

Curriculum Tips for Becoming Disciples

Volume 10

Office of Religious Education, Diocese of Wilmington

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Celebrating Marriage And Family

This year the Church asks us to focus on the gift of marriage and family. We will look in this issue at Key Concepts from the Curriculum Guide that coincide with this theme.

Knowledge of the Faith (K, Gr. 1)

- Mary is the Mother of Jesus and our Mother.
- Joseph is the foster father of Jesus.
- Babies are a gift from God.
- The Holy Family loved and cared for one another.
- God has blessed us with a family (parents, siblings) to love and care for one another.



Knowledge of the Faith (Gr. 2, 3, 4)

- Mary is truly “Mother of God” and devotion to Mary is part of Catholic tradition.

Knowledge of the Faith (Gr. 3)

- Understand that with the help of God, husbands and wives in the sacrament of marriage are faithful to one another.
- Realize that mothers and fathers cooperate with God in creating new life.

Knowledge of the Faith (Gr. 5)

- Understand that the sacrament of Matrimony is a celebration of life-long love and commitment between one man and one woman and is directed toward the salvation of others.
- Recognize that the sacrament of marriage has, at its core, faithful married love open to new life and that sexual intercourse is a special act of love intended for husbands and wives.



Remember!!

The present and past issues of “Curriculum Tips” Newsletter as well as the most accurate version of Becoming Disciples curriculum are available on the Diocesan website: cdow.org. Religious Education Elementary Curriculum

Focus on the Holy Family



Scripture Stories for Catechists, Parents and Children to Tell

K: The Annunciation Lk. 1:26-33
The Nativity Lk. 2:1-20
Visit of the Magi Mt. 2:1-12
Child Jesus in Temple Lk. 2:41-52

Gr. 1: Add the Hail Mary Lk. 1:26-33
Presentation Lk. 2:22-38

Gr. 5: God ordains marriage Genesis 2:24
Wedding at Cana Jn. 2:1-11

Invite children to imagine the scenes by describing for them the sights, sounds, smells and feel of each of these stories. Have them put themselves in the story as a participant and leave time for them to interact creatively through their imaginations with the characters in the story. This is a form of Scriptural prayer that St. Ignatius called Contemplation.

Children also enjoy role-playing the stories, creating two and three dimensional art (dioramas, mobiles etc.), singing songs about Mary and the Holy Family, participating in Las Posadas (a re-enactment of Mary and Joseph's search for lodging in Bethlehem), moving pieces of a Nativity Scene as they tell the stories, and thinking about these particular mysteries as they pray a decade of the rosary, especially during Oct., the month of the rosary..

Special Feasts to Celebrate with Stories from Tradition and Prayer

Our Lady of the Rosary
Oct. 7

Immaculate Conception,
Patroness of the U.S.
Dec. 8

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the
Americas Dec. 12

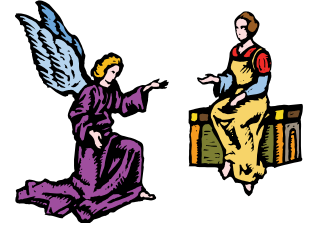
Mary, Mother of God, Jan. 1

St. Joseph Mar. 19

The Annunciation Mar. 25

The Assumption Aug. 15

The Queenship of Mary
Aug. 22



Visit various churches as well as All Saints Cemetery in Wilmington to look at artwork depicting the various mysteries of the Holy Family's life. Much beautiful artwork on these subjects is also available online and at the local library.

Make rosaries or ask a group such as the Sodality of Mary to donate rosaries to children.



Activities to Build Catholic Families

How to promote good communication skills.

Be honest about what you are feeling. Feelings are neither Right or wrong.

Listen to one another with openness, attention and interest, both verbal and nonverbal.

Do not interrupt.

Repeat back what the other is saying to be sure you understood.



The healthy family...

- ...affirms and supports one another
- ...teaches respect for one another
 - ...develops a sense of trust
 - ...has a sense of humor
 - ...shares responsibility
 - ...teaches right and wrong
- ...has strong family traditions
- ...has a shared religious core
- ...respects one another's privacy
- ...values service to others
- ...values table time and conversation
 - ...shares leisure time
- ...admits and seeks help with problems

From Traits of a Healthy Family
By Dolores Curran

To foster family communication

- Plan a surprise evening of fun and games. At times, do this one child at a time.
- Write short notes to one another describing what you appreciate about other family members.
- Ask children for their opinions on issues in their lives as well as events in the world.
- Pull out the photos and tell family stories.
- Engage everyone in brainstorming solutions to family problems and conflicts.
- Pray together about things that matter most to each of you.



Serving Together as a Family

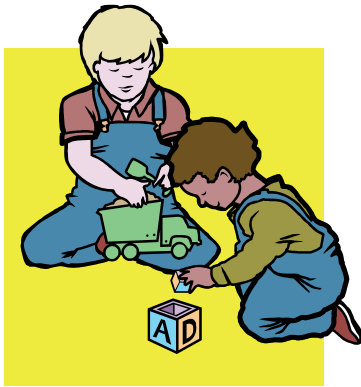
Plan to **set aside a certain amount of money each month to donate to a charity** of the family's choice. Children can contribute a portion from their allowances or monetary gifts. Investigate the possibility of **volunteering for Meals on Wheels, visiting with nursing home residents or cooking meals for a shelter** or soup kitchen. **Adopt a child** from the Third World through agencies such as the Catholic Near East Welfare Association that puts you in touch with the child through letter-writing and photographs. **Read the works of mercy with your child and talk about ways your family can do this.** **Adopt an elderly person, perhaps a shut-in** in your parish, and visit them regularly, helping them with groceries, difficult chores, preparing a hot meal for them etc. Write them regular notes of appreciation. **Have Family Give-Away times** during the year when clothing, lightly used toys and gifts, food etc. can be collected and distributed through agencies that help the less fortunate. **Pray together for global needs.** **Grow a garden** and give some of the vegetables and flowers to the needy.

Moral Formation for Family Life

Key Concepts



1. Understand the **love, respect and obedience** that children should show in the family.
2. Realize that we must forgive others (family, friends, etc.) when they express sorrow for having hurt us and we must say we are sorry and ask **forgiveness** when we have hurt another person.



An Examination of Conscience On Family Life

Opening Prayer: Loving God, we thank you for your wonderful forgiving love that that embraces us every day. We ask that Your Holy Spirit guide us to remember the ways we have failed to love you and others. Help us to see the reasons behind our failures and the effects our sins have on others. Help us to be sorry for and make up for the hurt we have caused. *Read Luke 15:11-32.*

- Do I pray to God each day, thanking God for my family, friends, health, talents and materials goods?
- Do I respect and love my parents, brothers and sisters and others in my family?
- Do I help my family in every way I can?
- Do I make up after a quarrel?
- Do I forgive those who are mean to me on purpose?
- Do I tell the truth in my family?
- Do I share with others and take care of things in the home?
- Do I take care of my body my keeping myself clean and healthy?
- Do I fully apply myself to the work I have been given to do at home and in school?

Prayer of Sorrow: Loving God, we are sorry for the wrong things we have done and for the good things we have not done. We want to avoid what is wrong in the future and to love always as Jesus loved. Amen.

*Say the Lord's Prayer. Share a Sign of Peace.
Show appreciation for your family in some way.*

