

**Sixth 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 youths' 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 youth can encounter Christ directly. Meditation on Sacred Scripture will provide an opportunity for Jesus to speak into their hearts.</i>
6-8.THEO.ENC.5		Recognition that God knows and loves us each personally and reflection upon the plans that God has for each of our lives (Ps 139; Isa 43:1-4; Jer 1:5).
6.THEO.SCR.3		Describe salvation history as God's unfolding work of salvation in all of history.
		Recognize that Jesus wants to be in a relationship with him/her (John 15:9, John 15:16, 1 John 4:19).
		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).
6-8.THEO.ENC.2		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.

LESSON 2		What is the effect of sin 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 youth to better understand the consequences of sin and the reason why they need a Savior. Together, the story of Adam and Eve in Genesis and the Scripture passage from Romans 6:23 help them to recognize how sin entered the world and understand God's remedy for sin, Jesus Christ. Youth should be led to understand that Jesus' sacrifice on the cross atones for their personal sins.</i>
6.THEO.CRE.1		Identify God the Father as the Creator, Jesus as the Messiah and fulfillment of the Old Covenant, and the Holy Spirit as the Sanctifier, the breath of life and fire of love.
		Discuss the role of the creation narrative and Adam and Eve in salvation history (Gen 1-3).
		Explain how original sin affects all mankind (CCC 402-409).
		Explain why they need a Savior (CCC 413-421, Rom 5:16-19, 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).
		Define salvation as the forgiveness of sins and restoration of friendship with God by Jesus' death and resurrection (Rom 5:6-11).
6-8.THEO.ENC.2		This lesson should also include the recitation of common prayers of the Catholic Church (Sign of the Cross, Mealtime Prayers, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Guardian Angel Prayer)].

LESSON 3		What is conversion and what does it take to be a disciple of Jesus?
		<i>The personal love and sacrifice of Jesus explored in lessons 1 and 2 fills the youth with wonder and awe and opens their hearts to conversion. This lesson explores the notion of conversion and discipleship and helps the youth understand that living a life of discipleship doesn't happen automatically but comes from a choice to follow Christ. Youth will be invited to make that choice in this lesson. In addition, it is important to spend time discussing concrete ways in which missionary discipleship is lived in the day-to-day life of a sixth grader.</i>
6.THEO.CRE.2		Identify conversion as turning away from sin and turning toward God (CCC 545, 1036; Mark 1:14-15, Acts 3:19-20).
6-8.THEO.ENC.6		Recognition that personal salvation is accomplished by Jesus's death and resurrection and the gift of salvation is offered to us but requires a response from us to accept it (Rom 5:16-19; Rom 6:23; 1 Pet 2:24).
		Be invited to accept Jesus' gift of salvation by inviting Him into their life and reciting a commitment prayer (Mark 8:34-37, Matt 4:18-22).
		Discuss what discipleship and virtuous living look like for a 6th grade student (Matt 5:13-14, Luke 9:23-25, John 8:31-32).
6-8.THEO.ENC.10		Expression of the joy of being a disciple of Jesus Christ, and personal reflection of the degree to which we've opened our hearts to Jesus in our lives.
		Recognize that by virtue of their Baptism, they are called to participate in the mission of the Church and share the "good news" with others through words and actions (Matt 28:19-20).
		Discuss how members of a small Christian community help each other live a life of discipleship.

6-8.THEO.ENC.2		This lesson should also include the recitation common prayers of the Catholic Church (Sign of the Cross, Mealttime Prayers, Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Guardian Angel Prayer)].
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LESSON 4		How can I continue to encounter Christ in prayer and Eucharistic adoration?
		<p><i>Considering the first three lessons, this lesson helps youth understand how their personal relationship with Jesus and commitment to discipleship is nourished by a life of prayer. Youth should be taught how to do lectio divina, have an opportunity to practice in class in front of the Blessed Sacrament, and be encouraged to do lectio daily. While the various forms and expressions of prayer are introduced here, experiences of these prayers can be spread out over the course of several subsequent lessons. This could be an experiential lesson done in the Church or Chapel.</i></p>
		<p>Understand appropriate disposition for prayer (being quiet and still, openness to hear God, having a humble heart, etc.) (Matt 6:5-8; Luke 18:1-14).</p>
6-8.THEO.ENC.4		<p>Demonstrate the use of different types and styles of prayer (e.g., journaling, drawing, song, praying with icons).</p>
		<p>Understand that lectio divina on Sacred Scripture is a way that God can speak into his/her heart.</p>
6-8.THEO.ENC.3		<p>Lectio Divina of Sacred Scripture, including Scripture connected to course topics, the daily readings, and in preparation of the upcoming Sunday liturgy.</p>
		<p>Experience various forms of music as prayer (e.g. Praise and Worship, Gregorian chant, Taize prayer, Handel's Messiah).</p>
6.THEO.LIT.2		<p>Describe the role of liturgical music at Mass.</p>
6-8.THEO.ENC.1		<p>Discuss and participate in Eucharistic devotions such as Adoration, Forty Hours Devotion, and Benediction</p>
6.THEO.PRA.5		<p>Review and revise plan for personal daily prayer.</p>

LESSON 5		How is the Bible structured, how do we interpret it, and what role does it play in the Deposit of Faith?
		<p><i>While the previous lesson emphasizes Sacred Scripture as a way of prayer, this lesson gives the youth an overall introduction to the Bible and the Catholic principles of interpretation. Catechists are encouraged to study CCC 101-141 to review the Church's teaching on principles of interpreting Sacred Scripture. In addition, catechists are encouraged to help the youth appreciate how God has been at work in history to make Himself known to us and to invite us into a relationship with Him. This sets the stage for the study of the Old Testament which will follow in the subsequent lessons.</i></p>
6.THEO.SCR.1		<p>Discuss the Bible as a collection of books, inspired by the Holy Spirit and written by various authors (CCC 106, 136).</p>
		<p>Identify the number of books in the Old and New Testaments.</p>
6.THEO.SCR.5		<p>Discuss the principles of interpreting Scripture according to the teaching of the Catholic Church (CCC 101-141).</p>
6.THEO.HIS.2		<p>Narrate and exegete Genesis and Exodus.</p>
6.THEO.CRE.3		<p>Define the Deposit of Faith as Scripture and Tradition - the source of all Revelation (CCC 81, 84).</p>
6.THEO.CRE.4		<p>Define tradition as the living transmission of the Church's doctrine, life and worship (CCC 78) and discuss how Catholic tradition and culture are related.</p>

LESSON 6		What is a covenant and how is the theme of covenant woven into Sacred Scripture?
		<p><i>The notion of covenant is fundamental to our understanding of God's plan for us and is the lens through which we read Scripture. Through the various covenants, God binds Himself to humanity, and as a result, the human race is transformed and able to reach its ultimate end: eternal life with God. Covenant is about relationship. This lesson introduces the youth to the notion of covenant and the series of covenants in the Old Testament. Youth should be reminded that these covenants prepared God's people for the New Covenant in Jesus Christ. In addition, youth can be invited to reflect on their relationship with Jesus through the lens of covenant.</i></p>
		<p>Define covenant as a “solemn agreement between human beings or between God and a human being involving mutual commitments or guarantees” (CCC Glossary p. 873).</p>
		<p>Understand that the words “covenant” and “testament” can be used interchangeably (CCC Glossary: Testament).</p>
6.THEO.HIS.1		<p>Explore the Jewish roots of our Christian faith: covenant (Exodus 34:10-28), sacrifice (CCC 2099-2100) , twelve tribes (Exod 1:1-14, 28, 29, 40), Passover (Exod 12), Suffering Servant (Isa 52:13-53:12, Lamb of God (John 1:29).</p>
6.THEO.SCR.7		<p>Identify Old Testament ideas of tithing and Jubilee debt forgiveness (Lev 25:8-22).</p>
6.THEO.SCR.4		<p>Compare Israel's faithfulness or unfaithfulness to the Old Covenant with today's culture.</p>

		Give examples of Old Testament covenant relationships: Adam and Eve (Gen 1:26-2:3; 2:16-17), Noah (Gen 9:8-17), Abraham and his descendants (Gen 17:1-14), Moses (Exod 19:5-6), David (2 Sam 7:8-17).
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LESSON 7		Who were the key figures in salvation history and how did these people and events foreshadow Jesus Christ?
		<i>Throughout salvation history, God reveals Himself and His plan for humanity in a gradual way. This lesson introduces youth to the figures that played important roles in each step of God's revelation. The notion of typology (a person, place or event in the Old Testament that foreshadows a reality in Christ or the Church) is introduced to help youth see the historical continuity between the Old Testament and the Church today (For example, the sacrifice of Isaac in Genesis foreshadowing the sacrifice of God's only begotten Son, crossing of the Red Sea as a foreshadowing of Baptism, King David foreshadows the kingship of Jesus, the Song of the Suffering Servant in Isaiah 52:13 - 53 describes Jesus perfectly).</i>
6.THEO.SCR.3		Describe salvation history as God's unfolding work of salvation in all of history.
6.THEO.SCR.2		Explain how our need of a Savior was prophesied by the Old Testament authors and fulfilled by the Messiah (CCC 413-421; Rom 5:16-19; Rom 6:23).
6.THEO.SCR.6		Describe the leadership roles of the Old Testament prophets including their attitude toward the poor, the disadvantaged, immigrants, and the needs of the community.

LESSON 8		How do the practice of ritual sacrifice and the Levitical Priesthood foreshadow the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ?
		<p><i>Through a careful study of the Scriptures, this lesson continues to explore the historical continuity of the Old and New Covenants by focusing on how Christ's death on the cross is a fulfillment of the Passover sacrifice and the Levitical Priesthood. Just as the blood of the lamb saved the Israelites from death, so the blood of Christ (the Lamb of God) saves us from eternal death. While the Levitical priests offered animal sacrifices for the sins of the people, Jesus, the eternal high priest offered His life once and for all to take away our sins.</i></p>
6.THEO.HIS.1		Explore the Jewish roots of our Christian faith: Sacrifice (CCC 2099-2100).
6.THEO.HIS.1		Explore the Jewish roots of our Christian faith: Twelve Tribes of Israel and Levitical Priesthood (Exod 1: 1-14, 28, 29, 40).
6.THEO.HIS.1		Explore the Jewish roots of our Christian faith: Passover (Exod 12).
6.THEO.HIS.1		Explore the Jewish roots of our Christian faith: Suffering Servant (Isa 52:13-53:12).
6.THEO.HIS.1		Explore the Jewish roots of our Christian faith: Lamb of God (John 1:29).

LESSON 9	What are the Jewish roots of the Psalms and how do we pray them today?	
		<p><i>This lesson gives the youth the opportunity to learn how the Psalms were prayed by the Israelites as well as how the Psalms are prayed today. The Psalms express every movement of the human heart. The youth can explore the various categories of Psalms and are encouraged to use the Psalms for their own personal prayer.</i></p>
6.THEO.PRA.3		<p>Identify the Psalms as a collection of hymns or poetry collected over several centuries and used as the public prayer of the Church (CCC 2585-2586).</p>
		<p>List the categories of Psalms (CCC 2588).</p>
		<p>Identify occasions when the Catholic Church uses the Psalms (e.g., at Mass, in the Liturgy of the Hours).</p>
		<p>Pray using the different categories of Psalms.</p>

LESSON 10		How are the sacraments prefigured in the Old Testament through covenant and ritual?
		<p><i>This lesson helps the youth see the historical continuity between the Jewish rituals of the Old Testament and the sacramental life of the Catholic Church. Jesus in His Person and in His actions fulfills the Old Covenant rituals and practices. Helping youth see these connections gives them an appreciation for the way in which God has slowly revealed His plan for humanity and gives deeper meaning to the celebration of the sacraments today.</i></p>
6.THEO.SAC.1		<p>Understand the importance of regular participation in the Sacraments and reflect upon how Christ is encountered in each Sacrament (CCC 1084-1090, 1440-1442, 1447,1458).</p>
6.THEO.SAC.2		<p>Give some examples of Old Testament events that prefigure the sacraments (CCC 1217-1222, 1333-1334, 1544).</p>
		<p>Describe some sacramental actions of the Church that originated in Jewish rituals (Exodus 12:1-27, CCC 1150).</p>
6.THEO.SAC.3		<p>Explain how the covenant between God and each person is nourished by the Sacraments and is present in the sacraments of the Church (CCC 1212, 1217, 1334, 1539-1540, 1611-1612).</p>

<b>LESSON 11</b>		<b>In light of the history of Israel, what is the significance of the birth of Christ, and how can I better appreciate the seasons of Advent and Christmas?</b>
		<i>Having a better appreciation for the long history of Israel and the promises of a Messiah, this lesson invites youth to appreciate the seasons of Advent and Christmas through this lens.</i>
		Celebrate Advent as a liturgical season of waiting and preparation for the coming of the Messiah in history, in our daily lives, and at the end of the world (CCC 524).
		Celebrate Christmas as a liturgical season that fulfills the Old Testament promise of the coming of the Messiah.

LESSON 12		<p>In light of the history of Israel, what is the significance of Jesus' passion, death and resurrection, and how can I better appreciate the Easter Triduum and the Easter season?</p>
		<p><i>In light of the proclamation of the kerygma in lessons 1-3, and the study of God's revelation in the Old Testament, this lesson helps the youth better appreciate the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus. Jesus' death and resurrection changed the course of human history and made heaven possible after the Fall. God's promises are fulfilled in Jesus and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Youth are encouraged to reflect upon the power and mystery of these events and reflect on what difference these events make in their lives</i></p>
		<p>Celebrate Lent as a liturgical season of repentance and renewal and show how Old Testament traditions prefigured these penitential practices.</p>
6.THEO.LIT.1		<p>Discuss the signs, symbols, and events of the Easter Triduum.</p>
		<p>Discuss how Jesus fulfills the Old Covenant and establishes the New and Eternal Covenant.</p>
		<p>Celebrate Easter as a liturgical season that commemorates the Resurrection of Christ from the dead and the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.</p>

LESSON 13		How should my life reflect my covenant relationship with God?
		<p><i>Disciples are called to witness their faith in the world. Living in covenant with God and nourished by the sacraments, youth receive the grace to live in a counter-cultural way. This lesson explores the dignity of the human person and how we are called to live according to that dignity.</i></p>
		<p>Understand that the source of one's human dignity and value comes from being created in the image and likeness of God (Gen 1- 2; CCC 1702).</p>
6.THEO.MOR.1		<p>Articulate that the desire to live a moral life is animated by one's friendship with Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.</p>
6.THEO.COM.2		<p>Recognize the family as a source of spiritual values, religious practices, customs, and traditions that help shape one spiritually, physically, psychologically, and socially (CCC 1655-1657, 2204-2206).</p>
6.THEO.DIG.1		<p>Discuss reasons why some groups or persons, past and present, have been persecuted.</p>
		<p>Discuss guidelines for choosing movies, TV programs, music, books, magazines, video games, etc. that are supportive of human dignity (CCC 2525).</p>
6.THEO.DIG.2		<p>Discuss and apply guidelines for using social media that are in accord with human dignity (CCC 2464-2470, 2475-2499).</p>

LESSON 14		In what way do the natural law and the Ten Commandments give order to life and how do they impact me?
		<i>The motivation for living a virtuous life comes from our friendship with Christ and our desire to please Him, rather than simply following rules. This lesson helps the youth understand that God writes the rules of goodness and truth (natural law) in our hearts. This law is unchangeable because it rests on an order that is present in creation. The Ten Commandments given in the covenant on Mt. Sinai reflect the natural law. Throughout all of salvation history, God calls His people to live according to His law. We are responsible for keeping God's commandments even if we don't feel the advantage for keeping them.</i>
6.THEO.MOR.1		Understand that the desire to live a moral life is animated by one's friendship with Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.
6.THEO.LIT.1		Define and discuss natural law (CCC 1954-1960).
		Identify that the Ten Commandments reflect the natural law.
6.THEO.MOR.5		Identify and review the Ten Commandments as the moral guideline for God's people and the terms of the covenant at Mt. Sinai (CCC 2056-2063).

LESSON 15		How does the Church ensure that God's law is not changed, and what are some lifestyles that are inconsistent with God's law?
		<i>This lesson shows how the natural moral law is upheld through the hierarchy of the Church. The Magisterium is the teaching office of the Church. Over the course of history, ecumenical councils were called to clarify Church teaching. Today, there many aspects of the secular culture that are inconsistent with the Church's teaching. Youth are invited to reflect on contemporary lifestyles that are opposed to the teachings of the Church. Catechists should be prepared to discuss these topics with sensitivity and truth, and seek resources and guidance as needed.</i>
		Understand the Magisterium as the teaching office of the Church and explain its role and authority (CCC 85-88).
		Understand that ecumenical councils are special meetings of the pope and bishops (CCC 884).
6.THEO.MOR.2		Describe the three parts of the moral act: the object, the intention, and the circumstance (CCC 1750).
		Evaluate contemporary lifestyles and identify those that undermine the value of life and the teaching of the Catholic Church.
6-8.THEO.WIT.6		Exhibit the virtue of obedience through respect for rules, regulations, and legitimate authority.

LESSON 16		What does God think about human sexuality?
		<p><i>Now that youth have a better understanding of the natural moral law, they are prepared for the lesson on human sexuality. Sex is an expression of committed love within marriage that brings life into the world. As children enter into adolescence, it is helpful for them to have clarity on physical and emotional boundaries as well as guidance in relation to behavior, dress, and speech.</i></p>
6.THEO.TOB.2		<p>Know that we are created in God' image as male or female (Gen 1-3; CCC 369-372). Discuss why it is a good thing that God created man as male and female.</p>
6.THEO.TOB.5		<p>Give examples of how the body reveals man (TOB 2:4, 6:3, 7:1, 8:1, 9:4, 12:5, 14:4, 19:4).</p>
6.THEO.TOB.6		<p>Describe how the human body is the temple of the Holy Spirit and why it is necessary to glorify God in your body (TOB 57:2).</p>
		<p>Discuss sexuality as a gift from God (CCC 2360-2362).</p>
		<p>Recognize how the 6th and 9th commandments apply to young people (Matt 5:27-28; CCC 2333-2336, 2514).</p>

LESSON 17	What does God think about marriage?	
		<p><i>This lesson builds upon and reinforces the themes from the previous lesson. It is important to allocate enough time for youth to ask questions. Questions can be submitted anonymously via a question box as youth may be embarrassed to ask honest questions about this topic. Children should be reminded that God gives us the grace to live chaste lives.</i></p>
		<p>Define and discuss the purpose of “dating” for the discernment of a future spouse.</p>
		<p>Define and discuss that the covenant of marriage is rooted in the original unity of the creation of Adam and Eve (CCC 1605, 2333- 2335).</p>
6.THEO.TOB.3		<p>Propose how a communion of persons involves the loving gift of self: when two persons form a deep unity by giving themselves to one another in love.</p>
		<p>Explain how friendship is a gift of self that imitates Christ and leads others to a greater good (CCC 2347).</p>
6.THEO.TOB.4		<p>Explain how man, in the image of the Trinity, learns about himself through a gift of himself (TOB 8:4, 9:1-3, 10:1, 15:1).</p>
		<p>Discuss chastity as a gift from God that is protected by His grace (CCC 2345, 2348).</p>
		<p>Discuss practices that protect the beautiful gift of chastity including; appropriate modest dress, language, prayer, sacraments and devotion to Mary.</p>

LESSON 18		What does the Church teach with regard to social issues and what are my responsibilities to uphold justice, peace and the common good?
		<p><i>Catholic social teaching is a central and essential element of our faith. Its roots are in the Old Testament prophets who announced God's special love for the poor and called God's people to a covenant of love and justice. It is a teaching founded on the life and words of Jesus Christ. Catholic social teaching is built on a commitment to the poor and arises from our personal love of Christ and commitment to live as His disciples</i></p>
6.THEO.COM.3		<p>Review the seven themes of Catholic Social Teaching and how they are carried out in our world. (USCCB: <a href="http://www.usccb.org">www.usccb.org</a>, Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching).</p>
		<p>Tell about the lives of modern-day witnesses and their service to society.</p>
6-8.THEO.ENC.11		<p>Reflection on living as a disciple of Jesus Christ in today's world and the call we have to evangelize (Rom 1:18-32; 1 Cor 6:9-11; Gal 5:13-26).</p>
6-8.THEO.WIT.2		<p>Exhibit the virtue of reverence for God, his creation, and other people by treating them with respect and honor, for God is all good and his creation is a good gift.</p>
6-8.THEO.WIT.3		<p>Help design, organize, and participate in a student-directed service project.</p>

LESSON 19		What is the effect of sin and evil in society and how do we overcome it?
		<p><i>This lesson builds upon the previous lesson and explores the various ways in which social sin manifests itself in communities and examines the roots of some of these behaviors. Catechists should help youth evaluate interactions on social media and assess them in light of the themes of Catholic Social Teaching. Youth should be warned about the dangers of the occult. While some of these practices appear harmless, they are openings for evil to enter one's life.</i></p>
		<p>Understand that the passions (feelings/emotions of love, hatred, desire, fear, joy, sadness, and anger) lead us to actions that can be good or evil (CCC 1762-1775, Mark 7:18-23).</p>
6.THEO.PRA.1		<p>Discuss the role of persistence in prayer to overcome difficulties (Luke 18:1-8, CCC 2742).</p>
6.THEO.MOR.4		<p>Recognize and apply the Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit.</p>
6.THEO.COM.1		<p>Recognize the diversity of cultures, traditions, talents and gifts, all within the Body of Christ.</p>
		<p>Define prejudice, discrimination, and racism and discuss their effects on community and discuss strategies to overcome these issues.</p>
6.THEO.PRA.2		<p>Discuss the effectiveness of prayer in working toward peace and justice.</p>
		<p>Discuss the effects of excluding, ignoring, and manipulating others.</p>

6.THEO.COM.4		Demonstrate the skill of listening - to hear others respectfully and to be open to the voice of God.
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LESSON 20		What is a vocation and how is God calling me to live my life?
		<i>This lesson explores vocations and how they build up the community. Catechists are encouraged to invite the youth to pray about God's call on their lives.</i>
6-8.THEO.WIT.1		Be a disciple of Christ as a steward of the Church, one who works to spread the Catholic faith throughout their community and the world (CCC 2226).
		Explain vocations as a call to the single, married, consecrated, or ordained life (CCC 871-873; CCC Glossary: Vocation).
		Describe how each vocation builds up the community (CCC 871-873; CCC Glossary: Vocation).
		Demonstrate the skill of listening - to hear others respectfully and to be open to the voice of God.
		Pray for openness and generous response to God's call in each of their lives.

