

Grade 6

Theme: The Bible and Salvation History

Grade 6 immerses the students in the Bible and helps them to understand it as the Word of God and also a story of our Salvation History. Much time is spent particularly on the Hebrew Scriptures – the Old Testament, and how through it God prepared humanity for Jesus, the promised Messiah and Son of God. Because the Eucharist has ties to the Jewish faith and the Passover Story of the Old Testament, it is highly recommended that during this year the students spend a semester studying this sacrament. This would also enable them to understand the Mass on an older level than when they received their First Communion.

Key Concepts

The Bible

The Old Testament (Hebrew Scriptures)

The New Testament (Christian Scriptures)

The Sacraments

The Church Year

Our Faith Believed Doctrine – Message

The Bible

1. The Bible is the Word of God.
2. The Bible is a story of God's relationship with God's people.
3. The Bible is the family history of God's people.
4. The Bible is a Book of books.
5. The Bible is the Word of God inspired by the Holy Spirit.
6. Through inspiration the Holy Spirit enabled writers to share God's words with God's people.
7. The authors of the books of the Bible wrote using different literary forms to express their faith in God.
8. The Bible is divided into the Old and New Testaments.

The Old Testament (Hebrew Scriptures)

1. The Old Testament, or the Hebrew Scriptures, tells about God's covenant relationship with the Hebrew people, the people of Israel.
2. The two creation stories of Genesis speak about God as creator of all that is good, and how through free will and human choice to disobey, sin and evil entered the world.

3. The tendency in us to choose ourselves over God and to turn away from God is called original sin.
4. God did not reject humanity but promised a Savior and established a covenant relationship with the people.
5. This covenant promise was established in the Garden and the story of Noah and continued through God's relationship with Abraham and Sarah, Jacob, Joseph, and Moses.
6. The Exodus is the story of God's care for people of Israel who were in slavery, and how God brought them to freedom and to the Promised Land.
7. God's loving relationship with God's people was reflected in the law or the covenant God gave Moses called the Ten Commandments.
8. Other Old Testament people and Books to study :
 - a. Some of the Kings: Saul, David, Solomon
 - b. Some of the Prophets – those who brought God's message to the people of Israel: Elijah, Hosea, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Judith, Esther
 - c. The Book of psalms

The New Testament (Christian Scriptures)

1. The New Testament, or the Christian Scriptures, tells of God's relationship restored with God's people through Jesus Christ.
2. The New Testament contains Gospels, the Acts of the Apostles, letters, and the Book of Revelations.
3. The four Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John contain the Good News of God's kingdom as found in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.
4. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gave the Beatitudes as guidelines for discipleship.
5. The Works of Mercy are based on Jesus' life and teaching concerning how we are meant to take care of our brothers and sisters.
6. Jesus gave his disciples and us the New Covenant of love in the Eucharist.
7. The Acts of the Apostles tells us the story of the beginning of the Church after Jesus' death and resurrection.
8. The New Testament letters were written to the early churches to help their members understand how to live the Christian faith.
9. The Book of Revelations is an example of apocalyptic literature and talks about the end times when God will create a new creation of a new heaven and new earth, and goodness will triumph over evil.
10. Through Mary's willingness to say "yes" to God, she participated in God's plan for the salvation of all people.

Our Faith Celebrated Sacramental Life in Community

Sacraments

1. A review of each of the seven Sacraments:
 - a. We enter the Church community through the Sacraments of Initiation - Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist

- b. The Sacraments of Healing restore us to the Church community - Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick
 - c. Through the Sacraments of Service (Vocation) - Matrimony, Holy Orders – we are called to serve the Church Community in different ways.
- 2. The sacraments developed out of Jesus' action and teachings.
- 3. Many of the sacraments grew out of the faith life of the Jewish people and have Old Testament connections.
- 4. Through Baptism we take on the mission of Jesus as Priest, Prophet, King.
- 5. Through Confirmation we are anointed with Chrism and receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit so that we can live more like Christ.
- 6. The Eucharist was based on the Passover Meal of the Jewish people.
- 7. Jesus changed the meaning of the Passover when he gave us his body and blood to eat and drink, under the form of bread and wine.

The Church Year

- 1. Advent and the "O Antiphons" help us to prepare and look forward with hope and expectation for the coming of Jesus.
- 2. Christmas celebrates Jesus as the fulfillment of the Old Testament and the hopes of those who waited for the coming of the Messiah.
- 3. Holy Week celebrates the new Passover - which Jesus, through his passion, death, and resurrection, became the new Paschal Lamb of God and brought about the new covenant.
- 4. The readings of the Easter Vigil are a summation of God's plan of salvation for all people, which culminated in Jesus' resurrection from the dead.

Our Faith Lived

Our Moral Life and the Church's Social Justice Teaching

Leading to Mission - Service through Action

Our Moral Life

- 1. The creation stories teach us that the dignity of the human person is rooted in his or her creation in the image and likeness of God.
- 2. God created each of us with the freedom to choose to do good or evil.
- 3. As a child and creation of God we are meant to live according to the covenant of the Ten Commandments, thus choosing to life of love, chastity, and reverence towards God, self, and others.

Social Justice Teaching

- 1. The Church carries on the mission of Jesus in the world today.
- 2. As the Church, we are meant to carry on the mission of Jesus in the world today.
- 3. When we work for justice and peace, we are carrying on the mission of Jesus in the world today.
- 4. Through the Beatitudes Jesus challenges us to be just and to be peacemakers.

Suggested Action

1. Discuss with the students the injustices they see in their local community.
2. Brainstorm with the students how to create a world that is just and peaceful – the practical things that can be done to overcome injustice, based on the Beatitudes.
3. Choose one action the class would like to do to foster justice and peace.

Our Faith Prayed**Required Prayers and Doctrine**

Review of Grade 5 Prayers:

1. Sign of the Cross
2. Glory to the Father
3. Hail Mary
4. Our Father
5. Act of Contrition – older version
6. Apostles' Creed
7. Ten Commandments
8. Beatitudes
9. Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy
10. The Seven Sacraments – and the meaning of each

Suggestion for Prayer Service

1. A Prayer Service can be created around the Jesse Tree and take place during Advent. This would give the students a chance to look up passages in the Bible and create symbols of people who waited for and prepared for the coming of the Messiah.
2. A Prayer Service can be created around the Beatitudes and connect them with the Exodus event. Just as God saw the injustice of the slavery of the people of Israel and freed them, we are called to help those enslaved by injustice today – by prejudice, social injustice, economic factors, etc. The focus can be on how the students can live the Beatitudes today.

During Grade 6, the year in which the students study the Bible, and especially the Old Testament, it is strongly recommended that one segment of the year be devoted to an in depth study of the Sacrament of Eucharist, to present this important sacrament on an older level. Using the text listed below, and eliminating some of the chapters from the normal Grade 6 text will accomplish this objective.

Benziger, *Eucharist: A Catechesis for Middle Grades*, 1994.