

**Fourth Grade  
Parish Faith Formation Religion Lessons**

LESSON 1		Does Jesus know me and want to be my friend? (Encountering Christ)
		<i>This lesson aims at increasing the children's awareness of the personal love of God and His care and providence over their lives. In this lesson, it is important to create an environment where the child can encounter Christ directly. Children should be encouraged to speak openly and honestly through their own prayers in order to build and grow their relationship with Christ. Inviting children to compose original prayers and write them in a prayer journal is a wonderful way to reinforce this lesson.</i>
3-5.THEO.ENC.5		Recognize that God knows and loves him/her personally and has a plan for each of their lives (Ps 139, Isa 43:1-4, Jer 1:5).
3-5.THEO.ENC.1		Encounter the Lord Jesus Christ through experiential activities such as guided meditations using Sacred Scripture and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (Ps 32:8, John 6:35, John 14:26, Heb 4:12).
		Recognize that Jesus wants to be in a relationship with him/her (John 15:9, John 15:16, 1 John 4:19).
4.THEO.PRA.2		Compare and contrast the different types of prayer (blessing, adoration, petition, intercession, thanksgiving and praise (CCC 2626-2643).
4.THEO.PRA.4		Maintain a plan of personal daily prayer. Compose original prayers.

LESSON 2		Why is sin harmful and why did Jesus die on the cross?
		<i>In catechetical texts, sin is generally discussed in the context of preparing for the sacrament of Reconciliation. However, this lesson helps the children to better understand the consequences of sin and the reason why they need a Savior. The "bad news" of sin prepares them to appreciate the "good news" of Jesus. Children should be led to understand that Jesus' sacrifice on the cross atones for their personal sins.</i>
4.THEO.MOR.1		Recognize that sin separates them from God and one another (CCC 1487, Isa 59:2, Rom 6:23).
4.THEO.MOR.1		Identify the broken relationships caused by Original Sin: the human person and God; human beings and nature; between human persons; within one's self.
4.THEO.TOB.4		Recognize that suffering is the result of the Fall and that suffering can make it difficult for us to see the gifts of God.
		Understand that without Jesus, the consequence of sin is eternal separation from God (Rom 6:23).
		Understand and articulate the "good news" that Jesus died on the cross for their sins so that they can go to heaven (CCC 619 - 623, Matt 1:21, Rom 5:8, 1 John 2:2, John 14:6).

LESSON 3		What is conversion and what does it take to be a disciple of Jesus?
		<p><i>The personal love and sacrifice of Jesus explored in lessons 1 and 2 fills the children with wonder and awe and opens their hearts to conversion. The outcomes in this lesson explore the notion of conversion and discipleship and invites the child to make a choice to live as a disciple of Christ. It is important to spend time in discussion exploring concrete examples of behaviors, thoughts, and attitudes that reflect discipleship in the day-to-day life of a 4th grader.</i></p>
		<p>Identify conversion as turning away from sin and turning toward God (CCC 545, 1036; Mark 1:14-15, Acts 3:19-20).</p>
3-5.THEO.ENC.8		<p>Be invited to make a choice to invite Jesus into their lives (Mark 8:34-37, John 10:27-28).</p>
		<p>Discuss what discipleship looks like for a 4th grade student (Matt 5:13-14, Luke 9:23-25, John 8:31-32).</p>
3-5.THEO.ENC.2		<p>Participation in recited prayers learned in previous grades, continuing to learn new recited prayers appropriate to age, and becoming introduced to prayers that will be recited in later grades.</p>

LESSON 4		How do I share the good news of Jesus with others?
		<i>This lesson helps the children understand that it is normative for Catholic Christians to share their faith with others and tell people about their experience of Jesus. Children should be encouraged to role play sharing the good news and share their personal experience of Christ.</i>
		Recognize that God wants them to share the “good news” with others (Matt 28:19-20)
		Recognize that God’s gift of the Holy Spirit in Baptism helps them to live as disciples (John 14:16-18, Acts 2:38, 1 Cor 12).
3-5.THEO.ENC.10		Explain to a peer his/her personal experience of Jesus.

LESSON 5		How can I continue to encounter Jesus in the Mass?
		<p><i>These outcomes continue to build on the previous lesson. The Mass is explored in the context of nourishing a life of discipleship with Jesus. Children should not only understand the parts of the Mass, but also be led to explore the relevance for their lives. The children should be taught how to enter into the Mass and how the Eucharist keeps them connected to Christ. In addition, children should be taught to approach Mass with expectation knowing that God wants to give them something in each liturgy (a word for their lives, grace for a difficult situation, etc.) In this context, weekly Mass attendance can be approached as not wanting to miss what God wants to give us.</i></p>
4.THEO.LIT.1		Recognize sacraments as encounters with Jesus that help maintain their friendship with Him (John 14:16-18).
3-5.THEO.ENC.9		Understand the way in which Christ can be personally encountered in the liturgy (CCC 1084-1090).
		Explain the parts of the Mass as the Introductory Rite, the Liturgy of the Word and Liturgy of the Eucharist (CCC 1348-1372).
		Explain the meaning of the major prayers of the liturgy (Penitential Rite, Confiteor, Gloria, Sanctus, Lamb of God, Our Father, and the responses).

LESSON 6		What is special about the gestures we do and the items that are used at Mass?
		<i>This lesson builds upon the previous lesson. Helping children understand the liturgical seasons, colors, objects, and vestments will help them experience the liturgy more fully. In addition, children should see the prayers of the liturgy and the gestures and postures at Mass as an external sign of what is in their hearts. This lesson also gives the children the opportunity to learn more about some cultural customs associated with the saints, especially since these celebrations often take place outside of Sunday Mass.</i>
4.THEO.LIT.2		Demonstrate appropriate customs, gestures, and postures in various liturgical situations (e.g. when to genuflect, bowing, kneeling, processions) and understand why we do them.
		Identify the vestments and sacred objects used in the Mass.
4.THEO.LIT.3		Explain the meaning of the colors of the liturgical seasons and how these colors are used in liturgy and special celebrations. Identify the Holy Days of Obligation and explain the purpose for each celebration.
		Experience and identify the cultural customs associated with saints (i.e. throat blessing on St. Blaise's day, blessing of animals on Feast of St. Francis of Assisi).

LESSON 7		How does God speak to us through the Bible? In what way does God bring His people into a relationship with Himself?
		<p><i>These outcomes help the child not only better understand the parts of the Bible, but also understand the importance of the Sacred Scriptures in their relationship with Christ. Children should be encouraged to read and pray with the Bible on a daily basis. The Bible narratives show that God enters into history and wants to be known by His people. Children should be led to understand that by virtue of their Baptism, they too are in a covenant with God and the story of salvation history continues in and through them. The accounts of God's interaction with His people aren't just stories of the past but speak into the present to those who read and pray with the Scriptures in every age. The covenants should be reviewed at a high level.</i></p>
3-5.THEO.ENC.4		Understand that God speaks to us through the Bible stories and that it is used for personal prayer.
4.THEO.SCR.1		Find Scripture passages and reference them by citing book, chapter and verse.
4.THEO.SCR.2		Discuss the idea of covenant using the Bible narratives about Adam (Gen 1:26-2:3; 2:15-17), Noah (Gen 9:8-17), Abraham (Gen 17:1-14), Moses (Exod 19:3-6), David (2 Sam 7:8-19), and Jesus (Matt 26:28).
4.THEO.TOB.2		Interpret the significance of Genesis 2:18 "It is not good for man to be alone; I will make a helper fit for him."
4.THEO.TOB.1		Define original unity as the unique relation between male and female.
4.THEO.HIS.1		Narrate the story of Moses in Exodus, as it unfolds the history of our covenant relationship with God.
4.THEO.TOB.3		Compare Adam's joy at the creation of Eve to his response to the creation of the animals.

LESSON 8		How does the Bible tell us about the Person of Jesus Christ?
		<i>These outcomes build on the previous lesson. Children should come to understand that the Gospels are the centerpiece of Sacred Scripture as they are the primary accounts of the life, passion, death, and resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ. When exploring the Gospels in particular, the children should be invited to pray and reflect on the Person of Jesus, His love for them, and the powerful things He can do in their lives.</i>
4.THEO.SCR.3		Name the four evangelists and identify them as writers of the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John).
		Define the Gospels as narratives of the life of Jesus.
		Cite the Gospels of Matthew and Luke as containing the infancy narratives (Matt 1:18-25; Luke 2:1-20).

LESSON 9		How did the Church begin and what role did the Holy Spirit have in the growth of the Church?
		<i>These outcomes help the children learn that Jesus' work on earth continues through the power of the Holy Spirit in and through the Church. The book of Acts of the Apostles recounts the first 30 years of the Church, and children should be guided to see what the first disciples did to make the Church grow. These first disciples serve as a model for us. In addition, children are introduced to saints who played a key role in the growth of religious life over the course of history. They too serve as models for a life of discipleship.</i>
4.THEO.HIS.2		Discuss the role of the Holy Spirit in the birth and growth of the Church (CCC 688).
4.THEO.HIS.3		Outline the growth of the early Church beginning with the Acts of the Apostles (the role of Sts. Peter & Paul and the apostles) (Acts 2-5; 8-10; 13, 15).
4.THEO.HIS.4		Explain the relationship of the parish to the diocese (CCC 2179).
4.THEO.HIS.5		Identify saints who lived the beatitudes and assisted in the growth of religious life in the church (i.e. St. Anthony the Hermit, St. Benedict & St. Scholastica; St. Francis of Assisi & St. Clare, St. Catherine of Siena, St. Dominic, St. Ignatius Loyola, St. Maximillian Kolbe, St. Teresa of Calcutta).

LESSON 10		What do we believe as Catholic Christians?
		<i>As disciples, we are called to live what we believe. These outcomes will help the children understand the Church's beliefs by studying the creeds and major doctrines of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Children should understand that these creeds and doctrines were written to clarify peoples' misunderstandings about the Church. Misunderstandings continue today and that is why it is important to know what we believe and why.</i>
		Define creed as a statement of belief (CCC 187).
		Understand that the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed are a list of the basic truths of the Catholic Church (CCC following 184: The Credo, 185-1065).
		Explain basic beliefs of Catholics using the Apostles' Creed and Nicene Creed (CCC following 184: The Credo, 185-1065).
4.THEO.TOB.5		State that at the Resurrection we will experience the most perfect communion with God and with others.
4.THEO.CRE.1		Identify and discuss major doctrines and dogmas related to the Blessed Virgin Mary (Immaculate Conception, Annunciation and Assumption) (CCC 966).
3-5.THEO.ENC.6		Participation in Marian devotions: The Rosary; Our Lady of Lourdes, Fatima, Guadalupe, Częstochowa, Consecration, Miraculous Medal, Scapulars. etc.

LESSON 11		How does God want me to live as a disciple of Christ?
		<i>These outcomes help children learn that how we live our lives should reflect our identity as sons and daughters of God. Our motivation for living a virtuous life primarily comes from our friendship with Christ and our desire to please Him, rather than fear of punishment. However, there is a rightful place in the life of a disciple to obey God out of fear of offending Him and a healthy fear of the consequences of sin. This lesson and the ones that follow put the moral life in its proper perspective. It also prepares the children for a deeper study of the Ten Commandments.</i>
3-5.THEO.WIT.1		Be a disciple of Christ as a steward of vocation, one who responds generously to the call of God (CCC 1, 358, 1700, 825, 898, 873, 931).
4.THEO.COM.1		Explain how Jesus' command to "love one another" applies to their own lives and school situations (Jn 13:34).
4.THEO.COM.4		Examine the importance of rules and order in family life, school situations, the Church, and the wider community.
		Discuss how an encounter with the Lord Jesus Christ inspires them to want to keep the Ten Commandments and live a virtuous life.
4.THEO.COM.2		Identify the Church as the Body of Christ and describe ways the behavior of each person affects the whole membership (1Cor 12:12-26; CCC 791).
3-5.THEO.WIT.2		Demonstrate obedience to rules, regulations, and legitimate authority.
3-5.THEO.WIT.2		Demonstrate reverence for God, His creation, and all people.
4.THEO.DIG.2		Discuss guidelines for choosing movies, TV programs, music, books, magazines, video games, etc, that are supportive of human dignity (Exod 20:17; Mt 5:8; CCC 2525).

LESSON 12		What are traits of people who live a holy life and how does God help us live that way?
		<i>These outcomes build upon the previous lesson to define what a virtue is and to explore the theological and cardinal virtues and the effect non-virtuous living has on the community. Children should be invited to discuss real-life situations and the effect that virtuous and non-virtuous behavior has on their friends and family. In addition, children should be reminded that God gives them the grace and strength to live a virtuous life.</i>
4.THEO.DIG.1		Define virtue as a disposition to do good (CCC 1833).
		Define the theological virtues (faith, hope, and charity (CCC 1812-1829).
		Define the cardinal virtues (prudence, fortitude, justice, and temperance (CCC 1805-1809).
3-5.THEO.ENC.7		Reading about the lives of saints and learning to call upon them for their intercession.

LESSON 13		What do the Beatitudes teach us about how to live?
		<i>These outcomes provide the opportunity to explore the Beatitudes in depth. Children should be invited to break open the Scriptures on the Beatitudes as well as assess the values of our culture to explore the way in which our society embraces or does not embrace the Beatitudes.</i>
4.THEO.MOR.3		Discuss how the Beatitudes are guidelines for a moral life (Matt 5-7; CCC 1965-1972, 1723 1724).
		Read the scripture passages containing the Beatitudes (Matt 5:1-12; Luke 6:20-23).
3-5.THEO.WIT.5		Compare and contrast the Beatitudes and the values of modern-day society.

LESSON 14		What are the types of sin and how does the devil try to turn us away from God?
		<i>Although lesson 2 explores the consequences of sin, these outcomes revisit sin in more depth. Fictitious scenarios can be used to help children assess the conditions for serious sin.</i>
		Understand that the devil is the enemy of God and the enemy of man. He tries to turn us away from God (CCC 381-395; 2850-2854, Rev 12, 1 John 3:8).
4.THEO.MOR.4		Define mortal sin and venial sin (CCC 1854-1864).
		List and explain the conditions that need to be present for a sin to be serious/mortal (CCC 1857-1860).

LESSON 15		How does God equip me to make good decisions and what are some things I can do to ensure that I am making good decisions?
		<i>These outcomes help children understand that a disciple of Christ needs a well-formed conscience in order to make good life decisions. Children can be reminded of the importance of regular participation in the sacrament of Reconciliation when they have behaved in a way that is contrary to their conscience.</i>
4.THEO.MOR.2		Define and explain intellect and free will (CCC 1703-1706).
		Define conscience (CCC Glossary: Conscience).
		Discuss the formation of conscience with guidance from Sacred Scripture and the teachings of the Church.
3-5.THEO.ENC.3		Develop the practice of examination of conscience (CCC Glossary: Examination of Conscience). Personal examination of conscience based on the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes, as inspiration to live a virtuous life.

4.THEO.SAC.2		Discuss the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist as an important part of conversion and growth in discipleship (CCC 1422-1423, 1427, 1429).
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<b>LESSON 16</b>		<b>How do the Ten Commandments help guide my choices? What are the implications of commandments I, II, and III?</b>
		<i>After laying the foundation for the context and purpose of moral behavior, these outcomes give children the opportunity to study the Ten Commandments in depth. Catechists are invited to explore the Ten Commandments in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC 2084 and following) to obtain more background on the implication of each commandment for our behavior. Discussion on each commandment can then be adapted to the child's developmental level. This lesson should focus on commandments I through III.</i>
		Explain the deeper meaning of each of the Ten Commandments] and outcome.
		Discuss disobedience to the Ten Commandments as sinful and harmful to our relationship with God] focusing on commandments I through III.

<b>LESSON 17</b>		<b>How do the Ten Commandments help guide my choices? What are the implications of commandments IV and V?</b>
		<i>This lesson should focus on commandments IV and V. Because the fifth commandment calls for respect for the dignity of the human person, scandal takes on a particular gravity in light of this commandment. For this reason, prejudice, discrimination, and racism are addressed in this lesson.</i>
4.THEO.COM.3		Define prejudice, discrimination, and racism and discuss their effects on community.
		Discuss disobedience to the Ten Commandments as sinful and harmful to our relationship with God] focusing on commandments IV and V.

<b>LESSON 18</b>		<b>How do the Ten Commandments help guide my choices? What are the implications of commandments VI, VII, and VIII?</b>
		<i>This lesson should focus on commandments VI through VIII.</i>
		Discuss disobedience to the Ten Commandments as sinful and harmful to our relationship with God focusing on commandments IV and V.

<b>LESSON 19</b>		<b>How do the Ten Commandments help guide my choices? What are the implications of commandments IX and X?</b>
		<i>This lesson should focus on commandments IX and X. After studying all the commandments, children are asked to memorize them</i>
		Memorize and recite the Ten Commandments in order (CCC following 2051, The Ten Commandments).
		Explain the deeper meaning of each of the Ten Commandments and discuss disobedience to the Ten Commandments as sinful and harmful to our relationship with God focusing on commandments IX and X.

LESSON 20		What are the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy and why do disciples naturally want to do them?
		<i>As disciples, we are called to demonstrate our love of God and love of neighbor through works of mercy. These outcomes explore the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy in depth. Children are encouraged to participate in works of mercy with their parish and/or families and be reminded that these are things they should do throughout their lives out of love for Christ.</i>
4.THEO.MOR.5		Recognize that the ways we serve reflect our love of God and love of neighbor.
4.THEO.MOR.5		Read Scripture passages containing the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy (Matt 25:31-46; CCC 2447).
4.THEO.MOR.5		Memorize and recite the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy (CCC 2447).
3-5.THEO.WIT.3		Demonstrate ways to apply the spiritual and corporal works of mercy (CCC 2447; CCC Glossary: Works of Mercy).
		Participate in school, church, and community service projects.

