

TEACHER'S NOTES

6 year olds	OUR HEAVENLY FATHER
Chapter 20	JESUS BEGINS THE CHURCH
Lesson 1	CHRIST'S WORK CONTINUES

AIMS

1. Children will understand that Jesus became man in order to teach the Good News, win back God's grace, and pass it on to others.
2. They will learn that Jesus wanted His work to continue on earth after He returned to Heaven.
3. They will understand that Jesus founded the Catholic Church in order to continue His work on earth.

BEGIN

Direct the children to look at the picture in their packs of Christ giving the keys of the kingdom to Peter. Explain that Jesus gave Peter His own work of protecting and guarding the Church. Tell them that today they will learn what this meant for Peter and for the Church.

STEP 1

Ask the children what would happen if a teacher gave one of the children the keys to the classroom. Explain that the child would be able to go in and out freely and open all the drawers and cupboards. He could also let anyone into the classroom, but he would also be responsible for the classroom and ought to take care of it. By giving the keys to Peter, Jesus gave him the authority to guard and protect the Church.

STEP 2

Read with the children the special paragraph in their packs. Then read the "Foundation of the Church" from their packs.

STEP 3

Explain to the children that Jesus gave Peter the keys of the Kingdom. This made Peter the first pope. Although Peter had the keys, he was Jesus' servant. He was not the head of the Church, he was more like a butler. A butler takes care of the home and keeps it safe and clean. He lets guest in and helps them to behave properly (e.g. please take off your coat and wait in the study). The Pope should protect God's house (the Church) from false teaching and keep her free from error. He brings people into the Church and teaches them about God's law, so that they may please God. The Pope guides Catholics to Jesus in the best way: through the Church.

But just as a butler is not the head of the household, so the Pope is not the head of the Church, Jesus is, the Pope is Jesus' servant. And just as some butlers can be bad butlers, so some popes can be bad popes.

STEP 4

Ask the children why Jesus founded the Church. Answer: to continue His work: to continue His work and teach the people about God, to help people become holy through the sacrament like Holy Communion and Confession, and to guard and protect His followers.

Jesus continues to love all people through His Church and the Church teaches people to love Jesus in return. She does this by teaching us about Jesus, teaching us how to love and serve Him, and by guiding Catholics in ways that are pleasing to Jesus.

REINFORCE

1. Assign the colouring exercise in the children's pack.

CONCLUDE

1. Pray one Our Father, one Hal Mary, and one Glory Be to ask Jesus to always give us a good holy Pope.
2. Say a prayer thanking God for the gift of the Church.
3. Teach the children to sing an appropriate hymn such as "The Church's One Foundation," Adoremus Hymnal, #560

PREVIEW

In the next lesson we will learn more about the work of the Church.