

# Curriculum Tips for Becoming Disciples

Volume 8

Office of Religious Education, Diocese of Wilmington

January, 2010

## A New Decade To Echo the Word 2010

*“Catechesis gives believers a knowledge of the content of God’s self-revelation which is found in Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition.”*

Key Concept—Knowledge of the Faith

At every grade level, there are certain events from the Bible that children and youth are invited to know and understand. They are also expected to be familiar with certain stories that Jesus told, miracles he performed and things that he said. Each year, the previous years’ stories should be revisited at deepening levels. See your Curriculum Guide for the location of these stories in the Bible.

K—Creation; Noah; Christmas; Jesus Lost in the Temple; The Last Supper; The Death of Jesus; The Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus; The Good Samaritan; The Lost Sheep; The Wedding Feast at Cana; The Raising of Jairus’ Daughter; The Blessing of the Children; “Love One Another;” “I Am the Good Shepherd.”

### ***Remember!!***

**The present and past issues of “Curriculum Tips” Newsletter as well as the most accurate version of Becoming Disciples curriculum are available on the Diocesan website: [cdow.org](http://cdow.org). Religious Education Elementary Curriculum**

Gr. 1—Abraham and Sarah; Joseph and His Brothers; King David; The Annunciation; The Golden Rule; “Follow Me;” The Two Great Commandments; The Treasure in a Field; Jesus Feeds the 5,000; Healing of the Blind Men

Gr. 2—The Ten Commandments

Gr. 3—Moses; Peter; The Coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost



Gr. 4—Humanity’s Fall; God’s Covenants; The Beatitudes

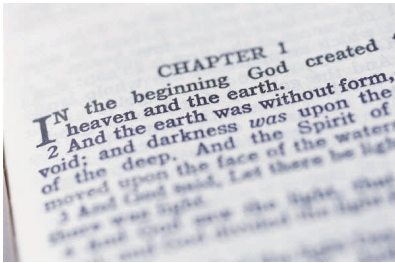
Gr. 5—Scriptural references to the sacraments

Gr. 6—The Exodus and the Promised Land in the Time of the Judges; Israel’s Kings and Prophets

Gr. 7—The Formation of Scripture; Jesus as Prefigured in the Hebrew Scriptures; The Wisdom Literature; The Kingdom Parables; The Temptations of Jesus; “Doing the Will of the Father;” “Serving Others;” “Taking Up One’s Cross;” Giving Up One’s Possessions;” The Acts of the Apostles; The Epistles; The Book of Revelation

Gr. 8—Names for Jesus; Cures of the Sick; Calming a Storm; The Sower; The Unforgiving Servants; The Rich Man and Lazarus; The Resurrection Appearances

# Using Multiple Intelligences to Teach Scripture



## Linguistic

- \*Have students look up the meaning of names in the Bible
- \*Generate a crossword puzzle or word scramble or play hang-man with key words
- \*Read stories both from the Bible and from age-appropriate retellings
- \*Have children retell the stories. Record them. Incorporate puppetry
- \*Memorize and recite important verses
- \*Keep personal journals about what the Scripture stories mean
- \*Invite children to make sound effects when listening to stories
- \*Interview or do talk shows with characters from the Bible
- \*Do echo pantomimes

## Musical

- \*Play/sing songs that refer to Scriptural themes or stories
- \*Play background music appropriate to the mood of Scripture stories

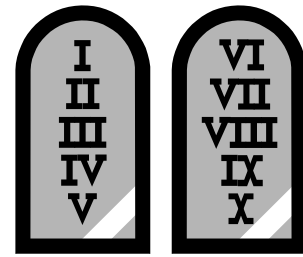


## Logical-Mathematical

- \*Discuss the religious significance of certain numbers such as 3, 7, 12, 40
- \*Count the number of books in the bible, letters of St. Paul, people at the foot of the cross, etc.
- \*Tie in Scripture stories to the liturgical year. Show students the whole liturgical cycle and its stories
- \*Do time lines
- \*Locate stories by chapter and verse

## Spatial

- \*Use imagination and visualization to jump into biblical stories, using guided meditations
- \*Use maps and models of architecture or geography
- \*Create posters to summarize what is learned
- \*Create original designs and symbols on the computer



## Bodily-Kinesthetic

- \*Act out biblical stories and events
- \*Do crafts related to stories
- \*Come up with gestures to accompany a bible story

## Interpersonal

- \*Discuss the feelings of the story characters and relate them to students' experiences
- \*Let groups come up with ways to teach younger students about a story
- \*Let groups come up with role plays that apply the lessons of the Scripture

## Intrapersonal

- \*Give quiet time for prayer with the Scripture
- \*In journals, write letters to Jesus, Peter, Moses etc. or prayers based on Scripture
- \*Allow autobiographical connections to the stories to be made (i.e. being healed)
- \*Assessing one's own adherence to Jesus' teachings

## Naturalistic

- \*Go outdoors to experience the goodness of creation, especially praying the psalms that praise God's handiwork

# Families Fostering Scripture at Home



## 1. Prepare for the Sunday Readings

Use short portions from the coming Sunday's readings for prayer during the week. A psalm response can be used at meals or as part of morning prayer. Imagining Jesus in a Gospel story can be done before bed.

## 2. Use Scripture Stories as Bedtime Reading

Find age-appropriate children's bibles or storybooks to familiarize children with Bible stories.

## 3. Honor the Bible Visibly in the Home

Place the Bible in a position of honor. Put symbols of the liturgical season and a candle nearby.

## 4. Consider Purchasing a Family Bible

Family Bibles have space to write in important religious moments in a family's life, such as sacraments. It links a family's history to the history of the People of God, told in the Bible.

## 5. Give Each Child His or Her Own Bible

## 6. Send Your Child to Vacation Bible School

As a student or a helper, VBS is fun, fun, fun!

# Living Lent At Home

Lent is a time to step up the giving of ourselves to others. Here are some ideas:

- On Ash Wednesday, put each family member's name in a hat. The name drawn becomes one's **secret friend** for the Lenten season. Secretly, one looks for ways to help them with their work, encourage them with little notes, listen to them, give them small gifts, and especially to pray for that person. During Holy Week, make your secret friend a special Easter card.
- Have a **simple meal** one day a week during Lent and use the money that is saved to donate to some charity the family selects.
- **Plan a creative fast**, not just from meat on Fridays, but from harmful things such as too much TV watching. Instead, play a family game. Each family member can also fast from one bad verbal habit, such as tattling, yelling, complaining, or gossiping.
- **Give yourself as a family.** Bake cookies for an elderly neighbor. Find out who needs a ride to church and bring them with you. Invite someone who lives alone to dinner. Prepare a meal for someone who is sick or a shut-in. Offer to babysit for neighborhood children so their parents can have a night out. Ask your pastor if there are any jobs you can do as a family around the parish. Save all your change to donate to the Poor Box.
- Attend the **Ash Wed.** service, **Stations of the Cross** or a communal celebration of the Sacrament of **Reconciliation** at your parish.



# Celebrating the Good Sisters



## Did You Know?

### Religious Women in the Diocese of Wilmington

- Are involved in educating students from Pre-K through college, including special needs children such as the physically and mentally challenged and those who are in foster care and without parents. They are teachers, principals, aides, and directors of religious education.
- Provide nursing care in hospitals, home nursing, nursing homes and hospice care.
- Organize and run food banks, soup kitchens, day care for both adults and children, clothing supply, job training, shelters for the homeless, legal aid and outreach for immigrants, and ministry to prisoners.
- Work in parishes as secretaries, bookkeepers, housekeeping and in dietary services, as companions and sitters to the elderly, as parish visitors to the sick and homebound, as liturgical and spiritual ministers, and in canon law.

## January 10-16 National Vocation Awareness Week

Invite a sister to come in and speak to your class.

Take a field trip to visit a sister doing ministry.

Encourage girls and young women to consider whether such a lifestyle might be God's calling to them.

Give God thanks for these women's contribution to the Church and the world.

Thank a sister by letter or in person for all they do.

Pray for the work of the sisters.

Read stories of women religious who have served the Church.

Ask sisters from different congregations to tell the stories of their founders and their varying charisms or callings (i.e. Franciscans, Sisters of St. Joseph)