

SIXTH GRADE RELIGION

Focus: Old Testament – Throughout the Old Testament, God revealed Himself to His people, binding Himself to them in a covenant relationship, calling them to faithfulness, offering His mercy when they sinned and promising to send a Savior. We learn about our ancestors in faith and recognize in their story parallels with our own faith journey.

Faith Background

Sixth grade students have a growing ability to distinguish past, present, and future and to see themselves as part of a greater whole. Children this age have the developmental capacity to build a deeper understanding of God, faith, community, and the world. They seek to identify and belong, admiring Jesus and all others who make our world a better place. Self-identity and conscience formation are greatly influenced at this age level.

Creed

1. God – The student will describe God as He is portrayed in the Old Testament.

- a. Recall the covenant story of Abraham and God.
- b. Describe God's faithfulness to Israel.
- c. Explain how God speaks to His people through the prophets.

2. Jesus – The student will recognize that the mystery of the Holy Trinity was revealed in the person, words, and works of Jesus Christ.

- a. Explain why Jesus is called King and Lord.
- b. Explain how Jesus fulfills the covenant.

3. Holy Spirit – The student will understand that the Holy Spirit is always present and active in the lives of people.

- a. Recognize that the Holy Spirit is the breath of life and the fire of love.
- b. Understand that the Holy Spirit inspired the authors of the Bible.

4. Sacred Scripture – The student will understand that the Old Testament, or Hebrew Scriptures, contains the roots of our faith.

- a. Tell what Israel's story reveals about God. Explain how the story is a model of faith journey.
- b. Describe the Old Testament, Pentateuch, Historical, and Wisdom books.
- c. Name some Old Testament books of the prophets.
- d. Explain the meaning of the Tower of Babel story.
- e. Explain the significance of Abraham's story.
- f. Explain the significance of Isaac's story.
- g. Explain the significance of Jacob's story.
- h. Explain the significance of Joseph's story.
- i. Explain why the Hebrews were oppressed in Egypt.
- j. Retell the story of Moses' call and the Exodus.

- k. Tell the story of Joshua and the Promised Land.
- l. Tell the stories of King Saul, King David, and King Solomon.
- m. Tell the stories of the prophets and the exile.
- n. Explain how Jerusalem was restored.
- o. Explain why Israel was conquered by Greece and Rome.
- p. Retell stories of great women in the Old Testament.
- q. Name and explain the meaning of Jewish holidays.
- r. Experience a Jewish Seder meal.
- s. Paraphrase proverbs and psalms.
- t. Apply Old Testament stories to one's life.

5. Bible – The student will grow in his or her understanding of the Bible.

- a. Use cross-references given on a Bible text page.
- b. Explain the Bible as a collection of oral traditions.
- c. Name the languages used in writing the Bible.
- d. Create a time line of the writing of the books of the Bible.
- e. Find the location of the Holy Land on a map or globe.

6. Church – The student will recognize that the Church is rooted in many signs and symbols of the Hebrew Scriptures.

- a. Recognize the various symbols from the Old Testament that are now used by the Church in its liturgical celebrations: lamb, water, fire, oil, and unleavened bread.
- b. Recognize the relationship that exists between the Passover event in the Hebrew Scriptures and the Church's celebration of the Eucharist.
- c. Explain how the bishops, in communion with the pope, have been ordained to guide the faithful.
- d. Name the present day pope, bishop, and pastor.
- e. Name and describe two rites in the Church.
- f. Describe the need for communal worship.
- g. Plan a Mass.

Sacraments

1. Sacraments – The student will recognize that sacramental actions of the Church originated in Jewish rituals.

- a. Explain how the Jewish people had rituals that helped them remember the covenant they had made with God.
- b. Describe how the sacred is experienced in the liturgical year, sacramentals, symbols, and rituals.
- c. Associate Eucharist with Jewish Berakah (blessing).
- d. Explain the meaning of gestures, vestments, etc.
- e. Understand that the life and teachings of Jesus are the basis for all sacraments.

Christian Living

1. Christian Response – The student will understand that Jesus is the center of God’s plan for the world.

- a. Understand that Christians are to be missionaries, bringing the Good News to the ends of the earth.
- b. Understand that, as Catholics, we are involved in the life, mission, and work of the parish community and family.

2. Morality – The student will recognize that we receive a heritage of faith from those who have gone before us.

- a. Recognize that we receive wisdom and understanding from God’s Spirit to know how to act.
- b. Understand that we learn how to live good lives through the teachings of Scripture.
- c. Recognize that God sends prophets into our midst to call us to the justice and mercy of God’s reign.
- d. Understand that all people are called to be faithful to God’s love.

3. Social Justice – The student will understand that we are all children of the covenant God made with Abraham and Sarah.

- a. Recognize that the prophets spoke out against injustice and suffering.
- b. Understand that the way to the reign of God is a way of justice and peace.

4. Human Life – The student will value the sacredness of life.

- a. Respect human life, recognizing that we are created in God’s image.
- b. Recognize that life, beginning at conception, is a gift from God.
- c. Learn about the growth of a fetus and the process of childbirth.
- d. Grow in accepting responsibility for actions.
- e. Understand the influence of feelings on relationships with others.
- f. Recognize the dangers of alcohol and drugs.

Prayer

1. Prayer – The student will experience different forms of prayer: shared prayer, spontaneous prayer, reflective prayer, and praying with scripture.

- a. Make the sign of the cross reverently.
- b. Pray together as a class, school community, family and church.
- c. Understand and pray the Lord’s Prayer.
- d. Pray the Hail Mary.
- e. Pray the Blessing Before Meals.
- f. Pray the Glory Be.
- g. Pray the Act of Contrition.
- h. Pray the Apostles’ Creed. Recognize the Nicene Creed.
- i. Offer God thanks and praise.
- j. Pray for personal needs and the needs of others.

- k. Pray for the forgiveness of sins.
- l. Recognize the Spiritual Works of Mercy and the Corporal Works of Mercy.
- m. Recognize the Acts of Faith, Hope, and Love.
- n. Recognize the Magnificat.
- o. Pray the Morning Offering.
- p. Recognize some Psalms.
- q. Recognize Scriptural prayer.