

## Value the Church: *The Ministries*

LESSON AT A GLANCE	
<b>Facilitator Notes:</b>	<p><b>I wonder...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ What are the tasks of a deacon?</li> <li>➤ What are the tasks of a priest?</li> <li>➤ What are the tasks of an apostle?</li> </ul> <p><b>I believe...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ A deacon’s tasks are to properly proclaim (preach) the word of God in the divine service, dispense the Trinitarian blessing, offer support, and pastoral care. (Catechism Q&amp;A question 470)</li> <li>➤ In addition to the tasks of a deacon, the priest can dispense Holy Baptism, Holy Communion, and proclaim forgiveness of sins. (Catechism Q&amp;A question 469)</li> <li>➤ An Apostle can dispense the gift of the Holy Spirit in Holy Sealing and ordain ministers, in addition to the deacon and priestly tasks. (Catechism Q&amp;A question 424)</li> </ul> <p><b>Materials:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ IGNITE Bible</li> <li>➤ Catechism Q&amp;A</li> </ul> <p><b>References:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Bible: Exodus 3:12, 1 Samuel 16:7, 12, Matthew 16:18-19, Luke 22:32, John 21:15-17, Acts 6:6, 1 Corinthians 12:4-6, 12-17</li> <li>➤ Catechism Q&amp;A questions: 411-418, 424, 443-444, 469, 470, 644, 647</li> <li>➤ 5<sup>th</sup> Article of Faith</li> <li>➤ Nac.today article – <a href="#">“Ministry: Authority with Limits”</a></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 ministries in the church. 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> <li>• Consider sharing the <a href="#">Nac.today article, “Ministry: Authority with Limits”</a> in the post-discussion email.</li> </ul>	<p>Dear Parents,</p> <p>This week the “I wonder...” questions focused on the 3 ministries of the church: deacon, priest, and apostle. Consider taking some time this week to talk with your student about what it means for ordained ministers to have accepted responsibility and why we want to respect both the person and the ministry.</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 they have ever been a part of a team (sports team, project at school, drama club, etc.) where they had to work with other people.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Encourage the students to share an experience or something they learned from working together with others.</li> <li>▪ Ultimately, summarize how there are different responsibilities and roles that contribute to the same goal (winning the game, getting a good grade, putting on a play, etc.).</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Ask the students to name some of the ministers they know from their congregation/district.</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>I wonder...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ What are the tasks of a deacon?</li> <li>➤ What are the tasks of a priest?</li> <li>➤ What are the tasks of an apostle?</li> </ul>
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**LESSON (up to 25 minutes)**

**Facilitator Notes:**

- **Acts 6:6**, and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them.
- The 5<sup>th</sup> Article of Faith can be found on page 251 of the Catechism Q&A book.
- Additional information about the authorization, blessing, and sanctification that happen in an ordination can be found in Catechism Q&A questions 415-417.

**Student Question #1 What does the term 'ministry mean?**

- In general, the term 'ministry' is understood as a function or official position associated with specific tasks and responsibilities. (Catechism Q&A question 411)
- It is important to distinguish the difference between a ministry (children's ministry, youth ministry) and an ordained ministry (deacon, priest, apostle).

**Student Question #2 What is the difference between a ministry and an ordained ministry?**

- A spiritual, or ordained, ministry constitutes the authorization, blessing, and sanctification issued through ordination for service in the church of Christ. A spiritual ministry is exercised in the power of the Holy Spirit and also includes a mandate. A mandate consists of a specific time and location of when and where to exercise a given spiritual ministry. (Catechism Q&A question 412)
- A spiritual ministry is founded upon the sending of Jesus Christ by God, the Father. Jesus is thus the One sent by God. As such, He is authorized, blessed, and sanctified for the redemption of mankind. The Apostles are those who have been sent by Jesus Christ. (Catechism Q&A question 413)
- In an ordination, the Apostle lays their hands on the person receiving the ministry and prays. This laying on of hands by the Apostle is taken directly from Acts 6:6. God provides the authorization, blessing and sanctification (Catechism Q&A question 412,443-444).
- Ask a student to read the 5<sup>th</sup> Article of Faith.

**Student Question #3 How are ministers selected?**

- Being ordained into a ministry isn't a promotion or a position for fame or self-gain, but rather a calling by God for specific work and responsibility. For this God also provides necessary signs and indications.
- Biblical examples of God calling people for responsibilities:
  - God spoke to Moses from a burning bush. He commissioned Moses to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt. Moses gave various reasons which he considered a hindrance to fulfilling his commission. God however, had chosen him and no one else. He told Moses, "I will certainly be with you" (Exodus 3:12).
  - God once sent the prophet Samuel to Bethlehem where he was to anoint one of Jesse's sons king. Jesse introduced seven of his sons to Samuel, but not one of them was the chosen one. Samuel then asked Jesse if these were all of his children. Jesses had one more son. He was the youngest and tended the sheep. Samuel requested that he be brought to him. God then said to the prophet, "Arise, anoint him; for this is the one!" (1 Samuel 16:12). This is how David was called to be king. God had told Samuel what is decisive for such a selection: "Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart" ( 1 Samuel 16:7).

- This point about Peter is taken directly from the V4 discussion on the Apostolate. This is an opportunity to review this point from the previous discussion to show how these topics connect.

- Can also reference Nac.today article – [“Ministry: Authority with Limits”](#) in this section.

- It is important to note that it is God who forgives sins. The priest, in the commission of their sender the Apostle, proclaims the assurance that sins have been forgiven, in Jesus’ name.
- The Apostle, in commission of Jesus, proclaims the same assurance that sins have been forgiven, in Jesus’ name. The Apostle does not forgive the sins. (Catechism Q&A questions 644, 647)

- Jesus designated Peter as a leader among the Apostles. Additionally, Jesus gave Peter specific responsibility.
  - i. Read, or have students read, the following passages:
    - Matthew 16:18-19
    - Luke 22:32
    - John 21:15- 17

### **Ordained ministries in the New Apostolic Church**

- The 3 ordained ministries in the New Apostolic Church are:
  - Deacon
  - Priest
  - Apostle

Like on a sports team, group project, etc., the 3 ministries have unique roles and responsibilities.

### **Student Question #4 What are the tasks of a deacon?**

- A deacon’s tasks are to offer support, pastoral care, blessing, and to proclaim (preach) the word in the divine services. (Catechism Q&A question 470)

### **Student Question #5 What are the tasks of a priest?**

- In addition to the tasks of a deacon, the priest can dispense Holy Baptism, Holy Communion, and proclaim forgiveness of sins. (Catechism Q&A question 469)

### **Student Question #6 What are the tasks fo an apostle?**

- In addition to the deacon and priestly tasks, an Apostle can dispense the gift of the Holy Spirit, and ordain ministers.(Catechism Q&A question 424)

**Even though the roles and responsibilities are different, Apostle Paul reminds us through his letter to the Corinthians that we all serve the same Lord.**

- **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.*

	<p><b><u>Student Question #7</u> Are ordained ministers the only ones called to serve God?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ No. Every baptized believer is called upon to serve the Lord in active love for his neighbor and by professing their faith. (Catechism Q&amp;A question 418).</li> <li>➤ An image that the Bible uses to emphasize the point that there is both unity and diversity and how we all contribute, is the image of the body.</li> <li>➤ Have the students take turns reading through 1 Corinthians 12:12-17.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ After reading the Bible passage, ask the students to summarize the verses in their own words.</li> <li>○ If there is time, consider reading the "White Hot Topic: Identity" on page 1205 of the IGNITE Bible.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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**WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME? (up to 10 minutes)**

<p><b>Facilitator Notes:</b></p>	<p><b>Close with the "I Wonder..." questions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 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.</li> <li>➤ As you review each question and answer, stop and check in with the group to be sure there are no misunderstandings or misconceptions.</li> </ul> <p><b>I wonder...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ What are the tasks of a deacon?</li> <li>➤ What are the tasks of a priest?</li> <li>➤ What are the tasks of an Apostle?</li> </ul> <p><b>I believe...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ A deacon's tasks are to properly proclaim (preach) the word of God in the divine service, dispense the Trinitarian blessing, offer support, and pastoral care. (Catechism Q&amp;A question 470)</li> <li>➤ In addition to the tasks of a deacon, the priest can dispense Holy Baptism, Holy Communion, and proclaim forgiveness of sins. (Catechism Q&amp;A question 469)</li> <li>➤ An Apostle can dispense the gift of the Holy Spirit in Holy Sealing and ordain ministers, in addition to the deacon and priestly tasks. (Catechism Q&amp;A question 424)</li> </ul> <p><b>Point to Ponder...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The ministers that we see in our church aren't seeking fame or higher status. Ponder that they have accepted a call to serve the Lord with unique responsibilities.</li> </ul> <p><b>A Call to Action...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Memorize the 5<sup>th</sup> Article of Faith (found on page 251 of the Catechism Q&amp;A).</li> </ul>
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**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 2*

<p><b>I wonder...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ What are the tasks of a deacon?</li> <li>➤ What are the tasks of a priest?</li> <li>➤ What are the tasks of an apostle?</li> </ul>	<p><b>I believe...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ A deacon’s tasks are to properly proclaim (preach) the word of God in the divine service, dispense the Trinitarian blessing, offer support, and pastoral care. (Catechism Q&amp;A question 470)</li> <li>➤ In addition to the tasks of a deacon, the priest can dispense Holy Baptism, Holy Communion, and proclaim forgiveness of sins. (Catechism Q&amp;A question 469)</li> <li>➤ An Apostle can dispense the gift of the Holy Spirit in Holy Sealing and ordain ministers, in addition to the deacon and priestly tasks. (Catechism Q&amp;A question 424)</li> </ul>
<p>Bible: Exodus 3:12, 1 Samuel 16:7, 12, Matthew 16:18-19, Luke 22:32, John 21:15-17, Acts 6:6, 1 Corinthians 12:4-6, 12-17                  Catechism Q&amp;A questions: 411-418, 424, 443-444, 469, 470, 644, 647 Article of Faith 5</p>	

**1. What does the term 'ministry' mean?**

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**2. What is the difference between a ministry and an ordained ministry?**

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**3. How are ministers selected?**

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**4. What are the tasks of a deacon?**

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**5. What are the tasks of a priest?**

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**6. What are the tasks fo an apostle?**

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**7. Are ordained ministers the only ones called to serve God?**

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**Point to Ponder:** The ministers that we see in our church aren't seeking fame or higher status. Ponder that they have accepted a call to serve the Lord with unique responsibilities.

**Call to Action:** Memorize the 5<sup>th</sup> Article of Faith (found on page 251 of the Catechism Q&A).