

BE MY DISCIPLES (JANUARY OUTLINE)

“Throughout the year you have the opportunity to enter into the mystery of faith with your children and walk with them as they learn what it means to know, love, and serve God.”

CHAPTER 9

Grade 1 – The Church Celebrates Jesus

“The Church has special times and seasons of the year; Sunday is the Lord’s Day.”

Grade 3 – A People of Prayer

“We pray for ourselves and others; we bless God who gives us all blessings; we thank and praise God.”

Grade 4 – People of Prayer

“The Church is a people of prayer; the liturgy is the church’s official prayer; the creeds are short summaries of the faith of the Church.”

Grade 5 – Celebrating the Liturgy

“The liturgy is the Church’s work of worshiping God; the Sacraments make up the saving work of Jesus Christ; the liturgical year is the Church’s cycle of worship.”

Theme: Give Thanks

“Give thanks to the Lord, Who is good, whose love endures forever” (Psalm 118:29)

Background

The main points of this chapter include: the Church’s liturgical seasons; Sunday as the Lord’s day; worshipping God through words and actions; celebrating the sacraments; praying to thank and praise God; the liturgy as the official prayer of the church; the creeds summarize catholic beliefs; the Sacraments make the saving work of Jesus present.

Main Focus

- The Church celebrates liturgical seasons.
- The Sacraments are the heart of the Church’s Liturgy.
- Through the Church’s liturgical celebrations, we give thanks to God.

Starting Prayer

(Have children bow their heads and remember that God is present with them in this time and place. Bless yourself with the sign of the cross.)

Holy and Gracious God,

Your blessings are more than we could ever count.

We thank and praise you for your gifts.

We thank and praise you for your loving presence with us today.

Amen.

What is your favorite season of the Church year?

Ask your children this question. Listen to the examples that they give and add a few of your own. Examples would include Advent, Christmas, Lent, Triduum, Easter, or Ordinary Time.

How do you give thanks to the Lord?

In the Book

Pg. 83 – Have children/child read to themselves (or out loud) and have them share what they just read. If more than one child is learning, have them compare what they will be learning in this chapter.

Pg. 84 – This page explores how the church sets an example for us of how to be good disciples. Read together or silently. Encourage them to share with you what they read or learned. (How did this person or group follow Jesus?)

Read “Disciple Power” and talk about how it relates to what they already read. See if they can give examples of how family members practice these virtues. Pick one to try to practice this week.

Pg. 85-87 – Read Faith Focus question. Pages 85-87 will answer that question. When you finish reading those pages, discuss what they have learned. Have them answer the faith focus question in their own words. Ask the children what blessings members of their family need to give thanks for today.

Pg. 88 – This page will summarize the lesson, have an activity to tie it all together, and invites them to make a faith choice for the week. Have the children complete the activity on this page and share it with the others.

Pg. 89 – Have the children complete the Chapter review.

Closing Prayer

Leader: *God of all people, we are thankful for the time we have shared today. Be with us as we pray together.*

All: *“Give thanks to the Lord, who is good, whose love endures forever.” (Psalm 118:18)*

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CHAPTER 10

Grade 1 – Signs of God’s Love

“In baptism, God shares His love and life with us; we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit; in confirmation we are sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit to help us live out our baptism.”

Grade 3 – The Church Year

“The Liturgy is the Church’s public worship; the Church’s year of worship is the liturgical year including Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, and Ordinary Time.”

Grade 4 – Celebrating God’s Love

“The liturgy is the Church’s work of worshiping God; in the liturgy we are made sharers in the Paschal Mystery; the Church shares and celebrates God’s plan of salvation.”

Grade 5 – Joined in Christ

“Baptism, confirmation, and eucharist are the three sacraments of Christian Initiation; Baptism joins us to Christ; In baptism, original sin and all personal sins are forgiven.”

Theme: The Body of Christ

“Now you are Christ’s body, and individually parts of it.” (1 Corinthians 12:27)

Background

The main focus of this chapter consists of: Baptism; God sharing His life and love with us; receiving the Holy Spirit at Baptism; the words and actions of Baptism; the liturgy of the Church as the Church’s public worship; how the liturgy makes us sharers in Christ’s Paschal Mystery.

Main Focus

- The Church is Christ’s Body.
- We are part of the Body of Christ.
- The Sacraments of Christian Initiation join us to Christ.

Starting Prayer

(Have children bow their heads and remember that God is present with them in this time and place. Bless yourself with the sign of the cross.)

Welcoming God,

From the beginning of time, you have welcomed people into your love.

Your son Jesus welcomes us today and every day into the adventure of being his disciples.

As members of Christ’s Body, may we be active participants in living the Good News through our words and actions.

Amen.

What items in your home remind you of “church”?

Ask your children this question. Listen to the examples that they give and add a few of your own. Examples would include momentos from baptism, communion, confirmation, sacramentals such as crucifix, bible, or holy cards.

In the Book

Pg. 91 – Have children/child read to themselves (or out loud) and have them share what they just read. If more than one child is learning, have them compare what they will be learning in this chapter.

Pg. 92 – This page explores how the Church sets an example for us of how to be good disciples. Read together or silently. Encourage them to share with you what they read or learned. (How did this person or group follow Jesus?)

Read “Disciple Power” and talk about how it relates to what they already read. See if they can give examples of how family members practice these virtues. Pick one to try to practice this week.

Pg. 93 – Read Faith Focus question. Pages 93-95 will answer that question. When you finish reading those pages, discuss what they have learned. Have them answer the faith focus question in their own words. Ask the children what member of Christ’s body do our family members know by name.

Pg. 96 – This page will summarize the lesson, have an activity to tie it all together, and invites them to make a faith choice for the week. Have the children complete the activity on this page and share it with the others.

Pg. 97 – Have the children complete the Chapter review.

Closing Prayer

Leader: *As we make the sign of the cross, let it be a sign of our belonging to the church.*

All: *In the name of the Father...*

Leader: *Dear God, by the sacrament of baptism you gave us your life. Help us always be your children. Help us bring everything we do to you. Help us recognize our responsibility as members of Christ's body.*

All: *And of the Son...*

Leader: *Dear Jesus, through the liturgical life of the Church, we come to know you, to love you, and serve you more completely. Help us work together, serving others, as members of the Body of Christ. Help us build the Kingdom of God.*

All: *And of the Holy Spirit...*

Leader: *Dear Holy Spirit, you make us one Body of Jesus Christ and the Father. Help us to share with others the peace and love you bring us*

All: *Amen.*

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CHAPTER 11

Grade 1 – We Follow Jesus

“The Gospel is the Good News of Jesus told us about God’s love; we tell everyone about the Good News.”

Grade 3 – Celebrating God’s Love

“The Sacraments of Christian Initiation lay the foundation for our lives as disciples of Jesus; Baptism joins us to Christ and the Church; Confirmation strengthens our baptism.”

Grade 4 – Sharing in Christ’s Life and Work

“Christ gave the Church the Seven Sacraments; by receiving the Sacraments of Initiation we are fully joined to Christ and become full members of the Church.”

Grade 5 – We Celebrate the Holy Spirit

“Christ means “anointed one”; in confirmation we are sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit; with the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we are empowered to continue the mission of Christ.”

Theme: Live in the Spirit

“...The fruit of the spirit is love, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control... If we live in the Spirit, let us also follow the Spirit.”

(Galatians 5:22-23, 25)

Background

The main focus of this chapter includes: the Gospel is the Good News of Jesus and how we come to know Jesus; in confirmation, the Holy Spirit gives us spiritual gifts; Baptism joins us to Christ and confirmation strengthens our baptism; By receiving the sacraments of Christian Initiation, we are joined to Christ and become full members of the Church; The gifts of the Holy Spirit empower us to continue the mission of Christ and to be Christ’s living witnesses.

Main Focus

- In the celebration of confirmation, we use specific words and actions.
- The fruits of the Holy Spirit show that we live in and follow the Spirit.

Starting Prayer

(Have children bow their heads and remember that God is present with them in this time and place. Bless yourself with the sign of the cross.)

God our Father and Creator,

Through the waters of baptism, we are joined to Christ, your Son.

Send the Holy Spirit to be with us and bless us as we learn to live as your children.

Amen.

How do people in your home live in the Fruits of the Holy Spirit?

Ask your children this question. Listen to the examples that they give and add a few of your own. Examples would include ways people show patience, joy, love, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, self-control, and gentleness.

What fruits of the Holy Spirit are most present in your life today?

In the Book

Pg. 99 – Have children/child read to themselves (or out loud) and have them share what they just read. If more than one child is learning, have them compare what they will be learning in this chapter. They are all learning how we are called to live in the Spirit.

Pg. 100 – This page explores how the Church sets an example for us of how to be good disciples. Read together or silently. Encourage them to share with you what they read or learned. (How did this person or group follow Jesus?)

Read “Disciple Power” and talk about how it relates to what they already read. See if they can give examples of how family members practice these virtues. Pick one to try to practice this week.

Pg. 101 – Read Faith Focus question. Pages 101-103 will answer that question. When you finish reading those pages, discuss what they have learned. Have them answer the faith focus question in their own words. Ask the children how their family members follow the Spirit.

Pg. 104 – This page will summarize the lesson, have an activity to tie it all together, and invites them to make a faith choice for the week. Have the children complete the activity on this page and share it with the others.

Pg. 105 – Have the children complete the Chapter review

Closing Prayer

Leader: Together let us ask God for the presence of his Spirit in our lives.

*For a spirit of love, we pray... **Lord hear our prayer.***

*For a spirit of joy, we pray... **Lord hear our prayer.***

*For a spirit of peace, we pray... **Lord hear our prayer.***

*For a spirit of patience, we pray... **Lord hear our prayer.***

*For a spirit of kindness, we pray... **Lord hear our prayer.***

*For a spirit of generosity, we pray... **Lord hear our prayer.***

*For a spirit of faithfulness, we pray... **Lord hear our prayer.***

*For a spirit of gentleness, we pray... **Lord hear our prayer.***

*For a spirit of self-control, we pray... **Lord hear our prayer.***

Come, Holy Spirit, enkindle in us the fire of your love.

Lord, send forth your Spirit and we shall be created, and you will renew the face of the earth.

All: Amen.

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Chapter 12

Grade 1 – The Catholic Family

“Christian families are signs of God’s love in the world; members of a family share their love for God and one another; our family helps us live our faith.”

Grade 3 – God’s Healing Love

“In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, God forgives our sins when we are truly sorry; In the Sacrament of anointing of the sick, our faith and trust in God are made stronger.”

Grade 4 – Responding to God’s Call

“God calls all the baptized to do the work of the church; every person who is baptized has a vocation to know, love, and serve God.”

Grade 5 – One Bread, One Cup

“Jesus gave us the Eucharist; the celebration of the Sacrament of the Eucharist renews and makes present the one sacrifice of Christ. The Eucharist is the center of Christian Life.”

Theme: The Kingdom of God

“...do not worry anymore... seek his kingdom, for your father is pleased to give you the kingdom.” (based on Luke 12:31, 32)

Background

The main focus of this chapter includes: Christian families are signs of Jesus’ love in the world, helping us live our faith; in the sacrament of penance and reconciliation, we ask for and receive forgiveness for our sins; in the sacrament of anointing of the sick, our faith and trust in God makes us stronger; every person who is baptized has a vocation to know, love, and serve God; the Eucharist is the center of Christian life; the Mass recalls and makes present the one sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

Main Focus

- Each of us is called to seek the Kingdom of God.
- The sacraments of the Church help us to seek God’s Kingdom.

Starting Prayer

(Have children bow their heads and remember that God is present with them in this time and place. Bless yourself with the sign of the cross.)

Loving God,

You care for us every day.

Your son, Jesus, tells us to put aside all worry, and to focus only on you.

Teach us today what it means to seek your kingdom.

Amen.

What do you know about the Kingdom of God?

Ask your children this question. Listen to the examples that they give and add a few of your own. Examples could include that the kingdom of God is a kingdom of forgiveness, your family helps us learn about it, or the Eucharist helps us build the kingdom of God here on earth.

How do you seek the Kingdom of God?

In the Book

Pg. 107 – Have children/child read to themselves (or out loud) and have them share what they just read. If more than one child is learning, have them compare what they will be learning in this chapter. Point out that they are each learning about how they are called to seek the Kingdom of God.

Pg. 108 – This page explores how the church sets an example for us of how to be good disciples. Read together or silently. Encourage them to share with you what they read or learned. (How did this person or group follow Jesus?)

Read “Disciple Power” and talk about how it relates to what they already read. See if they can give examples of how family members practice these virtues. Pick one to try to practice this week.

Pg. 109 – Read Faith Focus question. Pages 109-111 will answer that question. When you finish reading those pages, discuss what they have learned. Have them answer the faith focus question in their own words. Ask the children how your family seeks God’s Kingdom.

Pg. 112 – This page will summarize the lesson, have an activity to tie it all together, and invites them to make a faith choice for the week. Have the children complete the activity on this page and share it with the others.

Pg. 113 – Have the children complete the Chapter review

Closing Prayer

Leader: *Holy God,*

May we follow your son, Jesus, and be guided by your Spirit as we seek your kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven.

All: *Our Father, who art in Heaven...*