

What the apostles do



The apostles have been sent by Jesus Christ and act in his name. They teach and strengthen the souls entrusted to them in faith. As messengers in Christ's stead they baptize with water and the Spirit, dispense Holy Communion and forgive sins. They ordain ministers for the care of God's children.

God's children are happy and thankful that apostles are active in our time too.

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The children learn what the apostles do before Jesus returns to fetch his own.

Simone has been invited to spend a short holiday with her grandmother who lives in another city. She is really looking forward to it. The girl asks her parents whether they could not drive over to Grandma early on Sunday morning already. They could then attend the divine service there and see many of their acquaintances. But Simone's parents do not agree to this suggestion as the apostle has announced his visit to their congregation that Sunday. Simone realizes that her protests are futile. Her mother tries to explain: "We have been looking forward to the visit by our apostle for such a long time. Every day we pray that his visit may bring much joy and blessing to everyone. We do not want to miss this divine service for anything. We can drive over to Granny afterwards and you may even stay with her a little longer."

It is Sunday morning. The whole congregation is happy about the apostle's visit. Simone is especially happy that her little cousin will be sealed by the apostle and become a child of God. After the service Simone's parents take her to her grandmother. A lively and interesting week begins for the young girl.

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One evening Simone sees the OUR FAMILY lying on the table. She is so impressed with the cover picture that she does not notice her grandmother standing behind her. "Do you like that picture?" asks Grandmother. "Oh, yes," replies Simone. "I ga-

ther that all these brothers and sisters are waiting for the chief apostle. They are really looking forward to the service he will hold. They must have been waiting for this for a long time." Simone sits down beside her grandmother. She enjoys listening to Grandmother.

"When the Lord Jesus lived on the earth," commences Grandmother, "he brought joy to countless people. He told them about his heavenly Father. He helped many to believe and even healed some people. Then he died on the cross. But he conquered death and rose again from the dead. Then, after some time, the Lord Jesus returned to his Father in heaven. But first he made his disciples apostles and gave them a great task: "Work until I come again."

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Grandmother continues: "You see, Simone, the chief apostle travels to many countries all over the world and proclaims the word of God there. In this manner he strengthens the faith of God's children. They can then look forward to the day when the Lord Jesus will return. The chief apostle also ordains ministers.

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"That which the chief apostle does all over the world, the apostles do in their districts and countries."

Simone and Grandmother page through the OUR FAMILY looking at the photographs. Grandmother remarks: "Wherever the chief apostle or the apostles go, they are warmly welcomed. Being God's children, we know that they have been sent by the Lord Jesus and our heavenly Father to serve

Apostles are messengers in Christ's stead

us. That is why we are thankful to have apostles."

Now Simone understands why her parents were looking forward so much to the apostle's visit and why they did not want to miss it for anything.

"It is quite late now and time to go to bed."

"Oh, Granny, please tell me more about the apostles," pleads Simone.

"The apostles received another important commission from the

Lord Jesus, but I will tell you about this tomorrow evening," promises Grandmother.

In our next lesson you will learn what Grandmother tells Simone the following evening.

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- 1 We look at the photographs and let the children describe them. What do you think impresses Simone so much?
- 2 What do the apostles do? Aided by the photographs, we explain to the children what the tasks of the apostles are. (They proclaim God's word, baptize, seal, forgive sins, ordain ministers.)
- 3 Why do the chief apostle and the apostles ordain ministers? The chief apostle and the apostles cannot be everywhere, that is why they need many helpers to serve God's children in the congregations. The chief apostle and the apostles ordain all these ministers. Also your priest and your deacon were ordained by an apostle.
- 4 We are happy and thankful that God's people have a chief apostle and that each child of God has an apostle. We speak to the children about them (names, where they live, their visits to the congregation).

What the apostles do



Matthew 28: 19, 20

Our apostles work all over the world in the name of Jesus. They teach and strengthen the faith of the souls entrusted to them. As messengers in Christ's stead they proclaim God's word and will in all continents. They baptize, seal and forgive sins in Jesus' name. They ordain ministers to assist them in caring for God's children.

God's children are glad and thankful to have these apostles all over the world.

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The children learn to esteem and appreciate the living apostles who act in the name of Jesus all over the world.

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will remember that Simone was spending a few days with her grandmother.

It is evening. Expectantly Simone sits down beside her grandmother. Then Granny starts:

"Yesterday I said that the apostles had received very important tasks from Jesus. They were to represent Christ on earth until his return."

"But Granny, you said yesterday that the apostles had been given an even more important task by the Lord Jesus," interrupts Simone impatiently. "I am coming to that. God loves all people. For this reason the Lord Jesus said to his apostles: 'Go out and teach all nations.' We know that the first apostles did this. Apostle Paul, for instance, went on very long journeys."

"We heard about that in Sunday-school," interjects Simone.

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Grandmother continues: "I've looked for some reports in the OUR FAMILY which depict how the apostles work all over the world, visiting many nations."

Grandmother and Simone look at the photographs.

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When they come to the last photograph, Simone exclaims in surprise: "But this service did not even take place in a church." Grandmother explains: "You are quite right, the word of God is not only proclaimed in churches. In places where there are no churches yet, divine services take place in other locations or even out in the open air. Can you see now, Simone, that the apostles are active everywhere?"

"But Granny, isn't it dangerous for the apostles to travel all over the world?"

"Not only that, but you can see for yourself that such journeys are also very tiring. That is why it is so very important that we always pray and ask the Lord for special protection for the chief apostle, the apostles and other ministers. They need the intercession of all God's children so that they can fulfil their great tasks. The children can also pray for them." That night Simone and her grandmother pray especially for the chief apostle and the apostles.

5

Apostles are messengers in Christ's stead



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"Go therefore to all nations and make them my disciples; baptize them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all that I have commanded you. I will be with you always, to the end of time."

- 1 We remind the children of the lesson "The conversion of the jailer at Philippi."**
- 2 We look at the photographs and let the children speak about them first.**
- 3 Why do the apostles undertake these journeys?
We explain to the children the commission they received from the Lord Jesus.**
- 4 We remind the children of the first lesson (Apostle Peter in prison) and of its focal point: intercession.
Then we pray with the children especially for the angels' protection for the apostles and all ministers on their travels. The children may pray too!**
- 5 The report of an apostle of today (possibly their own) concerning activities in foreign lands, could supplement these lessons.**

We love the messengers of Jesus