

**Third Grade
Parish Faith Formation Religion Lessons**

LESSON 1	Does Jesus know me and want to be my friend? (Encountering Christ)	
		<i>These outcomes aim 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. Children should be reminded that they can talk to Jesus in the same way they talk to their best friend. Meditation on Sacred Scripture will provide an opportunity for Jesus to speak into their hearts.</i>
3-5.THEO.ENC.5		Recognize that God knows and loves him/her personally and has a plan for their lives (Ps 139, Isa 43:1-4, 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) discuss what it takes to be a friend and have a friend (John 15:13; I John 3:18; CCC 1829)
		Recognize how baptism restores the special relationship God has with His sons and daughters, as this relationship was first realized in original solitude.
3.THEO.PRA.1		Participate in meditative prayer, through Sacred Scripture and other prayer resources (CCC 2705-2708).

LESSON 2		Why did Jesus die on the cross? (Understanding Sin and the Good News of Jesus)
		In catechetical texts, sin is generally discussed in the context of preparing for the sacrament of Reconciliation. However, these outcomes help 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 news" of Jesus. Children should be led to understand that Jesus' sacrifice on the cross atones for their personal sins.
		Recognize that sin separates them from God and one another (CCC 1487, Isa 59:2, Rom 6:23).
3.THEO.MOR.3		Understand that because of original sin, all people have an inclination to sin (CCC Glossary: Concupiscence).
		Define sin as choosing to disobey God's law in thought, word, deed, or omission (CCC 1849) (CCC 1829).
		Discuss the communal effects of sin.
		Understand that the consequence of sin could be 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		How do I begin a friendship with Jesus and how do I tell others about my friendship with Him?
		<i>The personal love and sacrifice of Jesus explored in lessons 1 and 2 fills the child with wonder and awe and opens the child's heart to a real friendship with Jesus. In this lesson, children are invited to make a commitment to this friendship. It is important to discuss that just as human friendships require nourishment, so does a friendship with Jesus. Children are encouraged to share their experience of Christ with each other so that they are more comfortable sharing it with others.</i>
3-5.THEO.ENC.8		Opportunity to contemplate that Jesus' gift of salvation requires a response on the part of the believer (Mk 8:34-35).
		Be invited to make a choice to invite Jesus into their lives (Mark 8:34-37, John 10:27-28).
3.THEO.TOB.6		Discuss how a disciple can stay close to Jesus through the Church, personal prayer and the virtues (Phil 4:4-9) Relate being connected to Jesus the True Vine to manifesting the Fruits of the Spirit.
3-5.THEO.ENC.10		Tell how they have experienced Jesus in each of their lives.
3-5.THEO.ENC.10		Recognize that God wants them to share the "good news" with others (Matt 28:19-20).
3.THEO.SAC.1		Understand the importance of regular participation in the sacrament of Reconciliation (CCC 1440-1442, 1447, 1458).

LESSON 4		How do I continue to encounter Jesus in the Bible and how does the Bible help me learn more about Jesus?
		<i>These outcomes help children become familiar with the Bible. Catechists should help children realize that each time they pray with the Bible, they encounter Christ. The Gospels not only recount what Jesus did in the past, but what He continues to do for each of them today. Catechists can select several parables to help children enter into the stories and grow in understanding of the love and mercy of Jesus Christ. In addition to the passages noted in the outcome, other suggested Scripture passages include: Mark 1:14-20, Matthew 13:44-46, Matthew 19:13-15, Mark 3:7-11, Mark 4:30-34.</i>
3-5.THEO.ENC.4		<u>Understand</u> that God speaks to us through the Bible stories and that it is used for personal prayer.
3.THEO.SCR.1		Identify that the Bible is organized into books, chapters and verses.
3.THEO.SCR.1		Recognize the books of the Old Testament and New Testament from a list.
3.THEO.SCR.2		Retell Bible narratives, especially those that focus on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, the Miracles, the Parables, and the Beatitudes (Matt 5:1-12) and the two Great Commandments (Matt 22:34-40)].
LESSON 5		What does the Bible teach us about Jesus' power to heal people? How can I talk to Jesus in Eucharistic Adoration about my own needs?
		<i>This lesson builds on the previous lesson by continuing to explore the life and teaching of Jesus through more Gospel stories. This lesson highlights the miracles of Jesus to help the children understand that Jesus has the power to heal then and now. Suggest Scripture passages include: Matthew 14:22-33, Mark 4:35-41, Mark 7:31-37, Luke 5:12-16, Luke 18:35-43. Catechists are invited to bring children to Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament or the tabernacle in church to pray and reflect on the Gospel stories in the presence of the Lord Jesus. In addition, children can be taught to praise Jesus for his goodness and mercy through music and song.</i>

		Discuss and participate in Eucharistic devotions such as Adoration, Forty Hours Devotion, and Benediction.
LESSON 6		How did the Church begin and what is its mission?
		<i>These outcomes help the children understand what the Church is and why it was founded. This will lay the groundwork for the teachings on the Church and creed in the subsequent lessons. Through the Scriptures, the children can come to understand that the building of the kingdom of God that began with Jesus' earthly ministry now continues in and through the Church through the power of the Holy Spirit. It is important to make this connection so that children understand the context for the sacramental life of the Church.</i>
3.THEO.HIS.2		Retell the call of the Apostles (Mark 1:16-20; Mark 3:13-19).
3.THEO.HIS.3		Tell that Peter was appointed the leader of the new Church and was the first pope (Matt 16:13-20; CCC 880-881).
3.THEO.HIS.5		Describe the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Explain that this is the beginning of the "new age" of the Church when Christ lives and acts in and with His Church (Acts 2:1-11; CCC 1076).
3.THEO.HIS.4		Identify how evangelization in Acts of the Apostles caused the Church to grow and discuss how evangelization could benefit today's world.

LESSON 7	How do the sacraments of the Church help us to continue to encounter Christ?	
		<i>This lesson contains a review of the sacraments; however, it should be presented in the context of lesson 6. The sacraments are the vehicles through which God dispenses to us his grace and divine life in order to help us continue the work that Jesus started on earth. The categories of sacraments help the children to see that Jesus gives us sacraments for all stages and aspects of life.</i>
		Define a sacrament as an outward sign instituted by Christ to give grace (CCC 1131).
3.THEO.SAC.1		Describe how we encounter God in a special way in each Sacrament (CCC 1129).
3.THEO.SAC.2		List the seven sacraments and identify the three categories: sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation), sacraments of healing (Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick), sacraments of vocation/service (Holy Orders and Matrimony) (CCC 1113, 1210-1211).
3.THEO.TOB.4		Recognize how baptism restores the special relationship God has with His sons and daughters, as this relationship was first realized in original solitude.
3-5.THEO.ENC.9		Approaching Mass with expectation, knowing that God wants to give us something in each liturgy.

LESSON 8		How is the Church organized and what are the various roles people have in the Church?
		<i>These outcomes help the children to understand that the Church that Jesus established has a certain order and hierarchy. It is important to emphasize that everyone has a role and God calls each of us to participate in a unique way.</i>
3.THEO.CRE.3		Describe the Church as the Body of Christ: clergy, laity, hierarchy, and communion of saints (CCC779 and 789).
3.THEO.HIS.6		Explain the roles of the pope, bishops, priests, deacons, the consecrated, and laity (CCC 882, 888, 897-898, 916, 926, 928-929).
		Understand that God has a plan for each person to serve the Church in a particular way (single, married, consecrated, ordained) (CCC 871-873).

LESSON 9		What are the four marks of the Church (characteristics) of the Church? What do we believe as Catholic Christians?
		<i>These outcomes help the children see the characteristics of the Church that Jesus established. It gives us confidence that the Holy Spirit continues to guide the Church to fulfill its mission to make disciples of all nations. The Apostles' Creed is introduced as a statement of faith but will be explored in more detail in subsequent lessons. Comment about the fact that we say the Nicene Creed at Mass, but we use the Apostles' Creed for the rosary.</i>
3.THEO.CRE.2		Identify and discuss the four marks of the Church as one, holy, catholic, and apostolic (CCC 811).
		Define creed as a statement of faith (CCC 187).
3.THEO.CRE.1		Explain the elements of faith in the Apostles' Creed (CCC 190, 191 and 194).

LESSON 10		What do we know about the Most Holy Trinity?
		<i>The Apostles' Creed begins with our belief in the Most Holy Trinity. This lesson is dedicated to exploring our belief in one God in three Divine Persons.</i>
3.THEO.CRE.4		Explain the nature of the Trinity as three persons in one God - God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit (CCC 261).

LESSON 11		Who was Jesus' mother and how do we honor her?
		<i>The Apostles' Creed continues by saying that Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary. These outcomes explain the Church's teachings on Mary and ways that we honor her through prayer and devotions.</i>
		Identify Mary as Mother of God and Mother of the Church (CCC 963).
3-5.THEO.ENC.6		List and explain the important events in the life of Mary (Luke 1:26-56; Luke 2; John 2:1-11; John 19:25-29).
		Memorize the Hail Holy Queen.
3-5.THEO.ENC.6		Participate in traditional Marian devotions, e.g., May Crowning.

LESSON 12		What do we know about heaven, hell, purgatory, and the end of time?
		<i>The central part of the Apostles' Creed states our belief in the "four last things" (death, judgment, heaven, hell). The secular culture has many misconceptions about the last things; however, this lesson aims to help children understand the truth about what the Church believes. It is important to connect this lesson to the kerygma that was proclaimed in lesson 2 so that they better understand Jesus' victory over death and His desire to spend eternity with each of them. Catechists are invited to review the Church's teaching on this topic beginning with CCC 1020 in order to obtain a deeper understanding of the topic and answer any questions that may arise.</i>
		Discuss the concepts of heaven, hell, and purgatory (CCC 1020-1037).
		Explain that Jesus will come again in glory at the end of the world to judge the living and the dead (CCC 1038-1041).
		Discuss Christ's resurrection and the resurrection of our bodies at the end of time (1 Cor 15:35-57).
3.THEO.TOB.7		Recognize that entering into heaven means a profound unity and harmony of the soul and the body.
LESSON 13		Who are the saints and why do we pray for the dead?
		<i>This lesson continues the previous lesson by exploring the communion of saints and the concept of purgatory. The feasts of All Saints and All Souls can be discussed in context of the teachings on these doctrines. After an in-depth study of the Apostles' Creed, children are invited to memorize it.</i>
		Define the Communion of Saints as the pilgrims on earth, the dead who are being purified, and the blessed in heaven (CCC 962).
		Explain Purgatory and discuss why we pray for the dead (CCC 1030-1032).
		Participate in All Saints Day/All Souls Day practices.
3-5.THEO.ENC.7		Reading about the lives of saints and learning to call upon them for their intercession.

3.THEO.PRA.4		Memorize and recite the Apostles' Creed.
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LESSON 14		What are some different ways to pray? How do I pray the rosary?
		<i>The memorization of the Apostles' Creed in the previous lesson is a perfect springboard to learn and study the rosary. This lesson is dedicated to learning how to pray the rosary and the meaning and purpose of the mysteries. Children should be led to understand that meditating upon the mysteries while praying the rosary is a way to help them to grow in their friendship with Jesus.</i>
		Distinguish between memorized prayers and spontaneous prayer.
3-5.THEO.ENC.6		Recite the rosary.
3.THEO.PRA.3		Compose original prayer.
3-5.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.
3.THEO.PRA.5		Create a plan of daily personal prayer.

LESSON 15		How do the seasons of the Church and Holy Days help us grow in faith? How do various cultures express themselves at Mass?
		<i>In light of everything that they learned about the Church, this lesson aims to help children gain a better appreciation of how the cycle of the liturgical year can help them grow in their faith. In addition, this lesson helps the children understand that different cultures have different customs and liturgical celebrations. It is important to make the connection that going to church isn't just something we do, but a way that we can continue to encounter Christ and be nourished and strengthened in our faith.</i>
3.THEO.LIT.2		Identify the seasons of the Church year: Advent, Christmas, Lent, Triduum, Easter, and Ordinary Time.

3.THEO.LIT.1		Describe the vestments, sacred objects, and various colors used in the celebration of the Liturgy.
		Discuss the various cultural expressions that may take place within the celebration of the Mass (music, art, local customs, etc.)
		List the Holy Days of Obligation and explain the purpose for each celebration.

LESSON 16		Why should I be good? How does God help me know what is good and what is evil?
		<i>These outcomes explore how we live as disciples of Christ. What we do and how we act matters. Our behavior is a reflection of our identity as sons and daughters of God. It is important to teach these outcomes in the context of one's relationship with God. We don't obey the commandments primarily out of fear of punishment, but because of our love for Jesus and our desire to please Him. Help the children understand that we are responsible for keeping God's commandments even if we do not feel like following them.</i>
		Understand that we obey God because He loves us and we love Him (CCC 1709).
3.THEO.MOR.2		Identify what the Ten Commandments tell us to do and not to do and understand that we are responsible for keeping God's commandments (CCC 2052-2557).
3.THEO.MOR.1		Memorize and recite the Ten Commandments in order (CCC following 2051, The Ten Commandments).
3.THEO.MOR.4		Recognize that the Two Great Commandments of Jesus are reflected in the ten commandments.
3.THEO.TOB.1		Give examples of man's unique relationship with God as set apart from the rest of creation; naming the animals, cultivating the earth, and choosing between good and evil.
3-5.THEO.ENC.3		Personal examination of conscience based on the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes, as inspiration to live a virtuous life.
		Understand that the devil tries to turn us away from God (CCC 381-395, Matt 4:1-11)

LESSON 17	Why are people special and why do we need to treat them with care?	
		<i>This lesson is a continuation of the previous lesson and gives children the opportunity to examine their own behaviors and relationships more deeply. It is important to give children the opportunity to share and discuss the day-to-day challenges of leading a virtuous life and strategies for opening themselves to the grace of Christ in difficult times.</i>
3.THEO.DIG.1		Discuss the source of human dignity as being created in the image and likeness of God (Gen 1-2; CCC 1702).
3.THEO.TOB.2		Recognize that God gives us the choice to see the world and others as gifts.
3.THEO.DIG.2		Examine human relationships as being developed out of respect and love for self and others (CCC 1879-1881).
3.THEO.COM.2		Identify the characteristics and value of honesty, self-discipline, and respect for life, rights, and property.
3.THEO.TOB.3		Show how our bodies reveal the person.

LESSON 18		What authority does God have over the world?
		<i>The secular culture in which we live is very human-centered; however, these outcomes remind children that God is the creator of all and therefore the source of all authority. People in authority should always act and make laws that are consistent with God's law. These lessons also teach the children that God cares for all people, and that as a Church, we have a particular responsibility to those who are marginalized.</i>
3.THEO.COM.3		Explain that God is the source of all authority (CCC 1899)
3-5.THEO.WIT.4		Identify persons with legitimate authority in the family, local church community, school community, civic community, etc..
3-5.THEO.WIT.4		Demonstrate obedience to rules, regulations, and legitimate authority define the common good (CCC 1905-1912).
LESSON 19		How do we take good care of God's creation and help others by using our gifts?
		<i>Building on the themes of God's authority and the common good from the previous lesson, this lesson explores our responsibility for the care of creation and stewardship. It is important to teach these topics in the context of discipleship. Disciples of Christ do these things naturally and with love. Catechists are encouraged to explore the following Scripture passages to help reinforce the lesson: Acts 2:42-47, 1 Peter 4:10, Matthew 25:14-30.</i>
3-5.THEO.WIT.2		Demonstrate care and respect for all of God's creation by responsible use of the Earth's resources.
3-5.THEO.WIT.1		Explain ways of being stewards who gratefully share gifts of time, talent, and treasure.
3.THEO.TOB.5		Illustrate how work is a gift and how through our work we make a gift of ourselves.
3.THEO.SCR.3		Explain how the Scripture narratives are relevant in daily life.

3-5.THEO.WIT.3		Participate in school, church, and community service projects.
LESSON 20		How does the Church uphold the dignity of all people and help those in need? How should I help others?
		<i>This lesson helps the children realize that while they have a personal friendship with Jesus, they are part of a diverse, world-wide Church and that our care for and union with others extends beyond the boundaries of our local communities. Catechists have the opportunity to share how the Church helps others in our communities and around the world.</i>
		Describe the Catholic Church as a community of believers (CCC 751-752, 2179).
3.THEO.DIG.2		Demonstrate awareness of the dignity of various cultures and races (Gal 3:28; CCC 1934-1935).
3-5.THEO.WIT.5		Demonstrate ways to apply the Beatitudes to everyday life.
3.THEO.COM.1		Define the common good (CCC 1905-1912).
3-5.THEO.WIT.		Recognize the ways we serve reflect our love of God and love of neighbor
3-5.THEO.WIT.3		Identify ways to demonstrate concern for the hungry, the poor, immigrants, those treated unjustly, victims of violence, the unborn, the elderly, and the less abled.