

Religion Kindergarten

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 Kindergarten learners will recognize that they are members of God's family. As members of God's family, they are responsible for their own actions, learning the faith, and praying faithfully.

Content Criteria:

I. Beliefs

- The learner will identify that God is our Creator.
- The learner will identify that the Bible is a holy book about how God interacts with his people.
- The learner will understand that Baptism is a special celebration of membership in the Church.
- The learner will identify that he/she is a member of God's family.
- The learner will identify that Jesus, Mary and Joseph are the Holy Family.
- The learner will recognize that Jesus died for us.
- The learner will recognize that Jesus rose to give us life.
- The learner will identify that saints are special friends of God.
- The learner will name the three persons of the Holy Trinity.

- The learner will understand that the Holy Spirit is our helper.

II. Actions

- The learner will demonstrate care and concern for *God's* creation.
- The learner will demonstrate respect for the similarities and differences among self and others.
- The learner will acknowledge our call to serve and help others.
- The learner will demonstrate *God's* love for others through words and actions.
- The learner will distinguish between right and wrong choices.

III. Worship

- The learner will identify that the church is *God's* house.
- The learner will identify that we are part of *God's* family which comes to celebrate, sing, and pray at Mass.
- The learner will recognize the changes in the church's celebrations during the liturgical year.
- The learner will identify various cultural and ethnic traditions in prayer and worship that celebrate diversity within the Catholic Church.

IV. Prayer

- The learner will recognize that prayer is talking to *God*.
- The learner will use formal and informal prayer to talk with *God* individually and/or in a group.
- The learner will identify objects and/or symbols that are used in prayer.

Instructional Criteria:

- The learner will participate in liturgies when deemed appropriate.
- The learner will experience participation in a Mass.
- The learner will participate in prayer experiences daily.
- The learner will participate in various age-appropriate service projects.
- The learner will be able to work individually and as part of a group.

Scope:

I. Beliefs

- A. God is our Creator
 - 1. God created all things - Creation story (*Genesis 1*)
 - 2. God created all people
 - a.) We belong to our family
 - b.) We belong to the Church family
- B. The Bible is a holy book
 - 1. The Bible is God's Word
 - 2. Retell Bible stories
 - a.) Creation story (*Genesis 1*)
 - b.) Noah's Ark (*Genesis 6*)
 - c.) Christmas story (*Luke 2*)
 - d.) Story of the Magi (*Matthew 2:1-12*)
 - e.) Easter story (*Luke 24*)

- C. Baptism
 - 1. We become a member of God's family
 - 2. We become a member of the Catholic Church-
Baptismal rite
 - a.) Words of Baptism - "I baptize you..."
 - b.) Introduce symbols
 - 1) Candle
 - 2) Garment
 - 3) Water
 - 4) Oil (chrism)
- D. We are members of God's family
 - 1. God loves us individually
 - 2. We are made in God's image
- E. Holy Family
 - 1. Members of the Holy Family (Matthew 1:18)
 - a.) Jesus
 - b.) Mary
 - c.) Joseph
 - 2. Jesus' birth
 - a.) Annunciation (Luke 1:26-38)
 - b.) Visitation (Luke 1:39-45)
 - c.) Christmas story (Luke 2:1-20)
- F. Jesus died for us
 - 1. Jesus' sacrifice
 - a.) Jesus died for us on the cross
 - 2. Our Lenten sacrifices
- G. Jesus rose to give us life
 - 1. Easter (Luke 24:1-12)
 - 2. Heaven - live happily forever with God
- H. Saints are special friends of God in heaven
 - 1. Patron Saints
 - a.) One you may be named after
 - b.) You ask them to pray for and help you
 - 2. Mary is the greatest saint
 - a.) She is the Mother of Jesus
 - b.) She is the Mother of God

- I. Holy Trinity
 - 1. God the Father
 - 2. Jesus the Son
 - 3. Holy Spirit, our helper
- J. Holy Spirit
 - 1. Jesus gave us the Spirit
 - 2. The Spirit is with us now

II. Actions

- A. Demonstrate care and concern for God's creation
 - 1. We respect all of nature (plants/animals)
 - 2. We respect and help all people
- B. Demonstrate respect for the similarities and differences among self and others
 - 1. Similarities
 - a.) We're all God's children
 - b.) We need to accept ourselves for who we are
 - 2. Differences
 - a.) We care for all people of different cultures and races at every stage of life
 - b.) We are all created uniquely therefore we are all different
- C. Acknowledge our call to serve and help others
 - 1. Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37)
 - 2. Service projects
 - 3. Live as Jesus did
- D. Demonstrate God's love for others through words and actions
 - 1. Work with family and friends
 - 2. Use kind words
- E. Distinguish between right and wrong choices
 - 1. We have a conscience
 - 2. We learn to say I'm sorry
 - 3. We have feelings that our emotions show
 - 4. We forgive those who hurt us as God forgives us

III. Worship

- A. The church is God's home
 - 1. It is a place of worship
 - 2. Begin to show areas of the church
 - a.) Pews - where the congregation sits
 - b.) Altar-priest
 - c.) Ambo-God's word
- B. Identify that we are a part of God's family which comes to celebrate, sing, and pray at Mass
 - 1. Gestures at Mass
 - a.) Sign of the Cross
 - b.) Genuflect/kneel
 - c.) Fold hands to pray
 - 2. Participation at Mass
 - a.) Amen
 - b.) Alleluia
 - c.) Our Father
 - d.) Sign of Peace
- C. Recognize the changes in the Church's celebrations during the liturgical year.
 - 1. Ordinary time - growing time
 - 2. Lent - no alleluia, no holy water
 - 3. Easter - Easter candle or Paschal Candle
 - 4. Pentecost: The Spirit comes to guide us.
 - 5. Advent - Advent wreath
 - 6. Christmas - Nativity
- D. Identify various cultural and ethical traditions in prayer and worship that celebrate the diversity within the Catholic Church
 - 1. St. Nicholas Day - December 6
 - 2. Our Lady of Guadalupe - December 12
 - 3. St. Patrick's Day - March 17
 - 4. Parish Patron Saint Day

IV. Prayer

- A. Prayer is talking to God
 - 1. Informal prayer is spontaneous prayer
 - a.) You can talk to God at anytime and in anyplace
 - 2. Formal prayer consists of the traditional rote prayers of the Catholic faith
 - 3. Song, dance, and gestures are also forms of prayer
- B. Use formal and informal prayer to talk with God individually or as a group
 - 1. Informal prayer - spontaneous prayer
 - 2. Formal prayer
 - a.) Sign of Cross
 - b.) Hail Mary
 - c.) Our Father
 - d.) Glory Be
 - e.) Angel of God
 - f.) Grace before and after meals
 - 3. Types of prayer
 - a.) Petitions
 - b.) Praise
 - c.) Thanksgiving
 - d.) Contrition
- C. Identify objects and/or symbols that are used in prayer
 - 1. Rosary
 - 2. Crucifix
 - 3. Advent wreath/candles
 - 4. Bible
 - 5. Paschal candle
 - 6. Statues

Textbook Recommendation:

First Choice:

***We Believe* Sadlier ISBN: 0-8215-5500-6**

Strengths: Catholic Social Teaching tie-in
Five day lesson outlook
Covers saints
Has booklets
Many learning styles represented
Family Pages

Weaknesses: Thick book, much material

Second Choice:

***Faith First* RCL ISBN: 0-7829-0992-2**

Strengths: Good scripture tie-in (relates to Sunday scripture)
Useful website
Covers curriculum
Parent letters

Weaknesses: Not many extra "fun" activities