

GRADE 10 LESSON PLAN 5 WHAT IS THE CHURCH?



GRADE LEVEL: 10

THEME/TOPIC: The images used to identify the nature of the Church and its connection to Jesus Christ

SUMMARY OF THE VIGNETTE:

This vignette attempts to define the Church and presents several images that help us to visualize the Church and its relationship to Jesus Christ. The vignette begins with an explanation of the term *ekklesia*, focusing on the notion of being “called out” by Christ. One of the most useful of Fr. Barron’s images for the Church is that of the Church as the mystical body of Christ. This image sees the members of the Church as intimately connected to Christ, to other Christians, and to the rest of God’s creation.

GRADE 10
LESSON PLAN 5

WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

OBJECTIVES: *Students will be able to . . .*

- Describe Christianity as a community called out from a larger world by Jesus Christ.
- Articulate an experience of Christ's abiding presence in the Church and in the world around them.
- Explain how they are a part of the mystical Body of Christ, people intimately connected with Christ and with the other members of the Church who collectively form this Body.

MATERIALS & RESOURCES:

- Video Vignette: "What is the Church?"
- New American Bible
- *Catechism of the Catholic Church*
- Dulles, Avery. *Models of the Church*. New York: Image, 2002. Print.
- Pope Pius XII. Encyclical Letter. *Mystici Corporis Christi*. 29 June 1943 (specific sections for students recommended in Procedures & Tasks below).

RELATED BIBLE & CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH PASSAGES:

- Mt 4:18-22; Mk 1:16-20; Lk 5:1-11 (The calling of the first disciples)
- Mt 9:9-13 (The calling of Matthew)
- Mt 10:1-4; Mk 3:13-19; Lk 6:12-16 (The Twelve)
- Mt 10:5-42 (The life of an Apostle)
- "I am" passages
 - * Jn 6:35 "the bread of life":
 - * Jn 8:12 "the light of the world"
 - * Jn 10:9 "the gate"
 - * Jn 10:11 "the good shepherd"
 - * Jn 11:25 "the resurrection and the life"
 - * Jn 14:6 "the way, the truth, and the life"
 - * Jn 15:1 "the true vine"
- Mk 2:18-20; Jn 3:29; Rom 7:1-4; 2 Cor 11:2;
- Eph 5:22-33; Rev 19:7; Rev 21:2 (The Church as the Bride of Christ)
- CCC 753, 756 (Symbols of the Church)
- CCC 760-762 (OT foreshadowing of the Church);
- CCC 774, 778 (The Universal Sacrament of Salvation)
- CCC 781 (The Church as the People of God)
- CCC 811-816, 825, 830-831, 857-863, 865 (The Church as One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic)

PROCEDURES & TASKS:

1. Welcome the students with warmth and enthusiasm.
2. *Begin with prayer.* This should help the students disengage from their preoccupations and have an open heart before God. You may choose to pray in a number of different ways, including with Scripture, with music, in silence, with traditional prayers, or with extemporaneous prayer that arises from the heart.
3. *Introduce and watch the video vignette.* Use any or all of the following lessons to build upon the the information in the video:
 - The Ekklesia and the Calling of the Disciples
 - * This lesson will focus on the call to discipleship and the ways in which Jesus called out the Apostles to be “fishers of men” (Mt 4:19).
 - * The calling of Matthew (Mt 9:9-13) provides a case-study in the ways in which Christ works through even the mostly unexpected people.
 - * Students will reflect on the ways in which they feel that God has called them to spread the word and works of Christ.
 - * Pass out the “How Am I Called?” Worksheet.
 - * Give the students the “Quiz on Twelve Apostles”.
 - The Life and Work of a Disciple
 - * This lesson will focus on the challenges faced by those who work for Christ (Mt 10:5-42).
 - * Students will reflect upon the challenges they have faced in living out the gospel message.
 - * Prompt for student reflection: *What challenges do I face in living the life Christ has called me to lead? What helps me face these challenges?*
 - “I Am” Statements: Biblical Images for the Relationship between Christ and the Church
 - * This lesson will focus on John’s “I Am” statements as images for the relationship between Christ and the Church.
 - * Students will reflect upon the ways in which Christ has served as a support in students’ lives (i.e., the ways in which the vine has supported the branches).
 - * Complete the “‘I am’ Statements” Worksheet (attached).
 - * Give the students the “Quiz on ‘I Am’ Statements”.
 - The Church as the Mystical Body of Christ
 - * This lesson draws from Pope Pius XII’s encyclical on the Church as the Mystical Body of Christ. You can have students read and then discuss various paragraphs in the encyclical on different dimensions of the Mystical Body of Christ:

1. Who established and provides for the Church? (*Encyclical paragraphs 12, 33*)
 2. How do the sacraments provide for the members of the Body of Christ? (*Encyclical paragraphs 18 - 20*)
 3. Who is the head of the Church? Who governs it on earth? (*Encyclical paragraphs 34 and 40*)
 4. Have students reflect on the ways in which their faith, hope, and love link them to Christ. (*Encyclical paragraphs 15, 47, 74*)
 5. Prompt for student reflection: *How do I feel connected to a Christ that I cannot directly experience with my senses? What in God's Church or his creation offers me the chance to feel the presence of Christ and makes firm the relationship I have with Christ?*
- Avery Dulles' Five Models of the Church (in Dulles' *Models of the Church*. New York: Image, 2002.)
 - * This lesson uses Dulles' "Five Models of the Church" to help students further understand the relationship between Christ and the Church and the role of the Church in the world.
 - * Students will begin to form an opinion on which model of the Church best helps them understand their relationship to Christ and, ideally, will perhaps begin to form their own image for this relationship.
 - * Complete the "Models of the Church" Worksheet.
 - * Give the students the "Quiz on Dulles' Five Models of the Church".

ACTIVITIES & ENRICHMENT:

- "How Am I Called?" Worksheet
- "Models of the Church" Worksheet #1
- "Models of the Church" Worksheet #2

ASSESSMENT(S):

- Quiz on Twelve Apostles
- "I Am' Statements" Worksheet

HOW AM I CALLED? WORKSHEET

Please read the following passage, then answer the questions below.

Matthew 4:18-22:

“As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen. He said to them, “Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.” At once they left their nets and followed him. He walked along from there and saw two other brothers, James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat, with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed him.”

1. What is the occupation of these first disciples? Why is this occupation a great symbol for the work Jesus is calling them to perform?
2. James and John “immediately left their boat and their father” to follow Jesus. What does this say about the priorities of those called to minister alongside Jesus?
3. When in your life have you felt called by Jesus? Was it a clear call like the one Jesus offered to these first four disciples? Or was it a more gentle call that you felt over an extended period of time? How did you respond to this call?

HOW AM I CALLED?

WORKSHEET

Suggested Responses

Please read the following passage, then answer the questions below.

Matthew 4:18-22:

“As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen. He said to them, “Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.” At once they left their nets and followed him. He walked along from there and saw two other brothers, James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat, with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed him.”

1. What is the occupation of these first disciples? Why is this occupation a great symbol for the work Jesus is calling them to perform?

The first disciples were fishermen. This occupation is a great symbol for the work Jesus is calling them to perform because as they catch fish, Jesus is also calling them to “catch” men through evangelization.

2. James and John “immediately left their boat and their father” to follow Jesus. What does this say about the priorities of those called to minister alongside Jesus?

The person of Jesus is so attractive and correspondent to the desires of their hearts that James and John—and all those called to minister alongside Jesus—leave everything to follow Him.

3. When in your life have you felt called by Jesus? Was it a clear call like the one Jesus offered to these first four disciples? Or was it a more gentle call that you felt over an extended period of time? How did you respond to this call?

These answers will vary based on students' subjective response.

MODELS OF THE CHURCH

WORKSHEET #1

Suggested Responses

1. Church as Institution

With its history and hierarchy, the Church serves as guardian and transmitter of the traditions of Jesus and the disciples. The Church as an institution is devoted to understanding and sharing the teachings of Christ.

2. Church as Mystical Communion

The Church is not only a people bound together by a common history, but by shared possession of the Holy Spirit. The Church's unity is not merely political; it is firmly rooted in the mystical reality of the Spirit and in Christ's abiding presence within the Church.

3. Church as Sacrament

A sacrament is a sign of God's presence and grace in the world; therefore, the Church serves as a visible sign to its members and to those outside of the Church of the work of God in the world and, in particular, in the lives of the faithful.

4. Church as Herald

The Church is, by nature, apostolic—that is, Christians are sent out into the world to share the Good News, to receive the word of God and to further spread this word. The Church has passed down the words and actions of Jesus, and it is the job of Christians to continue to share God's message with the world.

5. Church as Servant

In keeping with the foot washing in John 13, the Church is called to minister to those in need, to be a servant to those to whom Christ would have readily been a servant. The Church is nothing if not a proactive community charged with making the world better, making the Kingdom real and meaningful to people today.

How do Dulles' models of the Church compare to Pius XII's image of the Church as the Mystical Body of Christ? What do these models say about how Christ is manifested in the world?

Pius XII's image of the Church as the Mystical Body of Christ connects to Dulles images in that all six images together convey an intimate connection between Christ and humanity. Christ is not something esoteric. Christ is understandable and can be seen working in the world, as a body is plainly visible and has the power to be a dynamic force for good, capable of spreading the Gospel.

MODELS OF THE CHURCH

WORKSHEET #2

1. Avery Dulles imagined five models of the Church that might help us to understand the relationship between Christ and the Church and the role of the Church in the world.

They are:

1. Church as Institution
2. Church as Mystical Communion
3. Church as Sacrament
4. Church as Herald
5. Church as Servant

Which of these five models do you think is the best image for the Church? What does it offer the Christian in terms of helping a Christian understand his or her role in the world?

2. Imagine an alternative model of the Church:

“Church as _____.”

What makes you choose this image?

3. Why is this image useful for understanding the role of the Church in the world?

4. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this model compared to Dulles’ “Five Models”? What missing elements does it capture? What might it sacrifice?

MODELS OF THE CHURCH

WORKSHEET #2

Suggested Responses

1. Avery Dulles imagined five models of the Church that might help us to understand the relationship between Christ and the Church and the role of the Church in the world:

1. Church as Institution
2. Church as Mystical Communion
3. Church as Sacrament
4. Church as Herald
5. Church as Servant

Which of these five models do you think is the best image for the Church? What does it offer the Christian in terms of helping a Christian understand his or her role in the world?

Students should give concrete reasons for their answers that elucidate the relationship between Christ and the Church as a communion lived for the world.

Student responses to the following questions should show an understanding of the relationship between Christ and the Church that is lived as communion for the world.

2. Imagine an alternative model of the Church:

“Church as _____.”

What makes you choose this image?

3. Why is this image useful for understanding the role of the Church in the world?

4. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this model compared to Dulles’ five models? What missing elements does it capture? What might it sacrifice?

TWELVE APOSTLES QUIZ

Please circle the best answer for each of the following questions.

1. Who are the first two apostles Jesus calls in Matthew 4?
 - a. James and John
 - b. James and Peter
 - c. Peter and Andrew
 - d. Andrew and John
2. What is the occupation of these first two disciples?
 - a. Fishermen
 - b. Farmers
 - c. Coal miners
 - d. Tax collectors
3. James and John leaving their father behind after being called by Jesus represents
 - a. the fact that James and John's father would not be welcomed into the Kingdom.
 - b. the sacrifices disciples must sometimes make in order to share in the work of Christ.
 - c. James and John's desire accept Jesus' father, Joseph, as their own.
 - d. the appeal of working for Jesus to those who have grown tired of the family business.
4. Before being called by Jesus, Matthew worked as a
 - a. Fisherman
 - b. Farmer
 - c. Coal miner
 - d. Tax collector
5. The calling of Matthew teaches us that
 - a. Christ seeks after those who have lived sinless lives.
 - b. Christ seeks after those who have begged for God's forgiveness.
 - c. Christ seeks after all people, regardless of a person's background.
 - d. Christ seeks after those who have relatives who have already accepted Christ's call.

Please answer the following question in the space provided.

6. What kinds of people does Christ call in these Bible stories? Is anything unexpected in the people called, the scenes of calling, or the responses of those called? Make specific references to stories we have discussed.

TWELVE APOSTLES QUIZ

Suggested Responses

1. Who are the first two apostles Jesus calls in Matthew 4?
 - a. James and John
 - b. James and Peter
 - c. *Peter and Andrew*
 - d. Andrew and John
2. What is the occupation of these first two disciples?
 - a. *Fishermen*
 - b. Farmers
 - c. Coal miners
 - d. Tax collectors
3. James and John leaving their father behind after being called by Jesus represents
 - a. the fact that James and John's father would not be welcomed into the Kingdom.
 - b. *the sacrifices disciples must sometimes make in order to share in the work of Christ.*
 - c. James and John's desire accept Jesus' father Joseph as their own.
 - d. the appeal of working for Jesus to those who have grown tired of the family business.
4. Before being called by Jesus, Matthew worked as a
 - a. Fisherman
 - b. Farmer
 - c. Coal miner
 - d. *Tax collector*
5. The calling of Matthew teaches us that
 - a. Christ seeks after those who have lived sinless lives.
 - b. Christ seeks after those who have begged for God's forgiveness.
 - c. *Christ seeks after all people, regardless of a person's background.*
 - d. Christ seeks after those who have relatives who have already accepted Christ's call.

Please answer the following question in the space provided.

6. What kinds of people does Christ call in these Bible stories? Is anything unexpected in the people called, the scenes of calling, or the responses of those called? Make specific references to stories we have discussed.

Christ calls those who would not have been considered by the Jews in Jesus' day to be the most faithful Jews or the most upstanding citizens. Christ calls those who are on the margins of society. One might imagine that Christ would choose the "best" Jews to take part in the Kingdom; instead, the Peter and Andrew, James and John, and Matthew stories show Jesus calling ordinary, flawed people. Having been a tax collector and therefore an agent of King Herod (and, by extension, an agent of imperial power in the region), Matthew is a particularly surprising choice.

“I AM” STATEMENTS WORKSHEET

Please describe the symbolism for the relationship between Christ and the Church as described by the following seven “I am” statements:

1. “I am the bread of life.” (Jn 6:35)
2. “I am the light of the world.” (Jn 8:12)
3. “I am the gate.” (Jn 10:9)
4. “I am the good shepherd.” (Jn 10:11)
5. “I am the resurrection and the life.” (Jn 11:25)
6. “I am the way, the truth, and the life.” (Jn 14:6)
7. “I am the true vine.” (Jn 15:1)

"I AM" STATEMENTS WORKSHEET

Suggested Responses

Note: *The key to linking all these statements to the Church is that the Church is the Body of Christ and the route of access to him on earth.*

1. "I am the bread of life." (Jn 6:35)
Jesus is the food that sustains and gives eternal life to the faithful. With this statement, Jesus foreshadowed the Eucharist as the source and summit of our Christian life.
2. "I am the light of the world." (Jn 8:12)
Jesus is the light to show us the way to the Kingdom and the way of living as a member of the Kingdom. This "light" is in opposition to darkness or evil. Jesus implies that to come to faith in him is to walk from darkness into the light of divine life.
3. "I am the gate." (Jn 10:9)
Those who hope to take part in the Kingdom must accept Jesus as the medium which permits access to the Kingdom. Jesus himself stands at the boundary between life outside the Kingdom and life inside the Kingdom.
4. "I am the good shepherd." (Jn 10:11)
Like Moses and David, Jesus is a shepherd who leads his flock into the path of righteousness. The image of a shepherd has a strong biblical pedigree, and it connects Jesus to some of his most important ancestors. It is also a familiar image as the people who heard Jesus speak were farmers or animal tenders.
5. "I am the resurrection and the life." (Jn 11:25)
By accepting Jesus, we are brought into his death and subsequently his resurrection. We take part in the Paschal Mystery, and we are ultimately brought into new life through him.
6. "I am the way, the truth, and the life." (Jn 14:6)
Jesus' message provides a genuine, sustaining means of engaging the world. What Jesus teaches is not opinion; rather, it is the truth that allows us to see God, the world, and ourselves as they really are. Also, our faith is about a person, Jesus Christ, who is the way to God and eternal life.
7. "I am the true vine." (Jn 15:1)
Jesus is the vine from which extend many branches. We are intimately connected to Jesus, and, as a branch depends upon a vine for sustenance, we, too, depend upon Jesus for our survival. Jesus also draws a connection back to the Garden in Genesis and to a place in which humanity initially found prosperity and a strong connection with God. By accepting Jesus as the true vine, we return to the Garden with a renewed relationship with God through Christ.