

## LESSON 29: Church, the Family of God

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### AIM

To bring the children to an understanding of the church as a family of God who follow Jesus, and the roles of various ministers in the church. (2.4.1)

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### OUTCOME

Learners understand the church as a family of God who follow Jesus, and are familiar with the roles of various ministers in the church.

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### WHAT YOU NEED

- \* Photos of family at a happy event (1)
- \* Paint and paper (1)
- \* Bible (2)
- \* Worksheet *Who Does What* (3) ⇨
- \* *God Is Building a House* or *Living Stones* (5)

### LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- 1 Ask the children to **paint a picture** of their own family at a happy occasion. Write the name of each person underneath. They may use a photograph if they have one. When they finish their painting the children sit in groups to discuss how it feels to belong to a family.
  - 2 **Read** [1 John 3: 11]  
 Think of how much the father loves us. He loves us so much that he lets us be called his children, as we truly are. Jesus is God's Son and he showed his disciples how to love and serve each other. They looked out for each other and shared. Jesus taught them to love God as their Father. Now we also love and care for others as Jesus loves and cares for us. Just like a family comes together for fun times (refer to paintings) so all the children of God come together to celebrate. We come together as a parish. A parish is our family and neighbours who follow Jesus in the Catholic Church. As a family at church we ....worship, learn, teach, sing, love, care, help, serve, pray.
  - 3 These are some of the activities we do together. Help the children discuss what type of **activities we do at church**. The learners could be asked to discuss this with their parents. They draw up and complete the worksheet, **Who Does What**, at home. A worksheet sample is given below. ⇨
  - 4 **Prayer:** Dear God,  
 Thank you for making me part of your family.  
 Thank you that Jesus died for me.  
 Being part of your family makes me feel great!  
 Amen.
  - 5 **Sing:** *God Is Building a House* or *Living Stones*
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## ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 6 The children **write down the chores** done by each of their family members. Relate this to the ministers of the church. Each one has a job to do so that everything gets done.
- 7 Write about **a special time** you had with the family of God at church.
- 8 List the **family activities** compared to the list of church activities. Similarities and differences can be noted.

# Who Does What?

Minister of the Eucharist

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Minister of the sick

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Minister of the poor

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Reader

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Hospitality minister

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Altar server

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Music minister

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## LESSON 30: Church Leaders

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### AIM

To create, through interviews with the school principal, priest and bishop (or others from the church community), an awareness of the church as a community of people who work and worship together in service of others. (14.1.2)

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### OUTCOME

Learners are aware of different ministries within the church community.

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### LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- 1 Tell the **story of Philip** [Acts 8: 27 – 39]

Jesus had gone back to heaven. Just before he left he asked the disciples to tell all what they had learnt. There was one named Philip who helped the disciples. He was on a journey and met a chief treasurer of the queen of Ethiopia. Philip heard him reading the Bible out loud. So he asked him, “Do you understand what you are reading?” “How can I understand unless someone explains it to me?” answered the man. The Holy Spirit helped Philip to explain the Good News about Jesus from the Bible. People are called to spread God’s word.

- 2 The three **invited guests** are given five minutes each to talk about their role in the Church and how they work and worship together in service of others. If you have recorded interviews, play them. Have a photograph of each guest in this case.
- 3 Group 1 will ask the Bishop **questions**. Group 2 will ask the priest and group 3 the principal. The children should be encouraged to set their own questions, but here are a few examples:
  - What does your title mean?
  - Why did you choose to be a bishop, priest or principal?
  - Which part of your job do you enjoy the most?
  - Who was the inspiration in your life?

You can encourage the children to take photos of the guests, which are duplicated and placed in the newspaper articles (see 4).

If the interviews are recorded, then the groups note the answers given by their guest. - group 1, the bishop; group 2, the priest, group 3, the principal.

- 4 For homework the children are asked to write the answers given to their questions in a **newspaper format**. They present this to class the following day. Pin the ‘newspapers’ on a display board in their groups.
  - 5 **Assessment:** On the following day, the teacher hands out the assessment pages. Evaluate the ‘newspapers’ pinned up by the various groups. Colour in an appropriate face.
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### WHAT YOU NEED

- \* Bible (1)
- \* Invite 3 people to your classroom (or taped interviews, asking the questions in (3) below) (2)
- \* The children in their groups will have questions ready for the guest speakers. (3)
- \* Worksheet (6) ⇨

## ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 6 If it isn't possible to invite the bishop, priest or school principal you could discuss how the Church began, with emphasis on **the type of people** involved:

After Jesus had risen the apostles were blessed by the Holy Spirit. They preached the Good News of Jesus without fear. At this time Jerusalem was packed with people. From here the disciples spread out on journeys to tell the Good News. Paul made three long journeys, establishing churches all over the Greek-speaking world. He is remembered for the letters he wrote to these churches which are now part of the New Testament. Paul's fourth and last journey ended in Rome where he was beheaded by the Emperor. Peter worked and lived in Rome and it may be that Peter founded the Church there. Rome was at that time a meeting place for all types of people. Christ had said to Peter, "You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church." [Matthew 16:18] Some people, like Peter was, are called to be leaders in the Church. The Pope, Bishops and the Priests help us to carry on Jesus' work.

The church helps us to know the correct things to do and have the courage to do it. The children draw an outline of a church, using the rectangle on the worksheet, and fill in the information  

# Who's Who?

## LEADERS IN THE CHURCH!



The Pope is a successor of St. Peter. He leads the Church across the whole world. The Pope's name is \_\_\_\_\_.

The Bishop leads the diocese (many parishes make up a diocese). The Bishop is \_\_\_\_\_.

The Priest is a leader in the parish. (A parish is where people join together to pray, celebrate the sacraments, serve others, etc.) The Parish Priest is \_\_\_\_\_.

Various ministers help us to worship God and preach the Good News. They also attend to the needs of the poor and the sick.

The school principal and teachers are people who help others to live as Jesus did on earth and spread God's eternal love. Our principal's name is \_\_\_\_\_.

All of us build together as a parish who worships God. My name is \_\_\_\_\_.