

## Characteristics of the Sixth Grader

Eleven years old

### Qualities

Involvement is primarily with peer groups

The ability to assume more responsibility for her/his behavior

Very critical of other's failures

Student's emotional life is more stable due to the benefit of a certain rationalization

The sixth grader is developing her/his sense of objectivity. She/he is less sensitive to God, a Providence, to God who watches over him, but much more aware of God who commands and requires. It is easy for the sixth grader to understand and appreciate Jesus, the Man of courage, and the leaders of today who make our world a better place to live in.

The student looks for models and images of what she/he wants to be. The student unconsciously molds her/himself to fit the pattern of heroic adults by recognizing what qualities she/he does not possess.

The student's emerging self-identity and conscience rapid physical group formation are greatly influenced by those she/he admires. Therefore, the history of the Church, the life of Jesus, the great lives of men and women of faith all need to be presented in a dynamic way.

### **SPECIAL NOTE**

#### ***Safe Environment Children's Program***

The Safe Environment Children's Program was introduced in the Catholic Schools in the spring of 2003. There program consists of three lessons which are taught over a period of three years and then repeated.

The program was introduced in the parish Religious Education programs in the fall of 2008. Each parish is required to present one lesson to the children (grades K – 10) in the parish program each year. It is preferable that the lesson be taught in the fall of the catechetical/school year.

Following the lesson, a record of training must be sent to Kathleen Bolinski, Safe Environment Coordinator, 300 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, PA 18503.

All materials needed for teaching the lessons in the *Safe Environment Children's Program* in the parish and school are found in the *Safe Environment* binder in the parish/school office.

## CATECHESIS

### Concepts

1. The bible is God's word. God's revelation to us in history.
2. It is divinely inspired. This means
  - a. God really speaks to us in Scripture
  - b. The message of Scripture is meaningful for all people in all times
  - c. The Bible does not err on any matter concerning our salvation
  - d. God uses the talents of human authors to communicate God's word to a particular people in a particular time and place.
3. The Bible is comprised of
  - a. The Old Testament contains 46 books divided into the Pentateuch (Torah), the Histories, the Prophets and the Wisdom Writings
  - b. The New Testament contains 27 books divided into the Gospels, the Acts of the Apostles, the Epistles and Revelation. (CCC 105-108, 120)
4. In the bible there are a variety of literary forms. Paying attention to the literary form of a passage helps us discern its meaning. (CCC 109-110)
5. The Bible answers basic questions about life. Who is God? Who are we? What is our place in the world? (CCC 131, 132)
6. These Old Testament people and topics should be explored:
  - a. Both Creation stories – the goodness of God, Creation and humans; equality of men and women; our partnership in God's Creation. (CCC 54, 290-301, 337-349, 351-379; Genesis I and II)
  - b. Fall from Grace – the reality of sin and our motivation in sinning; free will, original sin (CCC 55, 386-390, 396-412)
  - c. Cain and Abel – reality of sin and our motivation in sinning; God's care for the sinner.
  - d. The Flood – the destructiveness of sin and God's determination to save us (CCC 56-58)
  - e. Abraham and Sarah – God establishes a covenant of faithfulness with Abraham and Sarah (CCC 59, 2570-2572)
  - f. Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob, Leah and Rachel and Joseph – God continues the covenant with Abraham and Sarah's descendants (CCC 60-61, 312, 2573)
  - g. The Exodus – God's saving love breaks into history to redeem God's people (CCC 62, 207-221, 2574-2577)
  - h. The Covenant at Sinai – God gives the Law to Israel as a way to express their faithfulness to God (CCC 2056-2074)
  - i. The Judges (CCC 62-64)
  - j. The First Kings – Saul, David and Solomon (CCC 2578-2580)

- k. The Babylonian Captivity/Psalms
  - l. The Prophets – prophets call Israel back to covenant faithfulness (CCC 61, 64, 218, 2581-2584)
  - m. The Wisdom Writings – the Jewish people father their God-given wisdom for all to share (CCC 2585-2589)
7. Christians and Jews are kin in faith and worships. (CCC 63, 839-840)
  8. God is a God of justice, which means concern for the powerless and marginalized (CCC 64)
  9. We are called to justice (CCC 1807)
  10. We are called to be God’s people; faith is never in isolation from others (CCC 59-60, 371)
  11. Jesus fulfills God’s promises made in the Old Testament (DV 7, 15-16; CCC 1093-1094)

**Grade Six -- Words to be Taught**

Chosen People	Passover
Covenant	The Patriarchs
Exodus	Pentateuch (Torah)
Free Will	Prophets
Genesis	Psalms
Historical Writings	Revelation
Inspiration	Sabbath
Israelites	Sacred Scripture (Bible)
Literary Forms	Salvation
Major Prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel)	Seder
Manna	Ten Commandments
Messiah (Anointed One)	Wisdom Writings
New Testament (Christian Scriptures)	
Old Testament (Hebrew Scriptures)	
Original Sin	