

## Lesson 1:

# Church: Missionary by Nature

### Objective:

Students will understand that the Church is missionary by nature and will also have an understanding that every follower of Christ is commissioned to share the love of God and make disciples in their spheres of influence.

Students will also be able to reflect on their personal attitudes, convictions and resources to the call to their missionary responsibility and have the will to share the Word of God with others.

### Starter (10 mins):

Reflect with the class, the Gospel of Mathew Chapter 28 verses 19-20; called the great Commission.

**Video link** - <https://www.bible.com/videos/25699-jesus-gives-great-commission-and-ascends-to-heaven>

Engage the students to understand that the above chapter from the Gospel of Mathew is often referred to as the Great Commission or a mission that has been set by Jesus. This commission is considered the marching orders for Christians, urging them to spread the message of Christ's salvation and to make disciples throughout the world. It encompasses three main components – Evangelism, Baptism and Discipleship.

Discuss with the students what is their understanding of Jesus coming into this world? What according to them is the Church?

Keeping the mission of Jesus alive, reflect with the students if they can be a missionary in the place, they are in. Also, reflect in what other ways does Jesus fulfil his promise that he is always with us.

### Teaching Strategy (15 mins):

#### Introduction to Church: Missionary by Nature

Introduce the term 'mission' and 'Missionary'. What is their understanding on the Trinitarian God – The Father, The Son and the Holy Spirit?

#### The Divine Mission of the Son and the Holy Spirit -

Discuss the agape love of God our Father for humanity and how for the purpose of redemption and salvation of mankind, the Father send His only Son, Jesus, to the world.

Explain that Jesus is the first missionary and he fulfils his mission on Earth through his teachings, miracles, sacrificial death, resurrection and ascension.

Reflect on the Gospel of Luke Chapter 4 verses 21 and 43 where the fulfilment and the purpose of Jesus coming into this world can be seen.

### **Role of The Holy Spirit**

Explain that the mission of Jesus continues through the Holy Spirit who dwells in the Church. God sent the Holy Spirit to help man to own the salvation that Jesus gained for us.

Recall the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles in the form of tongues of fire. Discuss on what happened at the day of the Pentecost and the formation of the church. Explain that the Holy Spirit dwells in the church and gives life to the Church.

Explain that The Holy Trinity is the foundation of the missionary nature of the church and it forms the cornerstone of the Church's missionary nature. The Trinity's unity and relational nature inspires the Church's mission to reflect unity, diversity, and love in reaching out to all people with the Gospel.

### **Development of the lesson (20 mins):**

#### **Church: Sent by Christ and The Missionary Church**

Introduce Jesus coming into the world and the message that he brought along. Explain the mission of the Church and how the Church leads its people to salvation and is the sacrament of universal salvation.

Recall and discuss the missionary task entrusted to the church and explain the vocation and the duty of the Church. It can be seen that as the Church participates in the same mission of Jesus, the nature of the Church is missionary.

It can be noted that the Church engages in mission work as an expression of its obedience to Christ's Great Commission and its commitment to fulfilling its role as the salt and light of the world.

Explain the concept of missions and the various ways in which the Church engages in mission work, including evangelism, humanitarian aid, and social justice initiatives

### **Practical Implications (15 mins):**

#### **All are Missionaries**

Explain that it is the duty of every baptized Christian to proclaim the Word of God and since the Church is missionary by nature, all the people of God are missionaries.

Elaborate how the Church fulfils her missionary task and how we can become the true children of the church.

To conclude, we can say that we are called to be ambassadors of Christ, shining His light and proclaiming His truth wherever we go.

**Group Activity:**

Divide students in groups and pose discussion questions –

Ask them to brainstorm practical ways they can participate in the mission of the Church in their daily lives, school, and community.

In smaller groups, encourage students to express their Will to share the Word of God with others and the will to speak about Jesus to others.

**Closing Reflection:**

Conclude with a reflection on the Bible verse "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

Encourage students to reflect on the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit.