

Lesson 2 –

Evangelization: Basic Duty of the Church

Objective: By the end of the lesson, students will understand the concept of evangelization as the basic duty of the Church and its relevance in their lives.

Starter (10 mins):

Discuss with the students what comes to their mind when they hear the term evangelization and ask them to share their thoughts on the same.

Reflect with the class the Gospel of St. Mark Chapter 1 verses 14-15 – The beginning of Jesus Galilean Ministry.

Based on this passage, discuss how Jesus begins His mission and how he revealed the Kingdom of God to the world. Explain the main mission of the church being preaching the word of God and that every member of the church has the responsibility to preach the Gospel.

Students can also recall the mission set by Jesus as seen in the previous chapter.

Teaching Strategy (15 mins):

Introduction to Evangelization: Basic Duty of the Church

Discuss the importance of evangelization in sharing the message of Jesus Christ and why it is considered a fundamental duty of the Church.

Church: The result of the proclamation of the Gospel

Discuss with the students how the apostles were chosen by Jesus and that task of proclaiming the Gospel was given them, that is to spread the message of love, compassion and salvation to others, forming the foundation of Christianity.

Recall the Pentecost day when the Apostles were empowered by the Holy Spirit and how they started proclaiming the Gospel publicly. How their proclamation went to different parts of the world and they led many to Jesus. Thus, evangelizing many.

Cite examples of St. Thomas who came to India to proclaim the Gospel.

The Church the Evangelizer

Just like how the Apostles went about proclaiming and preaching the Word of God, discuss with the students that the church has a duty of evangelization to spread the message of Jesus Christ to others, inviting them to faith and discipleship.

Development of the Lesson (20 mins)

The Kingdom of God – The Theme of Proclamation

Explain to the students that the main mission of Jesus was the proclamation of the Kingdom of God which is righteousness, peace and joy which the Holy Spirit gives (Romans 14:17).

Explain that the kingdom of God is the state of God's will being fulfilled and the whole focus of Jesus was on fulfilling the will of the Father. Through his life, death, and resurrection, Jesus demonstrated God's love and provided a path for people to be restored to a right relationship with God.

Reflect on Mathew 6:33 and Mathew 7:21 where both verses remind us of the necessity of sincere faith and obedience in our relationship with God and the assurance of the Kingdom of God if we do the will of the Father.

Living Testimony: Proclamation and witness

Explain that as Christians, we are called to live an exemplary life reflecting on the teachings and character of Jesus Christ. We should live in a way that demonstrates love, compassion, integrity, and forgiveness in our daily interactions with others.

We can be evangelizers by not just about what we say, but how we live out our beliefs, making our lives a living testimony to the truth of the Gospel.

Briefly mentions saints like St. Mother Theresa of Calcutta, St. Mariam Thresia, Bl. Kunjachan Thevaparambil who preached the Gospel through their life witness.

Appropriate Habit Formation (10 mins)

Discussion on Evangelisation and Formation of the Church

Facilitate a discussion on Evangelization being the first step for the formation of the Church explaining that evangelization is the initial spark that ignites the journey of individuals towards faith in Jesus Christ.

Students can share their views on how they can actively participate in both evangelization and the ongoing formation of the Church thus fostering a vibrant and spiritually enriching community.

Practical Implication (15 mins)

Group Activity:

1) Tell the Students to bring card paper to make book marks on motivational or inspirational Bible verses. These book marks should be very attractive and can be distributed to others schools on their birthdays/friendship day as part of evangelisation.

2) Introduce real-life scenarios where students encounter opportunities for evangelization (e.g., a friend asks about their faith, a classmate is going through a difficult time) and present it in the class.

Closing Reflection:

Conclude with the reflection on the verse "In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)
Discuss the verse's significance and how it relates to the students' role in evangelization.