



## Beginning the Catechetical Year: 1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> Grades *Systematic Catechesis*

### BIBLE LESSON

#### Opening Prayer (approx. 5 minutes):

- † Gather around your Prayer Table, have the children quiet their minds and hearts and begin with the Sign of the Cross and then pray a grade-level prayer appropriate for the students in your class (refer to Common Prayers and Formulas by Age handout)

#### Community of Faith building activity (approx. 10 minutes):

- † Continue building your community of faith by connecting with last week's activities and asking learners to share their "blessed particulars"/gift bag of faith items.
- † If learners did not bring items with them (or were not asked to or were not present last week), just pass around a gift bag and let them tell everyone what would be in "theirs."

#### Teach a Bible Lesson: (approx. 35 minutes)

##### EQ: Why and how do Catholics read the Bible?

The goal here to is for the children to understand what the Bible is and practice how to use/read it.

#### Lesson Structure:

##### † Engage (mental warm-up):

- Today, we are going to focus on the Holy Bible. I want to share with you one of my favorite passages...

Read your favorite passage from the Bible that points to Jesus Christ and explain WHY it is important to you or your favorite passage

##### † Explore (pre-assessment of faith concepts):

- Ask (as a whole class OR partners Turn & Talk): **What do you know about this Sacred book, the Holy Bible, the Word of God?**
- As learners share their ideas, have them jot it down on a yellow sticky (with their name) and then come up and place them on the wall or on a large piece of paper visible to all. (For younger students, the catechist may act as the 'scribe'). Retain the sticky notes to have an understanding of what certain children already know or not.
- To facilitate thinking and discussion use some of the following questions: What is the Bible? Who wrote it? What's in this book – who is it about? What does the Bible tell us? How is the Bible organized? When do you see and/or hear people reading in it or from this book? Why is this book important for us who believe in God? How do we treat the Bible?

- † **Essential Question "EQ"** (visible as a mental anchor): Share and post this lesson's EQ in the classroom: Why and how should Catholics read the Bible?



† **Explain & Check for Understanding** (direct teaching, infused with Scripture and Group work):

**The Bible is our best source for learning about Jesus Christ...**

- Go over pages (see Lesson Plan Calendar) student workbook.  
Note that for grades Prek-1, there's a different handout which may also be applicable and helpful in your lesson preparation.
- **Reinforce the ideas generated by the students** in the lesson and present/expand on any new ideas not yet mentioned
- **Focus for listening:** Ask learners to listen to a verse read by the Catechist and then be ready to share what it makes them think of and see in their minds.
  - **Grades Prek4-2:** Read John 8:12 out loud and prompt students to share what they think of or see in their minds when they hear the reading; then, flip the room's light switch on and off several times – What's the difference between the light being on and the light being off? Encourage responses. Answer: **The Bible tells us that Jesus is the light of the world and that if we love and follow him we will never be alone in the darkness.** Have the children share what they think about this...
  - **Grades 3-5:** Read John 14:1-6 out loud and prompt children to work in pairs or triads to discuss what they understand from the passage AND what questions about it they still have.  
As a class, reread the verse and have the student groups share their ideas and ask questions.  
Optional: Ask the learners to explain "Jesus is the WAY", "Jesus is the TRUTH," "Jesus is the LIFE"  
– Remember, this lesson occurs at the beginning of the year and informs you of your learners' understanding at this time.
- **Practice Activity:** The Bible is like a library.
  - Use power point provided
  - After power point, in small groups or individually, have the children to practice navigating through the Bible by finding certain passages.

† **Debrief/Self-Reflect:**

- Summarize the lesson and bring it to closure – **In today's lesson, we learned about the Bible. The Bible expresses the Word of God in words that humans can understand. Each time you attend religious education, we will continue to read from this Holy Book. Remember: each time you attend Mass, you will hear people read from the Bible.**
- **Evaluate:** Return to the lesson's Essential Question – **Why and how should Catholics read the Bible?**

† **Closing Prayer**