

Catholic Connections (6th-7th-8th)

Overview

- Helps to make connections between the Catholic faith and everyday life plus strengthen their connection to the faith community.
- Correlated with the four pillars of the Catechism of the Catholic Church.
- Each course offers: 1) seven core sessions 2) two life issue sessions 3) a concluding session 4) an optional course project

-Courses include:

6th---God, Revelation, and Faith-----Jesus the Christ

7th---The Holy Spirit and the Church----Sacraments and Prayer

8th---The Eucharist----Christian Morality and Justice

God, Revelation, and Faith (6th Grade)

Session 1-Revelation, the Scriptures, and Tradition

Objectives:

- .Understand how God reveals himself to us
- .Identify the Scriptures and Tradition as ways of encountering God's Revelation
- .Become familiar with the sections of the Bible
- .Identify ways to make God know to others

Scripture:

- .Romans 8:38-39

Resources:

- .Catholic Connections Handbook – Chapter 1
- .Catechism of Catholic Church – 50-73 (Revelation); 74-100 (The Transmission of Divine Revelation; 101-141 (Sacred Scripture)

Supplies

- .poster board
- .markers
- .lined paper

Lesson Plan:

-Quick-Start Activity

- .How do people come to know God?
- .Illustrate (pictures/symbols) on poster how people come to know God

-Opening Prayer

- .Prayer
- .Overview of session topic

-How God Reveals Himself

- .Use quick start activity to explore how we shape our idea of who God is.
- .Following exploration proceed to how God reveals himself to the entire church.

-Revealed in the Scriptures and Tradition

- .God wants us to learn about him but also have a relationship with him
- .Revelation is everything God has made know about himself and his plan for humanity (God's self-communication)
- .God reveals himself in Scripture and through Tradition
- .Scripture is 73 books and letters—46 Old Testament/27 New Testament
- .Catholic Connections Handbook – p.21
- .Preaching of the Apostles is part of Tradition
- .Jesus died and ascended into Heaven about AD30. First Gospel was written about AD 65
- .Bibles--Gospels

-God Reveals Himself to and Through Us

- .Salvation
- .God's job for us is to love
- .We are instruments
- ."Pay it forward" How?
- ."When we love one another by _____, we become one of the ways God reveals himself to us."

-Optional Session Extension

- .God of Mystery
- .Discussion Starters

-Closing Prayer

- .CCH p.17
- .Romans 8:38-39

Session 2-God the Father _____

-Objectives

- .Experience God as a mystery that is beyond our grasp to completely understand

- .Explain that God has revealed himself to us as Truth and Love
- .Identify God as the Father of Jesus Christ and listen prayerfully to his voice

-Scripture

- .Exodus 13:20-22
- .Numbers 9:15-18
- .1 Kings 8:12
- .Matthew 17:5
- .Isaiah 66:13

-Resources

- .Catholic Connections Handbook-Chapter 2
- .Catechism of Catholic Church 198-213, 232-237 (God the Father)

-Supplies

- .Markers
- .6' newsprint sheets
- .white business envelopes (oa) each student
- .(10) 10-12 " strings (oa) each student
- .(10) 2" diameter circles (oa) each student
- .scotch tape (oa)
- .sticky notes (oa)

Lesson Plan

-Quick-Start Activity

- .Good qualities of a human father on human outline
- .Read introduction to CCH Chapter 2

-Opening Prayer

- .Prayer
- .Overview of session

-The Cloud of Unknowing

- .Experience of clouds
- .Compare God to cloud—difficult to see when his is right in front of you
- .Known to us through Spirit and Jesus
- .God is infinitely mysterious yet intimately known to us
- .Bibles (explore scripture passages)
 - .Exodus 13:20-22
 - .Numbers 9:15-18
 - .1 Kings 8:12
 - .Matthew 17:5
- .God is mysterious

-Our Father Reveals Himself

- .Although God is mysterious, he has revealed himself to us
- .Catholic Connections Handbook-Chapter 2

-Optional Session Extension

- .Taking Care of Relationships
- .Discussion Starters

-Listening to the Father

- .Father points to relationship
- .Relationship needs care and attention to grow
- .Prayer of petition and listening to God
- .Guided meditation (TM35)

-Closing Prayer

- .CCH-p.25

-Media Connections (T38)

- .Evan Almighty
- .Web site "The Interview with God"

Session 3-The Holy Trinity _____

-Objectives

- .Identify the Trinity as three Persons in one God-Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
- .Recite the Shema (the Jewish statement of their belief in the one true God) in Hebrew
- .Understand ways that humans can reflect the unity, harmony, and love found in the community of the Trinity

-Resources

- .Catholic Connections Handbook-Chapter 3
- .Catechism of Catholic Church 232-267 (the Trinity), 290-292 (Creation-Work of the Holy Trinity)

-Scripture

- .Mark 12:28-30
- .Deuteronomy 6:4-9
- .John 1:1-18 14:8-11
- .Matthew 3:16-17

-Supplies

- .Magazines
- .Poster board
- .Glue
- .Paper shamrock
- .Newsprint (oa)
- .A one-dollar bill (oa)

Lesson Plan

-Quick-Start Activity

- .Crossword puzzle (handout 3-A)

-Opening Prayer

- .God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God is the unity of the three persons united as one God
- .Prayer
- .Overview of session

-Learning the Shema

- .Learn Shema (handout 3-B)
- .Hebrew (Book of Deuteronomy)
- .Meaning: "Hear O Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord is one."
- .Mark 12:28-30
- .Jesus taught us to love one God. Christians believe God, the Trinity, is a unity of three Persons-Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

-Trinity: Bad Math, But Great Faith!

- .Jesus said there is only one God. When we pray to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, are we praying to three gods?
- .John 1:1-18
- .Trinity
- .God cannot be split into parts
- .Catholic Connections Handbook-p.40-41

-Optional Session Activity

- .More Symbols of the Trinity
- .Discussion starters

-The Community of God

- .CCH-p.38-39
- .View Trinity as a community
- .Trinity is in such perfect harmony that the action of one is truly the action of all three
- .Our job is to do the same

.Design collage reflecting unity, harmony, and love. (small group)

-Closing Prayer

.Catholic Connections Handbook-p.35

Session 4-Creation

-Objectives

- .Recognize their own unique place in God's plan and creation
- .Convey how human beings have a choice to follow or disobey God's plan for creation
- .Express how God's creative work can still be found today
- .Differentiate between the scientific theories that point to the origin of the universe and the truths about God and creation as expressed in the Book of Genesis

-Resources

- .Catholic Connections Handbook-Chapter 4
- .Catechism of Catholic Church 109-111 (the Sacred Scriptures); 159, 282-289, 1701-1703 (Creation); 404-405, 1730-1732, 1865 (evil)

-Scripture

- .Genesis Chapters 1-3
- .Matthew 10:30
- .John 1:1-5

-Supplies

- .Scratch paper
- .Paper and newsprint

Lesson Plan

-Quick-Start Activity

- .Read Genesis 1:1-31

-Opening Prayer

- .Genesis 1:27-31
- .Prayer
- .Overview

-Even the Hairs on Your Head

- .How many hairs on an average head of hair?
- .Average-100,000
- .Each person unique

- .Matthew 10:30
- .Importance of each of us as part of God's creation
- .Each have a role in God's plan
- .Figure out you role

-God's Gift of Freedom

- .Rock-good part of God's creation no matter what
- .CCH-p.45
- .We all have freedom to choose to follow God's will
- .What are some important choices you have made in your interaction with creation?
- .Creation is more than "things" it is the beginning of all that exists as as result of an act of God
- .Examples of how someone has taken an aspect of God's creation and done something good with it

-God's Creation: A Work in Progress

- .Has anyone ever been to an active volcano or walked on hardened lava?
- .Remember birth of sibling?
- .How did God play a role in those creations?
- .God is the source of all life
- .Some people believe in creationism, which is the belief that God created the world exactly as it is written in the Book of Genesis. Rather than the millions of years that science suggests, creationists Believe God created everything that exists in just six days.
- .Catholic faith teaches us that scientific truth and faith cannot contradict each other. Creation stories teach us religious truths, not scientific facts.
- .Genesis 1:24-2:4 (Activity)

-Optional Session Extension

- .Taking Care of God's Creation
 - .Genesis 1:28-30
- .Discussion Starters

-Closing Prayer

- .CCH-p.43
- .Name personal gift

Session 5 The Human Person

-Objectives

- .Discuss what it means to be made in God's image
- .Explain Original Sin and understand how it affects our lives today

.Understand what it means to be, and act as, a member of the Body of Christ

-Resources

- .Catholic Connections Handbook-Chapter 5
- .Catechism of Catholic Church 355-384 (the human person); 396-421 (Original Sin)

-Scripture

- .Genesis, Chapters 2-3

-Supplies

- .Markers
- .Flashlight
- .Paper (oa)

Lesson Plan

-Quick-Start Activity

- ."The Body of Christ"

-Opening Prayer

- .Prayer
- .Overview

-We Are Like God!

- .CCH-p.56
- .How are we like God?
- .How are we different from God?
- .All human beings are made in God's image
- .Everyone is good and worthy of love and respect
- .There is difference between being good and doing good
- .We can choose to do God's will or choose to sin
- .Even if we commit the worst sin in the world, we would still be good

-The Effects of Original Sin

- .Candle/flashlight
- .Move forward/backward depending on if it is good/sinful
- .Reflect on this experience and how it connects to relationships
- .Genesis 3:6-19
- .Adam and Eve's sin affected humankind. Before the first sin, human beings were at peace and there was no pain or suffering
- .Disobeying God was the first sin of Adam and Eve so we can it Original Sin. Because of Original Sin, Adam and Eve were separated from God.
- .Original Sin also refers to the sinful condition that all human beings

have from birth. We all have to face temptations.
.Even though we are all affected by Original Sin, we do not let it stop us from returning to God

-Being the Body of Christ

- .CCH-Chapter 5
- .How does God work to help Steven in the story?
- .St. Teresa of Avila (CCH p.61)
- .Posters: How young people can be the Body of Christ for others?

-Optional Session Extension

- .Not Just Our Souls
.CCH p.55
- .Discussion Starters

-Closing Prayer

- .CCH-p.54

Session 6 God's Plan for Salvation

-Objectives

- .Actively experience our journey toward salvation as a challenging and mysterious path on which we can rely on God for guidance
- .Express how God has led his people in the biblical events of salvation history
- .Identify with biblical characters who, despite their flaws, are people of faith who rely on God

-Resources

- .Catholic Connections Handbook-Chapter 6
- .Catechism of Catholic Church 54-73 (God's Revelation)

-Scripture

- .Genesis 18:13-14; Exodus 4:10; Galatians 1:13; Isaiah 6:5;
- Genesis 1:26-31 (God Creates); Genesis 6:5-8, 9:8-15 (Noah);
- Genesis 12:1-5 (Abraham); Exodus 3:1-17 (Moses-I AM); Exodus 13:20—14:30 (God parts the Red Sea); Exodus 20:1-17 (the Ten Commandments); Judges 2:11-19 (God sends judges); 1Samuel 8:1-22 (the people ask for a king); 1 Samuel 16:1-3, 8-13 (David is made a king); 2 Kings 25:1-12 (destruction of the Temple);
- Jeremiah 1:4-10 (call of the prophet Jeremiah); Isaiah 52:13, 53:4-11 (God's suffering servant); Matthew 2:1, 13-14 (Jesus' birth);

John 19:17-18 (Jesus' death); John 20:11-18 (Jesus' Resurrection);
Matthew 5:1-12 (the Beatitudes); John 3:16 (God loves the world);
Acts of the Apostles 2:1-4, 36-42 (the Pentecost); 1 Corinthians 12:27-31
(Christ's body)

-Supplies

- .Newsprint/paper
- .Markers
- .Blindfolds
- .20 sheets of construction paper
- .Masking tape

Lesson Plan

-Quick-Start Activity

- ."Called by God" (Handout 6-A)

-Opening Prayer

- .Prayer
- .Overview

-Mine Field

- .Game-"Mine Field"
- .Reflect on experience
- .Life is sometimes a mine field, often there are dangers we cannot see, and sometimes it is hard to know what to do.
- .As Christians our job is to trust God and let him guide us.

-God's Guidance in Salvation History

- .Salvation history is the pattern of events in human history in which we experience God's presence and saving actions.
- .Bible reveals God's plan of salvation
- .God's covenants with Noah and Abraham plus Ten Commandments to Moses
- .God always keeps his promises
- .Handout 6-B

-Called by God

- .Handout 6-A (from Quick-Start Activity)
- .All of us at times think we are not good enough to do God's work. We are all very aware of our imperfections, but God still counts on us to do his work.

-Optional Session Extension

- .Salvation History
- .Handout 6-C
- .Discussion Starters

-Closing Prayer

- .CCH-p.63

-Media

- .The Ten Commandments
- .Jesus of Nazareth
- .Peter and Paul

Session 7 Faith: Responding to God

-Objectives

- .Describe faith as a gift from God that we can choose whether to accept
- .Experience faith in the three elements of believing, trusting, and doing
- .Explain the Catholic understanding of faith as our response to the truth that God made himself know to us through Jesus Christ

-Resources

- .Catholic Connection Handbook, Chapter 7
- .Catechism of Catholic Church 142-183 (Man's Response to God);
198-211 (belief in one God)

-Scripture

- .James 2:14-17, Mark 9:17-26, Deuteronomy 6:4-9

-Supplies

- .Newsprint (oa)
- .Markers (oa)

Lesson Plan

-Quick-Start Activity

- .Handout 7-A

-Opening Prayer

- .CCH-p.76
- .James 2:14-17

-Blind Faith

- .Find Bible activity
- .Reflect

-Faith: Believing, Trusting, and Doing

- .Review Handout 7-A
- .Bodies often reflect which is going on inside
- .Believing, trusting, and doing are three elements of faith.
- .Our faith is based on the truth that God made himself known to us through Jesus Christ
- .Faith is not only belief, it is the way we live in harmony with what God has taught us. We must not only believe but live like we believe it to
- .Faith guides every part of our lives
- .Faith is a gift from God
- .Christianity is monotheistic, meaning that we have only one God.

-Optional Session Extension

- .The One True God
 - .Deuteronomy 6:4-9
- .Discussion Starters

-Learning from the Giants of Faith

- .Handout 7-B

-Closing Prayer

- .Mark 9:17-26
- .CCH-p.72

-Media

- .Evan Almighty

Session 8 Who Am I?

-Objectives

- .Build fellowship by getting to know one another better
- .Explain the Catholic perspectives on the human person
- .Describe themselves as a unique creation of God endowed with gifts and talents to serve others

-Resources

- .Catholic Connections Handbook, Chapter 5
- .Catechism of Catholic Church 355-384 (Man)

-Scripture

.Psalm 139:1-16, 23-24; Genesis 1:26-27, 31; Genesis 2:18;
Matthew 5:14-16; Luke 12:22-23; 1 Corinthians 6:19;
1 Corinthians 12:14-21, 27; Ephesians 5:1-2; Colossians 3:12

-Supplies

- .Rubber bands
- .8" long red ribbon (one for each student)
- .Brown lunch bags (oa) (one for each student)
- .magazines (oa)

Lesson Plan

-Quick-Start Activity

- .Handout 8-A

-Opening Prayer

- .Prayer
- .Overview

-My Favorites and Interests

- .Handout 8-A activity

-Optional Session Extension

- .Inside/Outside Bags
- .Magazines
- .Discussion Starters

-Who We Are According to God

- .Stereotypes
- .People are often identified by what they like or groups they belong to
- .People are more than that
- .To find out who we truly are, we can turn to God. God speaks to us through the Church, Bible, and prayer
- .Handout 8-A
- .Human beings are good and there is nothing we or anyone else can do to take this goodness away
- .Though we are always good, we do not always do good things.
- difference between being good and doing good
- .Each of us has a particular role that no one else can accomplish.
- .We all have gifts and talents and our job is to share them with others.
- .Every human is a creature of God, loved by God regardless of . . .

-Who Are You?

- .Handout 8-B
- .rubber bands
- .reflective music

-Closing Prayer

- .Handout 8-C
- .Psalm 139:1-16,23-24
- .All of our lives are gifts, but my life is not God's only gift to me; it is God's gift to you (everyone). We offer the gift of ourself to everyone including God.

-Media

- .Remember the Titans

Session 9 Winning and Losing

-Objectives

- .Redefine what it means to win and lose in accordance with our faith in Jesus Christ
- .Realize that true happiness comes from our relationship with and reliance on God
- .Understand that when we give to others, we also receive

-Resources

- .Catechism of Catholic Church 618 (Our participation in Christ's sacrifice); 2015 (Christian Holiness); 2113 (Idolatry)

-Scripture

- .Luke 6:20-26; 1 Corinthians 1:23; Mark 9:33-35; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27, Luke 9:23-25, 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

-Supplies

- .Paper
- .Masking tape
- .Crucifix

Lesson Plan

-Quick-Start Activity

- .What is your favorite memory of winning?
- .What is your worst memory of losing?

-Opening Prayer

- .Prayer
- .Overview

-Optional Session Extension

- .Thy Will, Not My Will
 - .Is it life-giving?
 - .Does it help someone other than yourself?
 - .Does it go against what God asks of us?
- .Discussion Starters

-Forced Choice

- .Activity
- .Reflect
- .Luke 6:20-26
- .Jesus taught us that sacrificing ourselves for another person will truly make us happy, when we give of ourselves to others, we also receive

-Winners and Losers

- .Jesus on crucifix-winner or loser?
- .1 Corinthians 1:23
- .Sometimes losing is not a failure and winning is not a success
- .Tom Sawyer

-Winning and Losing: What Should Christians Do?

- .Handout 9-A
- .Reflect

-Closing Prayer

-Media

- .The Chronicles of Narnia

Session 10 Salvation History

-Objectives

- .Explain how God has acted through the events they experience and through the people with whom they have relationships
- .Understand that God works through events regardless of how good or bad we think they are
- .Strengthen the relationships between the participants and their families, friends, and church

-Resources

- .Catholic Connections Handbook, Chapter 6
- .Catechism of Catholic Church 50-73 (The Revelation of God); 74-100 (The Transmission of Divine Revelation)

-Scripture

- .Genesis 12:1-5; Genesis 18:17-18; Exodus 3:1-10; Jeremiah 1:4-10;
- Mark 1:1-11

-Supplies

- .Small prizes for winner(s) of Human Bingo
- .Markers
- .Construction paper
- .Masking tape

Lesson Plan

-Quick-Start Activity

- .Handout 10-A

-Opening Prayer

- .Prayer
- .Overview

-Human Bingo

- .Handout 10-A
- .Handout 10-B

-Finding the Hand of God in Our Lives

- .Knowing our own and one another's history is important because our past is a major force that shapes who we are now and what we will become
- .All events throughout history, in which God acts to bring about our salvation, make up what is called salvation history. The Bible is the story of our salvation history.
- .God is alive and active in each of our lives history

-Optional Session Extension

- .Footprints
 - .Handout 10-A
- .Discussion Starter

-Closing Prayer

-Media

.The Lion King

Jesus the Christ (6th Grade)

Session 1 The Gospels

-Objectives

- .Explore the concept of perspective sharing by developing their ability to see and understand the points of view of others
- .Recognize that there is variation of detail and emphases in the four Gospels due to different perspectives of the Gospel authors, while keeping in mind that God ensures the sacred truth of the text through the Holy Spirit's inspiration of the authors
- .Immerse themselves in the richness of the Gospel accounts of the Last Supper and learn more about who Jesus is

-Resources

- .Catholic Connection Handbook, Chapter 8
- .Catechism of the Catholic Church 101-141 (Sacred Scripture)

-Scripture

- .2 Peter 1:16, Matthew 26:17-29, Mark 14:12-25, Luke 22:7-23, John 13:1-30

-Supplies

- .Paper

Lesson Plan

-Quick-Start Activity

- .Movie Chart

-Opening Prayer

- .2 Peter 1:16
- .Prayer
- .Overview

-Hysterical History

- .Review list of movies from quick-start activity (with heckling)
- .Apply to experience of writing of the Gospels
- .Gospels written by different authors
- .Together Gospels provide a more complete picture
- .Entire Sacred Scriptures is believed to have been inspired by God
- .Not literally and factually accurate but God's Holy Spirit was at work within the writers

-Take This Bread: Takes 1-4

.Handout 1-A

-Point of View

- .Four evangelists' writing same story from different perspectives
- .Relate to your life
- .We come to know Jesus better by reading and praying with four different Gospel perspectives

-Optional Session Extension

- .Point of View: Part 2
- .Discussion Starters

-Closing Prayer

.CCH-p.88

-Media

.Evan Almighty (segment, "An Ark to Build")

Session 2 Jesus Christ, True God and True Man

-Objectives

- .Explore the question "Who are you?" in relation to one another and to Jesus
- .Learn that Jesus is fully God and fully human
- .Understand that we learn about who Jesus is through the Scriptures, Church Tradition, participation in the sacraments, personal and communal prayer, and personal relationship with Jesus

-Resources

- .Catholic Connections Handbook, Chapter 9
- .Catechism of the Catholic Church 422-483 (Jesus)

-Scripture

.John 1:1-5, 14; Matthew 1:1; Matthew 2:1; Matthew 1:18-23; Mark 9:7; Luke 3:21; John 8:58; John 10:30; Philippians 2:6-7

-Supplies

- .Index cards
- .Audio recording of a Christmas song

.CD player

Lesson Plan

-Quick-Start Activity

-Opening Prayer

- .John 1:1-5
- .Prayer
- .Overview

-Who Are You?

- .Activity

-Who Is Jesus?

- .Matthew 1:1; Matthew 2:1
- .Scripture (Matthew 1:18-23; Mark 9:7; Luke 3:21; John 1:14; John 8:58; John 10:30; Philippians 2:6-7)
- .Activity
- .Learn about Jesus through Sacred Scripture and Church Tradition.
- Names and titles teach us about who Jesus is
- .Jesus divine person with two natures-CCH p.98 & 100
- .The truth that Jesus Christ is fully God and fully human is called Incarnation
- .The account of Jesus' baptism helps us to see that he is in an eternal relationship with the Father and the Holy Spirit

-Knowing and Being Known

- .Jesus has been misunderstood in many ways
- .Personal stories
- .Questions:
 - How do others learn about who we are?
 - How do others get false impressions of who we are?
 - How are those with special needs sometimes misjudged?
 - Have you ever thought badly of someone then changed Impression?
 - How do we learn about who Jesus is?
 - Is learning about Jesus from scripture and tradition enough?
 - What else can we do to answer the question, "Who are you?"

-Optional Session Extension

- .Keeping Christ in Christmas
- .Discussion Starters

-Closing Prayer

.CCH p.97

-Media

."Who Do You Say" by the Paul Colman Trio—album One

Session 3 The Birth of Jesus

-Objectives

.Reflect on their experience and understanding of the celebration of Christmas

.Consider the humble way in which Jesus was born and apply this consideration to their understanding of who God is in relation to us

-Resources

.Catholic Connections Handbook, Chapter 10

.Catechism of the Catholic Church 522-528 (mysteries of Jesus' infancy)

-Scripture

.Luke 2:1-20 (the birth of Jesus)

-Supplies

.CD of Christmas songs

.CD player

.Christmas card

.Santa hat or reindeer antlers

.Christmas stocking

-Quick-Start Activity

.Songs/Cards

-Opening Prayer

.Luke 2:1-7

.Prayer

.Overview

-Prayer, Share, or Dare

.Activity

.Prayer: we all come to a better understanding of Jesus' birth and how his coming impacts our lives

.Share: that Jesus' birth still brings hope to those who feel hopeless

.Dare: each of us to look beyond gifts, the tree, decorations, shopping, hustle/bustle. Dare to look hard at how we celebrate Christmas and better reflect the real reason for the season. Open our hearts and minds to see the truth about God and his love for us.

-Angelic Assembly Discussion

- .Hello angels . . .
- .Michael, my mighty warrior . . .
- .Gabriel, my angel of stern warnings . . .
- .angel Bubba, little known but loved by me as much as any . . .
- .Activity
- .CCH, Chapter 10 (p.109) (p.111)

-Optional Session Extension

- .Where Do You Stand?
- .Discussion Starters

-Closing Prayer

- .CCH-p.109
- .Prayer

-Media

- .Tajci, "How I Love the Christmas Season" (*The Christmas Concert Special*, 2006, by Nineveh's Crossing, LLC)

Session 4 Jesus Teaches

-Objectives

- .See Jesus as the great teacher and themselves as learners in the Reign of God
- .Understand Jesus' teaching "You are the salt of the earth" and "You are the light of the world" and consider ways they can apply those metaphors to their lives
- .Explore three of Jesus' parables, discuss the message or meaning in each, and consider ways to integrate Jesus' teaching into their lives

-Resources

- .Catholic Connections Handbook, Chapter 11
- .Catechism of the Catholic Church 541-546 (the proclamation of the Kingdom of God)

-Scripture

- .Matthew 5:13-16 (salt and light); Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23 (parable of the sower and the seed); Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 (parable of the weeds); Matthew 18:21-35 (parable of the unforgiving servant); Matthew 25:14-30 (parable of the talents)

-Supplies

- .sm. bowls of unsalted popcorn
- .CD of "Higher" (Creed)
- .CD player
- .shaker of salt
- .a large bag or bowl of salted popcorn

-Quick-Start Activity

- .Bowl of unsalted popcorn for each student
- .CD of "Higher"

-Opening Prayer

- .Matthew 5:13-16
- .Prayer
- .Overview

-Salt and Light

- .Ask about popcorn
- .Salt it and question again
- ."You are the salt of the earth" (scripture meaning)
- .Metaphor application to Jesus' teaching
- .Apply to our lives

-Singing in the Reign

- .Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23
- .Handout 4-A
- .Activity

-Optional Session Extension

- .Hidden on a Lampstand?
- .Discussion Starters

-Closing Prayer

- .CCH-p.120
- .Prayer

-Media

- ."Here I Am to Worship" by Chris Tomlin (album-*Passion: Our Love is Loud* by Sparrow Records, 2002)

Session 5 Jesus Heals

-Objectives

- .Reflect on the healing power of Christ
- .Consider and submit to helping bring healing to others

-Resources

- .Catholic Connections Handbook, Chapter 12
- .Catechism of the Catholic Church 547-550 (Jesus' miracles), 1420-1532 (Sacraments of Healing)

-Scripture

- .Mark 10:46-52 (healing of Bartimaeus); John 14:12-14 ("they will do even greater things"), Luke 17:11-19 (healing of the ten people with leprosy), Mark 7:31-37 (healing of a man who couldn't hear), Matthew 12:9-14 (healing of a man with a paralyzed hand)

-Supplies

- .set of crutches or an arm sling
- .large, gaudy costume jewelry ring
- .CD of fantasy music
- .CD player
- .colored pencils

Lesson Plan

-Quick-Start Activity

-Opening Prayer

- .Mark 10:46-52
- .Prayer
- .Overview

-Jesus Christ, Superhero

- .Superhero
- .Why is Jesus the best superhero?
- .What are Jesus' powers?
- .How did Jesus use his powers to help others?
- .Jesus is real and his power to perform miracles was and continues to be real. Yet he taught that all of us are called to be heroes by serving others. Like Jesus we are called to love, serve, and help others not for our own gain but to share God's love.

-Optional Session Extension

- .The Compassion of the Christ
 - .Luke 17:11-19
 - .Mark 7:31-37
 - .Matthew 12:9-14
- .Discussion Starters

-One Ring to Heal Them All

- .Magical ring activity
- .CCH, p.130
- .John 14:12-14

-Closing Prayer

- .CCH, p.137

-Media

- ."Healing Rain," by Michael W. Smith (album, *Healing Rain*, by Provident Music Distribution, 2004)

Session 6 The Death of Jesus

-Objectives

- .Know and understand the events of Christ's Passion and death
- .Reflect on the theme of sacrifice in their own lives
- .Experience gratitude for Christ's sacrifice and respond with a desire to give their lives in service to others

-Resources

- .Catholic Connections Handbook, Chapter 13
- .Catechism of the Catholic Church 595-630 (Jesus Died Crucified)

-Scripture

- .John, chapters 13-19; Luke, chapters 22-23; Matthew, chapters 26-27; Mark, chapters 14-15 (Passion narratives)

-Supplies

- .Stations of the Cross prayer book

Lesson Plan

-Quick-Start Activity

- .What did Jesus do for you?

-Opening Prayer

- .John 13:3-15
- .Prayer
- .Overview

-Keeping His Death Alive

- .Catholic Connections Handbook, Chapter 13

-Optional Session Extension

- .Father, Forgive Them
 - .CCH, p.146
- .Discussion Starters

-Meet Me at the Station

- .Stations of the Cross
- .Handout 6-A

-Closing Prayer

- .CCH,p.151

-Media

- ."Crucifixion," from *Jesus Christ Superstar*,
(Decca, 1970)

Session 7 The Resurrection of Jesus

-Objectives

- .Know the details of Jesus' Resurrection, including to whom and how he appeared after rising, his enemies' efforts to cover it up, and the effect his Resurrection had on his followers
- .Understand the significance of Jesus' Resurrection, including its affirmation of all of Jesus' teachings and mission, the reconciliation of humankind with God, and the hope of sharing in Christ's Resurrection and enjoying eternal life with God.
- .Reflect on the meaning of the Resurrection in their lives

-Resources

- .Catholic Connections Handbook, Chapter 14
- .Catechism of the Catholic Church 638-655 (Jesus' Resurrection)

-Scripture

- .John, Chapter 20, 21:1-14; Matthew 28:1-15; Luke 24:1-49;
Mark 16:1-18 (Resurrection narratives)

-Supplies

- .sm balloons (variety of colors)
- .straws
- .vase

-Quick-Start Activity

- .Balloons/straws
- .Vase
- .Why Jesus' Resurrection makes you joyful

-Opening Prayer

- .John 20:19-20
- .Prayer
- .Overview

-Resurrection Connection

- .Resource 7-A
- .Resource 7-B
- .Talk show activity
- .Resurrection is God's greatest miracle
- .Brought hope to Jesus' disciples and hope for all of God's children
- .Through our Baptism, we all share in Jesus' Resurrection
- .Eternal life
- .Resurrection proves all events and teachings of Jesus are true
- .Jesus' death and Resurrection reconcile us to God

-Optional Session Extension

- .Can You Relate?
- .Discussion Starters

-The Risen Christ in Me

- .CCH,p.155

-Closing Prayer

- .CCH,p.159

-Media Connction

- ."The Risen Lord," Chris De Burgh's (album-*Flying Colors*)

Session 8 Friends in Jesus

-Objectives

- Identify the characteristics of a good friend
- Explore Jesus as a role model for being a good friend
- Reflect on their own friendship and make choices to improve their friendships

-Resources

- Catechism of the Catholic Church 787-796 (The Church-The Body of Christ)

-Scripture

- John 15:12-15 (Jesus calls us his friends), Matthew 14:22-23 (Jesus Walks on the Water), Matthew 26:36-46 (Jesus Prays in Gethsemane)

-Supplies

- .balloons
- .white poster board

-Quick-Start Activity

- .Balloons

-Opening Prayer

- .John 15:15
- .Prayer
- .Overview

-Prayers, Share, or Dare?

- .Balloons/papers

-Friend or Foe?

- .Activity

-Jesus: A Model Friend

- .Matthew 14:22-23
- .Matthew 26:36-46

-Optional Session Extension

- .WWYD (What Would You Do)?
- .Discussion Starters

-Closing Prayer

-Media

. "Jesus Is My Best Friend," (Christian alternative band, Silage, album *Watus*)

Session 9 Times of Trouble

-Objectives

- . Reflect on how we need to care for and help one another and understand that we are Christ's caring hands in the world
- . Practice thinking like Jesus when it comes to dealing with the troubles of life
- . Rely appropriately on God, parents (and other responsible adults), and peers for support in times of trouble

-Resources

. Catechism of the Catholic Church 302-324 (God Carries Out His Plan: Divine Providence)

-Scripture

. Romans 8:38-39 (Nothing can separate us from God's love that is in Christ Jesus)

-Supplies

- . poster board
- . white cloth
- . copies of lyrics for "On Eagle's Wings"

-Quick-Start Activity

-Opening Prayer

- . Romans 8:38-39
- . Prayer
- . Overview

-Lifeboat

- . Activity
- . Jesus teaches us, through words and example, that we should care for one another in times of trouble, and he assures us that there is room in his lifeboat for everyone.

-Jesus Hot Seat

.Activity

.John 17:15-21

.Did you hear Jesus praying that his followers would be kept safe from the evil one? And did you hear Jesus pray not only for them but also for all of us who would come after them?

.Today we often experience Jesus' love and care through the three P's (Prayers-Parents-Peers). The Holy Spirit works through the Followers of Jesus to make Jesus' love real in people's lives

.John 13:33-35

.If we want to experience Jesus' love and care, we have to be willing to ask to help when we need it, which means we need to bring our troubles to Jesus in prayer. God doesn't expect us to make it all by ourselves.

-Optional Session Extension

.The Three P's Game Show

.Discussion Starters

-Closing Prayer

."On Eagle's Wings"

.John 13:33-35

-Media

."Everybody Hurts," (REM on album *Automatic for the People*
-Warner Brothers, 1992)

Session 10 One Body, Many Parts

-Objectives

- .Be aware of and grateful for the gifts and talents God has given them
- .Understand that we are all connected in the Body of Christ, even though we have been blessed with different gifts
- .Commit to using their gifts in the spirit of service to the community

-Resources

.Catechism of the Catholic Church 787-795 (The Church-The Body of Christ)

-Scripture

.Romans 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians, Chapter 12 (gifts from God)

-Supplies

- .index cards
- .construction paper
- .copies of lyrics to the song "We Are Many Parts," Marty Haugen
- .masking tape

-Quick-Start Activity

- .What are you really good at and how many others have the same skill?

-Opening Prayer

- .Romans 12:4-8
- .Prayer
- .Overview

-God's Gift to the World

- .Share gifts and talents
- .We are one in the Body of Christ but we all have different gifts
- .Game: God's Gift to the World
- .Just like we all have one body with many parts, and our head is in charge, all of us are part of one Body of Christ, with Christ as its head.

-Body Building

- .Which part of the human body would best symbolize or represent your gift or talent?
- .Activity
- .We all have gifts to share with one another, gifts that help build up God's kingdom
- .No gift is unimportant and God does not want us to be envious of other people's gifts

-Optional Session Extension

- .A Day in the Life
- .Discussion Starters

-Closing Prayer

- ."We Are Many Parts"

-Media

- ."We Are One Body," (Dana Scallon from album *Say Yes*, Heartbeat Records, 1996)

The Holy Spirit and the Church (7th Grade)

Session 1 The Holy Spirit

-Objectives

- .Explore the meaning of the Holy Spirit as the Breath of God
- .Understand that the Holy Spirit has always been present with the Father and the Son, and that together they are responsible for creation
- .Name concrete ways that they see the Holy Spirit present in the world

-Resources

- .Catholic Connections Handbook, Chapter 15
- .Catechism of the Catholic Church 279-320 (The Creator); 702-716 (God's Spirit and Word in the Time of the Promises); 717-725 (The Spirit of Christ in the Fullness of Time); 731-747 (The Spirit and the Church in the Last Days); 852 (Mission)

-Scripture

- .Galatians 5:22-25, Genesis 1:1-2, Luke 4:18-19, Isaiah 11:2, John 14:6-17, John 20:22

-Supplies

- .balloons
- .large box
- .newsprint
- .art supplies (yarn, glue, construction paper, scissors, glitter, etc.)

-Quick-Start Activity

-Opening Prayer

- .Galatians 5:22-25
- .Prayer
- .Overview

-Every Breath You Take

- .Activity
- .Balloons

-The Holy Spirit: The Breath of God

- .Catholic Connections Handbook-p.165-166
- .Holy Spirit is like our own breathing; we aren't aware of it most of the time but it is necessary for life
- .God's Holy Spirit breathes God's life into us
- .Because of the Holy Spirit, we are able to experience God's love.
- .We believe the Holy Spirit gives us everything we need to live as Jesus' disciples
- .Catholic Connections Handbook-p.167-170
- .The Spirit of God has always been present
- .Holy Spirit's role to prepare people to know God
- .Luke 4:18-19
- .Jesus promised disciples he would send a helper, the Holy Spirit so they could continue his work
- .Pentecost, when Holy Spirit came upon Apostles energized and brought life to Church and all baptized believers

-Headline News: Spirit Success Stories

- .How do you recognize the presence of the Holy Spirit in someone's life?
- .Catholic Connections Handbook-p.165
- .Handout 1-A

-Optional Session Extension

- .Images and Symbols of the Holy Spirit
- .Art supplies
- .Catholic Connections Handbook-p.167
- .Discussion Starters

-Closing Prayer

- .Catholic Connections Handbook-p.170

- .Balloons
- .Large box
- .Candle

-Media

- .Simon Burch

Session 2 Grace and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit

-Objectives

- .Define God's grace and recognize the presence of God's grace in their lives
- .Understand that God's grace makes it possible for them to fulfill their job descriptions as Christians
- .Describe the Gifts of the Holy Spirit

The Eucharist (8th Grade)

Session 1 Introduction to Liturgy

-Objectives

- .Understand the symbolic nature of liturgy
- .See how the Holy Spirit makes Catholic teachings known through liturgical symbols
- .Through the symbols of liturgy, recognize God's action in the world

-Resources

- .Catholic Connections Handbook, Chapter 22
- .Catechism of the Catholic Church 1145-1152 (Signs and symbols); 1161 (Holy images); 1234-1245 (The mystagogy of the celebration)

-Scripture

- .Luke 24:13-35, John 12:44-45, Mark 1:9-11, Luke 22:7-20,
Luke 24:13-35, John 13:1-15

-Supplies

- .index cards
- .newsprint
- .masking tape
- .decorative box with lid
- .sm mirror
- .reflective music and player
- .business envelope

.liturgical calendar
.book of saints

-Quick-Start Activity

.Luke 24:30-31 (p.249 CCH)

-Cracking the Symbol

-Optional Session Activity

.Resource 1-A
.CCH p.250

-Unlocking the Mystery

.The cross and all the symbols we see in the liturgy are how we
"express and deepen (our) relationship to God"

Built of Living Stones (#23) CCC #1147

.We can't see God, but we can see these symbols and experience
them in the liturgy. These help us to "see" God, whom we can't see.

.John 12:44-45

.CCH 245 and 247

-Seeing is Believing

-Closing Prayer

.CCH p.243

-Media

."Open My Eyes" Jesse Manibusan (Spirit and Song, OCP)

.Shrek

Session 2 the Eucharist: The Heart of All Liturgy

-Objectives

.Understand that the Eucharist is a response of thanksgiving to the
Father through Christ

.Recognize that to give thanks is to give oneself to another in
relationship

.Discern different ways to live with a thankful attitude

-Resources

.Catholic Connections Handbook, Chapter 24

.Catechism of the Catholic Church 1359-1361 (Thanksgiving and praise
to the Father; 2062 (Life as a response of thanksgiving); 2637-2638

(Prayer of thanksgiving)

-Scripture

.Luke 17:11-19

-Supplies

."Malo, Malo" CD from Jesse

."gift"

.CD of reflective music and player

-Quick-Start Activity

-Opening Prayer

.Luke 17:11-19

.CCH p.502

-"Thank You" Around the World

.Play "Malo, Malo"

.It takes two to say thank you – one to do something good and one to respond

.Saying thank you strengthens our relationships. It is like giving ourselves as a gift in response to a gift we received

-The Eucharist is Saying Thank You

.God blesses us and we say thank you

.Resource 2-B

-Optional Session Extension

.Putting together the Body of Christ to see how many people it takes to be Christ's Body

-Attitude of Gratitude

.Thanking God doesn't end at Mass

.We can thank God every day by giving our best selves to God

-Closing Prayer

.CCH p.267

-Media

."Malo, Malo"

God, Revelation, and Faith - 6th Grade

Session 1: Revelation, the Scriptures, and Tradition

Objectives:

- .Understand how God reveals himself to us
- .Identify the Scriptures and Tradition as ways of encountering God's Revelation
- .Become familiar with the sections of the Bible
- .Identify ways to make God known to others

Diocesan Curriculum Standards:

- .Standard #1 Read, interpret, and apply Scripture to life*
- .Standard #3 Illustrate basic understanding of Catholic dogma glossary in light of the "Catechism of the Catholic Church"*
- .Standard #7 Demonstrate an understanding and an appreciation for faith community as the way we come to know God*
- .Standard #16 Apply Catholic principles to interpersonal relations (e.g., family, peers, work, society, Church, etc.)*

Session 2: God the Father

Objectives:

- .Experience God as a mystery that is beyond our grasp to completely understand
- .Explain that God has revealed himself to us as Truth and Love
- .Identify God as the Father of Jesus Christ and listen prayerfully to his voice

Diocesan Curriculum Standards:

- .Standard #1 Read, interpret, and apply Scripture to life*
- .Standard #3 Illustrate basic understanding of Catholic dogma glossary in light of the "Catechism of the Catholic Church"*
- .Standard #9 Use a variety of prayer forms to enrich and express personal and communal spirituality*

Session 3: The Holy Trinity

Objectives:

- .Identify the Trinity as three persons in one God-Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
- .Recite the Shema (the Jewish statement on their behalf in the one true God) in Hebrew
- .Understand ways that humans can reflect the unity, harmony, and love found in the community of the Trinity

Diocesan Curriculum Standards:

- .Standard #1 Read, interpret, and apply Scripture to life*

*.Standard #3 Illustrate basic understanding of Catholic dogma glossary in the light of
“Catechism of the Catholic Church*

*.Standard #4 Acknowledge and affirm the diverse cultural expression of Catholicism and
other faith traditions*

Session 4: Creation

Objectives:

.Recognize their own unique place in God’s plan and creation
.Convey how human beings have a choice to follow or disobey
God’s plan for creation

.Express how God’s creative work can still be found today

.Differentiate between the scientific theories that point to
the origin of the universe and the truths about God and
creation as expressed in the Book of Genesis

Diocesan Curriculum Standards:

.Standard #1 Read, interpret and apply Scripture to life

*.Standard #16 Apply Catholic principles to interpersonal relations (e.g., family, peers,
work, society, Church, etc.)*

*.Standard #18 Engage in service to the community (e.g. family, parish, local, national,
and global) in response to the Gospel call.*

.Standard #19 Exercise responsible stewardship for the gift of creation

Session 5: The Human Person

Objectives:

.Discuss what it means to be made in God’s image

.Explain Original Sin and understand how it affects our
lives today

.Understand what it means to be, and act as, as member of
the Body of Christ

Diocesan Curriculum Standards:

*.Standard #3 Illustrate basic understanding of Catholic dogma glossary in light of the
“Catechism of the Catholic Church.”*

*.Standard #7 Demonstrate an understanding and an appreciation for faith community as
the way we come to know God*

.Standard #10 Illustrate a basic understanding of the history of the Church

*.Standard #16 Apply Catholic principles to interpersonal relations (e.g., family, peers,
work, society, Church, etc.)*

Session 6: God’s Plan for Salvation

Objectives:

.Actively experience our journey toward salvation as a
challenging and mysterious path on which we can rely on God
for guidance

.Express how God has led his people in the biblical events
of salvation history

.Identify with biblical characters who, despite their flaws,
are people who rely on God

Diocesan Curriculum Standards:

- .Standard #1 Read, interpret and apply Scripture to life*
- .Standard #3 Illustrate basic understanding of Catholic dogma glossary in light of the "Catechism of the Catholic Church."*
- .Standard #10 Illustrate a basic understanding of the history of the Church*
- .Standard #15 Make moral decisions based on Catholic moral decision-making models*

Session 7: Faith: Responding to God

Objectives:

- .Describe faith as a gift from God that we can choose whether to accept
- .Experience faith in the three elements of believing, trusting, and doing
- .Explain that Catholic understanding of faith as our response to the truth that God made himself know to us through Jesus Christ

Diocesan Curriculum Standards:

- .Standard #1 Read, interpret, and apply Scripture to life*
- .Standard #2 Present a reasoned rationale for being Catholic*
- .Standard #3 Illustrate basic understanding of Catholic dogma glossary in light of the "Catechism of the Catholic Church."*

Session 8: Who Am I?

Objectives:

- .Build fellowship by getting to know one another
- .Explain the Catholic perspectives on the human person
- .Describe themselves as a unique creation of God endowed with gifts and talents to serve others

Diocesan Curriculum Standards:

- .Standard #7 Demonstrate an understanding and appreciation for faith community as the way we come to know God*
- .Standard #8 Use effective community-building skills in relating with others*
- .Standard #16 Apply Catholic principles in interpersonal relations (e.g., family, peers, work, society, Church, etc.)*
- .Standard #17 Critique societal structures in light of Catholic social principles and apply those principles to social and personal situations*
- .Standard #18 Engage in service to the community (e.g., family, parish, local, national, and global) in response to the Gospel call*

Session 9: Winning and Losing

Objectives:

- .Redefine what it means to win and lose in accordance with our faith in Jesus Christ

.Realize that true happiness comes from our relationship with and reliance on god
.Understand that when we give to others, we also receive

Diocesan Curriculum Standards:

.Standard #7 Demonstrate an understanding and an appreciation for faith community as the way we come to know God

.Standard #8 Use effective community-building skills in relating with others

.Standard #16 Apply Catholic principles to interpersonal relations (e.g., family, peers, work, society, Church, etc.)

.Standard #18 Engage in service to the community (e.g., family, parish, local, national, global) in response to the Gospel call

Session 10: Salvation History

Objectives:

.Explain how God has acted through the events they experience and through the people whom they have relationships

.Understand that God works through events regardless of how good or bad we think they are

.Strengthen the relationships between the participants and their families, friends, and church

Diocesan Curriculum Standards:

.Standard #7 Demonstrate an understanding and an appreciation for faith community as the way we come to know God

.Standard #16 Apply Catholic principles to interpersonal relations (e.g., family, peers, work, society, Church, etc.)

.Standard #17 Critique societal structures in light of Catholic social justice principles and apply those principles to social and personal situations

Jesus the Christ - 6th Grade

Session 1: The Gospels

Objectives:

.Explore the concept of perspective sharing by developing their ability to see and understand the points of view of others

.Recognize that there is variation of detail and emphases in the four Gospels due to different perspectives of the Gospel authors, while keeping in mind that God ensures the sacred truth of the text through the Holy Spirit's inspiration of the authors

.Immerse themselves in the richness of the Gospel accounts of the Last Supper and learn more about who Jesus is

Diocesan Curriculum Standards

.Standard #1 Read, interpret, and apply Scripture to life

.Standard #2 Illustrate basic understanding of Catholic dogma glossary in light of the "Catechism of the Catholic Church."

.Standard #10 Illustrate a basic understanding of the history of the Church

Session 2: Jesus Christ, True God and True Man

Objectives:

.Explore the question "Who are you?" in relation to one another and to Jesus

.Learn that Jesus is fully God and fully human

.Understand that we learn about who Jesus is through the Scriptures, Church Tradition, participation in the sacraments, personal and communal prayer, and personal relationship with Jesus

Diocesan Curriculum Standards

.Standard #1 Read, interpret, and apply Scripture to life

.Standard #9 Use a variety of prayer forms to enrich and express personal and communal spirituality

.Standard #10 Illustrate a basic understanding of the history of the Church

Session 3: The Birth of Jesus

Objectives:

.Reflect on their experience and understanding of the celebration of Christmas

.Consider the humble way in which Jesus was born and apply this consideration to their understanding of who God is in relation to us

Diocesan Curriculum Standards

.Standard #1 Read, interpret, and apply Scripture to life

.Standard #6 Demonstrate the relationship between faith and culture (e.g., through the arts, social science, technology, etc.)

.Standard #7 Demonstrate an understanding and an appreciation for faith community as the way we come to know God

Session 4: Jesus Teaches

Objectives:

- .See Jesus as the great teacher and themselves as learners in the Reign of God
- .Understand Jesus' teaching "You are the salt of the earth" and "You are the light of the world" and consider ways they can apply those metaphors to their lives
- .Explore three of Jesus' parables, discuss the message or meaning in each, and consider ways to integrate Jesus' teaching into their lives

Diocesan Curriculum Standards

- .Standard #1 Read, interpret, and apply Scripture to life*
- .Standard #7 Demonstrate an understanding and an appreciation for faith community as the way we come to know God*
- .Standard #15 Make moral decisions based on Catholic moral decision-making models*
- .Standard #16 Apply Catholic principles to interpersonal relations (e.g., family, peers, work, society, Church, etc.)*

Session 5: Jesus Heals

Objectives:

- .Reflect on the healing power of Christ
- .Consider and submit to helping bring healing to others

Diocesan Curriculum Standards

- .Standard #1 Read, interpret, and apply Scripture to life*
- .Standard #5 Examine the variety of Christian vocations as ways to respond to the Baptismal call to a life of service*
- .Standard #7 Demonstrate an understanding and appreciation for faith community as the way we come to know God*
- .Standard #15 Make moral decisions based on Catholic moral decision-making models*
- .Standard #16 Apply Catholic principles to interpersonal relations (e.g., family, peers, work, society, Church, etc.)*
- .Standard #17 Critique societal structures in light of Catholic social justice principles and apply those principles to social and personal situations*

Session 6: The Death of Jesus

Objectives:

- .Know and understand the events of Christ's Passion and death
- .Reflect on the theme of sacrifice in their own lives
- .Experience gratitude for Christ's sacrifice and respond with a desire to give their lives in service to others

Diocesan Curriculum Standards

- .Standard #1 Read, interpret, and apply Scripture to life*
- .Standard #16 Apply Catholic principles to interpersonal relations (e.g., family, peers, work, society, Church, etc.)*

.Standard #17 Critique societal structures in light of Catholic social justice principles and apply those principles to social and personal situations

.Standard #18 Engage in service to the community (e.g., family, parish, local, national, and global) in response to the Gospel call

Session 7: The Resurrection of Jesus

Objectives:

.Know the details of Jesus' Resurrection, including to whom and how he appeared after rising, his enemies' efforts to cover it up, and the effect his Resurrection had on his followers

.Understand the significance of Jesus' Resurrection, including its affirmation of all of Jesus' teachings and mission, the reconciliation of humankind with God, and the hope of sharing in Christ's Resurrection and enjoying eternal life with God

.Reflect on the meaning of the Resurrection in their lives

Diocesan Curriculum Standards

.Standard #1 Read, interpret, and apply Scripture to life

.Standard #10 Illustrate a basic understanding of the history of the Church

.Standard #16 Apply Catholic principles to interpersonal relations (e.g., family, peers, work, society, Church, etc.)

Session 8: Friends in Jesus

Objectives:

.Identify the characteristics of a good friend

.Explore Jesus as a role model for being a good friend

.Reflect on their own friendship and make choices to improve their friendships

Diocesan Curriculum Standards

.Standard #1 Read, interpret, and apply Scripture to life

.Standard #16 Apply Catholic principles to interpersonal relations (e.g., family, peers, work, society, Church, etc.)

.Standard #17 Critique societal structures in light of Catholic social justice principles and apply those principles to social and personal situations

Session 9: Times of Trouble

Objectives:

.Reflect on how we need to care for and help one another and understand that we are Christ's caring hands in the world

.Practice thinking like Jesus when it comes to dealing with the troubles of life

.Rely appropriately on God, parents (and other responsible adults), and peers for support in times of trouble

Diocesan Curriculum Standards

.Standard #15 Make moral decisions based on Catholic moral decision-making models

.Standard #16 Apply Catholic principles to interpersonal relations (e.g., family, peers, work, society, Church, etc.)

Session 10: One Body, Many Parts

Objectives:

.Be aware of and grateful for the gifts and talents God has given them

.Understand that we are all connected in the Body of Christ, even though we have been blessed with different gifts

.Commit to using their gifts in the spirit of service to the community

Diocesan Curriculum Standards

.Standard #5 Examine the variety of Christian vocations as ways to respond to the Baptismal call to a life of service

.Standard #16 Apply Catholic principles to interpersonal relations (e.g., family, peers, work, society, Church, etc.)

.Standard #17 Critique societal structures in light of Catholic social justice principles and those principles to social and personal situations

.Standard #18 Engage in service to the community (e.g., family, parish, local, national, and global) in response to the Gospel call

Growing in Love - Grade 6

Lesson 1: Life from Love

Objectives:

- .Recognize that all creation is a gift from God
- .Identify the sacredness of human life at all stages
- .Describe ways to show respect for God's gift of life by caring for ourselves
- .Celebrate the goodness of our lives

Vocabulary:

- .abortion: the death of an unborn baby occurs when the unborn baby dies of natural causes; direct abortion, any intentional action taken purposely to cause the death of an unborn baby, is a serious sin
- .euthanasia: deliberately causing the death of a person who is ill, disabled, or elderly, or assisting such a person to commit suicide
- .suicide: taking one's own life
- .self-respect: a healthy appreciation of one's own person, including one's strengths and weaknesses
- .temperance: moderation; a balance of our wants and needs with the needs of others

Lesson 2: Covenant of Love

Objectives:

- .Recognize that God, as Trinity, calls us into a personal relationship
- .Identify the Great Commandment as the way we live our covenant with God, self, and others
- .Describe ways to communicate with God in prayer and through the scriptures
- .Celebrate our commitment to justice, love, and peace

Vocabulary:

- .covenants: a sacred promise or agreement of joining God and humans in relationship
- .charity: the virtue of loving others for their own sake and as an extension and expression of one's love of God
- .justice: the moral virtue expressed in the constant will to give God and others what is due them

Lesson 3: Christian Love

Objectives:

- .Recognize that in Baptism we entered into Christ's death and resurrection (the Paschal mystery)
- .Identify characteristics of Christian love
- .Describe how discipline and self-sacrifice support loving relationships
- .Celebrate the power of God's love in Christ

Vocabulary:

- .self-sacrifice: the ability to put aside one's own narrow, limited interests for a greater good or in order to help another person
- .sexual abuse: the mistreatment of another person through improper sexual contact
- discipline: self-control; moderation; restraint; a learned and practiced strategy for developing character

Lesson 4: Practicing Love

Objectives:

- .Recognize that the Church's teachings on life issues and sexuality are rooted in the natural moral law and the God-given dignity of every person
- .Identify some of the Church's teachings on sexuality and bioethics

- .Describe ways the Church reaches out to those hurting or excluded by society
- .Celebrate the support of the Christian community

Vocabulary:

- .magisterium: the teaching authority of the Church, given by Christ through the Holy Spirit and found in the bishops in union with the pope
- .bioethics: the moral values associated with choices and actions regarding medicine, health care, and research on human life
- .natural moral law: the moral sense that allows humans to distinguish right from wrong by the use of reason; the natural moral law is universal and transcends cultural differences
- .abstinence: the avoidance of a particular behavior, such as the genital expression of sexuality
- .HIV: human immune deficiency virus, an infection carried in bodily fluids and transmitted through sexual contact, the sharing of intravenous drug needles, or passed from infected mothers to unborn children
- .AIDS: acquired immune deficiency syndrome. A weakening of the immune system caused by infection with HIV; AIDS leaves the body subject to a number of serious potentially fatal diseases

Lesson 5: Holy and Whole

Objectives:

- .Recognize that God's grace makes it possible for us to be holy and whole
- .Identify some of the actions against chastity to which humans are attracted
- .Describe ways to be open to God's grace and avoid temptation
- .Ask the Holy Spirit's help in living our call to holiness and wholeness

Vocabulary:

- .grace: God's life in us, freely given; our loving relationship with God; the free and undeserved help God gives us to enable us to Respond to the call to holiness
- .concupiscence: the tendency or inclination to choose what is wrong that is part of our weakened human nature because of original sin
- .masturbation: the deliberate self-stimulation of the genitals solely for one's own sexual pleasure

Lesson 6: Celebrating Life

Objectives:

- .Recognize that pregnancy and birth are meant to be special times of family celebration
- .Identify suffering, aging, and death as parts of the human condition that can bring special meaning in the Christian experience
- .Describe ways in which the Christian family honors the mysteries of birth, illness, and death
- .Celebrate God's presence in our families throughout all of life.

Vocabulary:

- .pregnancy: the nine-month period during which the unborn body develops in its mother's uterus
- .embryo: the technical name for the unborn baby in its early stages of growth and development
- .fetus: the technical name for the unborn baby from about the third month in the uterus until its birth; the word fetus means "young one"
- .childbirth: the process by which a child is born; childbirth may occur naturally through the vagina, or birth canal, or may be accomplished through abdominal surgery known as a cesarean section; other terms for childbirth include delivery or parturition
- .Anointing of the Sick: the sacrament that celebrates God's healing power for those who are ill, elderly, or a medical risk

- .cremation: reducing the body of a deceased person to ashes before burial or interment
- .burial: placing the body (or ashes, if the body has been cremated) of a deceased person in a grave; also called interment
- .funeral: the religious or civil service to pray for a person and celebrate his or her life, which is conducted after the person has died

Lesson 7: Love in Action

Objectives:

- .Recognize that the Beatitudes offer a vision of real love
- .Identify the prophetic mission of every Christian
- .Describe ways we can work to hasten the coming of God's kingdom in it's fullness
- .Commit ourselves to sharing God's love with our world

Vocabulary:

- .beatitude: blessedness; the true happiness for which God created humans
- .prophetic: communicating God's message of justice, love, and peace in words and actions; the word prophet means "one who speaks for another"
- .solidarity: the principle of oneness in the family of God; being part of a community responsible for one another