



RCIC PROGRAMME

Unit 3 - THE CHURCH



A Community of Believers

AIMS

1. To further explore the concept of belonging to the Christian Community.
2. To understand what constitutes the CHURCH.



KEY WORDS

- Groups
- Clubs
- Community
- Catholic Church
- Parish / Diocese
- Bishop
- Pope
- Ministry

INTRODUCTION

- Invite children to talk about groups, clubs or other organisations they belong to. Elicit the fact that we all have a need to **'Belong'** and that different groups or clubs have different aims and targets. Ask children to complete part A of Worksheet 3 about a group they belong to.

MAIN

- Remind about what was said in Session 2 - that at Baptism we all became members of God's Family, the Church. Ask children what they already know about the **Catholic Church**.
- Talk about the difference between the church as a building and the **'Church'** as a Community of believers. Discuss the difference between the two ideas. Explain that in today's session we are not talking about the building but about the **Community** of people who believe in God and want to follow Jesus.
- Go through and complete the second part of the front page of Worksheet 3. Use images of Jesus, the Pope and Bishop to help understanding of these special people in the Church.
- Move on to Part C and explain that as members of the Church we are expected to do certain things and always seek to contribute and help out in the various ministries in the Church. Ask questions and invite children to give examples of things we are expected to do as members of the Church and God's family. (*Example: Attend the celebration of the Mass every Sunday; help others; Read the Bible etc*)
- Ask questions about Christian people who do good things, help others and provide a service in their Christian community in the parish. *Example: Priest, Choir and musicians, cleaners, ministers of holy communion etc.*
- Talk about the people shown in part D of Worksheet 3 and how they were of service to others: Mother Theresa and Archbishop Romero.

RESOURCES

- Worksheet 3
- Pictures of Bishop and Pope

CONCLUDING PRAYER

- Create a prayerful atmosphere.
- Recap about the main points of this session especially the idea of being of service. Invite children to follow a prayer based on prayer 'make me an instrument'. Share some reflections about good things we can try to do as members of God's family.

NOTES

Also spend some time talking about and reflecting about prayers in the Prayer book.

ACTIVITY

- Invite children to think about **OUR response**. How can we be of service to others in our daily life and as we grow up? Discuss children's responses. Show and talk about the reflection space in Worksheet 3.