



STUDENT LESSON PLANS

LESSON TWO: Our School is a Christian Community

From the Aims of the *Catholic Preschool and Primary Religious Education Curriculum for Ireland*

Lessons for fifth/sixth classes with adaptable suggestions for use in special schools and classes.

Level 4

Strand: Word of God

- Understand how Sacred Scripture is taught and handed on in the living tradition of the Church.

Strand: Christian Morality

- Develop their understanding of factors that call for, influence and promote moral behaviour.
- Develop an awareness of social justice, ecological justice, universal solidarity and responsibility.
- Examine the relationship between Jesus' example, Christian moral values and contemporary culture.
- Explore how Christians' relationship with Jesus, their beliefs and values affect their words and actions, as exemplified in their lives.
- Develop their understanding of the Church as a community of faith.

Teacher Notes

This lesson focuses on the Catholic school as a Christian community, but also as part of a larger Christian community. The lesson will focus on a reading from the Acts of the Apostles which describes the early Christian community and then invites pupils to see what characteristics mentioned are visible in our school community as well as our larger Christian community.

Introduction

Begin the lesson by reminding pupils that our school is a Catholic school and in this lesson we will be exploring how our school is a Christian community itself and part of a bigger Christian community of the parish and the world Church. Ask pupils what they think a Christian community is. Record responses on the whiteboard. The Bible tells us in the Acts of the Apostles (2:42-7) what the early Christian community was like after Jesus died and rose again. This piece of Scripture can tell us the main characteristics of a Christian community even in the modern world.

Development

To develop the lesson, distribute the lesson two activity page and allow pupils to read the piece of Scripture independently or in groups. Continue by asking the pupils to pick out what we can tell about the Christian community from this piece of Sacred Scripture. How did the Christian community live and act?

Conclusion

To conclude the lesson, ask pupils if they can see any of the characteristics of the early Christian community in our school? This is a good way to see if our school is a living Christian community. Discuss further how the school might grow more as a Christian community by trying to be more like the early Christians. A list of suggestions can be fed into the overall CSP process.

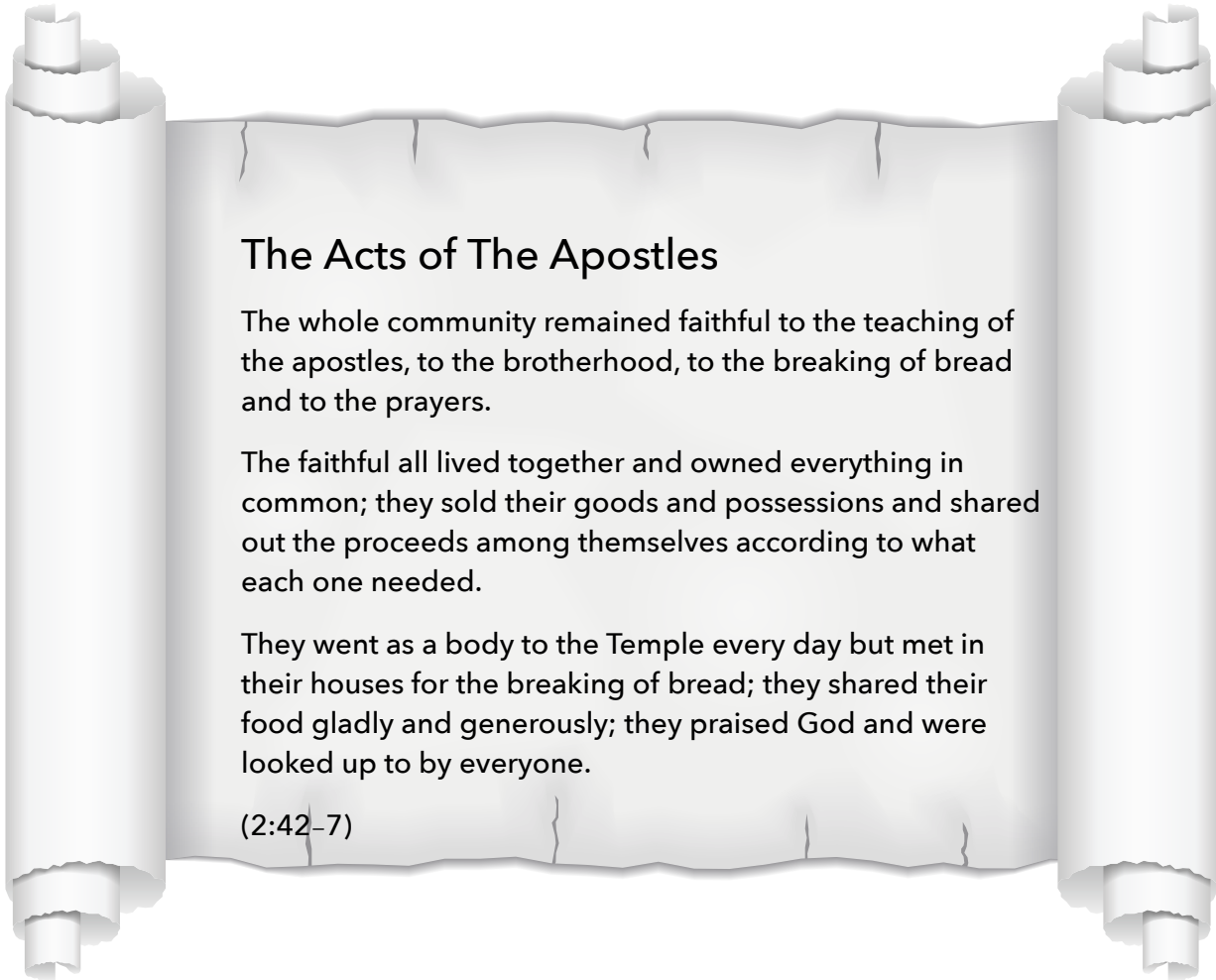
SECTION ONE

SCHOOL RESOURCES



LESSON TWO: OUR SCHOOL IS A CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

ACTIVITY PAGE



The Acts of The Apostles

The whole community remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers.

The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common; they sold their goods and possessions and shared out the proceeds among themselves according to what each one needed.

They went as a body to the Temple every day but met in their houses for the breaking of bread; they shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone.

(2:42-7)

From the Scripture extract, what do we know about how the early Christian community lived?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____



SUGGESTIONS FOR LESSON ADAPTION

Special Education Guidelines

Strand: Christian Morality

- Have an awareness of belonging to a 'class' or to a 'group'.

Attending	Responding	Initiating
The child should be enabled to:	The child should be enabled to:	The child should be enabled to:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• participate in turn taking activities/games• become aware of rules in the school and community that may concern him/her	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• participate in activities that require everyone to give and share something• observe appropriate school and community rules	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• care for and cooperate with each other• independently observe community and school rules

Pupils Attending

Read the Scripture piece from the Acts of the Apostles (activity page) and use the flash cards to illustrate the story to pupils.

Pupils Responding

Introduce the flash cards corresponding to the Scripture piece. Explore what the pictures mean with pupils. Read the Scripture piece from the Acts of the Apostles (activity page) and allow pupils to take it in turns to hold up or point to a picture which corresponds to different key words in the Scripture piece.

Pupils Initiating

Read the Scripture piece from the Acts of the Apostles (activity page) with pupils. Read the story a second time and use the flash cards to highlight key words and terms with pupils. If appropriate, use the flash cards to discuss ways that the early Christians lived and examine if we do the same things in our lives in school and at home.

SECTION ONE

SCHOOL RESOURCES



