church. He authorized, blessed, and sanctified the Apostles and equipped them with the Holy Spirit: "As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.' And when He had said this He breathed on them, and said to them, 'Receive the Holy spirit...'" (Catechism Q&A question 421, 425)
- In fulfillment of the Great Commission given them by Jesus Christ, the Apostles spread the gospel throughout present day Europe, Asia, and Africa. (Catechism Q&A question 392)

**Point to Ponder...**

- "In 2 Corinthians 1:14, Apostle Paul writes, 'Not that we have dominion over your faith, but we are fellow workers for your joy; for by faith you stand.' Paul describes the members of the congregation in Corinth as 'fellow workers'. With respect to the Great Commission and the NAC Mission Statement, in what ways is the work of Apostle Paul the same as the members of the congregation? In what ways is it different?"

**A Call to Action...**

- Over the next month, consider memorizing the Great Commission that Jesus gave the Apostles, found in Matthew 28:18-20.

**Weekly Reflections**

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

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

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

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

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**Point to Ponder...**

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**Call to Action...**

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## Value the Church: *The Apostolate – Part 1*

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<p>References: Matthew 10:1-4; 28:16-20, Mark 3:13-19, Luke 6:12-16, John 20:21-23, 2 Corinthians 1:24          Catechism Q&amp;A questions: 392, 400, 421-459, 4<sup>th</sup> Article of Faith</p>	

**1. What does the word 'Apostle' mean?**

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**2. Why did Jesus establish the Apostle ministry?**

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**3. How did Jesus establish the Apostle ministry?**

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**4. What is the fourth Article of Faith?**

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**5. Where were the first Apostles active?**

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**Point to Ponder:** “In 2 Corinthians 1:14, Apostle Paul writes, ‘Not that we have dominion over your faith, but we are fellow workers for your joy; for by faith you stand.’ Paul describes the members of the congregation in Corinth as ‘fellow workers’. With respect to the Great Commission and the NAC Mission Statement, in what ways is the work of Apostle Paul the same as the members of the congregation? In what ways is it different?”

**Call to Action:** Over the next month, consider memorizing the Great Commission that Jesus gave the Apostles, found in Matthew 28:18-20.



