

Lesson 1

Christ's Abiding Presence

Lesson Focus | The Gospels tell us that Christ founded the Church. Through her, he is with us always. The apostles received from him the authority to make decisions, proclaim the gospel, administer the Sacraments, and forgive sins. Christ also established a hierarchy to govern the Church and set rules. Because Christ founded her and is her head, and because the Holy Spirit guides her, the Church is a divine institution. Although her members are human, she isn't something men have made, and men don't have authority to change her.

1 | begin

- Pray the Glory Be with your child.
- Ask your child what it means to love someone. If you knew that someone you love needed you, would you leave that person alone? Would you abandon that person?
- Read Matthew 16:13–20 aloud.

2 | summarize

Summarize this week's lesson for your child:

Example: *Jesus loves each and every one of us so much that he would have died for each of us alone. He would never abandon us. That's why he gave us the Church. Through her, he is with us always.*

3 | review

Review this week's lesson by asking your child the following questions:

1. How do we know Jesus intended to found the Church? (*He told the apostles he would found his Church on Peter, and he talked about the authority the Church would have.*)
2. Why did Jesus found the Church? (*To shepherd his people and be with us always.*)
3. How is the Church human? (*She is made up of and governed by human beings.*)
4. How is the Church divine? (*Christ is her founder and head; she is of divine origin, and she has divine guidance and authority.*)
5. How is Christ present in his Church? (*In the Eucharist; in the authority given to the Pope and the bishops; in the person of the priest, who acts "in persona Christi"; in her members who have been baptized and who conform themselves to him, etc.*)

References

- Student Textbook: Chapter 1, pp. 11–14
- Sacred Scripture: Mt 3:13–19; 16:13–20; Jn 21:10–19; Acts 1:1–2:4; 1 Cor 12:12–27
- *Catechism of the Catholic Church*: 669, 787–96



4 | apply

Help your child apply this week's lesson by asking the following questions:

1. In other organization, members vote on the rules and what the organization believes. But not the Church. Why do you think this is? What problems would arise if Catholics got to vote on what the Church teaches? How would that compromise Her mission?
2. What do you think your role in the Church is right now? What could it be someday?
3. We're called to see Christ in one another, as well as in the Church's priests and bishops. How hard is that? What does that mean for how we should treat one another?

5 | conclude

- With your child, pray the Our Father.

6 | follow up

During the week, do at least one of the following activities with your child:

1. Memorize Matthew 28:20.
2. Pray Saint Augustine's prayer to the Holy Spirit (see Appendix.)
3. Pay a short visit to your parish's Adoration Chapel or tabernacle.

Teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, to the close of the age.
—Matthew 28:20

notes
