

Lesson Plan, Grade 8 - Chapter 5

Catechist Background

Doctrinal Content

- God invites everyone to be part of his family, the Church. All Church members have an important relationship with God. The Church can help our faith to grow. (CCC, 1, 4)
- We belong to the People of God through Baptism and belief in Christ, which matures as we grow, learn, and experience more. We are called to grow and mature in faith at every age. (CCC, 851)
- The Church exists to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. God uses each member's gifts and talents in the Church to help others come to know and love him. As the domestic Church, the Christian family has a special role in this mission. (CCC, 752, 1937)
- Through Baptism, each of us shares in Christ's mission as Priest, Prophet, and King. We offer our lives and prayer to God, show others the Good News through our words and actions, and serve others with joy as we lead them to Christ. (CCC, 783, 1546-1547)

Catechist Background

Jesus said to them, "Did you never read in the scriptures:

'The stone that the builders rejected / has become the cornerstone; / by the Lord has this been done, / and it is wonderful in our eyes?'"—Matthew 21:42

Reflect How is Jesus the "cornerstone" in your life?

The call of a disciple is nothing less than a call to participate in the ministry of Jesus. As disciples it is important to understand what that means. Christ relies on us to be his eyes, ears, hands, and voice in today's world—in other words, to be him for the sake of others. Bishops, priests, and deacons have special roles of leadership in the Church. But the mission to evangelize and serve is shared by all the faithful.

Not all of us are called to formal ministry, but we are all called to act with Christian compassion in our homes, communities, and places of business. We are all called to bring our moral convictions into our decision making at home, at school, and in the political arena. We are called to share our faith through the daily events of our lives, and by so doing hopefully help others to see the great love Christ has for his people.

Each of us shares in a special way in Christ's mission as priest, prophet, and king: through the ways we pray, worship, and offer ourselves to God, through the ways we speak the truth and stand up for our faith and for what is right and just, and through serving and leading others to Christ. This is the mission into which we are all baptized.

Reflect What has been challenging for you as you live out your role as priest, prophet, and king?

Catechist's Prayer

Jesus, Lord of Life, I commit to you this day all my thoughts, all my actions, and my entire will. May all those I meet feel your loving presence in me. I ask this with confidence in your grace. Amen.

Sharing the Message

How Eighth-Graders Understand Chapter Topics

Eighth-graders still often feel like the Church is really for the adults, and they are just along for the ride. They need help to understand and appreciate that they are not just the Church of tomorrow; they are a very real part of the Church today. The young people will need guidance to see how they can be a part of the ministry and mission of the Church in their own ways.

Teaching Tip

We are called upon to be Christ in the world today. Lead a discussion on specific ways we do that. Use the different parts of the body to guide group reflections: for example, how are we Christ's hands, ears, eyes?

Sharing the Message with Eighth-Graders

Adolescents sometimes struggle with the conflicting desires to explore their world and to stay within the safe confines of the familiar and comfortable. They need to have their boundaries expanded, but at an incremental and non-threatening pace.

- Interacting within just one core group can lead to a narrow sense of what is important, a poor sense of what is needed, and limited ways of coping with tough times. Encourage the youth to branch out.
- Eighth-graders need (and often want) responsible adults to set the boundaries, but they can resent it when they feel that their individual choices are not respected. Try to include the young person in decision-making.

Chapter Connections

Tasks of Catechesis

Helping children grow in a faith that is "known, celebrated, lived, and expressed in prayer" (NDC, 20). This chapter focuses on the following tasks of catechesis:

- Education for Community Life
- Missionary Initiation

NCEA IFG: ACRE Edition

Knowledge of the Faith

- Objectives: To know the origin, mission, structure, and communal nature of the Church; to know the rights and responsibilities of the Christian faithful

Moral Formation

- Objectives: To recognize the centrality of evangelization as the Church's mission and identity embodied in vocation and service; to be aware of how cultures are transformed by the Gospel

Catholic Faith Literacy

Baptism, mission, Salvation

Catholic Social Teaching

To integrate Catholic Social Teaching into your lesson, choose one of the following features: Call to Family, Community, and Participation, pages 336–337; or Option for the Poor and Vulnerable, pages 340–341.

- Start the Live step of the process by talking about Saint Angela Merici on page 112. Then move directly to the Catholic Social Teaching feature.
- Or, to expand the lesson, complete page 112, then move to the Catholic Social Teaching feature.
- Return to Chapter 5 for the prayer on page 113.

Music Option

- Use the following song to enhance catechetical learning or for prayer.
 - "Healing Water," Live, Page 113

Catechist Instruction, Grade 8 – Chapter 5

Invite Page 103

Objective

- Reflect on God's personal invitation through Scripture

♥Let Us Pray

Invite the young people to gather in the prayer space and make the Sign of the Cross.

Ask a volunteer to read aloud the entire prayer. Prompt the group's response. Have the youth move out of the prayer space and back to their seats.

Explain that all we do and all we say is done in the name of Christ Jesus.

Say: We are called to be God's People. We are Christ's Church because he promised to be with us always. Let's listen to God's Word and hear how Jesus describes who he is.

† Scripture

Guide children through the process of Scripture reflection.

Invite the young people to be still, close their eyes, and focus on their breathing.

Encourage them to open their minds and hearts to what God is saying to them.

- Proclaim the Scripture and have the youth sit in silence.
- Ask: What did you hear God say to you today?
- Allow volunteers to share.

► You may play instrumental music to begin the reflection.

Remember, this is a spiritual discipline that takes practice. The young people will grow in their capacity to sit in silence. Throughout the year, build to four minutes.

Have you ever thought...

Say: All the Church's members have an important role in spreading God's message.

- Invite the young people to respond to the questions.

Discover (1) Pages 106-107

Objectives

- Explain how the Church can help our faith to grow
- Recall that God invites everyone to be part of his family, the Church
- Discuss the relationship between Christ and his Church

We Belong to the Church

Have the young people identify moments when they believe God was giving them the wisdom to know where they belong.

Invite two volunteers to read the opening paragraphs.

- Give the group an opportunity to ask questions or make comments.

From “No People” to “God’s People”

Ask a volunteer to read the first three paragraphs.

† Scripture

Have another volunteer read the passage: 1 Peter 2:9–10.

- Read the last paragraph. • Ask: What has God called you to do?

† Scripture Background

1 Peter 2:9–10

Peter may have written this Scripture passage; however, many scholars believe it was most likely written by a later disciple of Peter’s.

- The author is writing to a community that is alienated and persecuted because of its Christian lifestyle.
- The author is offering consolation and support to this suffering community.
- The community is told that suffering unites us with Christ crucified, purifies our faith, and is a source of hope and witness for others.

Faith and Baptism

Have the young people silently read the four paragraphs in this section.

- Ask them to underline or highlight an important point in each paragraph.
- Review with the group what sentences they underlined.
- With input from the youth, write on the board or on chart paper some of the things that help our faith grow.
- Give the youth an opportunity to comment or ask questions.

Activity

Ask a volunteer to read aloud the directions.

- Have the youth work independently on completing the activity.
- Allow volunteers to share with the group the differences they came up with.

Quick Review

We are Christ’s Church because he is with us always, present among us as we pray and worship him. Those who have faith and choose to be baptized (or children whose parents chose for them) become members of God’s People.

Discover (2) Pages 108-109

Objectives

- Recognize that the Church exists to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ
- Discover that God uses each member's gifts and talents in the Church
- Discuss the relationship between the family, the domestic Church, and the People of God

God's Plan for the Church

Ask: Why do you think the Church exists?

- Allow for a variety of answers. Prompt the youth to offer clear explanations of their ideas.

Invite volunteers to read through the paragraphs in this section, including the paragraph at the top of page 109. You can divide the paragraphs among several of the youth or simply ask one strong reader to read it all.

- Facilitate a discussion on God's plan for the Church, making sure to include the young peoples' understanding of how they fit into this plan.

Work with Words

Have the youth close their textbooks. Write on the board or on chart paper the term *domestic Church*.

- Invite the young people to brainstorm ideas as to what they think this term means.
- Have them complete the phrase "The domestic Church is . . ." to show their understanding of the term.
- After several volunteers have shared their sentences, read aloud the definition from page 108.

We Are Family

Invite the youth to open their books again. Summarize the text on page 109.

- Review all of the questions on this page as a group.

Activity

Have the youth look up and read the three Scripture passages about the Church.

- Tell them to place a check mark next to their favorite one.
- Ask them to pair up with a partner to compare their answers and explain what the passages mean to them.

Quick Review

The purpose of the Church is to reach out and let everyone know about salvation. The Catholic family is the center of faith; we call the family the domestic Church.

Extend the Lesson

Use **Activity Master 5: My Family as Church** to extend the lesson; it is not included in the timed estimate for this section of the Lesson Plan.

Discover (3) Pages 110-111

Objectives

- Explore how Jesus served as Priest, Prophet, and King
- Explain that through Baptism we are united with Christ and his mission

Teaching Activity: Priest, Prophet, and King

Using three separate bags that contain different symbolic items, participants will explore how Jesus served as priest, prophet, and king. They will then create their own bags that help show the ways we can share in Jesus' mission.

Before the Lesson

Materials Needed

✦ Go to aliveinchrist.osv.com and download the Priest, Prophet, King handout and Catholic Faith Words page
three gift bags, white paper bags (1 per participant), cross, small figurine of a lamb, clear bottle with red liquid, chattering teeth, oversized plastic ear, large plastic eyeglasses, bottle of water, small white towel, crown, tape

Preparation

- Create three separate gift bags and label the back of each bag with one of the following titles: Priest, Prophet, King
- Place the following items into each gift bag:
 - Priest bag: cross, small lamb figurine, small clear bottle with red liquid
 - Prophet bag: chattering teeth, oversized plastic ear, large plastic eyeglasses
 - King bag: small white towel, bottle of water, crown
- Cut the Priest, Prophet, and King handout into strips and paper clip them together. Create one for each participant in the group.

Activity Directions

Place the gift bags on a table with the labels facing away from the participants.

Say: We have three bags here that represent different ways to describe Jesus' roles. We are searching for three words to describe his mission and work among God's people. I will take out items in the bag one at a time and ask you to guess what word best describes this role and work of Jesus.

Begin to remove the contents of the bag labeled Priest. First remove the little lamb, then the small bottle with red liquid (meant to represent blood), and then the cross.

Ask the participants to guess what word these objects represent and share their answers with the group.

Turn the bag around and reveal the word *priest* and explain the meaning of each object inside.

Say: We use the word *priest* to describe Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross. He was both the person offering the sacrifice, like the priest in the Jewish temple, and he was also the victim, like the lambs that were sacrificed there to worship the Father.

Begin to remove the contents of the bag labeled prophet. First remove the plastic ear (meant to represent hearing God's call), then the chattering teeth (meant to represent speaking God's word), and finally the eyeglasses (meant to represent seeing God's actions in the world). Ask the participants to guess what word these objects represent and share their answers with the group. Turn the bag around and reveal the word prophet and explain the meaning of each object inside.

Say: We use the word *Prophet* to describe Jesus' mission to speak God's truth to the world through his words and actions. He listens with an open heart to his Father and spoke his message, regardless of the consequences. He gives us the words of truth and life that no one else can.

Begin to remove the contents of the bag labeled King. First remove the water bottle, then the small white towel (meant to represent Jesus washing his disciples' feet), and then the crown. Ask the participants to guess what word these objects represent and share their answers with the group.

Turn the bag around and reveal the word *king* and explain the meaning of each object inside.

Say: Jesus is a servant King. He was not the kind of ruler people expected. He wasn't concerned about Earthly kingdoms but with God's Kingdom and teaching people to honor God and give of themselves for the needs of others.

Post the Catholic Faith Words page on the board and point out the definition for *offices of Christ*.

Say: We call these three roles of Jesus the offices of Christ. Notice that the end of this definition says that, by your Baptism, you share in these three roles of Jesus. How do you think you do that?

Invite a group discussion and ask volunteers to share their answers. Distribute white paper bags and the Priest, Prophet, and King slips of paper to the participants.

Say: Here are some bags of our own. Write your name in large letters on a wide side of the bag. On the remaining three sides write these words: priest, prophet, and king. Now take the three slips of paper and find priest. Who wants to read what it means for us to share in Jesus' priesthood? Now turn the slip over and write: "Jesus help me to live the call of my Baptism to share in your priesthood." When you are finished, place it in your bag. Next take the slip that says prophet.

Ask volunteer to read how we share in Jesus's mission of prophet.

Say: Turn this slip over and write, "Jesus, help me to live the call of my Baptism by living as a prophet."

Ask volunteer to read how we share in Jesus' mission of prophet.

Say: On the back of this slip let's write, "Jesus, help me to live the call of my Baptism to be a servant king."

Live Pages 112-113

Objectives

- Identify ways we are called to act as priest, prophet, and king
- Explore the faith life of Saint Angela Merici
- Offer the Celebration of the Word prayer

Our Catholic Life

Invite a volunteer to read aloud this section.

- Discuss with the young people how they can serve and lead others over the next week, acting as priest, prophet, and king in their homes, school, and community.

People of Faith

Explain to the youth that Saint Angela Merici improved the social conditions of her time by educating young women.

- Ask a young people to read aloud the People of Faith paragraph.
- Review the content of the People of Faith Background box.
- Invite the youth to reflect on ways they can serve and lead others.

Here are some additional details about Saint Angela Merici to assist you in presenting this section:

- Share how Saint Angela listened and responded to God's call. She said "no" to Pope Clement VII's request to lead a religious order of nursing sisters because nursing was not what God had called her to do.

- She fell ill and became blind during a tour of the Holy Land, but said she could see with the devotion of her heart rather than her eyes.
- She later recovered her sight and was reminded not to shut her eyes to the world's needs or to shut her heart to God's call.

Activity

Read aloud the instructions.

- Have the young people work on the activity individually.
- Invite volunteers to share their headlines and statements.

Celebration of the Word

♥ Set the prayer table by covering it with a white cloth, three unlit candles, and matches or a lighter.

- Assign a leader and a reader, and have them come to the prayer table.
- Have the rest of the group remain seated for the celebration.
- Have the leader begin by lighting a candle and reading his or her part.
- Next, have the reader light a candle before reading the Scripture.
- The leader will light one more candle and pray the rest of his or her part of the prayer.

► Conclude by inviting the young people to sing or reflect on the song "Healing Waters," downloaded from **aliveinchrist.osv.com**.

Chapter Review

If you are using eAssessments, remind the young people that they will need to be completed by the due date. Feedback is important at this age. For the tool to be used effectively provide feedback to the young people about their work.

Chapter 5 Lesson Plan

| Objectives | Process | Materials |
|--|--|--|
| Invite, 15 minutes | | |
| We Are Christ's People Page 103 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Psalm 8:2 Pray the opening prayer. Matthew 21:42 Guide the youth through the process of Scripture reflection. • Discuss Have You Ever Thought questions. | |
| Discover, 45 minutes | | |
| We Belong to the Church pp. 106–107 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain how the Church can help our faith to grow • Recall that God invites everyone to be part of his family, the Church • Discuss the relationship between Christ and his Church | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share that we are Christ's Church because he is with us always. Read 1 Peter 2:9–10. • Discuss the connection between faith and Baptism. • Activity Differentiate membership in the Body of Christ and other groups. | <input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens <input type="checkbox"/> highlighter <input type="checkbox"/> board or chart paper |
| God's Plan for the Church pp. 108–109 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize that the Church exists to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ • Discover that God uses each member's gifts in the Church • Discuss the relationship between the family, the domestic Church, and the People of God | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss how the Church brings God's People together. • Activity Read and discuss Scripture passages about the Church. • Activity Master My Family as Church | <input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens <input type="checkbox"/> board or chart paper Activity Master 5 |
| His Work Is Ours pp. 110–111 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore how Jesus served as Priest, Prophet, and King • Explain that through Baptism we are united with Christ and his mission | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching Activity By identifying symbolic items that represent the offices of Christ, participants will explore how Jesus served as Priest, Prophet, and King. | Priest, Prophet, King; Catholic Faith Words <input type="checkbox"/> 3 gift bags, white paper bags, labels, tape <input type="checkbox"/> items for Priest, Prophet, and King bags |
| Live, 15 minutes | | |
| Our Catholic Life Page 112 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the Our Catholic Life question. • People of Faith Learn about Saint Angela Merici. • Activity Imagine an interview about a topic of Catholic faith. | <input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens |
| Celebration of the Word Page 113 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assign a leader and a reader. • Follow the order of prayer. | "Healing Waters" |

CATHOLIC FAITH WORDS

salvation, *ekklesia*, domestic Church, offices of Christ

ASSESSMENT

Chapter Review, Page 114

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Name _____

Date _____

My Family as Church

In Catholic tradition, the family is known as the domestic Church. Below you will find seven elements of Church life. Identify how your family lives out these elements.

WORD: Christian message and teaching

LEADERSHIP: for the head of the household

SERVICE: Catholic Social Teaching and serving others

WORSHIP: prayer, spirituality, and praise

EVANGELIZATION: our mission of sharing the Good News of Jesus

STEWARDSHIP: accepting life as a gift and giving to others

COMMUNITY: living out what we say we believe

Name _____

Date _____

Circle the letter of the choice that best completes each sentence.

1. Jesus' roles as Priest, Prophet, and King are known as the _____.
 - a. new covenant offices
 - b. three offices of Christ
 - c. Old Testament offices
 - d. fulfillment of God's law
2. When Jesus restores the relationship of humans with God the Father through his sacrifice on the Cross, we are offered _____.
 - a. salvation
 - b. manna
 - c. prudence
 - d. Heaven
3. The word for *church* in Scripture, *ekklesia*, means _____.
 - a. Chosen People
 - b. People of God
 - c. people of the Word
 - d. those called together
4. Each Christian family is called to be a(n) _____.
 - a. *ekklesia*
 - b. parish
 - c. domestic Church
 - d. domestic office

Complete each sentence with the correct term.

5. You do not have to be born into God's Chosen People; you have to be born anew through _____.
6. The _____ Commandment requires us to come together on Sunday to observe the Lord's Day.
7. When Jesus washed the feet of the disciples, he showed us _____.
8. One reason the _____ exists is to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Write a response on the lines below.

9. Describe the importance of participating in the Mass every week.

10. Who are the new People of God in Christ and what was "new" about them?

Priest: We can offer our daily work to God, our studies, our time in prayer, difficult times and fun times, the ways we take care of others—all can be a spiritual gift to God.

Prophet: We can tell others about Jesus' message, the way to live as a disciple, and stick up for what is right and for those who can't stand up for themselves. We can ask questions and learn more about our faith, and teach others about Jesus by acting as he did.

King: We can serve others as leaders in classes, on teams, in clubs, around our neighborhoods. We can make the needs of others our needs too. We can participate in parish activities and lead others by our example of acting fairly and working for peace.

Catholic Faith Words

offices of Christ the three roles of Jesus (Priest, Prophet, and King) that describe his mission and work among God's People; all those baptized share in these three roles.