



The New Apostolic Christian

8

Objective The confirmands profess their New Apostolic faith.

Contents Professing our faith to others.

1 Lead-in

Ask **Who in your neighbourhood knows that you are New Apostolic?**

Listen to answers

Ask **How do these people know that you are New Apostolic?**

Hint The confirmation teacher listens to the answers without commenting and notes the most interesting ones.

2 Professing our faith

Hint The confirmation teacher now provides the following illustration or comes back to a similar example provided by the confirmands.

Tell Imagine that one of your friends invites you to accompany him to a sporting event, a concert, or another event next Sunday. It takes place at the same time as the divine service.

Ask **What answer will you give him?**

Listen to answers and summarise Such a situation provides a convenient opportunity to profess our faith.

Hint An additional illustration should make this even clearer. Here too a similar example provided by the confirmands can be selected.

Tell It is Monday morning. Your friend tells you enthusiastically about his or her exciting Sunday and then spontaneously asks you, "What did you do yesterday?"

Ask **What will you answer?**





8

The New Apostolic Christian

Listen to answers and summarise

In this situation we can mention that we attend the divine services. If any of the confirmands say that they do not always go to the service, you can briefly discuss the reasons with them.

3 Professing our faith even when we encounter a lack of understanding or rejection

Ask

How did the people in your neighbourhood react when they found out that you are New Apostolic?

Listen to answers and summarise

It is likely that the confirmands will not only share positive reactions here. After all not all of our fellow human beings appreciate our faith. The confirmation teacher illustrates this with the following example:

Tell

A student has a good friend in one of her classes. However, some of her classmates do not think very highly of her friend. Some even make disparaging remarks about her friend, because she participates so enthusiastically in the lesson.

Ask

Will this change the relationship of these two friends?

Listen to answers and supplement

Genuine friends stand by each other even when one of them sometimes encounters a lack of understanding or rejection. We too profess our faith even when it is not appreciated by all of our fellow human beings.

Ask

What is necessary for us to profess our faith even when we know we will encounter rejection?

Write answers on the board

- self-confidence and conviction
- trust in God
- love for God's work
- the courage of our convictions
- the preparedness to occasionally be misjudged or laughed at

Explain

Openly professing our faith is not always an easy task. This is demonstrated by the example of Peter who denied the Lord Jesus in a difficult situation (cf. Matthew 26: 33–35 and 69–75).

4 Professing our faith in word—and deed!

The students explain (homework)

The confirmands are to explain what 'professing our faith' means to them and the promise which is linked to it (cf. Matthew 10: 32). It ought to become clear that our testimony should not only be lip service. The following example may illustrate this:

Tell

It happens among young people that as a so-called 'test of courage' they steal something in a shop. Often this is then played down. It is said, "Once won't do any harm" or "After all that's already been included in the price."

Stealing as a test of courage





The New Apostolic Christian

8

Ask

How would you react if this were suggested to you?

Explain

Only when we live in a manner befitting to our faith do we truly profess our faith. We want to become like Jesus. Many additional examples could yet be provided whereby we testify to our faith through our conduct.

Living in accordance with our faith

Summarise

We want to have the same approach as Apostle Paul. He said, "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes" (Romans 1: 16).

Workbook exercise B

The confirmands do exercise B in their workbook. They try to find examples of what they want to do and what they do not want to do and write these in their workbook. Afterwards the answers are compiled and discussed.

5 I tell others about my faith

Listen to answers and supplement

Every Christian should profess Jesus Christ. We New Apostolic Christians should also tell our fellow human beings about our belief that Jesus Christ will return and that the Apostles of today prepare us for this event. It is an important task of every New Apostolic Christian to testify of this!

Explain

Let us find ways, and make use of opportunities, to talk about our faith. Let us invite people to become acquainted with our Church. The following example is to illustrate this point:

Ways to our fellow human beings

Tell

A brother in faith has been working with his work colleague for many years. Day by day they share an office. They discuss many things: cars, sports, their families, leisure activities, and even the challenges of raising children. There is only one thing that the work colleague does not know, namely that our brother is a New Apostolic Christian.

The colleague is unaware

Ask

What do you think about this?

Listen to answers and supplement

Personally professing our New Apostolic faith includes:

- praying that the Lord may give us an opportunity to talk about our faith and invite guests.
- fulfilling the commandment to love our neighbour by also talking to him about our belief in the imminent return of Christ.

We have the commission and responsibility to talk to our fellow human beings about our faith.





8

The New Apostolic Christian

The main points

I also want to profess my faith in word and deed!

Homework

The confirmands read the intercessory prayer (John 17: 1-26) and underline statements that seem especially important to them in their Bibles.

