



Future-proofing our children

Confirmation 2

Lesson Title

Divine service for the departed

A Parent's Guide
Sunday School Home Schooling



Dear Parent

Welcome to the “**Divine service for the departed**” Confirmation 2 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	<p>Access the New Apostolic Church Website by keying-in or clicking on the following link from WhatsApp:</p> <p>https://bit.ly/3NACSSHS</p>
2	<p>Gather the following tools to ensure that you are ready for the lesson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bible • The lesson in PDF format that is already prepared • Child’s workbook and pencils, crayons, 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 2).</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	<p>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.</p>



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. Example: Sit on a mat or 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 2 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.
4. Contact your congregation Sunday School Coordinator and/or Confirmation teacher for additional information.



The Lesson

Lesson Title	Divine service for the departed
Text	Luke 16: 19-31; 1 Peter 3: 19-20 and 4: 6; 1 Timothy 2: 3-4; 2 Maccabees 12: 43-45; 1 Corinthians 15: 29 and John 20: 23
Catechism & Q&A	Chapter 9, Q&A 543 – 547
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:

<p><u>The various realms in the beyond:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are various realms in the beyond. • When people die, their soul goes into the realm that corresponds to its condition during their lifetime. • For example, if they permitted themselves to be influenced and became liars, thieves, unbelievers, and so on, then this is the spiritual condition in which they go into the beyond. • Their soul also continues to be burdened with all the sins which have not been forgiven. • In the beyond we also find the dead in Jesus Christ (the redeemed). We believe that the redeemed children of God in the beyond bring the gospel of Christ to the unredeemed souls. • This group also includes those who have received the sacraments in the beyond. • Like us, they wait for the return of Christ and prepare themselves for it. <p><u>Help for unredeemed souls:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Apostle Peter referred to Jesus, who after His death on the cross, went to the realms of the departed and preached the gospel to the unredeemed souls in the beyond. (1 Peter 3: 19-20) • God wants to help the unredeemed souls come to the knowledge of the truth and find redemption. (1 Timothy 2: 3-4) • We plead with our heavenly Father to help the unredeemed souls in the beyond through prayer. • Our prayers for these souls are indications of our love for our fellow human beings. <p><u>Divine service for the departed:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The yonder realms are opened through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.



- His sacrifice provides access to salvation for each soul longing for redemption and salvation. These are invited to the divine service for the departed.
- Three times a year (on the first Sunday of March, July, and November) there are divine services for the departed in which the sacraments are dispensed to them.
- Departed souls who have recognised their condition and long for redemption are able to receive forgiveness and the sacraments at the altar of Christ here on earth by a living Apostle. (1 Corinthians 15: 29)
- To receive this, they have to come where the means of grace are dispensed through the Apostles of Christ. Two ministers serve as proxies for the departed during the dispensation of the sacraments.
- 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. In this prayer he expresses his gratitude that through Jesus' Apostles the means of grace, redemption and salvation can be dispensed for unredeemed souls from the beyond. He also expresses his joy that by receiving the sacraments these souls, together with us, constitute one spiritual fellowship.

What does this lesson mean for us today?

- It is the responsibility of each one of us to be of help to all unredeemed souls in the beyond.
- We are prepared for this task on the Sunday before the service for the departed.
- We include the souls in the beyond in every prayer.
- Before a divine service for the departed though we especially pray for them.
- They must overcome everything that separates them from God and accept Jesus Christ as their Redeemer.
- We should learn to pray for the souls in the beyond!

Write down the names of the souls in the beyond that you would like to pray for and invite them to the divine service for the departed.

Some questions that we can ask:

1. What happens to the souls of people when they die?

Answer: When people die their soul goes into the realm that corresponds to its condition during their lifetime. For example, if they permitted themselves to be influenced and became liars, thieves, unbelievers, and so on, then this is the spiritual condition in which they go into the beyond. Their soul also continues to be burdened



with all the sins which have not been forgiven. In the beyond we also find the dead in Jesus Christ.

2. Can an unredeemed soul in the realms of the beyond be saved?

Answer: Yes. The Apostle Peter referred to Jesus, who after His death on the cross, went to the realms of the departed and preached the gospel to the souls in the beyond. God wants to help the unredeemed souls come to the knowledge of the truth and find redemption.

3. What can we do to help such unredeemed souls?

Answer: We can pray that they find forgiveness and redemption.

4. How many divine services for the departed do we celebrate and when?

Answer: 3 service on the first Sunday in March, July and Novembers

5. Who serves as proxies for the departed during the dispensation of the sacraments?

Answer: Two ministers

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