

**CCD GRADE 5: CREDO: I BELIEVE**

Chapter 25: The Identity of the Church

 PREPARATION – How to Get Ready

Teacher’s Manual: pp. 244, 246, 248

 PROCLAMATION – Main Theme

The Catholic Church is the one true church founded by Jesus Christ. The Church can be identified by four marks: one, holy, catholic and apostolic.

 EXPLANATION – Content of Lesson

* Identity is based on recognizable characteristics.
* Discuss four objects that start with similar qualities, but are identified by differences.
* Identify the Catholic Church by its four marks as one, holy, catholic and apostolic.
* Discuss the four marks of the Church.
* One: in belief, worship and leadership
* Holy: in her Founder (Jesus), members and saints
* Catholic: universal, for all people in all times and in all places
* Apostolic: her ministers receive their powers from the Apostles by an uninterrupted chain of succession
* References for the four marks in Scripture.
* Symbols of the Church (from Scripture)
* Mystical Body of Christ
* Sheepfold
* Vineyard
* Bride
* Ark/Ship

 APPLICATION – Connecting it to Students

* The handout called “How Old is Your Church?” is a very insightful look at where different Protestant denominations began and would be a good resource to give the students.
* For the Scripture slide you can have students look up the passages in groups and guess which mark, or you can read the passage and have them identify the mark.
* For the symbols of the Church, you can have students draw a picture to illustrate one of the symbols and share it with the group.

 CELEBRATION - Conclusion

* Watch the video of a bishop recapping each of the four marks to review.
* Guide students to pray with Matthew 16:16-18 and have students journal about their experience.