

Value the Church: *Preparation and Responsibility*

LESSON AT A GLANCE	
<p>Facilitator Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For Your Journey episodes can be found on the NAC USA mobile app and at the NAC USA YouTube channel 	<p>I wonder...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What are we preparing for? ➤ What are my social and civic responsibilities? <p>I believe...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ We are preparing for the return of Christ with the goal of being accepted by Him when He returns. (Catechism Q&A question 550) ➤ I am obligated to contribute to the benefit of society and to obey the laws provided no godly laws are violated. (Catechism Q&A question 745, 750) <p>Materials:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ IGNITE Bible ➤ Catechism ➤ Catechism Q&A ➤ For Your Journey: Episode 13 What does Scripture say about the end times? <p>References:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Bible: John 14:1-4, Romans 13:1-7 ➤ Catechism Q&A questions: 550, 745-748, 750 ➤ Catechism 2.4.10 ➤ 9th and 10th Articles of Faith
PRE DISCUSSION MESSAGE TO PARENTS AND STUDENT (TO BE SENT VIA EMAIL OR TEXT)	
	<p>This week we will be discussing the 9th and 10th Articles of Faith, which focus on the future and our responsibility here on earth. Where do you fit into this plan? 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"> • Please feel free to customize add local information as necessary. 	<p>Dear Parents,</p> <p>This week the "I Wonder..." questions were about our future with Christ and our responsibility to society. The discussion focused on how our actions today help prepare us for our future. Talk with your student about your anticipation for the return of Christ. Tell them what you are doing today in order to prepare for His return. With your student, brainstorm ideas of activities or values that you can both do together or incorporate into your lives in order to prepare for Christ's return. As always, if you have questions about the topic, please feel free to contact us.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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?
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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? <p>Have the students think about their future for a couple minutes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Maybe they are planning on going to college and/or choosing a certain career. ➤ Maybe they want to join the military. <p>Now have them write down what they are doing now to prepare for that future.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ They are trying to get good grades in school, so they can get into college. ➤ They are doing extracurricular activities to help them learn certain skills they think will be useful.
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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 we preparing for? ➤ What are my social and civic responsibilities?
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LESSON (up to 25 minutes)

<p>Facilitator Notes:</p>	<p><u>Student Question #1</u> What are we preparing for?</p> <p>Ask the students: Why do you go to church? Why do you try to follow Jesus' teachings and live a good life?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Encourage your students to be honest. ➤ Take note if any of the students provide a future-oriented answer. <p>Tell the students: Part of why we go to church and live a good life is because we love Jesus and this is how we can express that love. Also, God wants us to be in fellowship with other believers, and we want what He wants. Another reason why we do these things is because of the future. We're preparing for Jesus' return and a future when we live eternally with God.</p>
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- The Articles of Faith can be found on page 251 of the Catechism Q&A book.
- If the students are interested in learning more about the future events that are listed in the 9th Article of Faith, they can read Catechism Q&A questions 557-581 on their own time.
- Additional information about eschatology (the doctrine of future things), will be covered in greater detail in the upcoming “Embrace the promise of Christ’s return” semester of the Youth THRIVE Small Group curriculum.
- For an additional talking point, consider having a student read “Flashpoint: Authority” on page 1188 of the IGNITE Bible.
- On the topic of obedience/submission, consider referencing and/or reminding the students about the I3 lesson from the “Invest in your spiritual health” semester.

Read Catechism Q&A question 550 together as a group.

Tell the students: Let’s also read together our 9th Article of Faith.

- I believe that the Lord Jesus will return as surely as He ascended into heaven and that He will take to Himself the firstfruits of the dead and living who have hoped for and were prepared for His coming; that after the marriage in heaven He will return to earth with them to establish His kingdom of peace, and that they will reign with Him as a royal priesthood. After the conclusion of the kingdom of peace, He will hold the Last Judgement. Then God will create a new heaven and a new earth and dwell with His people.

Student Question #2 So we know that we are preparing for Jesus’ return, it is what we’re looking forward to, but what does this really mean?

- Let’s watch [For Your Journey, Episode 13 | What Does Scripture Say About The End Times?](#) to learn a little more about this.
- After watching the For Your Journey episode, ask the students: Why is it important to prepare for our future with God?

Student Question #3 What are my social and civic responsibilities?

Tell the students: We have been given commands by God as part of our preparation for Jesus’ return to help us live a godly life. In addition to these commands are many helpful instructions, or pieces of advice, that aid us in living the way God wants us to. We can read one of these instructions in Romans 13:1-7.

- Read the 10th Article of Faith together
 - To help understand the scope of the 10th Article of Faith, consider reading, or take turns reading, Catechism section 2.4.10 verbatim from the full Catechism book/mobile app.
- It is common for people to justify breaking a law or rule because “it won’t hurt anyone” or “everyone else is doing it and they don’t get in trouble”. God expects us to follow the laws and rules, **provided no godly laws are thereby transgressed.**
- Even if we think the law/rule is inconvenient, or not a ‘big deal’, like going a few miles per hour over the speed limit, it is still a violation of a law.
 - Consider observing the laws/rules, again **provided that no godly laws are thereby transgressed**, as an exercise in the spiritual discipline of obedience.

Tell the students: Not only are we told to follow the laws of our time, but more is asked of us.

- Read Catechism Q&A questions 745 and 746.

Student Question #4 How can you contribute to the benefit of society and help promote the common good?

Tell the students: Just because you aren’t an adult yet doesn’t mean that you can’t help society. In light of this, let’s brainstorm some ideas of how you/we can do this, whether individually or as a youth group.

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

Facilitator Notes:

Wrap up the lesson with why our actions today help prepare us for the future.

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 surrendered themselves to the triune God in obedience.

I wonder...

- What are we preparing for?
- What are my social and civic responsibilities?

I believe...

- We are preparing for the return of Christ with the goal of being accepted by Him when He returns. (Catechism Q&A question 550)
- I am obligated to contribute to the benefit of society and to obey the laws provided no godly laws are violated. (Catechism Q&A question 745, 750)

Point to Ponder....

- Jesus says to His disciples: *Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And where I go you know, and the way you know (John 14:1-4).* What do these verses mean to you? How do they give you strength and hope?

A Call to Action....

- In this lesson, we talked a lot about our actions today in connection with preparing for the future. It may be overwhelming to you to think about all the things you should or can do in order to prepare for your future with God. Write a prayer to God asking for His help, patience, and the Spirit's guidance in your preparation.
- Learn the 9th 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: *Preparation and Responsibility*

I wonder... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What are we preparing for? ➤ What are my social and civic responsibilities? 	I believe... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ We are preparing for the return of Christ with the goal of being accepted by Him when He returns. (Q&A question 550) ➤ I am obligated to contribute to the benefit of society and to obey the laws provided no godly laws are violated. (Q&A question 745, 750)
References: John 14:1-4, Romans 13:1-7, Catechism Q&A questions: 550, 745-748, 750, Catechism 2.4.10, 9 th and 10 th Articles of Faith	

1. What are we preparing for?

2. So we know that we are preparing for Jesus' return, it is what we're looking forward to, but what does this really mean?

3. What are my social and civic responsibilities?

4. How can you contribute to the benefit of society and help promote the common good?

Point to Ponder: Jesus says to His disciples: *Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And where I go you know, and the way you know* (John 14:1-4). What do these verses mean to you? How do they give you strength and hope?

Call to Action: In this lesson, we talked a lot about our actions today in connection with preparing for the future. It may be overwhelming to you to think about all the things you should or can do in order to prepare for your future with God. Write a prayer to God asking for His help, patience, and the Spirit's guidance in your preparation. Learn the 9th Article of Faith.