

LESSON 1: Our School



REFERENCE Page 467 [OUR SCHOOL]



WHAT YOU NEED

- (I) A brief history of the school

AIM

- To help learners see the school in relation to the wider church community.

OUTCOMES

- KUI Learners recognise their school as sharing in the evangelising mission of the church.
- DAP Learners appreciate that the school is a community with a special relationship to the church community.

TEACHER'S NOTE

This lesson is not designed to be deep or heavy, but a quick and light introduction to the school and the community. Do not make the introduction long or detailed.

The link between the school and the church is very tenuous in some schools, while in others it is more obvious. This link needs to receive emphasis during the lesson. This could be done in the introductory section on the history and founding of the school and in the answers to the questions in other parts of the lesson.

You will need to prepare a brief history of the school to use for the introduction.

LESSON OUTLINE

1 Introduction

Begin the lesson with a very brief history of the school. You might give a few dates, say who started the school, and why, and tell learners one or two interesting or amusing stories.

2 Membership

Ask the learners to identify the groups of people making up the school community. Make a list on the board or newsprint. Learners might need help to identify some groups they rarely see or meet, like the governing body.

3 Why Are You Here?

Ask the learners to say why they and their parents decided that they should be at this school in particular. Write up list of reasons shared on the board or newsprint.

4 Wider Community?

Ask the learners to make suggestions as to what the wider community (society) thinks about the school. What does the community think about our school? (Include or mention school offering values etc.) At this stage of the lesson, your board or might look like the following:

WHAT WE SAY	OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY	WHAT OTHERS SAY
<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 100%; display: flex; flex-direction: column; justify-content: center; align-items: center;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • • • • </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 100%; display: flex; flex-direction: column; justify-content: center; align-items: center;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • • • • </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100%; height: 100%; display: flex; flex-direction: column; justify-content: center; align-items: center;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • • • • </div>

5 Outreach

Ask the learners to provide responses to the following question: What does the school do for the wider community? (Outreach). It may be necessary to give the learners some help here, as the Grade 8 learners may not know what other learners or grades in the school are doing.

6 Vision/Mission Statement

In groups of 3 or 4, ask the learners to put together a vision or mission statement for their school. There is no need to get into detail, nor worry about the difference between vision and mission statements. Their statements should reflect both the reasons for the starting of the school and the present and future expectations of the school and wider communities.

7 Conclusion

Conclude this lesson by asking the groups to read their statements to the whole class. If there is still some time available you can ask learners to ask any further questions for clarification that they may have in regard to the school.

OTHER IDEAS

8 Flyer

Ask the learners to prepare a four-page flyer or leaflet that could be distributed to future parents - and the wider community - advertising the school. It should tell of the history, the membership, links with the Church, relationship to the community, and educational aspects of the school.

9 Scripture

You could conclude the lesson by reading Ephesians 4: 10 –16 which calls for unity among the Christians of Ephesus.

MATERIALS

- There no further materials provided for this lesson.



LESSON 2: Me and My Parish



REFERENCE

Page 467 [HOME PARISHES]



WHAT YOU NEED

- (1) Quiz
- (2) LSM: 'Your Parish – A Questionnaire'
- (4) LSM: 'My Parish Research Project'

AIMS

- To increase learners' knowledge of their own parish or faith community
- To encourage learners to participate actively in their own parish or faith community

OUTCOMES

- KUI Learners know about their parish and its organisation(s).
- DAP Learners are committed to some involvement in their parish or faith community.

TEACHER'S NOTE

Here a research project is begun, and at a suitable future date report back is given. The project calls for some research time out of school hours, possibly over a weekend. If your school is a boarding school you can give this lesson as an assignment to learners when they go home for boarders' weekend, mid-term break, or when the school closes. You will need to take into consideration learners from other Christian churches and religious communities when forming groups for the project.

LESSON OUTLINE

1 Know Your Parish

Begin this lesson by trying to find out from the learners what they know about their own parishes. This introduction is set to stimulate interest in the details of their local parishes. The quiz should be quick and light. Ask the class the following (or similar) questions:

- a) What is the name of your parish?
- b) Who is your parish priest?
- c) When was the parish begun?
- d) By whom?
- e) What time are the "Sunday" masses?
- f) What are the times of other services?
- g) What are some of the organisations in your parish?

Obviously parishes are different and you should not put too much emphasis on the answers.

2 Do I Participate?

- i. Give each learner a copy of the Lesson Materials page 'Your Parish – A Questionnaire'. Ask them to mark an "X" on the continuum at the spot they judge appropriate in each case.
- ii. When they have finished help them to see the correlation between their responses to each pair of questions. In each pair, the first question rates the parish on an aspect of parish-life, and the second question rates the learner's involvement.

3 Reflection

- i. Give the learners a few moments to reflect on the question “Can I be more involved in my church?”
- ii. Ask them to select one item from the continuums on the Lesson Materials page and to set for themselves some goal for the year. Suggest to the learners that they mark or write this on the appropriate continuum.

4 A Look at My Parish

- i. Divide the class into groups of about 4 or 5, ideally in parish groups, but mixed groups would also work. Provide each learner with the Lesson Materials page ‘My Parish Research Project’.
- ii. Give them the necessary instructions (including report-back date) and let them begin their planning.

The aim of this project is get the learners to spend some time (out of class) doing not too extensive a research on their parish.

OTHER IDEAS

5 Invite a Speaker

If possible invite a speaker to come to your school and brief the learners about the parish the largest number of them belong to. Brief the speaker about the composition of the class, so that he/she can make the presentation interesting for all. The speaker will talk especially about the different youth apostolates and groups that are found in the parish and the kind of work or responsibilities they carry out. You can conclude this session by challenging learners to commit themselves to take part in a particular group within their parish.

6 Task Force

Divide into groups of five or six. Imagine that your parish council has appointed your group to come up with some ideas for a possible youth group.

- i. What are the five greatest needs of the young people in your parish? Rank them in order.
- ii. What can adults do to get the young people more involved in parish life?
- iii. Should the parish begin a youth group? If so, should the emphasis be on
 - (1) social activities;
 - (2) education;
 - (3) prayer;
 - (4) athletics; or
 - (5) community service? Explain your choice.
- iv. If you decide to form a youth group, construct a budget for it. How much money should the group be given or allowed to raise, and for what purposes?

The small groups should report their discussions to the class as a whole.

(Michael Pennock. 1984. ‘Task Force’ in *Your Church and You*, Notre Dame, Indiana: Ave Maria Press, p 280)

MATERIALS

LEARNER

- Michael Burke Michael. 1991. ‘Your Parish – A Questionnaire’ 104 in *Connections*. Pietermaritzburg: Centaur Publications, p 127 – 128
- CIE. 2005. ‘My Parish Research Project’



Lesson Materials



Your Parish - A Questionnaire

1.(a) To what extent is your parish a real community - that is, a group of people who know each other, care about each other, and share common concerns?

not at all.....very much

(b) To what extent do you offer any service to your parish community?

not at all.....very much

2.(a) To what degree does your parish help you feel a sense of belonging?

not at all.....very much

(b) To what extent have you become involved in your parish's life?

not at all.....very much

3.(a) How much scope does your parish give to its teenage parishioners?

not at all.....very much

(b) How much effort have you put to joining (or starting) parish youth activity

not at all.....very much

4.(a) How approachable do you find your local Priest(s)?

not at all.....very much

(b) How much effort have you taken to get to know your local Priest(s)?

not at all.....very much

5.(a) To what extent does the parish (Priest and people) take trouble to celebrate Sunday Mass in a way that is meaningful

not at all.....very much

(b) To what extent do you make your parish Sunday Mass a celebration of what your life is all about at the time?

not at all.....very much

Lesson Materials



My Parish Research Project

The objective of this research project is for you to get a better understanding of your parish or faith community. The project is done in groups. (If you are not all from the same parish or faith community, then your project will highlight the similarities in and differences between the parishes.)

The ground you should cover in your project includes the following:

- The story of the parish, (founding, developments & changes, events.)
- The structures of the parish (leadership, organisation, groups.)
- Features of the parish (interesting statistics, anything unusual.)

Use different methods to find your information:

- Some looking-up
- Some interviewing
- Sifting
- Choosing a presentation-form

In your presentation you may think about using some of the following:

- Visual media (charts, maps, graphs, photos, art, & diagrams)
- Sound (recording etc)
- Etc.