

Curriculum Tips for Becoming Disciples

Volume 6

Office of Religious Education, Diocese of Wilmington

March 2009

Check It Off!

It's time to check off the outcomes in your **Becoming Disciples** curriculum book



that you have addressed with your students this year. Be sure to share them with the catechist who will receive your children next year.



Exploring Lenten Symbols In Scripture

Give students hands-on prayer experiences with these central symbols of our faith. Explore with them as well the biblical context and meaning of the symbols.

Ashes—Joel 2:12-18, 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:2

Desert—Mark 1:12-15

Water—John 4:5-42

Light—John 9:1-41

Palms—Mark 11:1-10

Oil—Isaiah 61:1-3, Is. 6:8-9, Luke 4:16-21

Shared meal—Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14,
1 Cor. 11:23-26, Matthew 28:1-10

Thorns, Cross—Isaiah 52:13-53, Hebrews 5:7-9,
John 18:1-19:42

Tomb, New Life—John 11:1-45

New Clothes—Isaiah 55:1-11, Mark 9:2-10



Liturgical Education: Describe the meaning of Lent, the Triduum and the Easter season by using seasonal symbols

Ashes—mortality, sorrow, repentance

Desert—withdrawal for prayer and fasting, willingness to face our sin and confront temptation

Light and Fire—Christ's presence; new sight: to see as God sees, light that overcomes the darkness

Water—washing feet as sign of service, baptism, cleansing from sin, new life

Palms—a show of honor and symbol of victory

Oil—spiritual strengthening, empowering for mission, healing and comfort

Shared meal—Jesus' presence in the Eucharist, thanksgiving

Bread—Jesus fills our hunger, the Body of Christ broken for us

Wine—the Blood of Christ given for us, the new covenant

Thorns and cross—suffering and pain, the suffering Messiah

New Clothes, empty tomb—New life in Christ



News Flash!!!

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 web site: cdow.org



Scriptural Lenten Meal Prayer

Leader: Behold! Now is the acceptable time!

All: Now is the day of salvation!

Leader: I was hungry:

All: And you gave me food.

Leader: I was thirsty:

All: And you gave me drink.

Leader: I was a stranger:

All: And you welcomed me.

Leader: I was naked:

All: And you clothed me.

Leader: I was in jail:

All: And you visited me.

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, be with all those who are in need. Bless us, and bless the food we eat today.

Help our families, our school and our parish keep a good and holy Lent. And bring us quickly to the glory of Easter. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen. (based on Matthew 25:35-36)



Feast of the Annunciation March 25



Read Luke 1:26-38.

- Have students reenact or retell the story that they just heard as if they were Mary. Who was there? How? Why? How did you feel?
- Talk about what Mary might have felt. Scared? Bewildered? Excited? Curious? Awestruck? Surprised? Trusting? Hopeful?
- Talk about times when you have had the same feelings as Mary.
- Pray the first Joyful Mystery as you say a decade of the rosary. Meditate on the stories you've just shared and how God is present to us as God was present to Mary.

2

Awaiting Easter! Awaiting Spring!



The butterfly has been used for hundreds of years as a symbol for Christ's Resurrection. Using the life stages of a butterfly, you can teach your students about the Resurrection of Jesus, and help them to remember that someday they will rise with Christ.

Begin by showing your students photographs of caterpillars, cocoons and butterflies. Talk about the life-cycle of a butterfly. Introduce the students to the term "metamorphosis." It means a complete change of form.

Emphasize Jesus' life of loving service for us, even to death, and his glorious transformation to new life. Compare the placement of Jesus' body in the tomb to the cocoon and the emergence of the butterfly to Jesus' resurrection, in a glorious and changed body. Read one or two of the following chapters: **Mt. 28, Mk. 16, Lk. 24 and Jn. 20-21.**

All of us pass through stages in our spiritual lives: from sinfulness, to dying to sin and self-ishness, to rising with Christ on the Last Day, with changed bodies, having the freedom of the butterfly to take flight into the full life of God. Through baptism, we shed our old nature and take on the nature of Christ.



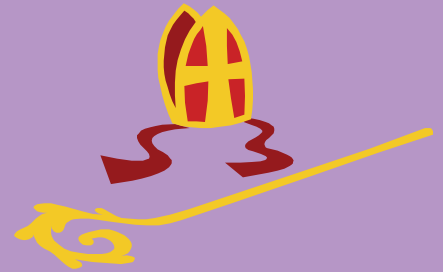
Art Ideas: Make caterpillars out of popsicle sticks and small pom-poms. Make cocoons out of plastic Easter eggs. Make butterflies out of construction and tissue paper. Place butterflies in cocoons until Easter.

Take a St. Peter and St. Paul Pilgrimage This Spring!



- Visit St. Paul's Church in Delaware City
- Visit St. Paul's Church in Wilmington
- Visit Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Easton (call ahead for re-opening date due to water damage)
- Visit St. Peter's Cathedral in Wilmington

Call ahead for a tour. Compare the styles of the churches. Find out about their histories and the communities that celebrate Eucharist there each week. Consider participating in Mass. Examine the art work to see what is being said about St. Peter or St. Paul. Let the altar servers in the group describe the names and uses of various objects in the church.

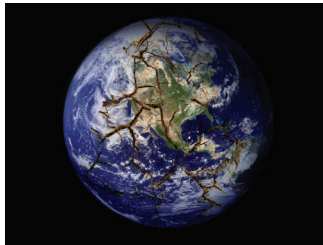


The Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul is June 29.

Education for Community Life:

Recognize that God has entrusted humans with responsibility for the world and its creatures.

Penitential Litany for Earth



We confess, O Lord, as creatures privileged with the care and keeping of your creation, that we have abused your gifts of creation through ignorance, arrogance and greed.

Lord, have mercy.

We confess, O Lord, that we have risked permanent damage to your handiwork; we confess to impoverishing creation's ability to bring you praise.

Lord, have mercy.

We confess, O Lord, that the races and cultures of the earth reflect the richness of your creation and that we have too often mistreated and inflicted injustices upon the poor, minorities, and the marginalized.

Lord, have mercy.

How long, O Lord, before we learn to love and respect our fragile planet home? For our sins and failings, O God, we ask forgiveness. Amen.

3

Prayers of Petition for Earth



O Lord, grant us the grace to respect and care for your creation. Lord hear our prayer.

O Lord, bless all of your creatures in the abundance of your love, Lord hear our prayer.

O Lord, help us to end the suffering of the poor and bring healing to all of your creation. Lord, hear our prayer.

O Lord, help us to use our technological inventiveness to undo the damage we have done to your creation and to sustain your gift of nature. Lord, hear our prayer.

As you pray these prayers for our earth, surround yourself with elements of nature, such as plants, tree branches, water, vegetables, sea shells and so forth. Or if possible, go outside for this prayer. Take time to drink in the earth's beauty in silence.

Fostering Family Holiness This Summer

Education for Community Life includes the following outcomes which can be fostered in the family:

*Understand that common prayer, inclusive of family prayer, is a way of life for Christians.
Matthew 18:19

Plan to learn and say together a new prayer this summer. Check your child's religion text or the appendix of "Becoming Disciples" curriculum guide (available at cdow.org) for prayers your family can say together.



*Know that, with others in our family, parish, school, we practice the charity of the Lord in good works and love for all especially the poor.

Plan together a summer service project for the whole family to share. Grow and share vegetables with the needy, clean out closets and give items to Good Will, help at a shelter, food closet or soup kitchen, tutor someone, do repairs for an elderly neighbor, visit a nursing home etc.



*Know that we can make choices and our choices affect the lives of others.

Read some stories of summer saints, such as St. Maria Goretti, whose feast day is July 10 and Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, celebrated on July 14. Check your church calendar for other saints you can research online. Discuss how their choices affected others and how they are models for us.



*Realize that Jesus called us to mutual forgiveness, Matthew 18:22 and that forgiveness begins in the family.



Practice conflict resolution skills in the family.

- 1. Take turns, listening to each person tell:***
 - What happened***
 - How they feel***
 - What would help the situation***
- 2. Brainstorm ways to solve the problem.***
- 3. Discuss pros and cons.***
- 4. Choose one solution to try***
on which both parties can agree.