

TEACHER'S NOTES

6 year olds	OUR HEAVENLY FATHER
Chapter 20	JESUS BEGINS THE CHURCH
Lesson 3	THE CHURCH LEADERS

AIMS

1. Children will understand that the Jesus is the founder of the Church.
2. They will learn the four marks of the Church: One, Holy, Catholic and apostolic.
3. They will review Apostolic Succession.
4. They will also understand the hierarchal structure of the Church.

BEGIN

Discuss with the children the idea of a family heirloom or inheritance. Use a small family heirloom to illustrate this point if possible. Explain that we know that such objects are genuine because they have been faithfully passed on by one generation to the next. For example, I know one of my great grandfathers died at sea because my dad told me. He knew because his parents told him, and they knew because their parents told them.

STEP 1

Read the "Special Paragraph" in the children's pack with the children.

Ask the children to name the current Pope and bishop.

Emphasize that when Jesus founded the Church He wanted to make sure His treasures would be passed on to us. These treasures are the truths of the faith and grace.

STEP 2

Review with the children what it means for Jesus to give the power of the keys to Peter.

It gave him authority over the Church.

It made him responsible for the Church.

The other Apostles, as the first bishops of the Church, help Peter.

Peter was the first Pope.

These men were the leaders of the Church and safeguarded the treasures of faith and grace.

STEP 3

The Apostles passed on their leadership, just like a family heirloom or inheritance, to other bishops. The power and authority that they passed on did not change, only the person exercising the power and authority changed.

Rather like when a relay runner hands over the baton, the baton stays the same, only the person holding it changes. The Church is a bit like a relay race that will continue until the end of time.

STEP 4

There are also four proofs or marks of the true Church:

ONE - Jesus founded only one Church to witness to Him and to unite people to Him through her work.

HOLY - The Church is Holy because Jesus founded it and her His grace.

CATHOLIC - The Church is for everyone all over the world, and for all times.

APOSTOLIC -The Apostles were appointed directly by Jesus. They were the first bishops. The bishops pass on their authority, teachings and leadership from one generation to the next.

REINFORCE

1. Assign the sentence writing exercise in the children's pack.
2. Have the children memorise Catechism questions 43 and 44.

CONCLUDE

1. Pray for the Pope.
2. 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 present leaders of the Church, and who our Pope, bishop and priests are.