

# Grade 7 (Six Steps to Easter) Curriculum - Kingdom of God

**Session 1 - Act with Justice** - The kingdom of God is a kingdom of peace, justice, and love. Young people will learn that being followers of Christ requires us to share the Good News with others and to work toward ending hunger, poverty, and everything that denies the dignity of the human person.

Learners will:

- know what the dignity of the human person means and what that dignity demands for every human being.
- explore ways that they can be a person of justice by examining their attitudes, relationships, and their interaction with the world.
- identify the values of the kingdom of God.

**Session 2 - Reason for Hope** - The Resurrection of Jesus Christ gives us hope that this life is preparing us for something greater. We prepare not just by what we believe, but by how we live.

Learners will:

- explore the virtue of hope and how it relates to our outlook on death.
- understand what the Church teaches about heaven, hell, and purgatory.
- explore the meaning of Jesus' second coming and the last judgment.

**Session 3 - The Communion of Saints** - Three important avenues that lead to God include the communion of saints, sacramentals, and sacred art. Young people will explore the ways that these aspects of our Catholic belief and practice can help them grow in love and respond to God's grace.

Learners will:

- investigate the connection that we have to the Communion of Saints.
- discover a variety of sacramentals and learn how to use them to enrich their spiritual journey.
- look at religious art and icons as a way to honor those who are important in our faith.

**Session 4 – Saints: Examples for Living** - The Catholic Church recognizes Church members who have lived lives of holiness and virtue by celebrating their lives and declaring them saints. Young people will learn what holiness means and take a look at Mary and why her "yes" to God gives her a special place of honor.

Learners will:

- understand the significance of Mary's "yes" and her role in God's plan.
- learn how the Church honors Mary as the greatest of all saints.
- examine our universal call to holiness.

**Session 5 - From Age to Age** - Knowing who we are involves knowing our history. Young people will take a look at the story of our faith in different time periods and examine the challenges and the joys of being a person of faith.

Learners will:

- investigate the history of the Church and the blessings and challenges.
- discover that in times of struggle the Church has always come back to her core values.
- understand that amidst the struggles of today, we are called to read the signs of the times and live out the mission of the Church.

**Session 6 - Called by God** - Young people will learn that God calls each of us to serve him using the gifts that he gave us. Through prayer, we discern our vocation with the help of our family and our Church community.

Learners will:

- understand the importance of family and community in discovering their unique gifts.
- explore what it means to live out a vocation and understand discernment.
- learn about responding to God's call through the married life, becoming a priest, entering the consecrated life, or as a committed single person.

# Grade 8 (Six Steps to Easter) Curriculum - Jesus Christ

**Session 1 – Incarnation** - The Son of God enters into our human reality to show us God the Father through his actions and words. This session helps young people understand Jesus' Incarnation and its meaning for us as disciples.

Learners will:

- grow in their understanding of Jesus' humanity and divinity and the significance of both for our faith.
- explore the ways that Jesus reveals the Father.
- understand our call to imitate Jesus. Explore the dimensions of living as a disciple.

**Session 2 - Jesus : Model of Wisdom** - Jesus is our model of wisdom. We follow his way to know true happiness and salvation. This session helps young people understand the qualities of Jesus as teacher.

Learners will:

- know and rely on Jesus as our source of wisdom.
- understand that Jesus' wisdom came from being the Son of God.
- explore the way that Jesus taught through words and actions.
- explore the challenge of living by the values of God's kingdom as presented in the Beatitudes.

**Session 3 - Jesus' Relationships** - Jesus' relationships demonstrate commitment to compassion, forgiveness, and honesty. Through his relationships, Jesus shows us what it means to be true. This session helps young people understand Jesus' followers and how they kept his message alive.

Learners will:

- look to Jesus as an example of respect for others and of friendship.
- discover that in his relationships, Jesus showed love, care, and forgiveness.
- explore how Jesus' closest friendships show us what the nature of our relationships should be.
- learn how the first Church members demonstrated Christian friendship.

**Session 4 - Christ Our Savior** - Jesus' sacrifice on the cross redeems us from sin. His love for us makes it possible for us to live as God the Father intended: in perfect peace with him and others. In this session, young people learn about Christ who saves us, reconciles us to the Father, and redeems all of creation.

Learners will:

- grow in understanding of Jesus as Savior, Redeemer, and Messiah.
- understand the origins and effects of original sin in their lives.
- explore the Paschal Mystery. Understand the sacraments as a path to new life.

**Session 5 - Christ Offers Life** - We come to know Jesus in the Gospels, where we learn about his love for us, and his desire that we know his Father. We meet him in the sacraments where he offers us new life. This session helps young people understand the free gift of eternal life God offers us through Jesus.

Learners will:

- know that Jesus is the source of life and he offers us love and forgiveness.
- understand that to know Jesus, we must spend time with the Scriptures.
- explore the concept of justification.
- consider the call to conversion and how we can respond by living in the Light.

**Session 6 - The Church: One in Christ** - The Catholic Church is the Body of Christ, united by common beliefs and practices. Young people will learn that the Church is diverse yet unified, our common faith can be expressed in different ways, and Christ calls all baptized Christians to full unity in him.

Learners will:

- know that a diversity of peoples and cultures make up the Church.
- identify some of the common beliefs and practices that unite Catholics.
- explore similarities and differences between Eastern and Roman Catholic Traditions.
- consider the challenge of ecumenism and identify what all Christians have in common.

# Grade 9 (Six Steps to Easter) Curriculum - The Church

**Session 1 - The Community of Disciples** - Every one of us is called to be a disciple of Jesus and join in the Tradition of the Church. Young people will learn that Jesus has a challenging message for his disciples, and that message has continued to be communicated through the whole community of disciples, Church leaders, the Scriptures, and official Church teachings.

Learners will:

- recognize that they are called as individuals to follow Jesus.
- learn that disciples are called to know and follow Church teaching.
- consider the unique spiritualities and schools of prayer within the Church.

**Session 2 - The Church is Catholic** - The Catholic Church is universal, reaching out to all people in every age. This session helps young people understand how they can evangelize within their own community and how they can support missionaries who spread the Word of God throughout the world.

Learners will:

- understand that the Catholic Church is universal.
- explore their role as an evangelizer.
- recognize the importance of supporting the missions through prayer and sacrifice.

**Session 3 - The Body of Christ** - Young people will learn the importance of using their personal gifts for the good of the Church and to help others learn about Jesus. They will also recognize the mandate to be Christ's hands, feet, and voice in the world today.

Learners will:

- understand the Church as the Mystical Body of Christ, with Jesus as the head.
- recognize that all the members of the Church need to work together to accomplish Christ's mission.
- reflect on their own personal gifts and how they can use them for others.

**Session 4 - Source of Life** - Jesus is our Savior. He died for our sins and rose to new life so that we may share in his divinity. This session helps young people understand the importance of salvation and the role of the Church to whom God has entrusted the fullness of truth.

Learners will:

- understand the importance of Jesus' gift of salvation.
- recognize the Church's role in mediating salvation.
- participate in and learn about different prayer types.

**Session 5 - The Church is Apostolic** - The Church was begun by Jesus who chose Peter and the Apostles to carry on his mission on earth. This session helps young people understand the importance of apostolic succession and the role of the clergy within the Catholic Church.

Learners will:

- recognize the importance of tradition in their own lives and in the life of the Church.
- understand apostolic succession and the role of the Magisterium.
- explore the Sacrament of Holy Orders and the roles of bishop, priest, and deacon.

**Session 6 - The Christian Faithful** - All baptized Catholics are called to share in Jesus' roles of priest, prophet, and king. This session helps young people understand the importance of living the faith and being a part of a parish community.

Learners will:

- know the importance of their baptismal call to share in Jesus' role as priest, prophet, and king.
- understand the roles of the clergy, laity, and members of religious orders within the Church.
- recognize the importance of the parish community for carrying on Jesus' mission.

# Grade 10 (Six Steps to Easter) Curriculum - Trinity

**Session 1 - God is Trinity** - Young people will learn about the mystery of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, which we approach through faith. They will learn how the love shared in the Trinity shows us what our own relationships can be like.

Learners will:

- explore how God has been and is always present.
- know that the Father sent his Son, Jesus, to show us the way to him and bring salvation to all.
- know that Jesus promised the Holy Spirit as guide and counselor to the Church.
- understand that the Blessed Trinity is a mystery.

**Session 2 - Jesus Word of God** - Young people will learn how in the Incarnation, the second Person of the Blessed Trinity became fully man while remaining fully divine. They will explore how in Jesus' lifetime, he showed his divinity particularly through working miracles, and how his life gives us a glimpse into his human nature.

Learners will:

- know that Jesus is the Son of God, and is the eternal Word of God, existing for all times.
- reflect on Mary, the Mother of God.
- explore the wonder of the Incarnation, Jesus as both true God and true man.

**Session 3 - Holy Spirit: Comforter and Guide** - Young people will learn how being human means facing times of struggle and solitude. The Holy Spirit is our companion and helper even at our loneliest moments. He works through the Church and those around us to guide us and help us live virtuous and happy lives.

Learners will:

- discover why the Holy Spirit was sent to us.
- identify the role of the Holy Spirit in their lives and in the Church.
- explore what the Holy Spirit does, and what we can do in the Church to benefit our brothers and sisters.

**Session 4 - Jesus Reveals the Trinity** - The young people will learn about the Transfiguration, and how through God's gift of grace we grow in wisdom and faith, and come to know God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. They will appreciate the role that the Blessed Trinity plays in their lives.

Learners will:

- discover how Jesus reveals the Trinity.
- understand how the Holy Spirit helps build unity.
- reflect on how we can open the gift of God's grace, power, and love in our lives.

**Session 5 - We are Christ People** - All members of the Church have an important role in spreading the message of the Gospel. The young people will learn how they belong to the Church, the People of God, through their Baptism and belief in Christ, and that the Church is a part of God's plan for people to come to know and love him.

Learners will:

- understand why the Church is called the People of God.
- identify ways that the family is the domestic Church.
- discover ways they are called to live out the mission of Jesus.

**Session 6 - Temple of the Holy Spirit** - God the Holy Spirit lives within each of us and within the Church. The young people will learn how they are temples of the Holy Spirit, how the Spirit's gifts help them give witness to Christ, and how they can live faithful lives.

Learners will:

- understand that we are Temples of the Holy Spirit.
- identify the Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit at work in our lives.
- come to know that the Church is both visible and spiritual.