

# CONTENTS

## *Unit 1 The Beginning of the Church*

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| 1 | The Gospels . . . . .                  | 1 |
| 2 | You Are to Be My Witnesses . . . . .   | 2 |
| 3 | Pentecost—The Church Is Born . . . . . | 4 |

## *Unit 2 The Infant Church*

- |   |                                       |    |
|---|---------------------------------------|----|
| 4 | Giving in Christ . . . . .            | 7  |
| 5 | How Much Should I Give? . . . . .     | 9  |
| 6 | Lack of Giving—Lack of Love . . . . . | 10 |

## *Unit 3 Two Great Servants of Christ—Saint Stephen and Saint Paul*

- |   |   |    |
|---|---|----|
| 7 | Stephen, the First Martyr . . . . .                                   | 13 |
| 8 | Paul—From Persecutor of Christians to Great Christian Saint . . . . . | 14 |

## *Unit 4 The Church—Mystical Person of Christ*

- |    |  |    |
|----|--|----|
| 9  | Jesus, Where Are You When I Need You the Most? . . . . . | 19 |
| 10 | All for One and One for All! . . . . .                   | 20 |

## *Unit 5 The Church Persecuted—The Church Victorious*

- |    |   |    |
|----|---|----|
| 11 | The Roman Persecution of the Church . . . . . | 25 |
| 12 | The Triumph of the Cross . . . . .            | 29 |

## *Unit 6 The Church Faces a New World*

- |    |  |    |
|----|--|----|
| 13 | The Church—Free at Last! . . . . .                           | 31 |
| 14 | The Early Church—Organization and Structure . . . . .        | 32 |
| 15 | God—Our Hope in Ages Past . . . and in the Present . . . . . | 35 |

## *Unit 7 An Age of Heresy and an Age of Truth*

- |    |   |    |
|----|---|----|
| 16 | Arianism—The Threat Returns . . . . .                   | 37 |
| 17 | Servant of the Servants of God—Pope Gregory I . . . . . | 39 |
| 18 | Into the Darkness . . . . .                             | 40 |

## *Unit 8 Europe Moves toward Feudalism*

- |    |  |    |
|----|--|----|
| 19 | Church and State—To Mix or Separate? . . . . . | 45 |
| 20 | Charlemagne—Protector of the Church . . . . .  | 48 |
| 21 | The Church in the Age of Feudalism . . . . .   | 51 |

## *Unit 9 The Medieval Church*

- |    |  |    |
|----|--|----|
| 22 | The Medieval Religious Mind . . . . .            | 55 |
| 23 | Medieval Church Reforms and Reformers . . . . .  | 56 |
| 24 | Medieval Church Conflicts—The Crusades . . . . . | 63 |

## *Unit 10 The Church in Need of Renewal*

- |    |  |    |
|----|--|----|
| 25 | The Church Travels a Troubled Road . . . . . | 67 |
| 26 | Who Will Come and Save the Church? . . . . . | 71 |
| 27 | The Church Continues to Suffer . . . . .     | 74 |

**Unit 11 An Age of Reform and Evangelization**

28	The Protestant Reformation . . . . .	77
29	The Protestant Reformation Spreads to England . . . . .	81
30	The Church Is Finally Renewed—The Council of Trent . . . . .	84

**Unit 12 The Church in a Modern World**

31	The French Missions . . . . .	89
32	The Age of Enlightenment . . . . .	90
33	Years of Storm, Years of Hope . . . . .	93

<b>Prayers to Know . . . . .</b>	<b>101</b>
----------------------------------	------------

## UNIT 2: THE INFANT CHURCH

### LESSON 4: GIVING IN CHRIST

By His example, Jesus taught us to give to others. We can give of ourselves by giving of our time, talents, and treasure for the good of others. Giving benefits both the one who gives and the one who receives.

*Explain how, in the following situations, giving might benefit both the giver and the receiver.*

**Giving up some of your free time to help your younger brother or sister with homework.**

This helps your brother or sister by \_\_\_\_\_

This helps you by \_\_\_\_\_

**Giving up some of your time to help an older person with yard work, errands, or housework.**

This helps the older person by \_\_\_\_\_

This helps you by \_\_\_\_\_

**Giving money to a favorite charity.**

This helps the charity by \_\_\_\_\_

This helps you by \_\_\_\_\_

**Who do you think benefits the most in any act of giving, the giver or the receiver? Why do you think so?**



## UNIT 2: THE INFANT CHURCH



The Church was born on Pentecost. The mission of the Church is to reveal Christ to the world. One day, shortly after the Holy Spirit came to the Apostles, Peter and John were going to the temple to pray. They crossed the court of the Gentiles. This was one of the outer parts of the temple, where the money changers had their tables and the merchants sold the animals used for sacrifices. As the two disciples came to the "Beautiful Gate" (the entrance to the part of the temple reserved for Jewish believers), they saw a crippled man begging for money. Peter and John immediately felt compassion for the lame man and wanted to help him. Being poor, however, they had no money to give him.

*Read Acts 3:4–10 to see what happened, and summarize the passage on the lines below.*

*Peter and John, representing the Church, chose to think and act as Christ did when He walked on earth. Read the following passages in Scripture: Mark 2:1–12, Mark 3:1–6, and John 5:1–9. Write a paragraph describing how Jesus healed the suffering people during His public life.*

Jesus is alive and active on the earth today through His Church. Who makes up the Church today? You might answer this by thinking first of the Pope, the bishops, priests, sisters, and other religious. One important person you may not have thought of is you! You are a very important part of Jesus' Church.

## UNIT 2: THE INFANT CHURCH

When you choose to give of yourself in love to others, you are choosing to act as Jesus would act. Jesus comes to others through you. In a special way, you are Christ to other people.

In Acts 3:4–10, we read that Peter and John did not have any money to give to a crippled man who was begging. They could have just shrugged their shoulders and walked away. However, the love they had for Christ and the love they had for the beggar spurred them to think of another way to help him. In giving the man the ability to walk, they showed him Christ's merciful love.

Sometimes we too cannot help people in the way they want to be helped. Perhaps we already have made a commitment to help someone else, or we may not have enough money to donate or to lend to someone in need. However, if we try to think of alternative ways to help those in need, we are choosing to act as Christ acted.

*See how many different ways you can solve the following problems. List your solutions on a separate sheet of paper.*

1. There is a special collection in church for a cancer hospice in your town, but you have no money with you.
2. Mr. Dvorak, a 65-year-old man who lives next door, asks you to mow his lawn today. But your team is scheduled to play an important game, and you are a starter on the team.
3. On a Saturday afternoon, your sister asks you to help her address and mail her wedding invitations. But you have just been hired to work at the local fast-food restaurant, and Saturday is your first day on the job.



Learn more about the importance of Works of Mercy by reading CCC 2447 and **YOUCAT 449**.



### LESSON 5: HOW MUCH SHOULD I GIVE?

The period of Church history starting shortly after the death of Jesus (c. A.D. 30) and ending approximately A.D. 60 has been called by many historians "The Golden Age of Christianity". It was a time in the Church's life when people tried to live Christ's example of giving and sharing to the highest degree. Not since then has Christianity seen such an all-out commitment by almost all its members to a life of total sharing of property, money, and time.

The early Christians lived in communities. These communities were groups of people that had common ownership of certain pieces of property. In other words, anyone in the community could use these goods when they needed them, as long as they respected the rights of others and caused no damage. An example of this idea today might be a town- or city-owned park, or swimming pool, or




## UNIT 2: THE INFANT CHURCH

library. Anyone living in that town or city would be entitled to use its facilities. The people of the early Church acted in much the same manner, with one difference: they shared everything they owned. Clothes, money, houses—everything they owned was either shared with or given outright to others.

*Read Acts 2:44–45 and Acts 4:32–37 to see how Saint Luke describes the sharing actions of the early Church members. In Acts 4:36–37 we read about a farmer named Barnabas who sold his field and gave the money to the Apostles so that they could distribute the money to the poor.*

*Read Luke 10:29–37, the parable of the Good Samaritan, and write a paragraph describing how we can be “good Samaritans” today.*

 **Learn more about communion in charity by reading CCC 953 and YOUCAT 146.**

### LESSON 6: LACK OF GIVING—LACK OF LOVE

The early days of Christianity were not all trouble free. As the Church carried out her mission of spreading Christ’s message throughout the world, people from different backgrounds joined the new Faith. One of the first Christian groups was composed of Jewish converts who spoke Hebrew. A second group was composed of Jewish converts who spoke Greek. To us living in the world today, this seems to be no big problem. Between these two groups living more than two thousand years ago, however, their different languages and backgrounds soon became a source of prejudice and discrimination.

*Define “prejudice” and “discrimination” in your own words.*

Because we are all created in God’s image, we each reflect God in our own way. When we show prejudice or discrimination toward someone, we choose not to see the person as an image of God. Prejudice is a judgment about another person that is usually made before all the facts are known. Often this type of judgment leads one person to distrust or dislike another or to act unjustly toward another (discrimination). Prejudice and discrimination are a refusal to love in a Christlike way. This always hurts both people, because it is a failure to act as an image of God should.

## UNIT 2: THE INFANT CHURCH

*Read Acts 6:1–2. Answer the following questions.*

**How did the prejudice and discrimination shown toward the Greek-speaking Christians hurt them?**

---

---

**How did this prejudice and discrimination cause problems for the Apostles?**

---

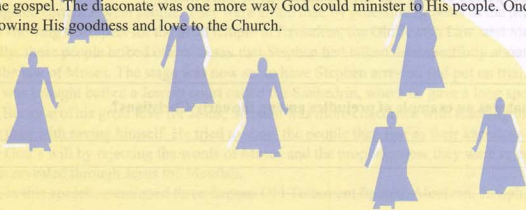
---

**How did this prejudice and discrimination hurt the Christian community as a whole?**

---

---

To remedy the evil of prejudice and discrimination among the early believers, the Apostles asked that seven holy men be selected to become deacons. These men would deal with the problems between the Greek- and Hebrew-speaking Christians and allow the Apostles to continue their main task of spreading the gospel. The diaconate was one more way God could minister to His people. Once again God was showing His goodness and love to the Church.



*Read Acts 6:5 and list below the names of the seven deacons chosen by the early Christian community:*

<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>

## UNIT 2: THE INFANT CHURCH

The names of the seven men show that they all came from a Greek-speaking background. The Church was making sure that the early Christians would form a community where all would feel welcome. The Word of God and the love shown by His Church are for all people for all time.



**Learn more about the dignity of the human person by reading CCC 1930 and YOUCAT 280.**

### Review Questions

**1. What did Peter and John give the crippled man begging at the “Beautiful Gate”?**

---

---

---

**2. Who makes up the Church today?**

---

---

---

**3. What period of time was the “Golden Age of Christianity”?**

---

---

---

**4. What was an example of prejudice among the early Christians?**

---

---

---