



## YOUTH INSTRUCTION CLASS LESSON 17: USING THE KEYS - 1

### Review

What are the *keys*?

What does it mean to use the "locking" key?

What does it mean to use the "unlocking" key?

### Using the Keys (The Ministry)

- Christ gave the keys to individual believers, to groups of believers, and to all believers. Therefore, every local group of Christians has the right and the duty to use the keys:
  - **In preaching the gospel**  
Mark 16:15 (1017)
  - **In using Baptism and the Lord's Supper**  
Mt 28:19-20  
1 Cor 11:24
  - **In forgiving and retaining sins**  
Jn 20:21-23 (998)

### For Thought

- How do we share the gospel when we are at church?
- How do we share the gospel when we are not at church?
- Is sharing the gospel an example of using the "locking" key or the "unlocking" key?

### Activity

- Look up Ephesians 4:11 (1013). What special offices has Jesus established to help congregations preach the gospel? There are five specific ones listed here.

\_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ ,

\_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_

## The Call

Since the congregation of believers has the right to preach the gospel (use the unlocking key), they also have the right to ask someone else to preach the gospel publicly on their behalf. When they ask someone else to minister (use the keys) on their behalf, this is referred to as a *divine call*. Believers can call different Christians to carry out different tasks. You might call one to be pastor, one to be Sunday School teacher, one to serve the elderly, etc. (See also Catechism, p. 180, #1)

In order to help us in our preaching of the gospel, Jesus provides pastors, teachers, and other church workers to help the congregation.

### Jesus Gave the Keys to All Believers



### Believers Gather and Form Groups of Believers



### The Believers Call Someone to Help Them Exercise Their Right and Duty to Preach the Gospel



### Workers In the Church

The public servants of Christ and His Church include all those who are called by God through Christians (the “divine call”) for some special work in the Church: whether they are pastors, professors, teachers, elders, etc. Such public ministers preach and teach the Gospel in behalf of the Christians who called them.

Our local congregations call pastors, teachers, and helpers of various kinds. Our synod (group of churches), either directly at convention or through various elected boards, calls missionaries, supervisors, professors, etc. Both the congregations and the synod have the right to call because Christ has given His keys to all believers and all groups of believers.

Give examples of church workers who directly serve the congregation in the ministry of the gospel:

\_\_\_\_\_ :

\_\_\_\_\_ :

\_\_\_\_\_ :

Give examples of church workers who also serve in the ministry of the gospel, but less directly:

\_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_

- What kind of people should be called as ministers in Christ's Church?
  - Acts 6:3
  - 1 Timothy 3:1-12
  - Titus 1:5-9
- How should we regard the words and actions of called church workers?
  - Luke 10:16

**2. How does a Christian congregation use the keys?**

A Christian congregation, with its pastor, uses the Keys according to Christ's command, either by forgiving those who repent of their sins and are willing to change, or by excluding those who are obviously impenitent from the Christian congregation. These actions are as valid and certain in heaven also as if Christ our dear Lord were dealing with us Himself.

## The Office Of the Public Ministry (Chart)



### Memory Work

Luke 10:16: "He who listens to you listens to me; he who rejects you rejects me; but he who rejects me rejects him who sent me."

### Assignment

- Memory Work