

General Sunday School Association

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Dear Sunday School teachers and families,

For 6 issues, (this being the 3rd,) GSSA's plan is to publish lessons about our foundational church beliefs and what makes us so special. Our goal is to simplify these topics for the understanding of our young people. We suggest creating a bulletin board with the title "**Church of Christ History and Beliefs**" A document is posted on the church's website; www.churchofchrist1830.org, click on Links→Resources, and then click on either "Lessons for Teens, MS/HS" or "Lessons for Children." You can also find here the 1st lesson and any of the resources that are referenced to in the lessons, and/or they can be obtained from the Church library.

CHURCH OF CHRIST MINISTRY: CALLINGS & OFFICES

GOAL OF LESSON:

To learn how we get ministers, who they are, and what they do each day.

Memory verse:

1st Timothy 1:12 Paul says, "And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry."

QUESTIONS:

- Who are Church of Christ ministers? Who "calls" a minister?
- What do ministers do? Do they have different jobs? What are "offices"?
- When are they done being a minister?
- How are Church or Christ ministers different from other organization's ministry?

MATERIALS FOR LESSON & ACTIVITY:

- 1) 4 sheets of notebook paper, plain paper, or cardstock.
Before the lesson, write the questions from above on each of the sheets of paper. (A pdf with these questions, & memory verse, are also posted at www.churchofchrist1830.org; Resource section; Lessons; Church History & Beliefs.
- 2) Note cards and pens, pencils, markers.

STEP 1: PRAYER & TESTIMONY

Start the lesson with a prayer. Let's pray for our ministry as well as our lesson today. Let's pray for them to be guided by the Holy Spirit for the gospel work to be done. Pray for their preaching, teaching, baptizing, laying on of hands for healing, blessing of little children and even to help them know what to say when they help people with their problems in life.

Does anyone have a testimony they would like to share?

STEP 2: DISCUSSION

Read each of the questions that are on the sheets of paper.

Ask: Who do you know that is a minister in the Church of Christ? Either you, or the students, record the answers. Add to the list as many as you feel are helpful for your class. Show pictures.

Ask: Who "calls" a minister? (God) **Moroni 3:3:** "And after this manner did they ordain priests and teachers, according to the gifts and **callings of God** unto men; and they ordained them by the power of the Holy Ghost, which was in them." The Lord uses young men from the Church of Christ to fill these offices by his calling and voice. What young men around you may be used to help in the ministry? Maybe you?

Ask: "What do you think ministers do?" Record answers on a sheet of paper.

There are several different "offices." Do we know any of these "offices?"

Read:

Ephesians 4:11

And he gave some, **apostles**; and some, **prophets**; and some, **evangelists**; and some, **pastors** and **teachers**.

Acts 14:23

And when they had ordained them **elders** in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.

Acts 15:4

And when they were come to Jerusalem, they were received of the church, and of the **apostles** and **elders**, and they declared all things that God had done with them.

Mosiah 11:19

Therefore he consecrated all their **priests**, and all their **teachers**, and none were consecrated except they were just men.

1 Timothy 3:8 (Read all of 1st Timothy, chapter 3; guidelines for church leadership.)

Likewise must the **deacons** be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre.

*For older students, think about extending the lesson and read through all of 1st Timothy.

Philippians 1:1

Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the **bishops** and **deacons**.

Ask: Do different ministers do different jobs? Yes.

Read: Moroni Ch 2 and 3

Teachers can teach the gospel message. Priests can baptize & serve the sacrament.

Elders & Apostles can do the above, plus perform laying on of hands for administration & receiving the Holy Ghost.

The office of Bishop is another job. All of our Bishops are elders who have been elected to serve as a Bishop. These men are overseers of the finances of the church.

Ask: When are they done being a minister?

Matthew 24:13 But he that shall **endure** unto the end, the same shall be saved.

1 Timothy 6: 11-12, But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast, professed a good profession before many witnesses.

2 Timothy 4:5 But watch thou in all things, **endure** afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

Ask: How are Church of Christ ministers different from other church's ministry. (A major difference; Church of Christ ministers are unpaid for their service to the congregation, & to their Lord. The term for being paid as a minister is called priestcraft. The word lucre, means money.)

Alma 1:17 But Alma said unto him, Behold, this is the first time that **priestcraft** has been introduced among this people.

Alma 1:24 Nevertheless this did not put an end to the spreading of **priestcraft** through the land; for there were many which loved the vain things of the world, and they went forth preaching false doctrines, and **this they did for the sake of riches and honor.**

The Bible warns ministers to not preach for money in several verses. The word 'lucre' means money.

1 Samuel 8:3, 1 Timothy 3:3 and 3:8, Titus 1:7 and 1:11, 1 Peter 5:2.

The Book of Mormon also mentions lucre in Mosiah 13:59 and Alma 8:74.

STEP 3: ACTIVITY

Choose a minister, or two, that you know and write them a letter asking them what is their favorite part about being a minister, or draw a picture for a minister and thank him for what he does for you.

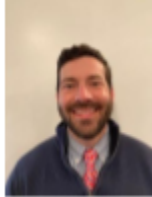
SAMPLE OF CHURCH OF CHRIST MINISTRY

ELDERS



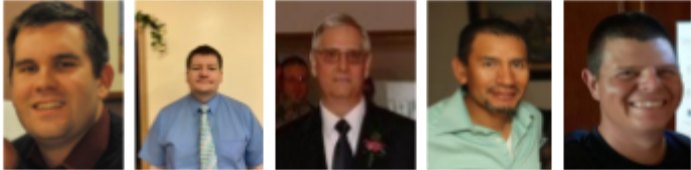
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