

The Early Church: Acts & Epistles

VIDEO LINK

http://youtu.be/SRIKCG_KP-Q

GOAL SUMMARY

This session focuses on the Church's history - who we are, where we came from, and how we have gotten to where we are today. Seeing more about the Church will help young people desire to protect the Deposit of Faith that has been entrusted to them.

VIDEO SUMMARY

This video serves as a brief intro, touching on positive and negative highlights, obstacles, and heroic moments in the history of the Church. In the end, we are reminded of the beauty of belonging to the Church that was established by Christ.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Throughout the Church's history, there have been many people who were killed (martyred) because they were Catholic Christians. Would you be willing to die for your faith? Why or why not?
2. Often when someone has a family member who is a member of the military or who has done something heroic, they are incredibly proud of that person (and rightly so!). How is sharing stories of the saints similar to having familial pride in a service member from your family?
3. Jesus was sent to us by the Father. We have all been sent by Christ out into the world to spread the Gospel message. In considering the Church's history, where do you clearly see evidence of the Holy Spirit guiding the Church?
4. Consider a video like this being made in 500 years to teach Catholic teens about the history of the Church. What are you doing to ensure they have a story to receive? Should you be doing more? What do you need to change in your life so that you are a part of it?

SEND

Reiterate to the young people that the Church we belong to now is the same Church that was founded by Christ. There have been thousands of martyrs that have died professing their belief in Christ and membership in the Church. Challenge students to live lives that would make them be found guilty of practicing Christianity and to witness to Christ in everything they do.

Pray together the Apostles' Creed:

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead, He ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.