

**First Grade  
Parish Faith Formation Religion Lessons**

<b>LESSON 1</b>		<b>Does Jesus know me and want to be my friend?</b>
		<p><i>This lesson increases 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. Meditation on Sacred Scripture will provide an opportunity for Jesus to speak into their hearts and prayer will help them stay connected to Him.</i></p>
K-2.THEO.ENC.4		Recognize that God knows and loves him/her personally (Ps 139, Isa 43:1-4, Jer 1:5)
K-2.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)
K-2.THEO.ENC.5		Recognize that Jesus wants to be in a relationship with him/her (John 15:9, John 15:16, 1 John 4:19)
1.THEO.SCR.4		Retell Bible narratives about Jesus and the little children (Matt 19:13-15; Mark 10:13-16)

<b>LESSON 2</b>		<b>Why did Jesus die on the cross? (Understanding Sin and the Good News)</b>
		<p><i>In catechetical texts, sin is generally discussed in the context of preparing for the sacrament of Reconciliation. However, this lesson helps 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 kerygma or "good</i></p>

		<i>news" of Jesus. Children should be led to understand that Jesus' sacrifice on the cross atones for their personal sins.</i>
1.THEO.CRE.1		Know that God wants us to be happy with Him forever in heaven.
		Recognize that sin separates them from God and one another (CCC 1487, Isa 59:2, Rom 6:23).
		Define sin as saying "no" to God's law in thought, word, deed, or omission.
		Recognize that sin separates us from God (CCC 1487, Isa 59:2, Rom 6:23).
		Recognize that Jesus died for their sins so they could go to heaven.

<b>LESSON 3</b>		<b>How do people come to know about Jesus? (Sharing the Good News)</b>
		<i>This lesson helps children understand that it is God's will that the Good News of Jesus be shared with others. By growing in prayer and virtue, we are given strength to share our faith with others. Children can practice sharing the Good News with each other and then be challenged to share the Good News with a friend or family member.</i>
K-2.THEO.ENC.8		Recognize that God wants each one of them to tell people about Jesus (Matt 28:19-20).
K-2.THEO.ENC.5		Recognize that through daily prayer and growing in virtue they can be very close to Jesus (Phil 4:4-9).

LESSON 4		Who was Jesus' mother and how did God choose her? (Mary/Annunciation)
		<i>Now that children have encountered Christ, they can get to know more about Him and His mother. Children will learn who Jesus is and where He came from. Because Mary was chosen by God to be Jesus' mother, she is honored in a special way.</i>
1.THEO.HIS.1		Discuss Mary as chosen by God (CCC 721-723)
1.THEO.SCR.3		Retell Bible narratives about Annunciation (Luke 1:26-38)
K.THEO.CRE.2		Identify Jesus as the Son of God (Matt 3:17, CCC 240, CCC 2780)

LESSON 5		How do we honor Mary in the Church? (Hail Mary Prayer and Rosary)
		<i>This lesson builds on the previous lesson to continue to help children learn about how the Church honors Mary and how she cares and prays for each of us.</i>
1.THEO.PRA.4		Recite traditional prayers independently; Hail Mary.
		Identify the rosary as a public or private prayer.

LESSON 6		What happened when Jesus was born? (Christmas Story/Guardian Angel Prayer)
		<i>This lesson builds on the previous two lessons to help children learn how Jesus came into the world. The Guardian Angel Prayer is taught in this lesson as angels figure prominently in the Annunciation and birth stories. Children can be reminded that angels are a part of their lives as well</i>

		Retell Bible narratives about Birth of Jesus (Matt 1:18-25; Luke 2:1-20).
1.THEO.HIS.3		Recognize the Holy Land as the place where Jesus lived, worked, died and rose from the dead.
		Discuss Joseph as the husband of Mary.
		Recite traditional prayers independently, Guardian Angel Prayer.

<b>LESSON 7</b>		<b>Why did God send Jesus into the world and what happened when He died and rose?</b>
		<i>This lesson helps children to know why God sent Jesus into the world. Jesus gave His whole life to save us; He takes the punishment for our sins. Catechists have an opportunity to revisit the kerygma that was proclaimed in lesson 2.</i>
		Retell Bible narratives about Death of Jesus (Matt 27:45-56 ; Mark 15:33-41, Luke 23:44-49; John 19:23-30).
		Retell Bible narratives about Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus and Pentecost (Matt 28:1-20; Mark 16:1-20; Luke 24:1-53; John 20:1-31; Acts 1:1-12; Acts 2:1-13).

LESSON 8		How do I grow closer to Jesus? (Prayer)
		<i>After encountering Christ and learning more about Him in Sacred Scripture, the next two lessons give children the tools to grow in friendship with Christ. Although prayer is mentioned in lesson 3, it is explored here in more depth.</i>
1.THEO.PRA.1		Define prayer as talking to and listening to God.
		Share reasons why people pray (CCC 2743-2744).
1.THEO.PRA.4		Recite traditional prayers independently, Sign of the Cross & Mealtime prayers.
1.THEO.PRA.4		Identify appropriate times for prayer (morning, before bed, mealtime, etc.).

LESSON 9		What are other ways God speaks to me? (Scripture/Spontaneous prayer)
		<i>This lesson builds on the previous lesson to teach the children how to pray with the Bible and how to pray spontaneously from the heart. Catechists are encouraged to remind the children that Jesus is real, alive and hears their prayers. They can talk to Him like talking to their best friend.</i>
1.THEO.SCR.2		Tell how Bible stories help us to see God at work in our lives
		Listen to God in meditation (CCC 2705 - 2708)

		Demonstrate spontaneous prayer
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LESSON 10		Who is the God learned about and encountered in the Bible? (Trinity/Our Father)
		<i>After children encounter Christ and learn how to nurture their relationship with Him, they are prepared to learn about some of the doctrines of the Church. This lesson explores the Holy Trinity, with a particular focus on the Father.</i>
1.THEO.CRE.2		Identify the three persons of the Holy Trinity as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (CCC 261).
1.THEO.SCR.3		Identify the three persons of the Holy Trinity as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (CCC 261).
1.THEO.PRA.4		Recite traditional prayers independently, Our Father.

LESSON 11		Who is the Holy Spirit? (Glory Be)
		<i>This lesson continues the theme from the previous lesson and introduces children to the Person of the Holy Spirit and explores the role of the Spirit in our friendship with Christ. Since children are now familiar with all three Persons of the Trinity, it is an appropriate time to teach the Glory Be.</i>
1.THEO.CRE.2		Identify the Holy Spirit as the third person of the Trinity (John 15:26-27, CCC 243).
		Define grace as a special gift of God's presence and help (CCC 1996-2005).
1.THEO.PRA.4		Recite traditional prayers independently - Glory Be.

LESSON 12		What is the Church?
		<i>In the next two lessons, children learn about what the Church is, the importance of the Church, and what God gives us through His Church. This is how God is made present on earth.</i>
1.THEO.COM.1		Describe the community of God as our families, past, present, and future, as well as those in the Church, in school and the outside community.
		Describe the Church as a praying and worshiping community.
1.THEO.COM.2		Give examples of appropriate behavior in community (i.e., being welcoming, etc.).
		Recognize and identify the priests at the parish.

LESSON 13		How does someone become a member of the Church? What changes when someone becomes baptized?
		<i>This lesson builds upon the previous lesson to help children understand the importance of Baptism. Children should be reminded that their life in Christ began at Baptism. This makes them very close to God and gives them the ability to learn about the things of God and to grow in faith.</i>
1.THEO.SAC.1		Identify that Jesus gives us the sacraments as a way to celebrate and remember God's love for us (CCC 1114 12-1118).

1.THEO.SAC.2		Recognize that God takes away sin in Baptism and identify the signs and symbols of Baptism.
		State that God takes away sin in Baptism (CCC 977, 1213, 1226).

LESSON 14		What is in the church building and what happens at Mass?
		<i>This lesson helps children become familiar with the Church building as well as what happens during Mass. Catechists are encouraged to remind the children that the church is a sacred space that requires reverent behavior.</i>
1.THEO.LIT.2		Tour the church and identify important parts of the sanctuary (e.g., altar, tabernacle, sanctuary lamp, baptismal font, crucifix, ambo/lectern, holy oils, etc.) (CCC 1179-1186).
1.THEO.LIT.1		Recognize that Jesus is present at Mass in a special way through the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist (CCC 1088).
1.THEO.PRA.3		Genuflect in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.
1.THEO.SAC.3		Recognize that Jesus is present in the Eucharist (CCC 1088).
1.THEO.SCR.1		Identify the readings at Mass as Bible passages.
K-2.THEO.ENC.7		Experiences of the signs, symbols, and gestures of the Liturgy.
K-2.THEO.WIT.2		Demonstrate reverence during liturgical celebrations.

LESSON 15		What are some other things we celebrate in the Church?
		<i>This lesson allows children to experience liturgical activities in the Church. The lesson may be geared toward the current season in the liturgical year, a sacramental celebration, or a particular devotion. It is important to remind children that liturgical activities help the faithful celebrate or remember a certain aspect of the faith. All these activities help to strengthen a child's relationship with Christ.</i>
K-2.THEO.ENC.6		Participate in seasonal liturgical activities (e.g., Stations of the Cross, May Crowning, etc.).
1.THEO.HIS.2		Retell simple stories of the saints' lives and identify saints who are personally connected to our families and the parish community.

LESSON 16		Why are people special? How should we treat people?
		<i>This lesson helps children understand that people are a special part of God's creation and that each person matters to God. Catechists should help the children understand that God wants us to treat each other with love and kindness and that our behavior matters.</i>
1.THEO.TOB.3		Recognize that each person is unique and unrepeatable and that our bodies reveal the person.
1.THEO.DIG.1		Recognize that our behavior affects others.
		Recite the two Great Commandments: Love God and love your neighbor as yourself (Matt 22:36-40).
1.THEO.TOB.2		Recognize that God calls us to make a gift of ourselves in love.

		Demonstrate care and concern for classmates.
1.THEO.COM.2		Give examples of appropriate behavior in community (i.e., being welcoming, etc.).

<b>LESSON 17</b>		<b>Why should we be good?</b>
		<i>This lesson builds upon and reinforces the previous lesson. Children are encouraged to make good choices, not because they are afraid of punishment, but because they love God and want to please Him.</i>
1.THEO.TOB.1		Recognize that true freedom comes by choosing the good.
1.THEO.DIG.1		Recognize that their behavior affects their relationship with God.
1.THEO.MOR.1		Discuss the difference between right and wrong.
K-2.THEO.WIT.4		Demonstrate obedience to rules, regulations, and legitimate authority.

<b>LESSON 18</b>		<b>What hurts our relationship with God and others?</b>
		<i>This lesson builds upon the previous two lessons and helps children explore the notion of sin and God's forgiveness. This lesson should be connected to lesson 2. Catechists are encouraged to remind children that sin separates us from God, but Jesus brings us back to Him.</i>
1.THEO.MOR.2		Discuss respect for parents, teachers and other legitimate authorities.

1.THEO.MOR.1		Understand that God gives us laws to follow, the Ten Commandments, as well as gives us the freedom to make right choices.
		Discuss that sin is disobeying God.
		Recognize God is merciful and forgives sins.

<b>LESSON 19</b>		<b>How do our families help us to learn about God and grow in faith?</b>
		<i>This lesson helps children to see that families are a part of God's plan and that faith-filled families help us grow in our faith.</i>
		Identify members of the Holy Family - Jesus, Mary, and Joseph - and recognize them as models for our families.
		Tell how families pray together (CCC 2205).
		Identify the members of their extended family.
1.THEO.COM.1		Identify that the community of God includes our families, the class, the church, and the outside community.

<b>LESSON 20</b>		<b>What kind of gifts has God given me and what does he want me to do with them?</b>
		<i>This lesson lays the foundation for missionary discipleship. The love that children have for Jesus spills over to others in the form of doing good deeds. Catechists should remind children that God has given them special gifts in Baptism to be used to help other people become friends with Jesus. As they grow in faith, they will discover the gifts they have.</i>

K-2.THEO.WIT.5		Receive God's gifts gratefully and share gifts generously, as a foundation of Christian stewardship.
		List ways that we can help others.
K-2.THEO.WIT.3		Participate in school, church and/or community service projects.
K-2.THEO.WIT.1		Demonstrate care and respect for all of God's creation.