

## LESSON 8: Symbol and Sacrament

### AIM

To lead the children to a deeper understanding of the idea of sacrament (5.3.7).

### OUTCOME


Learners understand the concept of sacrament as a symbolic action that makes present the reality that it points to.

### LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- 1 Present the learners with a **word puzzle** that contains the letters of the word 'sacrament' jumbled up in some way. Here is an example:



**S**                      **A**  
  
**T**                      **C**  
  
**A**      **M**      **E**      **N**  
  
**R**

Ask the learners to rearrange the letters to make a single word. Once they have arrived at the word, put up a flashcard, SACRAMENT.

- 2 Hand out copies of the worksheet.  ⇒ Ask the learners to read the **scripture passages**, paying particular attention to the key words given on the worksheet. Individually or in groups they consider the deeper meaning of the action that goes with the key words. Here is a guide to the worksheet.



### WHAT YOU NEED

- \* Word puzzle (1)
- \* Flashcard (1)
- \* Copies of the worksheet  (2)(4)(7)
- \* Bibles (2)
- \*  *The Spirit Is Moving, Holy Spirit of Fire or All Over the World or Sing for Life – Come Holy Spirit* (p.96), *Moya O Halalelang* (p.229), or *Spirit-Filled Day* (p.162) (5)
- \* Paper, pencil crayons (7)
- \* Some information gathered by the learners before the lesson regarding their Baptism or any other religious rite they have experienced (7)

SCRIPTURE	KEY WORD	ACTION
Matthew 3:13-17	water, dove	new birth in the Spirit
Acts 2:1-4	wind, tongues of fire	empowerment, deep change, courage to speak
Luke 22:14-20	bread & cup	being fed by Jesus in the spirit
Luke 7:36-38	ointment	chosen for a special purpose
Mark 8:22-26	hands	healing
John 2:1-11	wine	beginning a new life of celebration

- 3 Discuss what is common to all the above actions. They are all **actions of the Holy Spirit** bringing fuller life to the recipient. The key words identify symbols. These symbols carry the meaning of a hidden action. In the life of the Church, performing in faith these symbolic actions, called sacraments, makes present the hidden action of the Spirit.
- 4 Invite the learners to write a one sentence **definition** of the word ‘sacrament’. A possible definition is: "A sacraments is a symbol of God's presence and grace to his people." or a more traditional one is given below for the learners to write in their handbooks or on the worksheet. 📖 ⇒
- 5 Conclude the lesson with a **suitable hymn**, for example *The Spirit Is Moving, Holy Spirit of Fire*, or *All Over the World. Sing for Life* has a number of useful options – *Come Holy Spirit* (p.96), *Moya O Halalelang* (p.229), or *Spirit-Filled Day* (p.162).

## ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 6 Discuss with the children **signs we use in our daily life**, for example, a wave of the hand when saying goodbye to someone, the friendly handshake when welcoming someone we are meeting for the first time, or the comforting hug for a friend who is sad. These are signs that acknowledge the person in some way, and are ways of sharing our life.
- 7 Give the children time to **draw a sign or symbol** for each of the sacraments they have already received, or of any rite of passage (growth step) that they have already been part of. There is space for this on the worksheet. 📖 Examples might be Baptism, Eucharist and Reconciliation for the Christian, or the naming ceremony in other faiths or even circumcision. Alternatively, give them time to write about their own understanding of what the sacraments or rites mean to them.

## TO REMEMBER

A sacrament is a symbolic action that makes present the reality that it points to. It is an outward sign of an inward grace, a sharing in the life of God.

# Actions of the Spirit

Read the following scripture passages, paying particular attention to the key word or words in each case. These key words are clues to deeper, hidden actions. What do you think these actions are?

SCRIPTURE	KEY WORDS	ACTION
Mt 3:13-17	water, dove	
Acts 2:1-4	wind, tongues of fire	
Lk 22:14-20	bread & cup	
Lk 7:36-38	ointment	
Mk 8:22-26	hands	
Jn 2:1-11	wine	

In the space below, draw a symbol for each of the sacraments you have received, or for any other rites of passage you may have experienced.

## LESSON 9: Seven Sacraments

### AIM

To help the children to become familiar with the seven sacraments in the Catholic Church (5.3.8).

### OUTCOME

Learners recall the seven sacraments and the significance of each.

### LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- 1 **The Number Seven:** Write the following incomplete phrase on the board:  
The seven ... of the ...  
Invite the learners to complete it in their own way.  
The week is completed in seven days. Seven colours make up the complete rainbow. In the ancient world, the number seven had a great importance. It signified wholeness or fullness.
- 2 Invite the learners to look up the following verses from the **Book of Revelation** - [1:4, 1:13, 1:16, 4:5, 5:1, 8:2, 12:3, 15:1] The number seven is prominent and carries the same meaning of fullness or totality. Where else does the number seven come in the New Testament? Learners may be able to provide some examples: [Mt 22:25, Mt 15:34, Mt 12:45, Lk 8:2]
- 3 **Seven Sacraments:** We might say that the light of God's grace has seven colours. Each sacrament brings us grace, or a share in the life of God, in a different way. Invite the learners to list the seven sacraments. (Give them a few minutes to write them down.) Many will have forgotten, or perhaps have a very inaccurate knowledge. Build up the list with flashcards, but of different colours according to the following scheme:  
COLOUR 1: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist  
COLOUR 2: Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick  
COLOUR 3: Marriage, Holy Orders  
A short description of each sacrament is given below for your convenience. ⇒
- 4 Divide the class into groups. As a first task, ask them to explain the **colour coding** of the sacraments. The colours show that the sacraments can be divided into three groups, namely the sacraments of Initiation, Healing, and Calling. Assign each group a sacrament to discuss.
- 5 **How Often?** A second question for the groups to consider is whether a particular sacrament is received once only, or many times, and at what age usually. If you have time, you may want to discuss the reasons. Here is a key:



### WHAT YOU NEED

- \* Bibles (2)
- \* Flashcards of three different colours (3)
- \* Descriptions of the sacraments (3) ⇒
- \* Material for posters or banners (6)

ONCE ONLY	USUALLY ONCE	MANY TIMES
Baptism Confirmation Holy Orders	Matrimony Anointing of the Sick	Eucharist Reconciliation

## ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- The children create a **poster or banner** of a rainbow of seven colours representing the sacraments, encircling a dove, representing the Holy Spirit
- Remember that the seven sacraments belong to the Catholic Church tradition. In **other Christian denominations** there are some differences as to which sacraments are recognised and how they are practised and understood. Encourage members of the class from these churches to give some input in this regard.

### MATERIALS

#### SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION

**BAPTISM:** The sacrament by which we become Christians, children of God, and members of the Church.

**CONFIRMATION:** By which we receive the Holy Spirit, to make us strong and perfect Christians.

**EUCCHARIST:** The Body and Blood of the Risen Christ under the appearances of bread and wine, given to nourish us on our life's journey.

#### SACRAMENTS OF HEALING

**RECONCILIATION (PENANCE):** By which sins committed after Baptism are forgiven.

**ANOINTING OF THE SICK:** Which, in dangerous illness, and in preparation for death, comforts the person, remits sin and restores health if God wills it.

#### SACRAMENTS OF CALLING

**HOLY ORDERS:** By which bishops, priests and deacons receive power and grace to perform their sacred duties.

**MATRIMONY:** Which is the Sacrament of Christian Marriage.

## LESSON 10: The Church as Sacrament

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### AIM

To explore the model of Church as Sacrament (14.4.2)


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### OUTCOME

Learners understand the Church as called to make Christ continually present in the world.

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### LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- 1 Most places of worship are magnificent examples of **architecture**. Ask the learners to recall those they have seen, or have a picture display. The worksheet has some samples too.  ⇒ Notice the steeples or spires that are a feature of many places of worship. What does this magnificence point to?
- 2 The learners will be familiar with the idea of the church building as the house of God, the physical place where the faith community meets to be together in the presence of God. But **the Church** is more importantly the people who meet together united under Christ their head in the Holy Spirit. Just as the church building in its magnificent architecture points to the presence of God on Earth in Christ, so the People are called to be a presence of Christ in the world.
- 3 Recall the **definition of sacrament** from LESSON 8:
 

A sacrament is a symbolic action that makes present the reality that it points to. It is an outward sign of an inward grace, a sharing in the life of God.
- 4 Just as the seven sacraments of the Church point to, and make Christ's work present in his People, so the Church points to Christ and makes Christ present in the world. We can say that **the Church is the sacrament of Christ** because the Church points to Christ and makes Christ effectively present. The illustration on the worksheet will help to clarify this idea.  ⇒
- 5 If Christians say, "**We are the Church**" then it means that their task is to be a sacrament of Christ - to make Christ present to other people. Is this possible? Ask the learners to read the following scripture passage: [Matthew 25:31-40], and to note the different ways they can be Christ in the world.



### WHAT YOU NEED

- \* Pictures of churches and other places of worship (1)
- \*  Copies of the worksheet (1)(4)⇒
- \* Bibles (5)
- \* Spiritual and Physical Works of Mercy (7) ⇒

### ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- 6 Learners in groups make a **painting, poster or collage** showing the Church as an instrument in God's hands bringing the life of Christ to the peoples of the world.
- 7 The Church shows the face of Christ to people through the members' practice of the **Spiritual and Physical Works of Mercy**. ⇒

## MATERIALS

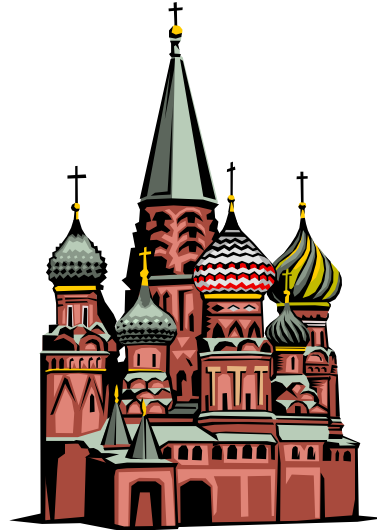
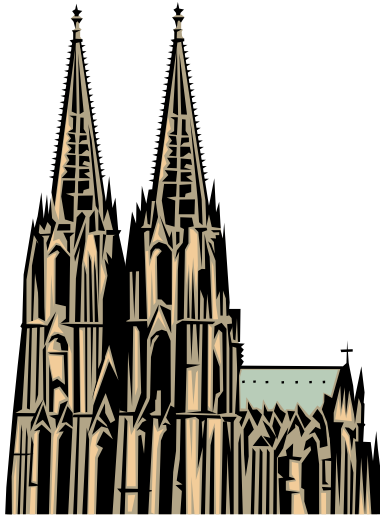
### *SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY*

reminding people of their duty  
teaching, especially the truths of faith  
consoling those who are upset or in pain  
comforting those who are in sorrow  
being patient with others  
forgiving those who injure us  
praying for the living and the dead

### *PHYSICAL WORKS OF MERCY*

feeding the hungry  
giving drink to the thirsty  
giving clothes to the poor  
helping those in prison  
giving shelter to the homeless  
visiting the sick  
burying the dead

# Church, Sacrament of Christ



**BAPTISM**

**HOLY ORDERS**

**CONFIRMATION**

**MARRIAGE**

**EUCCHARIST**

**RECONCILIATION**

**ANOINTING OF THE SICK**