



Future-proofing our children

Confirmation 1

Lesson Title	The post apostolic age
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A Parent's Guide
Sunday School Home Schooling



Dear Parent

Welcome to the “**The post apostolic age**” Confirmation 1 lesson.

This document provides you with a minimum guide on how to present the lesson.

How to prepare and present the lesson

Below are some tips on how to go about preparing and presenting the lesson:

Step	Action
1	Access the New Apostolic Church Website by keying-in or clicking on the following link from WhatsApp: https://bit.ly/3NACSSHS
2	Gather the following tools to ensure that you are ready for the lesson: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bible • The lesson in PDF format that is already prepared • Child’s workbook and a pen, etc. • The Video Clip which is an additional/ optional resource tool • Catechism and Questions and Answers (especially for Confirmation) <p>Note:</p> <p>2.1: An ideal time preferably to present the lesson is after the Sunday morning service in line with the normal Sunday School time to maintain the routine.</p> <p>2.2: Please keep the lesson as concise (brief) as possible, bearing in mind the attention span (to focus on the lesson) of our children - you know your child best! <i>Sunday School normally does not exceed 45 minutes.</i></p> <p>2.3: The lesson is class specific (Confirmation 1).</p> <p>2.4: Please contact your Confirmation Teacher if you need any assistance or if you need any of the above resources.</p>
3	Pray (see the prayer at the end of this document) and ask God to use you as a tool to present the lesson the way He would want us to present it.



Present a Confirmation Lesson at Home

How to prepare and present the lesson

We continue to share some tips on how to go about preparing and presenting the lesson:

Step	Action
4	Create a pleasant, disturbance free learning environment where you and the child/ren are at the same level. <i>Example:</i> Sit around a table.
5	Read through the lesson. Re-read the lesson so that you understand it. Watch the video-clip of the lesson to get a better understanding of the lesson.
6	Make notes for yourself on important points that you would like to remember.
7	Understand the objective of the lesson that your child must remember.
8	Present the lesson to your child.
9	Show your child the video and recap on the meaning.
10	Refer your child to the activity in the child's workbook (I Also Want To.....)
11	Pray, or ask your child to pray and close the lesson.

Available tools in terms of Home Schooling

Herewith some tools to enhance the quality of the lesson:

1. WhatsApp chat the lesson with another Confirmation 1 family.
2. Discuss the lesson with other parents to obtain clarity regarding the lesson before it is presented.
3. Feel free to conduct (do) your own research for additional (extra) information.



The Lesson

Lesson Title	The post apostolic age
Bible texts	Bible texts recorded in lesson summary below
Lesson Objective	The children learn about how the Christian church developed after the death of the first Apostles.

Lesson Summary:

Introduction

While Jesus was on earth, He shared God’s plan of salvation for mankind. Jesus could only reach a few people. When Jesus died, He established the basis for salvation for all people. He commissioned the Apostles as His ambassadors: “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations” (Matthew 28: 19). They too could not reach all people.

This week we ask the question: “What happened after the last Apostle of the early church died?”

Bishops become the highest spiritual authority:

- The time from the death of the last Apostle (about AD 100) until the year 400 is called the post-apostolic early Christian age.
- The Bishops assumed responsibility for the congregations, cared for them, and continued to spread the gospel of Jesus.
- The bishops of the post-apostolic age, held meetings discussed church matters and made decisions to ensure doctrinal unity.
- They established basic principles, such as the doctrine of the Trinity, which are essential for the Christian faith: The Creed of Nicaea-Constantinople documents the Christian belief:
 - All Christian churches and communities believe in the triune God.
 - They believe in God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.
 - One holy universal [catholic] and apostolic church.

The persecution of the Christians:

- The Roman emperors at the time placed special importance on the practice of religion as this helped to strengthened their empires.
- The success of Roman politics was dependent on people worshipping various gods (idols). It was a way to control the thinking of the people.



- Christians however, because of the conviction of their faith (namely the living God is the only God) refused to acknowledge pagan gods.
- Many Christians were put to death cruelly (by crucifixion, as live feed for animals in arenas, or burnt as live torches) because they would not worship the emperor nor his gods.
- Others were ridiculed and despised by their fellow-men.

The battle of faith and conviction of faith.

- Unlike the time that we were taught about today, we live in a country where we have freedom of religion. However, there are countries in which Christians are persecuted and killed.

Have you ever been mocked because of your faith?

- At times we find ourselves in situations that require us to make it clear where we stand and profess our faith.
- Professing our faith can lead to conflicts – you might have experienced this at school or in social situations – possibly peer pressure!
- In spite of it, we always want to readily profess our faith.
- As children of God, we can be sure that our heavenly Father will stand by us.
- We do not have to be afraid of anyone. Matthew 10: 32: “Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.”

What does this lesson mean for us today?

- Jesus revealed God’s plan of salvation and with His death He established our future with Him and our heavenly Father.
- The Apostles of the time continued to teach and prepare Christians for a future with God.
- The lives of many Christians changed as a result of Jesus’ teaching, so too today.
- Many Christians were persecuted and killed for their beliefs at that time.
- I want to profess and live my faith and not be afraid of being teased or rejected by others. (persecuted)



These are the questions and answers in the Workbook:

1. How long after Jesus died, did the Apostles continue to lead Christians?

Answer: We do not know an exact time but it is about 100 years after the birth of Jesus

2. What happened after the Apostles died?

Answer: The bishops in the church at the time took on the spiritual and ministerial responsibilities of the church. But it is important for you to know that although the Apostles of the time died, the ministry did not die. During the course of the year, you will learn more about the activity of the Apostle ministry closer to our time.

3. How were people persecuted at that time?

Answer: Christians were cruelly put to death (by crucifixion, as live feed for the animals in the arenas, or burnt as live torches).

4. Who ordered these persecutions?

Answer: Mostly the Roman emperors. If you are curious, research the following emperors: Nero, Constantine, Theodosius, Decius, Domitian and Diocletian.

5. Is it hard to understand that people would be prepared to die for their beliefs?

Answer: Yes, our instinct to survive is strong and we would do anything to survive, even lie about something as important as our beliefs. But, if we see it in the context of the time, there are a number of events that happened that helps us make sense. The son of God changed the world in immeasurable ways. Jesus spread the gospel to everyone. People who accepted Christ's teaching and principles were noticed. These Christians treated one another the same regardless of social status, whether they were rich or poor, masters or slaves. Everyone in the congregation was equal. This attracted many ordinary people. Christians' fearless profession of their faith made others wonder about the power and hope inspired in these Christians. Christians were prepared to die for their faith.

A Prayer for Daddy and Mommy to pray before the lesson:

*Dear God, thank you for this day,
Bless all parents and children
May we feel your presence,
Bless the lesson we will have
Please teach us how to serve you,
And help us to do your will
So that we grow closer to you,
Send Jesus to fetch us
And may we be ready to meet Him,
Amen.*