

SUMMIT SEEKERS

Book 12: Lesson Plan 8 - Catholic Church and other Christian churches

Objective: - We should aim to achieve the following after this chapter is explained

1. Students will understand the Characteristics of the Catholic Church & the different denominations of Christian Churches.
2. Students will understand the major doctrinal differences between the Catholic Church and other Christian denominations.
3. Students will understand the reason why the Catholic Church is the one true Church founded by Jesus Christ and handed over by the Apostles.
4. Students will understand why one finds the fullness of salvation only in the Catholic Church.

Starter: - Read aloud from the Scripture the passage of Gospel of Matthew 16: 13-20. After the passage is read out, pray and meditate on the passage for a couple of minutes. Then ask each child about what they infer from the passage.

Presentation of Topic (20 mins)

1. Characteristics of the Catholic Church
 - a. Church is the Only one - Explain why the Church is the Only One true Church, in the sense that the Only Church formed by Jesus Christ.

The Catholic Church is formed on the foundation of the Church and is the church of which is written in the Book of the Acts of the Apostles. Despite facing unforeseen persecution in the early days, the faithful flock of believers known as Christians would regularly come together and unite in the name of the Lord, very well knowing that their salvation obtained by Jesus was to be found in the communion of the Church, that is, the people of God. It is the Church who strengthened her children, the ones who chose Christ, with the Breaking of the Word and nourished them with the Breaking of the Bread. Being commissioned by Jesus Himself, she became the Mother of the faithful, and held under her mantle the followers of her Saviour.

- b. Church is Holy - Explain how the Church was commissioned, and sanctified by Christ.

“Be Holy, as I am Holy 1Pet 1:15. The Church is Holy for she is the mystical Body of Jesus. As she is united to the source of Holiness and formed by Him in grace, she is Holy by the merit of her Saviour.

- c. Church is Apostolic - Explain how the apostles were made the first members of the Church on the day of Pentecost, and how they seeds of the Church were sown by the Apostles, and how she continues the same mission through their successors, as seen in the Book of Acts of the Apostles. Elements such as Papacy and Apostolic teachings are characteristics and possessions of the Church which indicate that she is Apostolic in nature.
- d. Church is Catholic (Universal) - Explain how the apostles went to the different parts of the world and sowed the seeds of the Gospel. And how despite having different traditions, the fundamental teachings of all communion churches remain the same. Also explain how the Church has the call to proclaim the same Gospel to all people.

2. Other Christian Communities

- a. Oriental Christian Churches - Formed by the 6th century hermit Jacob Burdaya. These communities secluded themselves from the Catholic Church after the Chalcedonian Council .
- b. Greek Orthodox - Left the Church after the Schism of 1054 AD. Have theological disagreements with the Catholic Church.
- c. Protestantism - Led by Martin Luther and John Calvin, the Protestant reformation resulted in many faithful leaving the church in the 16th century. These were due to political, cultural as well as religious disagreements with the Catholic Church. Explain the prominent Protestant communities.
- d. Malankara Syrian Orthodox Church - these were Mar Thoma Nasranis who accepted the teachings of Oriental Christian Church and therefore led to formation of Malankara Syrian Orthodox Church in Kerala.
- e. Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church - Explain Methran Kakshi and Bava Kakshi. Reason for disagreements with Malankara Syrian Orthodox Church was political.
- f. Marthoma Syrian Church - formed by the work of Anglican missionaries who worked in India. Formed in the 19th Century.
- g. CSI CNI churches - formed by the work of Anglican missionaries and British Methodist churches. They have 4 dioceses in Kerala.

3. Ecumenism - to develop unity and communion with churches who have separated themselves with the Catholic Church. Explain Jesus' words in John 17:21.

4. Why should we be Catholics -

Because the fullness of the truth and Love of God revealed by Jesus is found in the Catholic Church. She continues the Apostolic mission of proclaiming the Gospel to all people and bringing

together all of Christ's brethren and keeping them in communion with God and one another till the end of time. It is in the Catholic Church where we receive the Body and Blood of Christ, and His other Sacraments that are directly passed on from Jesus through His apostles. We see in her the image of the Heavenly Jerusalem who is to be exalted in Glory by the Lamb. She is the banner under which we who believe in the Good news of Christ come together. She remains the moral compass of the world and the Teacher of right Faith to Christians.

Bible Verse: 1 Peter 1:15

Habit formation:

Recite the Apostles creed daily with mindfulness and focus.

Activity:

Discuss the mission of the Church- Mark 16:15 -20

Discuss and compare the life of the early Church Christians and the present day Christians