

Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions – Continued

Matthew 28:19-20

¹⁹ So you must go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And you can be sure that I am always with you, to the very end."

Reference Material: (taken from the Confirmation Instruction Student Workbook *I Also Want To...*)

Ministries	Functions/Responsibilities
<u>Apostle Ministry:</u> Chief Apostle, District Apostle, Apostle	<p>As commissioned by Jesus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To proclaim the pure teachings of Jesus Christ - As the light of the world to spread the bright radiance of godly truth. - To establish and preserve order in the congregations - To baptize with water. - To forgive sins - To dispense Holy Communion - To seal souls with the Holy Spirit - To govern the Church - To ordain the required ministers - To proclaim Christ's return - To gather and lead the elect to the Lord Jesus and His bride.
<u>Priestly Ministries:</u> Bishop, District Elder, District Evangelist, Elder, Shepherd, Evangelist, Priest	<p>As commissioned by the apostle:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To carry the souls entrusted to them on hands of prayer - To care for the souls and provide comfort - To conduct divine services - To baptize with water, - To pronounce the forgiveness of sins - To dispense Holy Communion - To make family visits and visit those who are ill
<u>Deacons</u>	<p>As commissioned by the apostle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support the priest • To be a witness to the truth • To be an example • To maintain a dignified atmosphere in the divine services.

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Discussion Questions:

1. What ministries are mentioned in the Bible verses? (*Apostles, Prophets, Pastors, and Teachers*)
2. Compare this translation with that found in the New King James Version. What other ministry is mentioned? (*Evangelists.*)
3. What responsibility do all these ministries have? (*To “prepare God's people to serve.”*)
4. What responsibilities does an apostle have? Read Acts 9:17 and Matthew 28:19-20. (*Through the laying on of hands of an apostle the gift of the Holy Spirit is given; make disciples of all nations, teach; baptize in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.*)
5. What current ministries that you know of match what was mentioned in Ephesians? (*Apostles; Evangelists (NKJV)*)
6. Are any other ministries ever mentioned in the Bible? (*Deacons [1 Timothy 3:8], Priests[Hebrews 7:20-25]*)

Application to Real Life

The Human Knot

See: www.teensundayschool.com → Lessons → Life Applications → Christian Principles → “Observing Communion”

You will need to gather your students together in a tight circle (it doesn't matter how many students are present, just huddle up). Recruit extra volunteer participants as needed.

Have each person grab the hand of another person in the circle. Then have them join their other hand with a different person in the circle. Once done, you've created a human knot. The objective in this game is to untangle the knot without anyone releasing another's hand. (Hands can be repositioned, but always touching.) You might have to twist, turn, walk over/under arms, etc., but most knots, given enough time, can be untangled. In some cases, more than one knot may be the result.

Discussion Questions:

1. How did it feel when you were all tangled up?
2. How hard was it to figure out how to get untangled?
3. Did you ever want to quit? What kept you going?
4. What did you feel when we finally got untangled?

In today's lesson we learned about communion. In real life we can often get caught up in a lot of things. Communion (spending time and having fellowship) with our Heavenly Father and the Lord Jesus helps us to get ourselves untangled, to make things right again and be able to start over, no matter what we have done. Knowing this, how does that make you feel? Talk about it together.

Memory Work Suggestions

5 minutes

1. Recite the memory verse. Practice finding the memory verse and/or Bible text in the Bible.
2. What Holy Sacrament is most related to today's lesson? Why?
3. What is forgiveness? How does it relate to celebrating Holy Communion? Discuss.
4. Play a game to review an article of faith (toss the bean bag/stuffed animal, the person who catches it says the next word...try to go faster and faster).
5. Allow a volunteer (child) to lead the class in an opening/closing prayer.

Activity Ideas

Ministry Responsibilities Activity

Prior to class:

- Write or print the eleven ministries in the reference table above onto separate index cards or small pieces of paper so the children can manipulate them on a table top (you may choose to omit ministries that are not used in your district).
- Write or print out each responsibility that is listed (22 total). Again, these should be on separate cards or small pieces of paper, so the students can manipulate them on a table top.

During Class:

- Hold the ministry “cards” in your hand.
- Ask the children to rename all the ministries they can think of in their district. As they name them, place them on the table top **in no particular order**. Use prompts (give them clues) so all ministries are named.
- Then ask them to place them in order from top to bottom.
- Once the correct order is established, ask them to establish three distinct groups of ministries: Apostle ministries, Priestly ministries, and the Deacon ministry. Use prompts if needed.
- Lastly, spread out all (or some) of the responsibilities on the table. As a class, have them work together to try and reason out which responsibility goes with each ministerial group.

When you are finished, and have organized all the information, you may want to use glue sticks to make a poster for your class area for future reference. Review again what they have learned.

Journal

Choose One

What do you think are the three most important traits a minister should have? Use Galatians 5:22-23 to help you.

Is there a minister that you know of that you feel that you can talk to? What is it about them that makes you confident enough to talk to them? Write about it.

Homework Ideas

- Read your Lesson from the nac-usa.org website on the **Development & Spread of Christianity**. If you need help, ask your teacher.
- Learn the Memory Verse:
*“The believers studied what the apostles taught. They shared life together.
They broke bread and ate together. And they prayed.”* --Acts 2:42
- Learn the _____ Article of Faith
- What makes a person healthy? Draw a picture of what such a person would look like or write about it. Bring it to class to share.

Take Home Page: The Ministries of the Church of Christ

Today I learned...

Today your child was reminded that **our ministers are here to help us**. The children explored the various ministries in the church of Christ and some of the responsibilities assigned to each ministry. They also talked about the benefits that we experience when we take the time to “commune” with God.

Help me learn my memory verse...

"I will place shepherds over them who will take good care of them." --Jeremiah 23:4

Ask me...

1. Who is your favorite minister? Why?
2. What makes the apostle ministry different from other ministers?
3. What kinds of characteristics do you think ministers should have? Why?

Live Your Faith...

Together as a family, decide on which minister in your local congregation your family will bless this week. You could invite him and his family over for dinner, or simply deliver a hot meal one night to their home. Write a note letting them know how much your family appreciates all the sacrifices he and his family make for all of God's children.