

6th & 7th Grade Homestudy Lesson #12
The Catholic Church

GOAL

The goal of this lesson is for you to come to a basic understanding of the four marks of the Church.

THE CREED

Begin the lesson by carefully praying the Nicene Creed:

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose
again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

Lectio Divina

Read Matthew 28:19-20

How is God speaking to you through this passage?

What did this verse teach you about the mission of the followers of Jesus?

Read Matthew 28:19-20 again

MAIN IDEAS

- The Church is united as one. All of the Catholic churches around the world are a part of the one Church. (CCC 813-816)
- The Church is holy because Jesus is holy. Jesus is always present in the Church and the Catholic Church has the fullness of salvation. (CCC 823-830)
- The Church is Catholic, or “universal,” and recognizes the goodness of and some similarities with other religions, but holds that the fullness of the truth remains in the Catholic Church. (CCC 843-846)
- The Church is apostolic, which means that she was founded on the apostles. (CCC 857)

TEACHING

THE CHURCH IS ONE

The Church is united as one. All of the Catholic churches around the world are a part of the one Church. The unity of the Church comes from the unity of the Trinity — the unity of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit who are all one God. The Church is one and was established by Jesus Christ; the Catholic Church is the one true Church. There have been divisions to the one Church throughout history and that is why there are so many different Christian denominations. We, as Catholics, are called to pray that someday we will all be united again. Even though the Church and all the people are one, there is beautiful diversity among all of the people who make up the Church.

THE CHURCH IS HOLY

The Church is holy because Jesus is holy. Though the Church is holy that does not mean all of the members of the Church are holy or perfect. We are all sinners and we all make mistakes, but the sins of the people who make up the Church do not make the Church any less holy. We are all in need of forgiveness; no one is perfect. Jesus did not come for perfect people and did not create the Church only for perfect people.

Pause and read Luke 5:31-32.

Everyone is in need of Jesus — His gift of salvation and forgiveness — and the Church should be a place where everyone feels welcome.

3. Who was the first pope and who is the current pope?

4. In the Lectio Divina for this lesson, you read what is called The Great Commission from Jesus. What is Jesus's command for all his followers and how do we carry that out through the Church? How can you personally carry out this commission in your life?

SEND

Close the lesson by praying the Peace Prayer of St. Francis below. Reflect on how you can become an instrument of God's love and peace in your own life.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:

where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek

to be consoled as to console,

to be understood as to understand,

to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive,

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.