

# Curriculum Tips for Becoming Disciples

Volume 4

Office of Religious Education, Diocese of Wilmington

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## Highlighting Holy Scripture In 2008-2009

***“Catechesis gives believers a knowledge of the content of God’s self-revelation which is found in Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition and helps them know and understand the mysteries of the faith we proclaim in the Creed.”  
(NDC p. 60)***



There are many outcomes concerning knowledge of the Bible at every grade level in the diocesan curriculum. Therefore, the three issues of the newsletter this year will focus on presenting creative ways that both catechists and parents can make Scripture come alive for children and youth in their spiritual care. During this special Year of St. Paul, ideas for teaching about St. Paul and his writings will also be included.

## The Year of St. Paul June, 2008– June 2009

Bishop Saltarelli wrote a Pastoral Letter in January of 2008 suggesting different ways to celebrate the year of St. Paul. These activities can be done both in the classroom and at home:

1. Lead children and youth in praying to the Holy Spirit about their own unique journeys of faith. Where is God calling them to grow and change?
2. Discuss what it means to live Galatians 2:20 “It is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me.” Study the lives of the saints to ponder what Christ looks like in the lives of holy people who follow Him. Have children and youth consider how they are being called to reflect the light of Christ to the world today.
3. Read and pray selections from the Acts of the Apostles and the letters of St. Paul.
4. Take St. Benedict’s challenge and teach youth to engage in Lectio Divina or prayerful reading of the Bible. The curriculum guide for Grades 7 and 8 describes this explicitly. (See Teaching to Pray, section g, in Gr. 7, section e in Gr. 8), but Lectio Divina can be adapted for use with younger children.
5. Seek St. Paul’s intercession to be a more vibrant missionary in the world. Every baptized person is called to “bear witness to their Catholic faith in society. A missionary spirit of evangelization is cultivated and nourished by the teaching and attitudes of Jesus Christ.” (Introduction to Missionary Initiation outcomes)
6. Look at depictions of St. Paul in art (see [www.jesuswalk.com](http://www.jesuswalk.com) and [Philippians/artwork-st-paul.htm](http://Philippians/artwork-st-paul.htm)). Also the film “Chariots of Fire” has a Pauline theme of running the race of faith.

From **Knowledge of the Faith Sections**  
**Teaching about Revelation**

Kindergarten

- e. Understand that God takes the initiative in revealing Himself to us in the Bible which is God's Holy Word.
- f. Understand that in the Bible we find the life of Jesus.
- g. Know that both the Bible and the Church tell us about God and how God wants us to live.

Grade One

- k. Understand that the Bible is the Word of God and has two parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament
- lm. Know that in the Gospels we find the life of Jesus.

Grade Two

- d. Understand that both the Old Testament and the New Testament tell how God came to his people so that they could know him, love him and serve him.

Grade Three

- d. Understand that in the Old Testament, God revealed himself to Abraham and Moses, and gave them laws and teachings instructing them how to live in a way pleasing to him; in the New Testament Jesus Christ, the Son of God, by his life shows us how God would have us live as his faithful people.
- e. Realize that Jesus tells us about God's kingdom through his words, actions, parables and miracles.

Grade Four/Five

- a. Understand that Revelation is God making Himself and his loving plan of salvation known to us; it is called Divine Revelation because it comes to us from God.
- b. Recognize that God's Revelation was gradual and took centuries to unfold beginning with the creation of the world and ending with the death of the last Apostle.
- f./e. Recognize that God continued to reveal himself through the prophets who made known the coming of a Messiah who would bring salvation for mankind.
- g./f. Recognize that the fullness of God's revelation came in the person of Jesus Christ, God's Son; all that God wished to reveal was made known in Christ.



Grade Six

*Grade Six is an intensive study of Old Testament Revelation. Sample objectives:*

- a. Know that the Scriptures are the divinely inspired Word of God.
- b. Understand that the teaching office of the Church, the Magisterium—that is the Pope and Bishops—has the task of authoritatively interpreting the Word of God contained in Scripture and transmitted by Sacred Tradition; the Magisterium is the servant of the Word of God.

Grade Seven

*Grade Seven focuses on revelation in the New Testament in great detail. Sample objectives:*

- h. Know that the Church espouses two pillars of faith: Scripture and Tradition
- j. Understand that Tradition comes from the Apostles and hands on what they received from Jesus' teaching and example and continues today in the teaching office of the Church.

Grade Eight

- a. Know that our knowledge of God and his plan of salvation for the human race is revealed to us by God himself.
- d. Know that the fullness of God's revelation is Jesus Christ and in sending his Son and the gift of the Holy Spirit, God's revelation is complete.



**\*Read through the whole strand of outcomes related to Revelation and see how the concepts build year by year.**

**\*Be sure to review foundational ideas from the previous years.**

## Twenty Ways to Tell a Bible Story

Introduce the story with a concrete object (such as a palm branch or a loaf of bread.)

Tell the story through a puppet or stuffed animal (especially stories like the Lost Sheep.)

Use cutout figures on a flannel board or overhead.

Tear or fold a piece of paper as you talk, making an object related to the story (such as an ark, a whale, or a cross.)

Accompany the story with simple line drawings done on the board or a transparency.



Involve the children in the story: Ask: What will happen next? What would you have done?

Invite the children to make sound effects (storm sounds, the crowd shouting etc.), gestures or to repeat key lines (“And God said it was good.”)

Have the children retell the story, tossing a ball to one another. Each child who catches the ball tells the next part of the story.

Have students write and present skits and encourage the audience to applaud the hero. Use simple costumes.

Echo pantomimes (Prodigal Son or the Lost Coin.)

Let older students hold interviews or press conferences with Bible figures (with the queen of Sheba, the blind man healed by Jesus, or Lazarus after he was raised from the dead.)



Have students produce a talk show (with Adam and Eve, Noah and family or Joseph and his coat of many colors.)

Help students plan a TV tribute (to Joshua or to the boy who handed over his loaves and fish or Joseph of Arimathea.)



Prepare commercials or radio spots (with prophetic message or a piece of “Good News.”)

Stage a courtroom scene (for Job or where witnesses claim Jesus is alive.)

Songs, art and dance that have biblical themes (such as the dance of the healed lepers or Mary’s thank-you to God.)

Write and perform cheers (at the Battle of Jericho or trials of St. Paul.)

Help students imaginatively visualize the stories through guided meditations.

## Sample Curriculum Outcomes from Grade 3



- Realize that common prayer (Matthew 18:19), which is inclusive of family prayer, prayer with friends, and prayer at church with the congregation, is a way of life for Christians
- Recognize that daily prayer, e.g., before and after meals, before bedtime, before an automobile trip, etc. should be part of our life as Catholics
- Identify that the Our Father, given by Jesus to his Apostles, has a special place in the prayers of the Church, especially the Eucharistic liturgy, and be able to locate this prayer in the New Testament, Luke 11:2-4, Matthew 6:9-13.
- Learn and memorize basic prayers, an essential support to the life of prayer; It is important to help learners savor their meaning.  
*(Age Appropriate list of prayers follows this outcome from Grade 3)*

## Family Page: Praying with Children

The gift of faith is nurtured by daily prayer. Children learn to pray by attending Mass and in religious education classes. But most of all, they learn to pray at home. For it is in the midst of daily life that prayer is most meaningful.

In prayer, we speak to God and we listen to God, in good times and in bad. Personal prayer is a conversation, talking with God about anything, whether it is a concern about a school test, a problem with friends, grief over the death of a grandparent, or gratitude for a game well played. Children can learn to hear God in the inner voice of conscience and in the wisdom and goodness of loved ones in their lives. Listening to God involves noticing what brings us peace and joy. And sometimes the challenge to grow.



The Church has a rich tradition of prayer without words as well. Children can learn to prayerfully delight in the beauty of the ocean, the power of a thunderstorm, the playfulness of a puppy, and the birth of a sibling. Youth can wonder at the Mystery of God as they learn about the immensity and complexity of the universe.



When His disciples asked Jesus how to pray, he gave them the **Our Father, found in Luke 11:2-4 and Matthew 6:9-13**. The Lord's Prayer is full of homey language. It is all about a caring Father, whom we trust to give us what we most need each day. It is about forgiving one another and asking for forgiveness. And it is asking God to keep us safe in the day ahead. Have your child follow this memorized traditional prayer with spontaneous words, expressing praise and gratitude for specific blessings, petitions for personal needs, and intercessions for people, known and unknown, friends and enemies alike. The child can then ask for both forgiveness and help in becoming a more loving follower of Jesus.