



Future-proofing our children

Confirmation 1

Lesson Title	Divine service for the departed
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A Parent's Guide
Sunday School Home Schooling



Dear Parent

Welcome to the “**Divine service for the departed**” 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	Divine service for the departed
Lesson Text	Bible texts recorded in lesson summary below
Lesson Objective	The confirmands know that through their prayers for the souls in the beyond they can help along in the work of salvation.

Lesson Summary:

1. Lazarus and the rich man

Do you remember the story of Lazarus and the rich man? The rich man lived a life of ease every day. Lazarus on the other hand was a poor man who had to live on the scraps that fell from the rich man's table. When the two died Lazarus went to be with Abraham. The rich man however, went into a realm where he suffered in agony. When he saw Lazarus with Abraham in the far distance he shouted, "Father Abraham have pity! Send Lazarus to me to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue. I am in anguish in these flames" (cf. Luke 16: 19–31).

2. The various realms in the beyond

- When people die their soul goes into the realm in the beyond that corresponds to its condition during their lifetime. For example, if a thief dies he goes into the beyond as a thief.
- A person's soul has not undergone any change as a result of physical death.
- The soul also continues to be burdened with all the sins which have not been forgiven.
- The departed can become aware of their condition and those who suffer can hope for help.
- In the beyond we also find the dead in Jesus Christ.
- This group also includes those who have received the sacraments in the beyond. They wait for the return of Christ and prepare themselves for it.

3. Help for unredeemed souls

- Since the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, it has been possible to change the condition of the souls in the beyond for the better.
- After the death of Jesus Christ, He went into the realm of the dead and preached there (1 Peter 3: 19–20).
- Therefore, a human being can also have salvation after physical death.



- We too, want to plead with our heavenly Father to help the unredeemed souls in the beyond.
- Our prayers for these souls are indications of our love for our fellow human beings.

4. Divine service for the departed

- Souls in the beyond are invited to each divine service.
- The sacrifice of Jesus Christ provides free access to salvation for each soul longing for redemption and salvation.
- Three times a year (on the first Sunday of the months of March, July, and November) there are divine services for the departed in which the sacraments are dispensed to them.
- During the divine service these souls hear God's word just as we do.
- After the forgiveness of sins and celebration of Holy Communion the officiant prays.
- The Chief Apostle, District Apostles, or an Apostle will then dispense the sacraments for the departed.
- Souls who have not yet been baptised may first receive Holy Baptism.
- The gift of the Holy Spirit is dispensed upon those who are prepared accordingly.
- Afterwards Holy Communion is dispensed for the departed.
- Two ministers serve as proxies (representatives) for the departed during the dispensation of the sacraments.
- What these souls experience with the sacraments and word will have an effect upon their soul's condition in the beyond.

5. How can we be of help to the souls in the beyond?

- We include the souls in the beyond in every prayer.
- Before a divine service for the departed though, we especially pray for them.
- We ask the Lord to help them and pray that the souls come to believe in Jesus Christ and that they are open to accept the salvation of God.

What does this lesson mean for us today?

- There is help for unredeemed souls.
- The word and sacraments are important to us here on earth, so too for the souls in the beyond hence the importance of the divine service for the departed.
- We can play our part by praying for the souls in the beyond.



Some questions that we can ask:

1. Can I connect with the departed?

Answer: By remembering the departed and praying for them, we have a connection with them.

2. What about going to a medium or people who say they can call on the dead?

Answer: Attempting to contact (through channeling or black magic) the departed is forbidden by God. In Deut 18:10-12 it says: “there shall not be found among you anyone [...] who is a medium or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead. For all who do these things are an abomination to the Lord”.

3. Is there a reincarnation of the dead?

Answer: No. Any notion of repeated lives one earth, whether as a human being, animal or plant contradicts the statements of the Bible and thus content of the gospel: “it is appointed for men to die once” (Hebrews 9: 27).

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.*