

Religion

Sixth Grade

Program Goal:

The learner will study the Catholic faith and be able to apply these beliefs in their actions through various service, prayer, and decision making opportunities.

Grade Level Goal:

The learner will have a deeper understanding of the roots of our faith by studying the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures.

Content Criteria:

I. Beliefs

- The learner will examine how God and God's goodness prevail over sin and evil.
- The learner will identify that creation is good because it was created by God out of love.
- The learner will analyze how Jesus is the fulfillment of the Covenant of the Hebrew Scriptures.
- The learner will examine how Jesus reveals God as Trinity.
- The learner will demonstrate how the early Church viewed Jesus as the fulfillment of God's promise to the Hebrew people.
- The learner will demonstrate and distinguish the faith community as the primary vehicle in which we come into a relationship with God.
- The learner will distinguish that God is revealed through faith and divine inspiration in the Scriptures.

II. Actions

- The learner will identify the role of Christians as stewards of creation.
- The learner will examine the commandments as the moral pathways of the people of God.
- The learner will identify current issues of peace and justice and examine them in the light of the scriptures and the Church's teachings on social justice.

III. Worship

- The learner will affirm that Eucharist is central to Catholic life.
- The learner will recognize the Liturgy of the Hours as the public prayer of the Church.

IV. Prayer

- The learner will distinguish between traditional and scriptural forms of prayer.
- The learner will distinguish personal, communal, and meditative forms of prayer.
- The learner will examine various cultures and how they make significant contributions to the Church.

Instructional Criteria:

- The learner will plan and participate in liturgies
- The learner will plan and participate in various service projects.
- The learner will cooperate in school, parish, and community activities.
- The learner will use various religious vocabulary words when appropriate.
- The learner will participate in classroom discussions about his/her faith.

- The learner will have various opportunities to explore the Hebrew and Christian scriptures.
- The learner will identify and discuss current events occurring in the ancient Bible lands.
- The learner will pray daily; to talk to God and to listen to God's will.

Scope:

I. Beliefs

A. God's goodness

1. God's Promise
 - a.) Adam & Eve
 - b.) Abraham
 - c.) Mosaic Covenant
 - d.) Jesus
2. Salvation comes through suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus
3. We become adopted sons and daughters of God through Baptism, our covenant with God

B. Creation

1. God created the world out of his wisdom and love - Gen. 1, Gen. 2
2. God created the universe "out of nothing" - Gen. 1
3. Creation reflects God's goodness and wisdom
4. The Fall
 - a.) Impact of original sin - Genesis 3
 - b.) We are reconciled to God through death and resurrection of Jesus

C. Roots of our Faith

1. God establishes a Covenant with his people.
 - a.) Patriarchs: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob (Israel), Joseph
 - b.) Moses
 - 1) Call of Moses
 - 2) Exodus and the desert experience
 - c.) Promised Land

- 1.) Joshua, Samson, Ruth
- 2.) Samuel
- 3.) Saul
- 4.) David
- 5.) Solomon

d.) Prophets of the exile

2. Jesus is the fulfillment of the Covenant.

D. Trinity

1. Jesus reveals himself as the Son - John 10:30
2. Jesus reveals God as the Father - John 3:16
3. Jesus promises to send the Holy Spirit - Luke 12:11-12
4. The Holy Spirit is sent to teach, guide and strengthen the Church
Matthew 3:16

E. Early Church view of Jesus

1. Jesus fulfills the prophecies of the Hebrew Scriptures:
 - a.) New Moses - Matthew 5:1-12
 - b.) Suffering Servant
 - 1.) Isaiah 53:1-12
 - 2.) Isaiah 42:1-9; Luke 4:16-21
 - 3.) Acts 8:30-34
 - c.) Savior and Messiah - John 20:31; Isaiah 9:5-6
 - d.) Emmanuel
 - 1.) Isaiah 7:14
 - 2.) Matthew 1:23

F. Faith Community

1. The Church helps us understand who we are, who God is, and what God expects of us
 - a.) The sacrament of our salvation
 - b.) The People of God
 - c.) Body of Christ
 - d.) Bride of Christ - Ephesians 5:25 -26
 - e.) Temple of the Holy Spirit
 - 1.) 2 Corinthians 6:16
 - 2.) 1 Corinthians 3:16-17
2. As members of the Church we are called to be a source of unity.

G. Scripture: Inspiration and Reflection

1. God revealed himself as the one true God whose love is everlasting
Genesis 17:1-7
2. Divine revelation is transmitted through Scripture and Traditions
3. Pope and Bishops, with guidance of Holy Spirit, interpret the Word

II Actions

A. Stewards of Creation

1. Appreciation for the wonder and beauty of God's creation
2. Protection and preservation of the environment
3. Respect for human life
4. The importance of work as a partnership with God in the ongoing work of creation
5. Obstacles to stewardship
 - a.) Secular culture often contradicts Christian ideas about the meaning of life
 - b.) We are called to struggle against selfishness and greed.

B. Commandments as Moral Pathways

1. Our relationship with God
 - a.) First commandment: calls us to have faith in God, to hope in Him, and to love Him fully
 - b.) Second commandment: calls us to reverence and respect for God and God's name
 - c.) Third commandment: calls us to remember and celebrate the wonder of the celebration of the Resurrection throughout the Church year
2. Our relationship with others
 - a.) Fourth commandment: calls family members to honor and respect one another; honor father and mother
 - b.) Fifth commandment: calls us to foster the physical, spiritual, emotional, and social well being of ourselves and others
 - c.) Sixth commandment: calls spouses to be faithful to one another, as God is faithful to us
 - d.) Seventh commandment: calls us to respect people and their possessions

- e.) Eighth commandment: call us to speak and live by the truth in our words and actions
- f.) Ninth commandment: calls us to modesty and purity of heart
- g.) Tenth commandment: calls us to practice poverty of spirit and generosity of heart

C. Issues of Peace and Justice.

1. The prophets remind us to live lives of justice:
 - a.) Jeremiah 7:5-7
 - b.) Micah 6:8
 - c.) Isaiah 58:6-8
2. Examine current social issues in light of Catholic Social Teaching
 - a.) Life and dignity of the human person
 - b.) Call to family, community and participation
 - c.) Rights and responsibilities of each person
 - d.) Option for the poor and vulnerable
 - e.) The dignity of work and rights of workers
 - f.) Solidarity with the human family
 - g.) Care for God's creation

III. Worship

A. Centrality of the Eucharist

1. Instituted by Jesus at the Last Supper
2. The memorial of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus made present to us in every celebration of the Eucharist.
3. The Eucharist is essential to and the source of our life as Christians

B. The Liturgy of the Hours

1. Continues the Eucharistic celebration; as a form of prayer.
2. Expresses the prayers and desires of the people of God.
3. Prayed throughout the day
4. Morning and Evening Prayer

IV. Prayer

A. Praying with the Scriptures

1. *Lectio Divina*: a reflective and repetitive reading of a passage of Scripture leading to prayerful meditation.

a.) Four parts to the prayer

- 1.) *Lectio* (reading)
- 2.) *Meditatio* (meditation)
- 3.) *Oratio* (prayer)
- 4.) *Comtemplatio* (contemplation)

2. The Psalms

- a.) Prayed by Jesus and the Jewish people
- b.) Expression of the thoughts and languages of God's people

B. Forms of Prayer

1. Personal prayer

- a.) Raising of the mind and heart to God
- b.) God seeks us out and in prayer we turn to God.
- c.) Types of personal prayer:
 - 1.) Memorized prayers
 - 2.) The Rosary

2. Communal prayer

- a.) Daily prayer in the classroom
- b.) Liturgy of the Hours
- c.) The Rosary

3. Meditative prayer

- a.) Using thoughts, imaginations, and emotions to focus ourselves toward God.

C. Contributions of Various Cultures

1. Identification and exploration of various cultural backgrounds of the class.

2. Explore stories, symbols, and rituals of Jesus' Jewish culture:

- a.) The day: sunset to sunset
- b.) The Sabbath
- c.) The Seven Set Feasts
 - 1.) Passover
 - 2.) Pentecost (Feast of Weeks)
 - 3.) Tabernacles
 - 4.) Rosh Hashanah

- 5.) Atonement (Yom Kippur)
 - 6.) Hanukkah (Feast of Lights)
 - 7.) Purim
3. Rites of the Catholic Church evolved throughout Church history based on the culture of a particular time and place.
- a.) Western
 - b.) Eastern
 - c.) Byzantine
 - d.) Alexandrian
 - e.) Antiochean

Textbook Recommendation:

First Choice:

We Believe

Sadlier

ISBN: 0-8215-5416-6

Strengths: Best aligned with the curriculum, plethora of Biblical references, good structure, well organized. Good resources. Great teacher support Teacher's manual has good cross index to curriculum.

Weaknesses: Flimsiness of textbook - paperback - wouldn't hold up against wear and tear.

Second Choice:

Faith First

RCL

ISBN: 0-7829-1127-7

Strengths: Online resources. Very visually appealing appropriate reading for sixth graders. Good scriptural references as tie-ins.

Weaknesses: Not strong enough to handle abuse. Teacher's manual does not have enough support.