

The Bible and Us

Knowing the Bible

- The students understand that the Bible is a source for answering life's questions today.
- The students understand that revelation is God making known to us who God is.
- The students understand that the Bible was written under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- The students learn the major divisions of the Bible.
- The students make God's word their own.

Understanding the Bible

- The students understand the importance of communicating God's message.
- The students appreciate the different forms of communicating God's word.
- The students learn several literary forms used in the Bible.
- The students develop reverence for the Bible.
- The students practice praying with the Bible.

Created to Be Like God

- The students understand God as creator, and to express their faith in Him.
- The students understand the message of the first creation story.
- The students believe that human beings are the high point of God's creation.
- The students understand that we all have a part in creation.
- The students understand the importance of being guardians of God's world.

Created For God

- The students understand that we are partners with God and with one another.
- The students understand the importance of a loving relationship with God and others.
- The students recognize and know symbols used to teach religious truths.
- The students understand that we are called to bring about fullness of life for everyone.
- The students understand that their talents can make the world a better place.

Finding God's Mercy

- To help students understand how God wants us to respond to violence and evil.
- The students understand that sin and evil are the result of free choice.
- The students understand that we must use our freedom responsibly.
- The students understand that all people have an everlasting covenant with God.
- The students understand that we are called to be merciful to others.

Celebrating Reconciliation

- The students understand the meaning of mercy.
- The students understand that sin hurts us all, but that Jesus brings forgiveness.
- The students understand that Reconciliation offers healing, comfort, and reunion.
- The students prepare for a Reconciliation Prayer Service.
- The students review and then celebrate with a Reconciliation Prayer Service.

Celebrating Eucharist

- The students understand that we honor God by offering up sacrifices.
- The students understand sacrifice as a way of thanking God.
- The students understand that the Mass is our great sacrifice of praise.
- The students prepare a Mass celebration.
- The students celebrate the Mass and review.

Living by a Covenant

Seeking the Promised Land

- The students understand the importance of knowing our roots.
- The students understand that Abram and Sarah were called to be parents of a new people.
- The students understand that God always fulfills His promises.
- The students understand that we must strive to put God first in our lives.
- The students develop pride as Catholic Christians.

Pioneering the Promised Land

- The students understand that we must work with God to bring His grace to others.
- The students understand that we are all called to be channels of God's grace.
- The students understand that God is present in all the events of our lives.
- The students understand that God sometimes enters our lives in surprising ways.
- The students reflect on ways to become channels of God's grace.

Longing for the Promised Land

- The students understand that freedom is a God-given right.
- The students understand that God called Moses to lead the Israelites to freedom.
- The students appreciate that the Israelites believed God was more powerful than their oppressors.
- The students understand that Passover and Easter are celebrations of freedom.
- The students are guided toward finding ways to help those suffering from injustice.

Returning to the Promised Land

- The students understand that our religious beliefs require us to be responsible to God and others.
- The students understand God's covenant with the Israelites of Sinai.
- The students know the Ten Commandments and understand our responsibility in living them.
- The students understand that obeying and living the commandments bring true freedom.
- The students reflect on the Ten Commandments as guidelines to real freedom.

Settling the Promised Land

- The students explore examples of strength and understand God as a source of our strength.
- The students understand that God gives ordinary people strength to carry out His will.
- The students learn of a biblical character who is a source of strength to others.
- The students learn about a biblical loyalty.
- The students find ways of using their personal gifts to help others.

Celebrating Advent

- The students understand how to pass along their Christian "language" to others.
- The students understand what we remember during Advent
- The students make symbols representing some of our ancestors in faith.
- The students prepare an Advent prayer service.
- The students review, and then celebrate a Jesse Tree Prayer Service.

Celebrating Christmas

- The students understand that Jesus Christ is the Light of the World.
- The students understand how the Church celebrates the Christmas season.
- The students decide how to exhibit that Jesus is the Light of the World.
- The students prepare for a Christmas play.

Sixth Grade Benchmarks

Living by Faith

A Golden Age for Israel

- The students discover leadership qualities.
- The students discover some of the great leaders of the Israelite community.
- The students understand David's story and the importance of keeping God's covenant.
- The students understand that the story of David shows God's mercy and forgiveness.
- The students express how Saul and David lived God's covenant.

End of Israel's Golden Age

- The students understand the value of gaining wisdom.
- The students understand Solomon's story and his prayer for wisdom.
- The students recognize Solomon's failure to live according to God's covenant.
- The students understand that Solomon's sinfulness led to the dissolution of his kingdom.
- The students explore ways of working against injustice.

Learning from the Prophets

- The students discover what it means to do the right, love goodness, and walk humbly with God.
- The students know Elijah's story and that prophets come to tell us God's truth.
- The students understand that God speaks to us in our hearts when we are quiet.
- The students understand the consequences of Israel's faithlessness.
- The students choose and try to live a prophetic message.

Preachers of the Faith

- The students realize that they are capable of speaking out for peace.
- The students understand Isaiah's call and our own call to be prophets.
- The students understand that God was with Jeremiah as he spoke out and is with us also.
- The students will recognize Ezekiel as the great prophet of the Exile.
- The students understand what it means to speak out on something in which they believe.

Servants of God's People

- The students understand that everyone deserves a second chance.
- The students understand the end of the Exile as a time of hope and new beginnings.
- The students know the stories of two Biblical heroines, Esther and Judith.
- The students understand that God works in history through people like us.
- The students pray for the strength and courage to live God's covenant.

Celebrating Lent

- The students understand that Lent should be a time of prayer and sacrifice for others.
- The students understand that Lent is a time of examining and changing our lives.
- The students learn the meaning and practices of Lent.
- The students follow Jesus during Lent and prepare a prayer service.
- The students find ways to carry their crosses and join in a Lenten Prayer Service.

Celebrating Easter

- The students understand the power of the energies of love.
- The students understand the "new passover" and introduce the Easter Triduum.
- The students explore further the celebration of the Easter Triduum.
- The students prepare for an Easter Prayer Service.
- The students will celebrate an Easter Prayer Service.

Living in Jesus Christ

New Testament Times

- The students explore how Jesus has spoken through the ages.
- The students understand the land, people, and prejudices of Jesus' time.
- The students understand the main groups of the Jewish religion at the time of Jesus.
- The students understand Jewish and Catholic observances of the Sabbath and other feasts.
- The students choose ways of showing discipleship.

Jesus of Nazareth

- The students focus on good news about young people.
- The students understand Jesus as the Messiah and Savior.
- The students see that the parable of the Good Samaritan teaches the Law of Love.
- The students understand that miracles were signs of God's power working through Jesus.
- The students will choose ways to live for the reign of God and deliver Jesus' message of hope.

Jesus and His Disciples

- The students understand that we can share in Jesus' mission to bring God's kingdom to all.
- The students understand how Jesus prepared for His public life.
- The students understand the Beatitudes as guidelines for true happiness.
- The students understand Jesus' death, resurrection, and ascension and the evangelical counsels.
- The students decide how to become more active disciples of Jesus.

The Early Church and Us

- The students understand how the early Christians teach us to give witness to our faith.
- The students understand the early Christians and the conversion of Saint Paul.
- The students understand Saint Paul the missionary and the Age of Martyrdom.
- The students understand the challenge of living as Catholic Christians.
- The students choose ways to show courage in living their faith.

Prayer and Practice

- The students understand that it takes practice to become an outstanding Christian.
- The students understand that the New Testament challenges us to live as holy people.
- The students understand the importance of prayer in their daily lives.
- The students understand that the Works of Mercy challenge us to turn our words into deeds.
- The students choose ways of putting the Works of Mercy into action.

Remembering the Saints

- The students honor the saints and realize that we are all saints in the making.
- The students honor a special saint in their lives.
- The students appreciate the feast of All Souls.
- The students learn more about Mary and prepare a Marian celebration.
- The students have a Marian Celebration.

Living as Disciples

- The students understand that disciples must live in peace.
- The students plan and celebrate a Mass for world peace.
- The students understand vocations and celebrate our vocations.