

Grade 6 Religion

February 27, 2011

The grade six religion program continues to educate students in Catholic doctrine and morality while teaching Scripture, prayer, and worship. Sixth grade students study the roots of our faith found in the Old Testament. God is presented as the one who creates out of love and who cares deeply about the world. The students learn about the promises made to Abraham, Moses, and the prophets. Through the study of Scripture, Jesus is seen as proclaiming a new covenant, the coming of the Kingdom of God. Principles of morality can be seen in the relationship between God and His peoples' faithfulness or unfaithfulness to His covenant. Prayer is part of every lesson. A deeper understanding of worship is presented in further study of the Sacraments and the Mass.

Unit 1: We Answer God's Call

Exploration of the Old Testament begins with the story of Abraham and Sarah. The themes of covenant and revelation are introduced.

Students will

- Discover how God reveals himself in everyday life
- Understand that Abraham and Sarah are models of faith in their response to God's revelation and that Abraham is the patriarch of the Christian, Jewish, and Islamic faiths
- Learn about Mary's role in the fulfillment of God's promises
- Identify ways to respond to God in faith
- Pray with the faith of Abraham for God's direction
- Realize the value of Christian sacrifice and identify ways to make sacrifices for the good of others
- Learn about Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son
- Discover how the Mass recalls Jesus' ultimate sacrifice
- Understand sacrifices as they relate to living our faith
- Recognize Sunday as a day to celebrate the Mass and pray for God's blessings
- Identify gestures that express promises or agreements
- Discover how God fulfilled promises to Jacob and Rebecca and what it means to have a covenant with God
- Learn about the covenant God made with Noah
- Identify commitments Catholics can make to their faith and to one another
- Pray for God's blessings in both word and gesture

- Identify the qualities of friendship, such as loyalty
- Learn about Joseph of the Old Testament and his devotion to and trust in God
- Learn about Joseph of the New Testament and his devotion to and trust in God
- Practice praying prayers of praise to God
- Pray in the words of Mary

Unit 2: God Saves and Delivers Us

A study of the Exodus offers insight into the Christian belief in deliverance through the Paschal Mystery

Students will

- See the people can be spiritually or materially enslaved
- Understand the role of Moses in rescuing the enslaved Israelites and the importance of the Exodus
- Realize that Jesus freed us from sin and death
- Appreciate songs that celebrate God's deliverance
- Praise God for the gift of freedom
- Learn how Jews commemorate the Passover
- Understand connections between the Passover and Jesus' death, Resurrection, and Ascension
- Comprehend the meaning of the story of the Feeding of the Five Thousand
- Suggest ways God's freedom may be reflected in our lives
- Identify the similarities of the blessings prayed at the Christian Eucharist and at the Jewish Passover Seder
- Recall knowledge of the Ten Commandments
- Learn that God gave Moses the Ten Commandments to help people live in love and goodness
- Identify how to live the Commandments in the spirit of Jesus
- Discover how St. Teresa of Avila showed love for God
- Use a prayer method of St. Teresa of Avila
- Recognize God's power and goodness in the signs and wonders around us
- Explain the Israelites conquest of the Promised Land
- Identify ways to be people of constant prayer
- See examples of god's blessings around us as sources for constant prayer
- Pray a Catholic morning prayer

Unit 3: God Invites Us into His Kingdom

The Old Testament history of the kingdom of Israel provides an understanding of teachings about the kingdom of God in the New Testament

Students will

- Learn that the Church is led by the pope and the bishops
- Read the story of Samuel and Saul, leading to the understanding that God promises us a share in His kingdom
- Describe the special mission entrusted to the Church as the beginning of God's kingdom
- Name ways to carry out the church's mission
- Pray to praise God for the gift of his kingdom on earth
- Become familiar with the concept of rituals
- Give examples of symbols from creation, human life, and the Old Testament that are sacramental signs
- Identify relationships between Catholic and Jewish customs of worship and between sacraments and sacramentals
- Pray using sacramentals
- Understand that humans have free will
- Learn about the mystery of evil and God's power to forgive through the biblical stories of David and of Adam and Eve
- Recognize that God helps us to make good moral decisions and that when we repent, like David, we are forgiven for our sins
- Discern whether a choice is morally right or wrong
- Pray with penitential prayer
- Express praise to God for the things in the world that remind us of God's goodness
- Learn about the Book of Psalms
- Identify ways that psalms are used in the liturgy and recognize the value of psalms as forms of prayer
- Interpret two psalms through writing and drawing
- Praise God through a song based on a psalm

Unit 4: God Reminds Us to Do His Will

Prophets played a vital role in the religious awareness of the people of Israel and later in the understanding of Jesus' message. Exile and reconciliation are important themes.

Students will:

- Acknowledge needing others to remind us to stay faithful
- Describe the Israelites' neglect for God's will, their downfall, and the prophets sent by God to turn them back to Him

- Understand ways that Jesus guides us back to God
- Identify ways to guide others back to God
- Pray litanies as a way to remain focused on God
- Explain given situations in which people feel lost
- Learn about prophecies during the Exile
- Describe how Jesus Christ is like a Good Shepherd
- Identify modern forms of exile and how to overcome them
- Pray a prayer of hope in times of loss
- Reflect on the experience of being reunited with a loved one
- Learn about the Israelites return to the life of faith
- Describe practices that can help us avoid the exile of sin
- Name practices that are involved in the theological and moral virtues and the precepts of the Church
- Pray the Act of Hope
- Identify people who take care of our needs and wants
- Understand that we, like Esther, can trust in God to help us meet our needs
- Give examples of the necessary elements of prayer
- Write faith-filled prayers
- Pray the Exultet, celebrating God's care for us

Unit 5: God Promises Us Everlasting Life

The Maccabean revolt, religious sects, and the hope for the messiah mark the period before the coming of Jesus Christ. Jesus' life and teachings are connected to God's promises in the Old Testament.

Students will:

- Identify Christian sources of happiness
- Identify how the Old Testament reveals the resurrection of the body and the coming of Jesus Christ
- Develop awareness of the help we can receive from saints
- Pray litanies, united in prayer with the saints
- Reflect upon preparing for special events
- Identify the Pharisees, the Saducees, and the Essenes
- Discover how Baptism, Confirmation, and Reconciliation help prepare us for God's kingdom
- Define the seven sacraments
- Meditate on a reading from the sacrament of Baptism
- Understand that everyone is created in god's image and is worthy of respect

- Learn that Jesus Christ fulfilled God's promise of a messiah
- Recognize the call to bear witness to our own and others' dignity through the spiritual works of mercy
- Give examples of practicing spiritual works of mercy
- Pray a saint's prayer for holiness
- Define the qualities of a loving caregiver and recognize such qualities in god
- Associate Jesus' ministry with Old Testament prophecy
- Explore Jesus' teachings about prayer and sincere faith
- Meditate while learning about the prayers Jesus said before he died
- Pray to the Holy spirit and meditate with fine art

Materials

- RCL Benziger: Blest Are We 6, textbook
- RCL Benziger: Blest Are We 6, resource booklet
- RCL Benziger: Blest Are We 6, test booklet
- RCL Benziger: Blest Are We 6, teacher's manual
- Blestarewe.com: student study quizzes, chapter and unit resources
- St. Mary's Press: HELP For Ministry With Young Teens by Carole Goodwin and Marilyn Kielbasa
- New American Bible and The Catechism of the Catholic Church
- Art materials

Instruction

Methods are employed to maintain interest in and enthusiasm for learning Catholic doctrine. Instruction is given in various ways including reading, discussion, testing, lecture, writing, individual and group research and presentation projects, art, prayer, worship, and computer technology.

Prepared by: Elizabeth E. Gill