

Guidelines for Catechesis of Children Grades 3 to 5

Stages of Development of the Child Grades 3-5 and Implications for Catechesis

A GRADE 3 - 5 CHILD

THE CATECHIST

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">· possesses high energy | <ul style="list-style-type: none">· provides outlets for physical restlessness |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">· identifies himself/herself as members of a group; peer approval takes on great importance | <ul style="list-style-type: none">· uses group projects emphasizing cooperation |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">· begins to have concern for others (social justice) but usually limits it to family, friends, approved people, and the 'less fortunate' | <ul style="list-style-type: none">· emphasizes giving-the reasons and the ways the child gives to others. Provides opportunities to nurture emerging qualities of empathy and compassion |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">· collects, classifies, remembers information well | <ul style="list-style-type: none">· provides opportunities to organize and display information |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">· gradually moves from concrete to abstract thinking. Beginning to symbolize | <ul style="list-style-type: none">· presents God as personal and intrapersonal with abstract personal qualities. God as teacher, friend, ruler, judge, forgiver |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">· capable of seeing logical connections and structures, making generalizations, predicting outcomes at a basic level | <ul style="list-style-type: none">· creates opportunities to discover and prove, to find out things for themselves |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">· compartmentalizes, holding two opposing views at once, but generally considering them separately | <ul style="list-style-type: none">· leads child to awareness of these incongruities |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">· motives and intentions behind actions are becoming important | <ul style="list-style-type: none">· guides understanding the 'spirit' as well as the 'letter' of the law |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">· "right" is conformity to conventional images of good behavior as defined by one's own groups and avoiding disapproval of others | <ul style="list-style-type: none">· assists in distinguishing between false and real consequences of actions |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">· rules are important; deeply concerned about fairness | <ul style="list-style-type: none">· provides opportunities to help set rules and guidelines, to enforce limits |

Word
Intermediate Childhood/Grades 3-5

REVELATION

- God loves us and wants to be in relationship with us.
 - We are free to respond or not to.
 - A yes response is called faith-belief in God.
 - Faith is expressed in words and deeds.
 - Jesus is the best way to come to know who God is.
 - We can also find out about who God is from nature, the Scriptures, Church teaching, and the work of the Holy Spirit around us in daily life.
 - Our understanding of who God is continues to grow.
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SCRIPTURE

- The Bible gives us guidance to live good lives.
 - The Bible is divided into two major sections, each containing many Books.
 - The Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) contain the roots of our faith.
 - The Christian Scriptures (New Testament) tell us about the life of Jesus and the beginnings of the Church.
 - The Bible records the experience of God's people.
 - The Bible is God's word recorded in the human words of those who wrote it centuries ago.
 - The Lectionary--is the order for proclaiming the Scriptures at "Mass."
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CREED

- God is present to us in Jesus.
- Scripture has many images and descriptions of God.
- God as Trinity has been traditionally known as Father - the Creator, Son - the Redeemer and Holy Spirit - the Sanctifier.
- The Holy Spirit guides us and sustains our faith.
- God created us in God's image and likeness.
- Jesus teaches us about and explains God's law of love.
- Jesus exemplifies Christian life and love, especially forgiveness.
- Jesus speaks God's Word to us.
- Jesus was teacher, prophet, and savior.
- Jesus is a sign of God's love for us.
- Jesus is present to us in a special way in the sacraments.
- Jesus is the fulfillment of the Hebrew Scriptures.
- Jesus is a sign of God's presence in the history of God's people.
- Jesus proclaims the coming of the Kingdom of God.
- Jesus lives on today in the Church.
- Original and personal sin are obstacles to living a life of love.
- Jesus has given us the freedom to choose whether or not to follow him.
- Mary as mother of God has an important role in the life of Jesus, the Church and in our life.
- Saints are important examples of how to be faith-filled Christians.
- In Jesus we find eternal life.

Worship

Intermediate Childhood/Grades 3-5

SACRAMENTS

- The Church is a sacrament of God's presence.
 - Jewish rituals are the origins of many of our sacramental actions.
 - Sacraments celebrate the presence of God.
 - There are seven "official" sacraments in the Catholic Church.
 - Each sacraments has special signs and symbols that are unique to each.
 - Baptism welcomes us into the Church and calls us to live as disciples of Christ.
 - Jesus Christ is truly present in the Eucharist.
 - Eucharist is the central celebration of the Church.
 - The Eucharist has two main parts: The Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist.
 - In Confirmation the Holy Spirit strengthen our faith.
 - In Reconciliation, we express sorrow for our sins and celebrate God's forgiveness.
 - Those who are chronically or seriously ill may receive the Anointing of the Sick.
 - Matrimony and Holy Orders are sacraments of commitment.
 - The R.C.I.A. , a process through which children and adults become members of The Church, has many periods and ritual celebrations.
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PRAYER

- Prayer is talking and listening to God.
 - There are many styles of prayer, such as memorized prayer, spontaneous prayer, meditation and devotions.
 - There are many types of prayers, such as praise, thanksgiving, petition and contrition.
 - Eucharist is the Church's central liturgical prayer.
 - Some formal prayers that all members of the Church hold in common as the Sign Of the Cross, the Our Father, the Hail Mary, the Glory Be, the Nicene Creed, and acts of contrition, the prayers at the Eucharistic Celebration.
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THE LITURGICAL YEAR

- Sunday is our weekly celebration of Easter.
- The Paschal Mystery - the life, death, an resurrection of Jesus.
- Advent is a time for preparing the coming of Jesus.
- The Christmas season is a celebration of the Incarnation - the coming of the Lord into our lives.
- Lent is a time for those preparing to enter the Church.
- Lent is a time of renewal in Christian living and reconciliation for the baptized.
- The Triduum, Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Vigil, is the culmination of the entire Church year and the celebration of the Paschal mystery.
- Easter is the central feast of the Church.
- The Easter season is a fifty day celebration of Jesus' resurrection and concludes with Pentecost.
- There are special feast days that we set aside each year called holy days

Community

Intermediate Childhood/Grades 3-5

FAITH AND IDENTITY

- The Creed is a special prayer that says what we believe.
 - Faith leads us to make good choices to live as followers of Jesus.
 - Jesus gives us the example of a faithful person.
 - Faith is a virtue.
 - Faith is a gift from God.
 - Faith is expressed in words and deeds.
 - Scripture tells us stories of faithful people and God's faithfulness to us.
 - We need to act on what we believe.
 - We are called to work for justice and peace to bring about the Kingdom of God.
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PERSONAL GROWTH

- Jesus has given us the vision for being fully human.
 - Jesus has given us values to guide our lives and personal growth.
 - Each and every person is unique, lovable and deserving of respect.
 - Christian sexuality is guided by religious morals, values and beliefs about
 - The respect and reverence due each person.
 - Sexuality is central to who we are, and is crucial to our relationships with others.
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RELATIONSHIPS

- Relationships are an essential part of life.
 - All people must work at building and maintaining good relationships.
 - Communication is an important part of building good relationships.
 - It is important to listen to others.
 - There is value in modesty.
 - People have many different relationships throughout life.
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CHURCH

- The Church is called to be the community - the People of God.
- The Church is the Body of Christ.
- The Church is the sacrament of Christ in the world.
- The Church celebrates the presence and action of Christ in our lives.
- The Church has a formal structure that involves people, regions and decision making.
- The Church has a long history, with many major events that shape who the Church is today.

Discipleship

Intermediate Childhood/Grades 3-5

JUSTICE AND PEACE

- Everyone deserves to be treated with respect.
 - Jesus teaches us to love our neighbor as we love ourselves.
 - Justice, mercy and peace are grounded in Scripture.
 - The Church today continues to teach about justice, mercy and peace.
 - We, as Christians, are called to work toward a just society.
 - Each of us is called to respect life in all of its forms.
 - Jesus' life is the model of loving service.
 - God wants us to be just and merciful people.
 - God wants us to live the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy and bring justice, mercy and peace to all people.
 - All people are made in God's image and deserve our respect.
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MORALITY

- We are responsible for giving love and respect to others.
 - We are responsible for developing respect for ourselves.
 - The Ten Commandments, Beatitudes, Corporal/Spiritual Works of Mercy are moral guides for our lives.
 - We sin when we choose to do wrong.
 - Sin is choosing not to love God and others as we should.
 - God will always forgive us if we are truly sorry for our sins.
 - The decisions we make should be based upon God's law of love.
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CHRISTIAN LIFESTYLE

- Through Baptism each person has a vocation and lifestyle to choose.
- Some of the lifestyles to which one might be called are: single, married, Religious, and ordained ministry.
- As Church, we all have the mission of witnessing, worshiping, building
- Community and serving as Jesus did, no matter what lifestyles we have chosen.
- Christians are called to be good stewards - to use their time, talent and treasure wisely.

Vocabulary for Children Grades 3 to 5

NB: These definitions are intended to be simple, user-friendly, and understandable for a child. They may not express an adult theological perspective and does not represent an exhaustive list.

*A simplified version of this definition can be found in the vocabulary for children Pre K-Grade 2.

Absolution – a word meaning “to wash”. In the sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance), the priest prays this special prayer after we confess our sins as a sign that our sins are forgiven by God.

Advent – the season of the preparation for Christmas and the hearing of the Good News of Jesus.

***Angel** – a spirit created by God to help him take care of his people.

Apostle – twelve close followers of Jesus; often called “The Twelve”.

Assumption – Mary at the end of her life being taken body and soul into heaven. Celebrated on August 15.

Beatitudes – the eight ways to true happiness that tell us how God wants us to live. These were given to us by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount.

***Bible (Scripture)** – the word of God made up of many books divided into the Old and New Testaments (Hebrew and Christian Scriptures).

Blessed Sacrament – the Body of Christ kept in the tabernacle before and after Communion.

Chasuble - the outer clothing (vestment) worn by the priest at Mass. The color changes with the season of the liturgical year: green, white, purple, red.

***Church** – the People of God; the sacrament of God’s presence.

***Christmas** – a season celebrating the coming of Jesus and the hearing of God’s message of Good News.

Communion of Saints – the family of all God’s people including both the living and the dead.

Confirmation – a sacrament of initiation in which the Holy Spirit strengthens our faith.

Consecration – A making holy and setting apart through prayer. An altar is consecrated. At Mass, the consecration of the Eucharist uses the words and action of Jesus from the last supper to make holy and change the bread and wine into the body and blood of Jesus.

Corporal Works of Mercy (Matthew 25:34-40 and Isaiah 58:6-10) Practices of caring for the physical needs of others described in the Scriptures; they are ways of showing our love for God and for others: Feed the hungry. Give drink to the thirsty. Clothe the naked. Shelter the homeless. Visit the sick. Visit the imprisoned. Ransom the captive. Bury the dead.

Covenant – a promise of love and partnership between God and his People first made with Abraham in the Old Testament.

Deacon – an ordained minister who serves the Church by caring for the poor, the sick, and the elderly.

Disciple – a person who follows Jesus and learns from him.

***Easter** – the central feast of the Church that is a fifty day celebration of Jesus’ resurrection and ascension.

***Eucharist** – a word meaning “thanksgiving”. The Eucharistic prayer is a prayer of thanksgiving to God for salvation. Eucharist is also another word for the Body and Blood of Jesus.

Exodus – the Hebrew people in the Old Testament under the leadership of Moses leave their lives of slavery in Egypt and “go forth” to freedom in Canaan, the Promised Land.

Faith – a gift we receive from God that enables us to believe and trust in God’s love. We express our faith through words and deeds.

Free Will - God's gift that allows us to choose to love God and others.

Good Steward – a person who uses his/her time, talent, and treasure wisely in service to God, others, and the world.

***Gospels** – the first four books of the New Testament (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) that tell us about the life, work, and words of Jesus.

Great Commandment (Law of Love) – (Matthew 22:37-40) the heart of the Old Testament that is brought together by Jesus. All morality is based on these words: “Love God with your whole heart and your neighbor as yourself.”

Heaven - life in the presence of God forever.

Hell – being separated from God and his guiding love forever.

Holy Days – special feast days of Jesus, Mary, and the Saints that we celebrate each year.

Incarnation – God becomes human with the birth of Jesus.

Inspiration – the guidance of God, the Holy Spirit to the writers of the Bible to write religious and spiritual truths through their stories, poems, histories and other kinds of writing.

***Jesus Christ** – “Jesus” meaning “God saves” was the name the angel Gabriel told Mary to name her baby. “Christ” meaning “God’s chosen one” was later added by his followers.

Laity – all men and women, who are not bishops, priests or deacons, who are called to serve the Church through their baptism.

***Lent** – a season of preparation for Easter that begins with Ash Wednesday and lasts for forty days. It is a season of prayer and sacrifice.

Liturgical Year – the annual cycle of seasons and feasts celebrated in the Church. The seasons include Advent, Christmas, Lent, Triduum, Easter, and Ordinary Time. The feasts honor events in the life of Jesus and Mary as well as the lives of the saints.

Messiah – the Hebrew word for Christ. It means “chosen one” and is used most often by the prophets in the Old Testament.

Mortal Sin – a complete turning away from God; a sin that kills our relationship with God. A mortal sin involves a very serious matter, is done with full knowledge, and is done with free choice.

New Testament (Christian Scriptures) - the second part of the Bible that tells of the life, works, and teachings of Jesus and the beginning of the new Church.

Old Testament (Hebrew Scriptures) – the first part of the Bible that contains the roots of our faith in the history of the Jewish nation.

Original Sin – the sin of Adam and Eve choosing to disobey God.

Parable- stories that teach a lesson; Jesus used parables to teach people how to live their lives.

Paschal Mystery – the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

Passover – the Jewish feast celebrated through story, prayer, and a special meal, called the Seder. Passover remembers the Exodus and the freedom of the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt.

Prophet – someone who speaks for God and calls people to love and serve others.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) – a process through which people become members of the Church.

Revelation – A way to show, to reveal. Jesus shows us what God is like. God speaks to us through Scripture and Tradition. God also speaks to us through creation and life experiences.

Rosary - a method of devotional prayer that recalls the joyful, sorrowful, glorious and luminous events in the life of Jesus and Mary.

***Sacrament** – sign given by Jesus that we celebrate in words, symbols, and actions. Through them we share in God's life.

Sacraments of Commitment – Matrimony and Holy Orders.

Sacraments of Healing – Penance and Anointing of the Sick.

Sacraments of Initiation – Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation.

Salvation – how we are saved from sin and death by Jesus.

Savior – Jesus who saves us and gives us eternal life.

Seder - the sacred meal eaten by the Jews during their celebration of Passover. From this meal we take many of the rituals used in Mass.

Spiritual Works of Mercy - Practices of caring for the spiritual needs of others described in the Scriptures; they are ways of showing our love for God and for others: Share knowledge. Give advice. Correct those who need it. Bear wrongs patiently. Forgive offenses. Comfort the afflicted. Pray for the living and the dead.

Stations of the Cross - a method of devotional prayer that recalls the suffering and death of Jesus.

Stole - a long, narrow piece of fabric worn around the neck by ordained ministers: priests and deacons.

Sunday – (also known as the Lord’s Day or the Sabbath) a special day set aside for worshiping God, celebrating the Eucharist, and resting.

Tabernacle – the place where the reserved Eucharist is kept. The candle burning near it is called the sanctuary lamp.

Ten Commandments– (Exodus 20:2-17 and Deuteronomy 5:6-21) ten guidelines for human, religious, and moral conduct given to Moses by God in the Old Testament.

Transubstantiation – the change of the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ at the consecration of the Mass. Sometimes called consecration.

Triduum – (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil) the high point of the liturgical year; the three days when we remember the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus and the beginning of the Eucharist.

Venial Sin – a sin that harms our relationship with God.

Vocation – an invitation to serve others in a particular way as a single person, married person, religious brother or sister, or ordained minister (deacon, priest, or bishop).

Yahweh (YHWH) – the name of God revealed to Moses in the Old Testament. It means, “I am who am.”

Prayers for Intermediate Children

The memorization of prayers is primarily the responsibility of the parent. Memorization needs to be linked with usage; children should memorize those prayers which are used most often by the faith community particularly in worship. The following prayers are appropriate for this developmental level. Some wording may vary.

LITURGICAL PRAYERS AND MASS RESPONSES

Gloria/Glory to God

Glory to God in the highest and peace to His people on earth. Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father. We worship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God; You take away the sins of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father, receive our prayer. For You alone are the Holy One; You alone are the Lord; You alone are Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, one in Being with the Father. For us men and for our salvation, he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered, died, and was buried. On the third day he rose again in fulfillment of the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Spontaneous Prayer

Key Scripture Passages

Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-10)

Blessed are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn; they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek; they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for what is right; they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful; they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart; they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers; they shall be called the children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake; theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:2-17 or Deuteronomy 5:6-21)

1. I am the Lord your God. You shall not have other gods besides me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's day (Sunday).
4. Honor your father and your mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not tell lies against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet (desire) your neighbor's wife or husband.
10. You shall not covet (desire) your neighbor's goods (possessions).

Liturgical Symbols and Gestures for Children Grades 3 to 5

Blessing before the reading of the Gospel
Sign of Peace