

## Value the Church: *The Apostolate – Part 2*

LESSON AT A GLANCE	
<b>Facilitator Notes:</b>	<p><b>I wonder...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ How was the Apostle ministry re-occupied after the death of the first Apostles?</li> <li>➤ What is special about the Chief Apostle ministry?</li> <li>➤ How is the Apostolate active today?</li> </ul> <p><b>I believe...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Believers of various confessions (denominations) prayed and hoped that the Holy Spirit would once again become active. As of 1832, the Apostle ministry was once again personally occupied in accordance with God’s will, for the preparation of the bridal congregation. The re-occupation of the apostle ministry was a gift to the church of Christ – the new Apostles did not intend to start a new denomination(Catechism Q&amp;A question 400, 403, 452)</li> <li>➤ In his spiritual authority, the Chief Apostle promotes oneness among the church and the Apostolate.(Catechism Q&amp;A question 457, 459)</li> <li>➤ The Apostle ministry properly proclaims the gospel throughout the world, proclaims the forgiveness of sins in Jesus’ name, dispenses sacraments for the living and the dead, and ordains ministers. The bridal congregation is prepared for the return of Christ through the activity of the Apostles (Catechism Q&amp;A question 402)</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 6:26, 16:18-19, Luke 22:32, John 21:15-17, Romans 8:32, Philippians 4:19, Hebrews 11:6, Revelation 19:6-7</li> <li>➤ Catechism Q&amp;A questions: 392, 404, 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>This week we will be continuing the conversation about the only ministry Jesus established, specifically, what it means for us today. Join us tomorrow for small group at _____.</p>
POST DISCUSSION MESSAGE TO PARENTS (TO BE SENT VIA EMAIL OR TEXT)	
<b>Facilitator Notes:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please feel free to add local information and customize as necessary</li> </ul>	<p>Dear Parents,</p> <p>This week the “I wonder...” questions mentioned the re-occupation of the Apostle ministry and how the Apostles are active today. Consider taking some time this week to talk with your student about how you’ve valued the Church and what value the Apostles have for the Church.</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> </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 any have tried to memorize the Great Commission since the previous discussion (V3 – The Apostolate – Part 1)</li> <li>➤ Whether someone has taken time to learn it or not, as a group, read Matthew 28:18-20. If the students don't know the Great Commission yet, they should know where to find it in the Bible.</li> </ul>
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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>Say something like:</b> Last session we discussed WHY and HOW Jesus established the Apostle ministry and briefly touched on the interruption after the last Apostles of the early time died. This week we'll discuss the re-occupation of the Apostle ministry and what that means for us today.</p> <p><b>I wonder...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ How was the Apostle ministry re-occupied after the death of the first Apostles?</li> <li>➤ What is special about the Chief Apostle ministry?</li> <li>➤ How is the Apostolate active today?</li> </ul>
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**Jesus designated Peter as a leader among the Apostles. Additionally, Jesus gave Peter specific responsibility.**

Read, or have students read, the following passages:

- Matthew 16:18-19 – “On this rock I will build My church...”
- Luke 22:32- strengthen the brethren, that is the Apostles
- John 21:15- 17 – tends the “lambs and sheep” of the flock of Christ

These passages are the basis for the Chief Apostle ministry today.

**Student Question #2 What is special about the Chief Apostle ministry?**

- The Chief Apostle is the leading spiritual authority to promote oneness among the church and the Apostolate.(Catechism Q&A question 459)

The following responsibilities are specific to the Chief Apostle ministry:

- Maintaining unity among the Apostles and strengthens the Apostles
- Ensures that the gospel is proclaimed in unadulterated fashion (properly and purely proclaimed)
- Through the Holy Spirit, he opens up new insights and interconnections in the doctrine of the Church as is responsible for its uniform spread.
- Establishes the order within the Church
- Ordaining ministers who according to divine calling have been selected to become apostles

All of these duties comprise the ‘authority’ of the keys’ of the Chief Apostle ministry.

**Student Question #3 How is the Apostolate active today?**

- The Apostle ministry proclaims the gospel throughout the world, proclaims the forgiveness of sins in Jesus’ name, dispenses sacraments for the living and the dead, and ordains ministers. The bridal congregation is gathered and prepared for the return of Christ through the activity of the Apostles (Catechism Q&A question 402)

Consider showing a Community magazine or have the youth pull up the website, nac.today on their phones to find articles and stories of the Apostles of today being active throughout the world.

- *Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.*

**Revelation 19:7**

**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...**

- How was the Apostle ministry re-occupied after the death of the first Apostles?
- What is special about the Chief Apostle ministry?
- How is the Apostolate active today?

**I believe...**

- Believers of various confessions (denominations) prayed and hoped that the Holy Spirit would once again become active. As of 1832, the Apostle ministry was once again personally occupied in accordance with God's will, for the preparation of the bridal congregation. The re-occupation of the apostle ministry was a gift to the church of Christ – the new Apostles did not intend to start a new denomination (Catechism Q&A question 400, 403, 452)
- In his spiritual authority, the Chief Apostle promotes oneness among the church and the Apostolate. (Catechism Q&A question 457, 459)
- The Apostle ministry properly proclaims the gospel throughout the world, proclaims the forgiveness of sins in Jesus' name, dispenses sacraments for the living and the dead, and ordains ministers. The bridal congregation is prepared for the return of Christ through the activity of the Apostles (Catechism Q&A question 402)

**Point to Ponder...**

- The Apostles of today proclaim (preach) the same message of salvation that Jesus proclaimed thousands of years ago. How cool is that?

**A Call to Action...**

- Memorize the 4<sup>th</sup> Article of Faith (found on page 251 of the Catechism Q&A).

**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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**1. How was the Apostle ministry re-occupied after the death of the first Apostles?**

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**2. What is special about the Chief Apostle ministry?**

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**3. How is the Apostolate active today?**

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**Point to Ponder:** The Apostles of today proclaim (preach) the same message of salvation that Jesus proclaimed thousands of years ago. How cool is that?

**Call to Action:** Memorize the 4<sup>th</sup> Article of Faith (found on page 251 of the Catechism Q&A).