

CURRICULUM GUIDELINES FOR CATECHESIS

KINDERGARTEN

INTRODUCE AT THIS LEVEL

This course:

GOD

Presents God as Father/Creator
Presents Jesus as gift of God, Son and Redeemer
Presents God as worthy of worship
Presents all people as members of God's family

JESUS/CHRISTOLOGY

Presents Jesus as friend
Examines the life of Jesus – His public ministry, His way of life

SCRIPTURE

Presents the Bible as God's Living Word
Examines Jesus' command to love God and neighbor (Mk 7:1-10; 1 John 4:21; 1 Peter 4:10).
Provides opportunities to appreciate the Word of God through selected scripture passages

PRAYER/WORSHIP

Expresses knowledge and understanding of formal prayers, especially –
 The Sign of the Cross
 The Lord's Prayer
 Glory Be
 Hail Mary
 Meal Prayers
Presents symbols using concrete objects and gestures for prayer and liturgy
Provides opportunities for planning and participating in celebrations
Provides opportunities for listening to Scripture readings
Provides opportunities for shared prayer based on Scripture (e.g., Bible Services)
Provides for student planning and participation in prayer experiences that bring to life the special liturgical seasons
Provides opportunities for quiet, reflection and meditation that demonstrate proper attitudes needed for prayer

SACRAMENTS

Develops the recognition and appreciation of Baptism as the beginning of one's life as an active member of God's family

SALVATION/CHURCH HISTORY

Describes God's acts in human history
Promotes pride in Catholic roots

MODELS OF THE CHURCH/ECCLESIOLOGY

Provides opportunities for reflection on and response to the invitation of Jesus to be a member of the Church

Describes the Church

as God's family

as reflective of the Kingdom of God

as a harmonious living community

Recognizes God in the Church seasons (Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost), and Holy Days of Obligation

Instills knowledge of and a sense of the sacred with regard to the Church building, altar, tabernacle, font, crucifix, stained glass windows, etc.

Presents Mary as Mother of the Church and presents ways of honoring and imitating her in prayer and song

PERSONAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Discusses the experience of belonging to –

a family

a neighborhood

a parish

a school

Identifies persons as a member of a family, a school, a parish, a neighborhood

Encourages the student to recognize/appreciate responsibilities for service to the community and aid to others

Explains that all people are children of God

Provides opportunities to experience enjoyment in the world

Provides opportunity to establish friendships

Correlates fun time, learning time, and quiet time

Provides opportunity to pray, sing, talk, listen to and about God

Explains the need for reconciliation between self and others

Elicits an awareness of the uniqueness of the self feelings, senses, name, living, being loved

Discusses how each is unique to God and each has a special, one-of-a-kind relationship with Christ

Discusses and provides for the celebration of the uniqueness of each person

Discusses the unconditional love of God for each individual

Defines uniqueness

Presents ways of growing in self esteem

Explains why life is sacred from conception to death

Discusses the importance of proper dress, grooming and behavior
Provides opportunities for expressing feelings about one's family
Discusses parent/child and sibling relationships in a family
Presents family communication skills
Examines the child's changing role in the family
Discusses a person's need to receive love and share it with others
Explains that individual growth is helped by and shared with others
Explains that the human body is a material sign of the total person created in God's image
Discusses the primary differences between boys and girls
Provides opportunities for healthy and balanced interaction with the opposite sex
Analyzes the importance of signs, touch, and words in expressing love

FAMILY LIFE

Discusses the meaning of loving, caring praying and sharing in the family unit
Demonstrates the kinds of family activities that bring happiness (e.g. family prayer)
Discusses the observance of family rules
Explains the role of parental authority in the lives of young people

JUSTICE & PEACE

Defines the obligation of Christian service to those in need
Identifies peacemaking as an exercise of faith
Fosters an attitude which might result in a fundamental option for the poor
Designs service projects, (e.g., clothing drives, food baskets, Rice Bowls, special Church collections)

RESPECT LIFE

Discusses "self" as gift
Discusses others as gift
Promotes respect for life
Presents heroes, saints and others as models for imitation
Presents persons as more valuable than material things (e.g., social status and productivity)