

# Jesus Gives Us the Church

Scripture Focus: Matthew 16:15–19

## Lesson Goals

- to state that Jesus made Peter the first Pope
- to explain that the Pope teaches the Church to follow Jesus
- to recall that we belong to the Church

## Parent Preview

- Review the Featured Story on page 1488 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Matthew 16:15–19).
- Read the Background Reflection on page 4 of the chapter 6 activity booklet.
- Review this home guide chapter.

## Get Ready! (10 minutes)

**Pray** the prayer on page 1 of the chapter 6 activity booklet.

**Ask** your child if he or she knows why a good foundation is important to the strength of a building.

**Tell** your child that together you will learn how the Catholic Church began and who Jesus chose as the foundation for the Church.

## Dive In!

**Read** the Featured Story on page 1488 of *The Catholic Children's Bible* (Matthew 16:15–19).

**Ask** your child these questions:

- Who did Peter say Jesus was?  
(See verse 16.)
- What did Jesus mean by saying Peter is a rock? (*that Peter has a strong faith, and Jesus trusts Peter*)
- What did Jesus say he would give to Peter?  
(*the keys to the Kingdom of heaven*)

**Read** the Understand It!, Live It!, and Tell It! sections on page 1489 of *The Catholic Children's Bible*.

**Invite** your child to complete the activity on page 2 of the chapter 6 activity booklet.  
*Answers: 1. prohibit, 2. rock, 3. keys, 4. Church, 5. Messiah*

## Discover! (10 minutes)

**Read** the article on the second page of this home guide chapter. Review the key words, and ask the review questions.

**Invite** your child to complete the activity on page 3 of the chapter 6 activity booklet.  
*Answers will vary.*

## Go!

**Choose** one of the Family Activities on page 4 of the chapter 6 activity booklet to complete this week.

**Encourage** your child to complete the puzzle handout on the third page of this home guide chapter. *Answer: The head of the Church.*

**Conclude** by praying the prayer on page 4 of the chapter 6 activity booklet.





## Chapter 6

# We Belong to the Church

When you think about the Church, what comes to mind? Think about your parish building: its statues, altar, and decorations. Then think about what someone needs to know to understand our Church. Think about the people in our Church, and think about our teachings and beliefs.

The Church is made up of many different things—but it is more than just a building. We are the Church! We become part of the Church through Baptism. Baptism calls us to share in the **mission** of Jesus Christ: to share the Good News about God's love and mercy for everyone. The Church guides us as followers of Jesus.

The leaders of our Church guide us in carrying out the mission Jesus gave us. As you learned in today's

reading, Jesus first handed on to Peter the authority to lead the Church. Peter was our first Pope. Each Pope since then—right up until today—is the **successor** who continues the work of Peter. Each Pope and his authority can be traced all the way back to Peter, more than two thousand years ago! The Pope—assisted by his bishops, priests, and deacons—helps us follow Christ as members of his Church.

What does it mean to you to follow Jesus as the Church? We celebrate the sacraments together. We praise God and pray for others through our worship at Mass. We try to help others by being kind, playing fair, doing good deeds, and sharing. Look back on the past week. How were you part of the Church this week?

### Key Words

**mission** An important task or purpose that someone must fulfill.

**successor** Someone who follows another, often in a leadership role.

### We Know and Live Our Faith

The following articles and activity in the *We Know and Live Our Faith* resource correspond to the concepts introduced in this lesson:

- "We Are Members of the Church" and "The Word Church," page 6
- "The Pope" + activity, pages 17–18

If you have additional time, read the selections together, and invite your child to complete the activity.

### Review

1. Who is the Church?
2. What main leader of the Church helps guide us to follow what Jesus taught us?
3. What are some ways we follow Jesus as the Church?

Turn this page upside down to check your answers!

1. We are. 2. The Pope, the successor of Peter. 3. By celebrating the sacraments, worshipping at Mass, being kind, and helping others.



# Handout

## Celebrating Our Pope

Solve the math problems below to reveal the code and to discover who the Pope is. See how fast you can do this! Then transfer the circled letter in your final answer to the space marked with the number 6 on the back of your folder.

$\overline{8}$	$\overline{4}$	$\overline{6}$		$\overline{4}$	$\overline{6}$	$\overline{1}$	$\overline{9}$
$\overline{5}$	$\overline{3}$	$\overline{8}$	$\overline{4}$	$\overline{6}$	$\overline{1}$	$\overline{9}$	$\overline{6}$
$\overline{2}$	$\overline{4}$	$\overline{7}$		$\overline{10}$	$\overline{2}$	$\overline{4}$	

$7 + 3 = \square = R$

$9 - 5 = \square = H$

$8 - 7 = \square = A$

$4 + 2 = \square = E$

$2 + 7 = \square = D$

$4 + 1 = \square = O$

$1 + 2 = \square = F$

$6 - 4 = \square = C$

$3 + 4 = \square = U$

$4 + 4 = \square = T$

