

Lifelong Christocentric Theme:

Growing Closer to God through Jesus Christ by Means of the Spirit Alive in the Church

Early Childhood – Childhood 6:

- Parish catechists' formation - before beginning Unit #1. [Hours TBD by DRE/PCL]
- Beginning of the year goals - (2-3 sessions recommended)
 - ❖ **Get-acquainted Activities/** Administrative Procedures – get to know the catechist, peers, the pastor, and parish's patron saint
 - ❖ **Building a Faith Community** Activities – inquiry/discernment activities to discern where learners are on their faith journey
 - ❖ **Bible Usage** - inquiry/discernment activities to know how well learners can use the Bible [Early Childhood Essential Question: *Why do we read the Bible?* Childhood 1-6 Essential Question: *Why and how should Catholics read the Bible?*]
 - ❖ **Disciple/Follower of Jesus Christ** – introduction to the above theme and the unit Big Idea questions for the 4 units of study

Unit #1 BIG IDEA – Who is Jesus Christ?

[Recommended: Minimum of 3 Sessions for Childhood 1-6]

Early Childhood (Age 3 to Kindergarten):

- Essential Question #1 – *Who is God?*
- Essential Question #2 - *Why did God make you and me?*
- Essential Question #3 - *Why did God make everything?*
- Essential Question #4 – *Why do we pray?*
- Essential Question #5 – *Who is Jesus Christ?*

Childhood (Grades 1-6):

- Essential Question #1 – *What do you know about the life of Jesus Christ on earth?*
- Essential Question #2 – *What does Jesus Christ teach you about God?*
- UNIT EVALUATION (Mystogogy/ Reflection on the Big Idea): *Who is Jesus Christ?*

Additional Sessions (Optional):

- Blessed Virgin Mary (during the month of October) – Essential Question: *Why and how do Catholics honor the Blessed Virgin Mary?*
- Feast of All Saints/ All Souls – Essential Question: *Why and how do Catholics celebrate All Saints' (and All Souls') Day?*
- Childhood 4-6 - How to Use a Rosary (depicting the life of Jesus Christ)

Unit #2 BIG IDEA – How do we get to know and love Jesus Christ?

[Recommended: Minimum of 6 Sessions + Advent/Christmas for Childhood 1-6]

Early Childhood (Age 3 to Kindergarten):

- Essential Question #1 – *When and how do we pray?*
- Essential Question #2 – *Why do we go to Mass?*
- Essential Question #3 – *What happens at Mass?*

Childhood (Grades 1-2):

- Essential Question #1 – *How does praying help me know and love Jesus Christ?*
- Session on age-appropriate common prayers
- Essential Question #2 – *How does going to Mass help me know and love Jesus Christ?*
- Session on age-appropriate Mass responses and/or church tour
- Essential Question #3 – *How do the sacraments help me to know and love Jesus Christ?*
- UNIT EVALUATION (Mystogogy/ Reflection on the Big Idea) – *How do we get to know and love Jesus Christ?*

Childhood (Grades 3-6)

- Essential Question #1 – *How does praying help me know and love Jesus Christ?*
- Session on age-appropriate common prayers
- Essential Question #2 – *How does going to Mass help me increase my faith in Jesus Christ?*
- Session on age-appropriate Mass responses and/or church tour
- Essential Question #3 – *How do the sacraments help me increase my faith in Jesus Christ?*
- UNIT EVALUATION (Mystogogy/ Reflection on the Big Idea) – *How do we get to know and love Jesus Christ?*

Additional Sessions:

- Liturgical Seasons of Advent and Christmas:
 - ❖ Essential Question (Early Childhood): *Why do we celebrate (Advent and) Christmas?*
 - ❖ Essential Question (Childhood 1-6): *Why and how do Catholics celebrate Advent and Christmas?*
- Time to pause and allow catechists to provide feedback on the implementation of Units 1 & 2 AND to prepare for Units 3 & 4

Unit #3 BIG IDEA – How does Jesus Christ teach us to live a moral life?

[Recommended: Minimum of 4 Sessions + Lent/Easter for Childhood 1-6]

Early Childhood (Age 3 to Kindergarten):

- Essential Question #1 – *Why does Jesus want me to love myself and others?* [Circle of Grace lessons]
- Essential Question #2 – *Why does Jesus want me to make good choices?*

Childhood (Grades 1-6):

- Essential Question #1 – *How do God’s commands (rules) guide my life?*
- Essential Question #2 – *Why and how does Jesus Christ want me to make good choices?*
- Circle of Grace lesson(s) – Consider using this EQ to frame lesson(s): *Why and how does Jesus Christ expect me to love and respect myself and others?*
- UNIT EVALUATION (Mystogogy/ Reflection on the Big Idea) – *How does Jesus Christ teach us to live a moral life?*

Additional Sessions:

- Liturgical Seasons of Lent and Easter:
 - ❖ Essential Question (Early Childhood): *Why do we celebrate (Lent and) Easter?*
 - ❖ Essential Question (Childhood 1-6): *Why and how do Catholics celebrate Lent and Easter?*
- Optional Sessions:
 - ❖ Session on Penance & Reconciliation
 - ❖ Session on the Stations of the Cross

Unit #4 BIG IDEA – How are we called to become missionary disciples of Jesus Christ?

[Recommended: Minimum of 3 Sessions + End-of-the-Year Gathering]

Early Childhood (Age 3 to Kindergarten):

- Essential Question #1 – *Why does Jesus want me to help others?*

Childhood (Grades 1-6):

- Essential Question #1 – *Why and how am I called to follow Jesus Christ?* [Use this EQ whether doing a lesson or a project-based learning activity]
- Essential Question #2 – *How do I follow Jesus Christ?* [Use this EQ whether doing a lesson or a project-based learning activity]
- UNIT EVALUATION (Mystogogy/ Reflection on the Big Idea) – *How are we called to become missionary disciples of Jesus Christ?*

Additional Sessions:

- Liturgical Season of Easter (Reflect on Triduum and the Season of Easter)
- Blessed Virgin Mary (during the month of May, if not addressed in October) - Essential Question: *Why and how do Catholics honor the Blessed Virgin Mary?*
- Cross grade-level sharing of discipleship/service projects