

**PRIMARY  
RELIGIOUS  
EDUCATION  
PROGRAMME**

**FOR CHILDREN IN CATHOLIC PARISHES IN AOTEAROA  
NEW ZEALAND**

**CATECHIST'S GUIDE  
FOR  
MIDDLE A**

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## FOREWORD

The Church has long recognised that parents have the right and responsibility of being the first educators of their children in faith formation, as well as in other areas of life. It also recognises that parents need the support of the Christian community in this important task.

In *Catechesis In Our Time* (1979), Pope John Paul II wrote that the parish was 'to be the prime mover and pre-eminent place for catechesis'. The *General Directory of Catechesis* (1997), refers to the parish as 'the usual place in which the faith is born and in which it grows.' This new programme is designed to foster this growth in faith.

The Bishops are aware of the valuable work done by parish catechists, those responsible for the faith formation of parishioners, and encourage pastors and pastoral councils to support them with resources and opportunities for training. In this regard I draw the attention of all to the training programmes for parish catechists that are available through diocesan Religious Education offices.

On behalf of the Bishops' Conference I am pleased to welcome this new Primary Parish Programme. It will be a valuable resource for parents whose children who do not attend Catholic schools and for catechists.

May all who use it be drawn closer to him who is 'the way the truth and the life.'

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "† Leonard Boyle".

† Leonard Boyle  
Episcopal Deputy NCRS

# INTRODUCTION

## I PHILOSOPHY

Catholic parishes in Aotearoa New Zealand assist in fulfilling the teaching mission of the Church by providing education of the whole person based on:

- \* the Person and Gospel of Jesus Christ
- \* the mystery and holiness of God
- \* fidelity to the New Testament and the early Councils of the Church through which God is known as a community of persons in the Trinity - Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- \* the understanding and belief that all people are made in the image and likeness of God, have been redeemed by Christ and are called to share God's own life of grace as members of the Catholic Church founded by Jesus Christ
- \* the paramount importance of the living Tradition embodied in the Catholic Church
- \* the necessity of making connections between life, faith and culture for all members of the parish community.

## II GENERAL AIMS

This Parish Primary programme provides parishes with a systematic approach to the fulfilment of their mission of teaching and learning what the Catholic Church believes, celebrates, lives and prays.

Although the General Aims are intentionally educational, the ultimate aim is to assist children to develop a relationship with God, and to be living witnesses to the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ as members of the Catholic Church, always recognising that this depends on each child's free faith response.

The General Aims of the Programme are:

- \* to teach material that is theologically sound, using the resources of various cultures while allowing for each child's free faith response
- \* to enable children to develop ways of integrating faith and life and culture.

### III CULTURAL DIMENSIONS

The New Zealand Catechetical Directory, 'We Live and Teach Christ Jesus' published by the New Zealand Catholic Bishops' Conference, says:

'By reason of our common human heritage and our redemption in Christ, we have a right:

1. To our ancestral and cultural heritage.
2. To have our traditions, religious values, language, customs, myths and art forms used in education in faith.
3. To express Christ's teaching in terms of our own culture.'

For these reasons the programme takes seriously the need for appropriate cultural expression of faith in both the bi-cultural dimension (involving Maori spirituality and culture) and the multi-cultural dimension (involving the spirituality and culture of other groups).

### IV EDUCATION-IN-FAITH

The term Education-in-Faith is used in the New Zealand Catechetical Directory. It is defined as follows:

- \* All that happens in the Church to awaken personal faith. [Evangelisation].
- \* The task of fostering and deepening the faith of believers including both personal acceptance of God in Christ. [Catechesis]
- \* And knowledge of his teaching. [Religious Education]

Evangelisation, Catechesis and Religious Education are all part of the teaching ministry of the Catholic Church, though the setting for each approach may vary. The three are complementary, taking place within the total framework of the faith community.

### V THE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TEACHING APPROACH

There are a variety of approaches which can be taken when teaching religion to children. Teaching approaches for programmes need to be chosen to meet the needs and the realities of the children and the catechists or teachers for whom they are designed. The curriculum on which this programme is based has a Religious Education approach which is best suited to the desired Learning Outcomes.

What is a Religious Education approach?

Religious Education is defined as follows:

Religious Education for Catholic primary-aged children encompasses:

- teaching and learning what the Catholic Church believes and teaches
- understanding and appreciating the ways the Catholic Church celebrates, lives and prays
- teaching children how to respond freely to God according to their gift of faith.

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# INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMMUNION OF SAINTS STRAND

## Middle A - Communion of Saints 4

### Choices

In life there are many choices. Some choices are very simple, like choosing the flavour of an ice cream. Other choices are more serious because they affect the lives of others. These are choices like deciding if you will listen to your parents and do as they ask instead of going off and doing your own thing. A good choice is to act with tika, justice; pono, truthfulness and aroha, love.

As people get older they have to make very serious decisions about life, like deciding to get married, to remain single or to be a religious sister or brother or a priest.

1. Work out the Choices crossword, Children's Activity book, page 38. Then sit quietly and think about choices made this week, today, during this lesson time. Pray about this as the work sheet suggests.

When Christians make choices there are two very important things to remember. These are to think about the teachings of Jesus and to pray to the Holy Spirit

Jesus gave us his Great Law of Love as a guide for your mind and heart when making choices and decisions.

2. Read Jesus' Great Law of Love, (see Matt. 22:37-38). Write it out beautifully. Think how this Law of Love could influence some of your choices. Talk about this.

Jesus told us that we must ask ourselves if the choice we are making is one of love - love of God, love of others and love of ourselves. When we choose to act out of love of God, and in Faith and Hope then God's life in us increases and we become more holy.

3. Complete the "Our Choices" Children's Activity book page 39

#### Learning Outcomes

The children will be able to:

- realise that they must make many choices on life's journey
- know that these choices will influence their own lives and the lives of others
- understand that the choices will influence the people they will become
- know that Jesus' Law of Love is a guide in making choices.

Every choice in life has an effect on the life of the person who makes the choice, and on the lives of others too. The way that we cope with our own choices and the choices of others, influences the kind of people we become. If we make choices for God's way then slowly we begin to have God's way as our normal way of acting. In the evening it is good to ask, "What kind of choices did I make today? Then it is possible to talk to God about the choices.

## VI FAITH AND THE PRIMARY SCHOOL-AGED CHILD

Catholics acknowledge that faith is a gift of grace, given to each person, who, with the help of the Holy Spirit responds in his or her own unique way. The process of faith development is closely linked to the stages of human development. This process is often referred to as a faith journey.

As with all aspects of human growth, faith develops and changes as people grow through, and are challenged by, the events of their lives. It is faith that helps people make sense of their lives.

The Religious Education curriculum aims to help children make meaningful connections between faith and their lives. The term "faith" is used in a dual sense - the faith by which we believe (God's gift), and the faith in which we believe (i.e. the Catholic faith).

Children in the primary school years from five to thirteen are at a particular stage on their lifelong journey in faith. There has been much research done in this area which identifies some of the characteristics that are evident in this stage. This research has been considered during the preparation of the material in the Religious Education curriculum for primary schools on which this parish programme is based.

It is important to keep in mind that this Programme is for Primary aged children. It is not appropriate, or possible, to include everything that the Catholic Church believes and teaches. Children must have the opportunity to continue their Religious Education.

## VII PRACTICAL POINTS FOR CATECHISTS

The material for each session follows a set pattern.

A suggested procedure for catechists is contained in the numbered boxes. The most important section is highlighted so that a catechist can organise the session to make sure that this material is covered.

Surrounding each numbered box is information for the catechist relevant to that part of the process.

Also included are:

- \* Scripture or other texts for catechists to reflect on before the session
- \* A list of songs and other useful resources - These are from the Primary School Religious Education Programme and may be purchased from Tablet Colour Print, PO Box 1285, Dunedin.
- \* A list of Learning Outcomes - these are a guide to what children should learn.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR GOD STRAND

Middle A - God 1

### God is Present in Creation - reflected through the seasons and through People as co-creators

Creation is God's free gift. Creation is not God, but it reflects God - it shows what God is like. Creation reflects the mana and tapu - the holiness and power of God.

1. Have 'objects' to engage the senses. Invite children to explore the items, using the 5 senses. Which item reminds you of God's love and presence? How does this help you to appreciate God's creation? Read a simple version of Psalm 8.

#### CATECHIST'S PRAYER

O God, My God,  
How great is your name on all the earth.  
Psalm 8

For everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven.  
Ecclesiastes 3:1

God alone created the Seasons. God wants people to enjoy creation and to delight in God's Presence in it. It is only God who holds and sustains and keeps it in being. Just as the seasons change, people can learn that their lives also have seasons. What we must remember is that God is with us in bad times as well as good times.

2. Show pictures of the four seasons. Ask children to tell of their favourite season. In pairs ask children to mime an expression of the season - the mime to conclude with gestures of praise and thanks to God. Introduce Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 - talk about it - children choose the line they like best. Children make a small poster with the words of Ecclesiastes 3:1 to hang above their bed. Tell children to do Children's Activity, page 2, at home.

**SONG:**  
"Turn, turn, turn"

**QUIET MUSIC:**  
Vivaldi's Four Seasons

**STORY:**  
St Francis of Assisi

**PRAYER:**  
Psalm 8

God wants people to share the task of keeping all of creation growing and developing with all human beings. Groups who show special concern for creation help people become aware of how important taking care of God's creation is to the survival of the planet earth and all who live on it.

3. Tell the children that God is the only creator, but that people can use what God has created to make or co-create new things. Ask children: How do people use God's creation to co-create? See Children's Activity book, page 3.

#### Learning Outcomes

The children will be able to:

- recognise that people can experience God's creation
- explain how the changes in the seasons are another sign of God's love and presence, and how the seasons can teach us about life
- identify and locate in the Bible the Book of Ecclesiastes and recall 3:1
- identify ways people can care for creation

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMMUNION OF SAINTS STRAND

Middle A - Communion of Saints 3

### Te Wa, The Journey of Life

Life is a journey. In Maori we refer to the journey as Te Wa. No two people have the same journey. Each is unique. The final step of the journey on earth is death and after that the soul is with God. It is God's plan that each person is born, travels the journey of life, dies and then goes to live in Heaven forever. God is in every step of the journey. God asks that we try to get to know and love him better at each step of the journey.

1. Think about and talk about how God has been busy in the journey of your life to this time. Identify stages and special happenings that were part of God's plan. Complete Children's Activity, page 36.

Most life journeys take many years and there are different Goals at each stage, like learning to walk, beginning school and receiving Sacraments. At each step some goals are reached and others are yet to be achieved. To achieve our goals we need the help of others who are on the journey too. who are in Te Wa. All people are on the journey of life together and need each other. Everyone needs help. Everyone should try to give help.

2. List all the people who have helped the pupils and teachers of this class. Make a mural of these Te Wa Helpers. Use cutouts, material, children's drawings or photos.

We are Christians. We are part of God's Family. We follow Jesus. Because of this everyone has the call to help others achieve the goals set and everyone has a right to expect help in achieving goals. Jesus has promised to help us and to lead us on Te Wa, the Journey of life.

3. Complete Children's Activity, page 37 - "Achieving Our Goals". Read from John 14:1-6. Take a quiet time to think about the question, "How does Jesus show us the way on the journey of life?" Talk together and write individual prayers asking for Jesus' help.

#### Learning Outcomes

The children will be able to:

- recognise the presence of God in every stage of Life's Journey
- recognise that people need help to achieve their goals
- recognise that we are called by God to help and encourage others on the way
- recognise that God is present in all those who help us achieve our goals on the journey



## People's Bodies Die, Their Souls Live with God in Heaven Forever

One thing that we can be really sure about in life is that one day we shall die. We know people who have died. When they are dead they look different. That is because the soul has left the body. That is what death is, the soul leaves the body and goes to God.

1. Share ideas about death. Think about death as the beginning of a new life. Note some examples of death leading to new life, like the leaves dying and returning in Spring or seeds that look so dead growing to be colourful new flowers.

In heaven we will be with people we love, those who have died before us and are loving with God. Some people who die may have to wait a little time before being their very best selves and being with God. This time we call Purgatory. We pray for those waiting in Purgatory every time we celebrate Eucharist.

2. Complete Children's Activity page 35. Discuss each statement. Make a shared class statement after the discussion.

Our Christian Hope tells us that at death the soul goes to live with God forever. The soul is the knowing, loving part of us. It is the part that lets us know God. Life on earth is the beginning of a journey. When a person dies the body dies but the journey continues. The soul goes to God to live in happiness forever. Our Christian Faith lets us believe this. In Heaven everything is right and full of happiness. We will never want it to end because we are so happy. So in God's loving plan we will be happy forever.

3. Think about, dream about what it might be like to live in a place that is full of happiness always. God has told us that is what heaven is like. Share ideas in words or use pictures, colours or shapes. Begin, "I think Heaven might be like.."

So all of God's people, in Heaven, on earth and in purgatory are joined in one family. We call this the Communion of saints. Together all of us in the Communion of Saints enjoy or look forward to being with God for all eternity, that means forever. This is an important thing that Catholics believe.

4. Complete the Children's Word Find Activity, page 34. Encourage the pupils to talk about what it means.

### Learning Outcomes

The children will be able to:

- understand what is meant by "people's bodies die but their souls live forever"
- understand that Eternal Life means living in Heaven with God for all eternity, that is forever.

## God's Gift of Grace at Work in the Church

God's Grace means that through Christ people have been gathered into the Church and through the Gifts of the Holy Spirit they are able to share in the love of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It means that people can share in God's Life - can share in the Tapu - holiness of Te Atua - God.

1. Sit in a circle. Play quiet music. Ask children to think of someone who is very special to them. What is the quality that makes this person so special? eg patience, encouragement etc. On a large sheet of paper write all the named qualities. All signs of the grace of God - Mana Atua - working in them. Ask children to draw the face of a graced person and caption the picture saying why this person is graced. Paste each on a very large sheet of paper and write underneath - "God's Grace works through these people to make God 'Present in the World.'"

### CATECHIST'S PRAYER

Grace is first and foremost the gift of the Spirit who justifies and sanctifies us. CCC 2003

We have different gifts to use according to the Grace we have been given.

Romans 12:6-7

In the Catholic Church there are several ways people can accept God's offer of Grace. Grace is God's way of working in the Church and of keeping it holy and connected to God.

2. Ask children: Name a grace or gift of God's goodness to you. eg family. Explain ways the Church has of encouraging people to accept God's Grace. through people who are the Church especially the example of the Saints through the celebration of the Sacraments eg Baptism through the special graces given to leaders and people who work in the Church introduce 'blessings' of St Paul Thessalonians 5:28 Colossians 1:2 See Children's Activity book, pages 4 and 5

**SONG:**  
"It's Your Turn to Shine"

**PRAYER:**  
Blessing from St Paul

### Learning Outcomes

The children will be able to:

- identify God's gift of Grace as the way God the Father, through Jesus, gives himself to people and works through them through the Power of the Spirit
- demonstrate gracious behaviour
- identify a way they have experienced grace in their own life
- recall a blessing from St Paul

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR GOD STRAND

Middle A - God 3

### God Speaks to people through the Scriptures: The Scriptures Proclaimed in the Church

The Bible is a very sacred - tapu - book for Catholics and other Christians. It is called holy, because the words in it help people to become connected to God, who is all holy - Tapu. There are two Testaments in the Bible - Old and New. The Old and New Testaments are God's Sacred Agreement with people. The Holy Spirit worked with the writers of the Bible, so they could pass on the truth about God to people.

1. Have Bible displayed with lighted candle. Talk with the children about the need to reverence the Bible. Introduce children to Maori Word - Te Paipara Tapu. Allow children time to explore the Bible in small groups. Give each group a copy of Bible Markers (on next page) and allow time to place them at beginning of the named book. Introduce Bible Quiz.

#### CATECHIST'S PRAYER

**"But above all it's the Gospels that occupy my mind when I'm at prayer; my poor soul has so many needs, and yet this is the one thing needful."**

St Therese of Lisieux

During the Celebration of the Eucharist the Scripture is read as part of the Liturgy of the Word. This is a special time for the people of God to hear God speaking to the community who are gathered to worship God. Listening to God's Word is an important part of every gathering of God's People.

2. Ask children:  
When is Scripture proclaimed in the Church?  
Show children the Lectionary that is used in their Parish.  
Mark the Gospel for the day.  
Read or tell the story.  
Ask:  
Who are the people in the story?  
What did the Word of Jesus mean to you?  
What are you going to do with the message this Gospel has for you?  
See Children's Activity book, pages 6 and 7

#### SONG:

"Happy those who hear God's Word"

#### Learning Outcomes

Children will demonstrate ways to:

- recognise and show reverence for the Bible as the inspired Word of God
- locate the two Testaments and say what they are about
- name the part of the Eucharist where the Scriptures are proclaimed
- explain how people hear God's Word through the Scriptures today.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMMUNION OF SAINTS STRAND

Middle A - Communion of Saints 1

### God is With Us in Times of Sadness

Everyone has sad times. There are little sadnesses, like losing a game. We get over these in a day or two. There are big sadnesses, like death, bad accidents or disasters. Big sadnesses leave people feeling sad and weak. When we see or meet sad people we treat them with love and kindness. Sometimes we can help by visiting, talking or listening. If the sad people are far away we may send a card, flowers or money to help disaster funds. Our love can help people come to peace and happiness again.

1. Children make a collection of words about sad times. In pairs talk about how people might feel at those times. Share in the group. Together decide ways in which it is possible to act with love towards sad people we know sad people who are strangers. Complete Children's Activity, page 33.

Jesus had times of great sadness. Introduce Scripture Mk. 14: v 32-41. The story of the Agony in the Garden.

2. Talk to the children about how Jesus must have felt. Take a quiet time to think about this. Then to think about the question, "Have I ever just not bothered to be kind when someone was sad, just like Jesus?" Have a short prayer time.

Everyone feels sad sometimes. It is all right to feel sad. We can feel sad about different things like being lonely or left out of alone or worried. God created us with feelings and understands us. We can turn to God in sad times.

3. Psalm 137 is one of the psalms made when God's people were refugees and very sad. Read a simplified section of the psalm with the children.

In times past the people of God had to leave their homes and they were very sad indeed. They turned to God and made special prayers called Psalms. We find Psalms in the Bible.

One of the great comforts that we have is that in times of sadness God is always there. God never leaves people. They only have to call and God will hear and answer. God is always there to share people's pain and sadness. God uses people like us to give comfort to others in times of sadness.

4. Under the heading, "God is With People in Times of Sadness" make a collage of words, pictures showing people being kind, helpful and loving to others in times of sadness.

#### Learning Outcomes

The children will be able to:

- identify some ways of coping with sad times which are part of life
- recognise that God is always with us to help and strengthen us in sad times
- know that God helps those who are sad through people like us.



# INSTRUCTIONS FOR SACRAMENT STRAND

Middle A - Sacrament 4

## Eucharist Increases God's Tapu and Mana in People

The word Eucharist which means thanksgiving is used in two different ways.

1. Discuss the meaning of the word Eucharist in 'the celebration of the Eucharist' (Mass) and in 'receiving of the Eucharist' (Holy Communion) Talk about why it is good for people to receive the Eucharist regularly: (Invite children's ideas first) they receive God's grace and love they are helped to grow in holiness God's Tapu and Mana is increased in them they are strengthened to be able to live with love in their everyday lives.

### CATECHIST'S PRAYER

I am the living bread that came down from Heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever.

John 6:51

By sharing in the Eucharist we are given help to grow in holiness, to grow in the life and love of God

2. Teacher explains that at the celebration of the Eucharist people are strengthened by the Holy Spirit through each other, through the Word of God, and by receiving the Eucharist.

The Holy Spirit gives us the strength to become more loving people. This is why it is good for people to receive Eucharist regularly.

The strength and mana they receive is not just for themselves but so that they can take God's love out into the world.

By receiving Eucharist people are fed and given the strength to choose to become more caring, helpful, truthful, generous, joyful, patient, peaceful, able to act with tika and pono. But this doesn't just happen like magic, people have to cooperate with God's life and love in them.

3. Review the gathering of the people to listen to the word of God praying the Eucharistic Prayer people strengthened by the Holy Spirit through receiving Eucharist going out into their daily lives to show the love of God that increases God's own Tapu and Mana in themselves and others. Act out or mime the above Dismiss the children with the words 'Go in peace to love and serve the Lord' Complete Children's Activity page 32.

We are sent from the Eucharist to share Jesus love - aroha and peace everywhere, at home, at school and in our world.

### Learning Outcomes

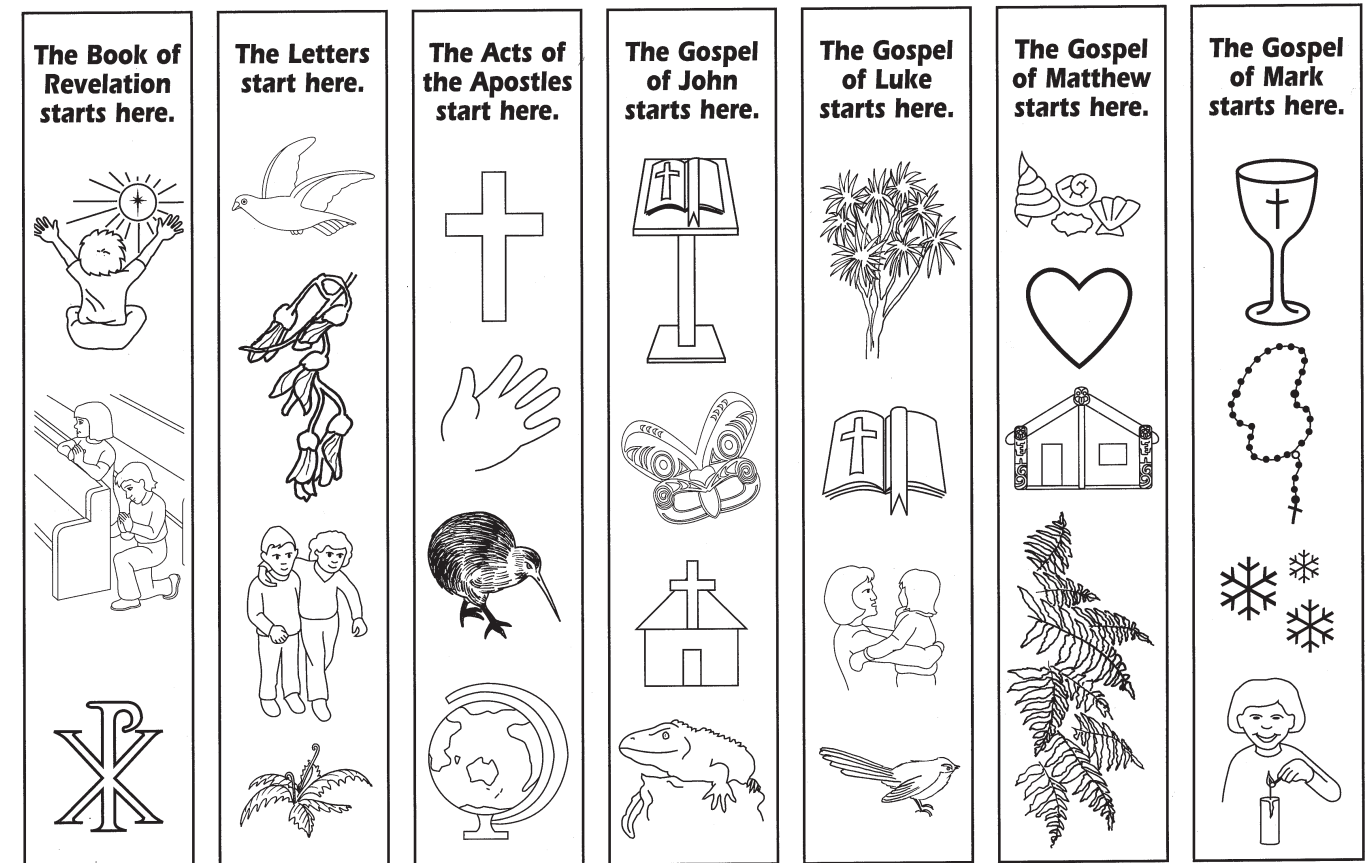
The children will be able to:

- recall the two ways the word Eucharist is used
- recognise that by receiving the Eucharist people's tapu and mana is increased to go into the world to be more loving people

# INSTRUCTIONS FOR GOD STRAND

Middle A - God 3

## BIBLE MARKERS



## BIBLE QUIZ

Teachers refer to Teacher's Notes in lessons for answers

1. What is the Bible?
2. How many books are in the Bible?
3. Why do we need a Bible?
4. How many Testaments are there in the Bible?
5. What does the word Testament mean?
6. Why is the Bible called the Holy Bible?
7. What language was the New Testament first written in?
8. What language was the Old Testament first written in?
9. Who is the main character in the New Testament?
10. What Testament did Jesus read?
11. Where do the letters come in the Bible?
12. Where would you find the creation story in the Bible?
13. What Testament are the Psalms in?
14. Why did Jesus read the Bible?
15. Who wrote the four gospels?

Teacher's note: This page may be photocopied for the class on to light card.

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR JESUS STRAND

Middle A - Jesus 1

### Eucharist: Is Sharing Food, is Remembrance and Presence and Growth in Holiness

Sharing a meal is a sign of special friendship. There are many stories about Jesus eating with people and using the mealtime to teach them. The Last Supper was one of these key times.

1. Have the children imagine themselves at the Last Supper and arrange themselves as the friends of Jesus at the meal around an imaginary table. Refer to the Children's Activity book page 8 for "The Lord's Supper" from Eucharistic Prayer 111. As this is read out the children can mime the actions of the people present.

Jesus knew the common food people eat becomes part of them and is the way they get strength and energy to live and grow.

2. Display the following caption on a poster board: "When we share food, we share ourselves and our lives."

Jesus used the common food eaten at every meal and although it still looked like bread and wine, it was bread and wine no longer, but truly his Body and Blood.

Jesus gave himself as food because he wanted to share his life with people. He knew that this food that was his own self would strengthen them and help them to grow in holiness and grace, tapu and mana.

Memories are a wonderful gift from God. Through them, people can enjoy again and again people they love, times they have enjoyed and important experiences in their lives.

3. Read the story "Remembering Gran" (see next page) This story reminds the children how bread and wine helped Christians remember Jesus. They remembered because he used to give himself at Eucharist to all those who would follow him, not just to those who were present at the Last Supper but to all the millions of people who would come after them who are known as Christians and who try to live as Jesus did.

At the Last Supper, Jesus changed the bread and wine into his Body and Blood and he ordered his followers to do what he has done as a 'memorial of him'.

In the Eucharist, Jesus is present to his people as a memorial of his death for sins, and his rising to new life so that they might share in the life of God and draw strength to live like Jesus.

Jesus Christ, through his gift of the Holy Spirit, causes us to grow in the life of God through our participation in the Eucharist and by receiving the gift of his Body and Blood in Holy Communion.

4. Have the children work in groups and study the following caption. Have the children discuss the caption and complete Children's Activity, page 9. "Eucharist helps people to grow in holiness because it is a special meal in which Jesus feeds his people to help them grow in holiness."

In Eucharist Jesus shares his grace and holiness, tapu and mana with people to help them grow in holiness so that they can show aroha and bring peace, friendship, and happiness to others.

#### Learning Outcomes

Children will be able to:

- be able to recognise the link between sharing food and Jesus' gift of the Eucharist as a special meal, a remembrance and presence, which helps people grow in holiness.

#### CATECHIST'S PRAYER

"Lord, you are holy indeed the fountain of all holiness. Let your Spirit come upon these gifts to make them holy."  
Eucharistic Prayer 11

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR SACRAMENT STRAND

Middle A - Sacrament 3

### How Eucharist is a Sacred Meal - Hakari Tapu

1. Share some food and drink with the group. Discuss what happens when we share meals, record responses including:  
setting the table  
gathering around the table  
saying grace - giving thanks to God  
sharing food  
eating and drinking  
sharing conversation and laughter  
sharing aroha and friendship - manaakitanga

#### CATECHIST'S PRAYER

Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

John 6:35

When Jesus lived on earth he shared many meals with people. At the end of his life Jesus shared a meal, a final meal, with his friends. They gathered to celebrate the passover meal.

2. Children name as many stories they can about Jesus sharing meals with people. Look at a picture of the Last Supper and share what they know about this meal. Teacher explains that why made the Last Supper very special was what Jesus said and did.

Red 1 Cor 11:23-26

Jesus took the bread and wine, he blessed them, broke the bread which had become his body and took the cup which had become his blood, and shared them with all who were present. Those four actions happen during the Eucharist today.

The Eucharist is a special meal - hakari tapu because what people share is the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. Jesus asked the apostles to "Do this in memory of me."

3. Introduce a picture of a people celebrating the Eucharist and compare with Last Supper - see Children's Activity book, page 31. Name the similarities including:  
Jesus gathers his friends  
Bread and wine are the symbols used  
What Jesus did - he took bread, blessed it, and shared it  
The words Jesus said at the Last Supper are said at Eucharist  
Jesus was present at the Last Supper  
At Eucharist Jesus is present in the people gathered, in the priest, in the Word and especially in the Sacrament of the Eucharist where his body and blood have become really present.

When people share the Lord's Body and Blood in this sacred meal they share in his very life. In doing so they also share in the lives of all who eat and drink together at Eucharist.

Jesus shares his Tapu and Mana - his life and love with his followers so they can show aroha and concern for others too.

#### SONG:

'Feed us Lord'

#### Learning Outcomes

The children will be able to:

- identify the words and the actions, 'take, bless, break and share'
- that illustrate the Eucharist is a sacred meal explain the relationship of the Last Supper to Eucharist

## Taking Responsibility for our Actions

When people make bad choices about how they behave and how they treat others they offend God.

Because sin offends God, people begin to hurt inside themselves and this makes them angry and mean and whakama - ashamed.

1. Brainstorm with children things they do that are wrong, eg, being naughty, being a pest, bloopers, bad ideas.

Explain another name for the wrong things we do is sin, which means when we do things which we know are wrong and are against what God wants and hurt people.

### CATECHIST'S PRAYER

**I confess to almighty God, and to you, my brothers and sisters that I have sinned through my own fault.**

**Confiteor - Traditional Prayer**

When people seek forgiveness from God for sin they sometimes need to say sorry to those they have hurt. We cannot say sorry to God and then forget about those we have hurt. We must always try to make up for any hurt we have caused.

2. Read the story "Poor Kid" School Journal Pt 2 1995  
Discuss questions:  
what the girl in the story did that was wrong  
why did she do what she did?  
did the fact that her family were poor make it right?  
how did she make it worse?  
how did she feel?  
what happened that made her have to take responsibility for her actions?  
how did Mr Taylor help the situation?  
how did she put the situation right and make up for what she had done wrong?  
what else should she do?

The Sacrament of Penance helps people to take responsibility for their sins because they have to own them and confess them to God. To say they are sorry and receive forgiveness from God and are healed. People say a prayer of sorrow which is sometimes called an Act of Contrition. Their relationship with others and with God is renewed. Or we could say God's Tapu and Mana, the life of grace is restored to them, and they feel happy and at peace again.

3. Explain that children will be able to experience the Sacrament of Penance when they are old enough and that it will be a special experience of forgiveness and healing they will be able to use for the rest of their lives.  
Refer to Children's Home Activity, page 30.  
Read together a Prayer of Sorrow (see box below).  
Listen to and sing Peace and Forgiveness.  
Complete Activity page 28.

### Learning Outcomes

The children will be able to:

- explain what is meant by sin
- explain what is meant by taking responsibility for personal sin and how this is expressed in the Sacrament of Penance.

**SONG:**  
'Peace and Forgiveness'

## Remembering Gran

A True Story

Our Gran was a wonderful cook. She didn't use a microwave or an electric beater - just an ordinary oven and a simple wooden spoon. When we were growing up, our birthday treat was to choose what we wanted for tea on our special day. I always chose curried sausages because Gran made the yummiest curried sausages you could ever taste. My brother chose Irish stew with lots of vegetables in it. Getting to choose our birthday tea made us feel great. Gran was also a lovely baker. Coming home from school and smelling shortbread cooking was magic. She had her favourite recipes and she was well known in the family for them. My uncle Maurice used to say, "Your scones are worth coming from Invercargill for, Mary".

Gran's list of specialties was a long one. She made Louise cake with thick meringue on top, and Belgian biscuits joined with runny raspberry jam which oozed out when you ate it. They were topped with white icing and lots of red jelly crystals and were a real treat. The list was endless and we can all remember the full cake tins which bulged with so many goodies to enjoy. But Gran grew older and couldn't manage to bake any more so she unwillingly bought cakes from the supermarket. She usually bought what she had baked herself in the past and hoped we wouldn't notice the difference. If we remarked how nice the shrewsberry biscuits were and enquired if she had made them she would reply, "No, a friend of mine did". They were usually from the Ernest Adams bakery so we would joke and say, "Gran's got this friend called Ernest and he is a great baker!" Gran would smile and hand the plate around again.

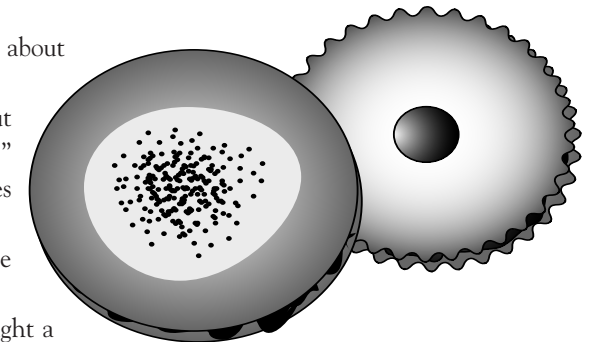
Gran died two years ago and when her anniversary came around we talked about what we could do to remember her in a special way on her anniversary.

It wasn't long until we started telling stories and sharing memories about Gran. It wasn't much longer before some one said, "Remember her Belgians!" From there on all her favourite recipes were recalled and the funny stories that went with them including the one about her friend Ernest!

We enjoyed remembering Gran so much by sharing her favourite foods we decided that would be a good way to celebrate her anniversary.

So in the evening of her anniversary we came together and everyone brought a plate of one of Gran's favourites. We lit some candles, (Gran loved candle light!), and we spent a wonderful night eating and remembering Gran and how much we loved her and missed her. But she was there with us, on every plate and in the packet of Ernest Adams shrewsberry biscuits.

Anne Kennedy





## INSTRUCTIONS FOR JESUS STRAND

Middle A - Jesus 2

### Jesus is present in the Eucharist in the Priest, the People, the Word and the Bread and Wine

People can be present to one another in many different ways.

In Eucharist Jesus is present to people, and so helps people to do all of these things in his memory.

1. Display the following text: "When two or three of you gather in my name, I am there with you." Matthew 18:20 Refer to the Children's Activity book page 9. Look at the picture of the Priest and the two children. Ask: Who gather for Eucharist? - priest, old people, young people, families, whanau, people who are alone, people who are differently abled and people from different cultures.

Jesus is present in the Eucharist in different ways. One of these ways is in the people who have gathered. Jesus is present among them because he promised he would be.

As the Church, the People of God, listen to and respond to the Word of God, Jesus himself is present.

2. Refer to the picture of the Lectern in Children's Activity book, page 10. Ask: What happens at the Lectern during Mass (sometimes called the table of the Word)? When is the lectern used? Help the children match the questions and answers about the Word in Children's Activity book, page 11.

When the Gospel is read and people listen, Jesus speaks to them in their hearts because he is really there with them and they hear his call to follow him and to come to God. The people know that he is there, because he promised he would be.

Jesus wished to give himself to his friends then and now, in a way that reminds them of him and what he did for them when he shared his life on earth with them and died for them on the Cross.

The Church believes that in the Eucharist through the power of God and Christ, the bread becomes the body of Jesus and the wine becomes his blood.

3. Read a suitable version of Matthew 14:13-21 - the story of the loaves and fishes. Ask the children what the little boy whose bread was shared might have told his family when he got home. Read a suitable version of the Last Supper of Luke 22:14-20. Have the children act out the part played by Jesus:  
he took bread, blessed it, broke it and changed it into his body.  
he took the cup, blessed it and changed it into his blood.

This is the closest way Jesus shares his life with people. He shares with them the life of the Holy Spirit which he receives from God the Father. This is the life of grace and holiness, tapu and mana, a share in the life of God himself. Jesus does this so that his people then can share his Spirit of love with others.

#### Learning Outcomes

Children will be able to:

- be able to recognise that Christ is really in the Eucharist in special ways and most significantly through the changing of bread and wine, "in a way surpassing understanding" into His body and blood.

#### CATECHIST'S PRAYER

"...he blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to his disciples and the disciples gave them to the crowds."

Matthew 14:19

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR SACRAMENT STRAND

Middle A - Sacrament 1

### People Experience Forgiveness and Healing Through Jesus

When we fail to love people and hurt them, or they do the same to us, we do not feel good.

When we feel unhappy and ashamed, our mana is weakened and we become whakama, we lose our dignity and respect. We need to talk about it and own the feelings we have.

1. Children listen to the story "The Hurt" by Teddi Doleski. Paulist Press, 545 Island Road, Ramsey, NJ 07446.1983. In small groups dramatise a situation when they have been hurt or have hurt others and have needed forgiveness and healing. Talk about how hurtful actions and words affect the lives of others. Discuss the meaning of the word whakama - loss of mana, shame and they recall times when they have felt this.

#### CATECHIST'S PRAYER

Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins they will be forgiven. But if you don't forgive their sins, they will not be forgiven.

John 20:22-23

We need to change the way we are inside to do things differently

One of the ways we have to help us change, to be healed and experience forgiveness is the Sacrament of Penance.

2. Children share ideas about ways people seek healing and forgiveness when they have hurt others.

The Sacrament of Penance is a wonderful way of helping people to experience the forgiveness and healing which comes when people confess what they have done wrong and ask to be forgiven and the priest on behalf of the church absolves them to bring about God's forgiveness of sin.

#### SONG:

"We Come to Ask Your Forgiveness"

3. Explain how people who receive the Sacrament of Penance experience God's forgiveness and healing through Jesus who gave his power to forgive sins of the Church through the apostles who were the first priests. This power has been handed down from them to the priests of today. The story where this is recorded is in the Gospel of St John. The event in the story took place on Easter Sunday, the day Jesus rose from the dead.

Read John 20:19-23, complete Children's Activities pages 27 & 28.

#### Learning Outcomes

The children will be able to:

- recognise what is meant by God's forgiveness and healing through Jesus
- recognise other experiences of forgiveness and healing

The Serving Church

1. Welcome the children  
Write on board or chart  
"The Mission of the Church is...."  
Tell the children that during this session they will be invited to complete the above statement.

2. Invite the children to brain-storm in pairs or small groups:  
Discuss  
what is Church?  
what goes in to being Church?  
can we be Church to each other?  
  
Catechist helps children to recognise that Church is community eg. people, love etc. NOT buildings)  
  
Sing "We Are The Church"

3. Invite the children to check the dictionary or explain MISSION  
Discuss  
Mission of Jesus  
what was his mission?  
give examples  
Mission of Church  
what is it? (building up the Kingdom)  
how? (through caring/loving/healing etc)  
  
Invite children to complete (individually or as a group) the statement  
"The Mission of the Church is..."  
(eg .. to continue the work of Jesus) could be copied into workbooks, illustrated etc.  
Complete Childrens Activity, page 26.

- Learning Outcomes**  
The children will be able to:
- identify 'Mission of Church' today as same as Jesus
  - name ways in which Church carries out its mission

CATECHIST'S PRAYER

The Church's mission is to be salt of the earth and light of the world. This people is "a most sure seed of unity, hope and salvation for the whole human race."

CCC 782

4. Invite children to work with partner or in a small group  
i) Handout a copy of a Parish Newsletter to each group  
ii) Invite the children to identify parish ministries mentioned eg altar, servers, readers, catechists etc  
iii) Identify parish community groups, eg. Passionist Family Groups, Caritas, Justice & Peace, CWL etc.  
Discuss with whole group the various ministries -  
why does the parish have these groups?  
why do we need them?  
who are they for?  
what childrens' groups are there?  
Complete Children's Activity page 25.

5. Invite the children to discover more about one particular ministry within their parish. Maybe in the form of an interview with a member of one of the groups.

Brain-storm	ways in which we can carry on the Mission of the Church
at	home school
in the	community neighbourhood

**SONG:**  
"We are the Church"

Eucharist: Through Him, With Him, In Him

Everything that is done at Eucharist is the Church's way of giving glory and thanks to God for all that he has done for us.

Eucharist is made up of the liturgy of the Word and the liturgy of the Eucharist. The prayers that are said by the priest and the people and the hymns that are sung through both of these parts are the Church's way of praising God. This is called giving Glory to God.

1. Display the word "Eucharist" on a poster (in bubble letters). Explain that this is a Greek word which means thanksgiving and that is what Eucharist is. Say that all the thanks are given to God through, with and in Jesus. Give each child a small sticker to place inside the "bubble letters" of the word Eucharist. Choose stickers that show creation (animals, plants, vegetables, trees, mountains, etc)

Through Jesus and the Holy Spirit people are able to give God the Father thanks for all of creation and all he has done to save his people.

All that the people do at Eucharist is done through Jesus, with Jesus and in Jesus. Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit offers the prayers of the people to God the Father.

2. Display on a chart the concluding words of the Eucharistic prayers known as the final doxology, namely:  
"Through Him, With Him, In Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all glory and honour is your almighty Father for ever and ever. Amen."  
Explain to the children that this comes just before the Communion Rite in the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Have the children memorise these words and in groups prepare some creative movement to express these words. The words such as: through, with, in, unity, glory, honour could be highlighted for the children to work with in these groups.

3. Have the children prepare a banner with the words of the final doxology as the centre feature. Have the children draw scenes from Jesus' life (miracles, parables) through which we give thanks to God (through, with and in Jesus).

At the end of the Eucharistic Prayer the priest says "Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours almighty Father, for ever and ever." The people respond with what is called the great Amen. This is the best time for the people to say Amen and really mean that they agree with the words that the priest has just prayed on their behalf. It is because Jesus, our elder brother, our Tuakana, that we are able to come to God as God's own children.

**Learning Outcomes**

Children will be able to:

- recall the words of the doxology at the end of the Eucharistic Prayer
- explain why Eucharist is the best way to give God thanks
- name the two main parts of the Eucharist.

CATECHIST'S PRAYER

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours almighty Father, for ever and ever. Amen."

Doxology at the end of the Eucharistic Prayer.



## Jesus Invites People to Share His Life: the Life of God through Grace

Everyone likes to receive invitations. When we receive an invitation we must decide whether we are going to accept it. This depends on many things: whether it is at a time when we can go, whether we want to go or whether mum and dad can take us.

1. Show the children an invitation card for a birthday. Read the information on the card, the reason for the celebrations, the person to whom it is sent, the date, the time and place, the reply date. Discuss different ways of replying to invitations.

Jesus invites people to be his friends. He wants people to grow very close to him. When people become good friends with Jesus they grow closer to God.

2. Have the children think of 3 ways they respond to Jesus' invitation to be his friend and follow his way today. See Children's Activity book, page 12.

Children need to remember that when their mother or father asks them to help it is an invitation from Jesus to grow in his way of love.

Jesus' invitation is an invitation to become holy. To become holy means to share in the Tapu of Te Atua. When people grow in friendship with Jesus they become holy because they share in the life of God who is completely holy.

When it is hard to say "yes" to Jesus' invitation to grow, the Holy Spirit helps people so they can say "yes" and grow in the life of God.

Grace is the life and love of the Trinity working in people and in the world. God's life and love working in people is God's special way of helping them to follow Jesus' way of love.

3. Have the children share with a partner something good they have done which showed God's life and love working in them. Say: we call God's life and love working in the people of God, the Church and in the world: GRACE Complete Children's Activity, page 13

When people pray the Hail Mary they say "Hail Mary Full of Grace". This shows that Mary was full of God's love and life. She welcomes God's grace, God's life and love into her life and because of this could say "yes" to all God asked of her.

4. Have the children make a poster showing the effects of God's life and love working in the lives of children their age eg by being forgiving, experiencing forgiveness, being kind, generous, making peace, praying, being truthful etc.

With God there is no special time of favour, people are favoured all the time. They can receive God's grace, God's favour at any time. They don't have to have done anything special. God's grace or favour is freely given out of God's wonderful love.

### Learning Outcomes

Children will be able to:

- recognise that the response to an invitation involves choice and action by people
- name ways people receive invitations from Jesus today
- explain the meaning of Grace

### CATECHIST'S PRAYER

The soul is kissed by God in its innermost region. With interior yearning, grace and blessing are bestowed. It is a yearning to give oneself to God's way."

Hildegard of Bingen

## We are Called Through Baptism

### CATECHIST'S PRAYER

"Go therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.

Matt. 28:19-20

1. Welcome the children  
Recap main points from previous sessions:  
Jesus is the Messiah  
Jesus invited others to follow him  
Jesus chose the 12 Apostles

2. Say "When people are baptised they are called to become holy and to live their lives with one another as Jesus did, in love and service."  
Invite the children to  
  
a) discuss with a partner their understanding of the word 'holy'.  
- What does it mean? How can we be holy?  
  
b) See Children's Activity book, page 24

Share with the whole group.

### Learning Outcomes

The children will be able to:

- recognise that through baptism we become members of the Church
- understand and explain the meaning of holy
- recognise that we are called to "grow in holiness"

3. Say "Holiness means being connected to God and being one with God. When people are baptised they are called to become holy and live their lives as Jesus did."

Lead the children to identify the different lifestyles (vocations) where this happens  
married life  
single life  
religious life  
priesthood

Say "In each of these ways of life, God calls people to live with love and build up the Kingdom (Reign) of God on earth. Brainstorm in large groups different ways of growing in holiness in the 4 vocations eg. John and Jane are parents. They love and care for their family.

Invite the children to create a poster "Growing in Holiness".

4. What actions did John the Baptist use to help people prepare?

Discuss

have you ever been to a baptism?  
what happens?  
what does baptism mean for us?  
what does baptism mean for our community?

Display on board

Through Baptism we become members of God's family - the Church.

Jesus calls us to follow him.

(Invite the children to copy these statements into their book)

# INSTRUCTIONS FOR CHURCH STRAND

Middle A - Church 2a

## The Parish Family

### THE APOSTLES

About the time the Jesus was choosing his apostles he was becoming more and more well known and popular as he moved around Galilee meeting people and talking to them. The people recognised the mana - spiritual power Jesus had. Some of these people began to follow him each day and they stayed with him. They were known as his disciples. Some of these disciples were women. We hear about them in the gospels. A true disciple of Jesus is one who hears the Word of God in their heart and lives it out in their daily life. Because Mary, the mother of Jesus did this in an exceptional way she is sometimes called the 'first' (meaning the best) disciple. It was from the large group of followers that we call the disciples that Jesus chose this twelve apostles who were to be the people he would trust to carry on this work and be his messengers when he was no longer on earth. It is possible that the twelve close followers of Jesus became known as apostles rather than disciples only after Jesus' death when in the resurrection appearances Jesus 'sent' them to carry on his mission. They were also known as 'the twelve'. When we read the stories about the apostles in the gospels we notice little differences in the stories between each of the writers. These differences are not too important and people need to remember that the stories about Jesus were passed on by word of mouth for many years before they were written down.

The apostle we know as Peter or St Peter was originally named Simon. Jesus gave him a new name Peter, which means rock. Jesus did this to show that Peter was a strong leader who would be able to lead Jesus' followers, the Church, after his Resurrection and Ascension into Heaven.

Jesus chose ordinary people to follow him. Peter and the others were hardworking people but when Jesus called to them to follow him, they did not make excuses - they dropped whatever they were doing and followed him immediately.

### SCRIPTURE

#### John 1:29-30

The next day John the Baptist saw Jesus coming towards him. John said, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! He is the person I told you about when I said that someone else was coming who is greater than I am."

#### Luke 6:12-16

About that time Jesus went off to a mountain to pray, and he spent the whole night there. The next morning he called his disciples together and chose twelve of them to be this apostles. One was Simon, and Jesus named him Peter. Another was Andrew, Peter's brother. There was also James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas and James the son of Alphaeus. The rest of the apostles were Simon, known as the eager one, Jude who was the son of James and Judas Iscariot who later betrayed Jesus.

# INSTRUCTIONS FOR HOLY SPIRIT STRAND

Middle A - Holy Spirit 1

## The Fruits of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is God's gift to the world. The Holy Spirit is God's presence alive in the world, and present in the loving actions of people. The loving actions of people are what we call the "fruits of the Holy Spirit." The best part of a tree is its fruit and it is the purpose of people's lives to also bear fruit to show they are the signs of God's love.

1. Show children pictures of fruits that come from trees and explain how the fruit is the best part of the tree. Refer to Catechist prayer. Children unscramble names of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. See Children's Activity book, page 14. Children share ideas about ways that
  - 1) fruit from these trees help people live
  - 2) the "fruits" of the Spirit help people live.

### CATECHIST'S PRAYER

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy and peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. There is no law against any of these. Because we belong to Christ we should not be selfish so we should follow the Spirit."

Galatians 5:22-25

The Holy Spirit is a very special way that God shows love to people. The Holy Spirit is like God's loving hands in the world helping people to be loving, peaceful, joyful... This is what God wants us to be like. We cannot bear the fruits of the Spirit without the power of the Holy Spirit working in us.

2. List ways of behaviour at home/school that we show love, joy, peace... Talk about ordinary situations eg household chores, obeying instructions - where we have a choice of action. Invite children to think about times when they have shown the fruits of the Spirit and how they felt and made other people feel. Make up a prayer to the Holy Spirit to be good bearers of fruit. Decorate and hang on wall or put on family prayer table.

There are lots of people we know who show God's love through bearing the fruits of the Holy Spirit. They are listening to the Holy Spirit and letting the Holy Spirit act through them. They are good models for us to copy.

Everything that God gives us is a way of loving us.

### SONGS:

'Love, Joy and Peace'  
"Spirit of Life" (Michael Mangan)

3. Children close their eyes and think about someone they know who is special and good to be with. See Children's Activity book, page 15. Think about the following: What makes this person good to be with? Why do others like this person? What do I think about this person? Would I like to be like them? Why? How does this person show God's love to others? Children write a story/poem about their special person. Draw the person and caption it with the name of the fruit the person bears. Play board game "Fruits of the Spirit" See Children's Activity book, page 16

### Learning Outcomes

The children will be able to:

- recall the first three fruits of the Spirit and even more if they can
- recognise ways at home that they can be a bearer of fruits of the Spirit
- recognise people in their lives who are God's sign of the fruits of the Spirit

# INSTRUCTIONS FOR HOLY SPIRIT STRAND

Middle A - Holy Spirit 2

## We Can Live Like Jesus with the Help of the Holy Spirit

We can look at Jesus' life on earth and see how he lived it. He shows us a way of life to follow. It was because Jesus was completely filled with the Holy Spirit that he was able to live his life as he did.

- Matt 4:23-25
- 5:1-12
- 5:38-45
- 7:24-27
- Mark 6:30-42
- 10:13-16
- Luke 4:1-2
- 4:42-44
- John 8:12
- 10:11-15
- 14:1-2

1. Distribute Bible and caption cards with Scripture references - read story and write one important teaching, saying, or event about Jesus' life. Think of and compile a list of events in your life. Have you made good choices all the time? Make up a prayer to the Holy Spirit to help you to make good choices. Decorate and use as a book mark. Explore the meaning of 'models'. What/who are they? Use Jesus as a model - how can we act like him in everyday life. Discuss.

### CATECHIST'S PRAYER

**"When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came sound like the rush of a violent wind and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.."**

Acts 2:1-5

The Holy Spirit is often mentioned in the stories of Jesus because this reminds us it is only because of the Holy Spirit living and working in us that we can live like Jesus. Use the Scriptures to find out about Jesus and what he was showing us to be. We need to let the Holy Spirit work in our hearts so that we can truly live the way Jesus showed us.

2. Record attitudes of Jesus again from Scripture stories eg care, respect, love, help, gentle. Explain that living like Jesus means we have to think and have the attitudes that Jesus had. It is the Holy Spirit that reminds people and gives them the strength to live like Jesus. Distribute cardboard - paper plates and invite children to write how Jesus lived on one side and how children can do this on the other side. We need to think in loving ways before we can behave in loving ways. Complete worksheet 'Living Like Jesus' - See Children's Activity book, page 17. Decode the mystery message and present as a poster advertising the message.

It was the Holy Spirit which filled Jesus so completely, that helped people to hear and understand what he was teaching about God. It is the Holy Spirit who helps us to hear and understand what he was teaching about God. It is the Holy Spirit who helps us to hear and understand Jesus' message so that people can come to know God whom Jesus called Father.

3. What effect does learning about the message of Jesus have on the way you think and behave. Introduce Scripture reading - John 3:34-35. Share and discuss meaning. Read/sing and discuss words of song "Walk in the Light". See Children's Activity book, page 18. Formulate an action plan to model yourself after Jesus in the next week/year. Write a letter to the Holy Spirit and ask for help in this.

Invite children to share experiences of times they have been effected by the ways people around them have spoken or behaved. Discuss...

**IT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT WHO HELPS US TO LIVE LIKE JESUS**

**SONG:**  
"The Spirit in Our Hearts"  
by Jim Cosgrove from Simple Songs your Children Sing

### Learning Outcomes

The children will be able to:

- recognise some of the ways Jesus lived and acted because he was filled with the Holy Spirit
- identify ways people can live like Jesus with the help of the Holy Spirit
- recognise that it is through Jesus and the Holy Spirit that people come to know God

# INSTRUCTIONS FOR CHURCH STRAND

Middle A - Church 2

## The Apostles

1. Welcome the children  
Recap points from previous session  
God promised the people a Messiah  
Jesus is the Messiah  
John the Baptist prepared the way.

### CATECHIST'S PRAYER

Jesus said "Come with me".  
So he got up and went with Jesus.

Make 2:14

2. Invite the children to recall what John the Baptist said about Jesus (someone more powerful is going to come. And I am not good enough even to stoop down and untie his sandals. Mark 1:7) Remember John had been baptising people and preparing them for the coming of a Messiah. What do you think might have happened when John and Jesus met? Read John 1:29-30 (see next page)

Discuss  
what did John call Jesus?  
have you heard these words before?  
when? where?  
how do you think people would have felt hearing John's word?  
do you think any of John's followers would have realised who Jesus really was?

3. Display the words Apostle & Disciple  
Encourage discussion on what the difference is between the 2 words. See Children's Activity book page 23  
NB If a dictionary is available - help the children to look the words up. Write the words in workbooks with brief explanation copied from board.

### Learning Outcomes

The children will be able to:

- recognise the term "Lamb of God"
- identify qualities of first apostles/disciples
- be able to explain meaning of words apostle/disciple

4. Say Jesus chose 12 people from his followers to be his Apostles. We can find out their names in the Scriptures. Discuss what sort of people you think the Apostles were. Read Luke 5:12-16 (see next page)



Notes for Catechists

THE MESSIAH

Jesus belonged to the Jewish people of Palestine. They were waiting for a person who would come to save them from the misery they had been suffering for nearly 400 years. The country of Palestine was tiny and poor and many other rulers from larger kingdoms had invaded it. The Jewish people were treated as slaves. They longed for someone to come and set them free. God had promised to give the people someone who would help bring about the Kingdom or Reign of God on earth. A kingdom of truth, life, holiness, grace, peace, justice and love. They called the person God would send, the Messiah. Many of the people expected the Messiah would be a strong, powerful leader who would fight and win back their country. They expected he would be a brave and fearless king for them.

THE PROPHETS.

The prophets were people who God sent to try and prepare the people for the coming of the Messiah. Some of the Old Testament prophets were people like Isaiah, Elijah, Amos, Hosea, Micah and Jeremiah. These prophets reminded the leaders and the people that they should live good lives as God wanted them to. If they wanted God's Kingdom in their midst then they had to live lives of truth, justice, peace and love. Some of the people, especially the leaders, took no notice of the prophets. The prophets warned that nothing good would happen if they did not change the way they were living.

JOHN THE BAPTIST

The last of the prophets was John the Baptist, the cousin of Jesus. Some people thought that John was the promised Messiah. He lived in the desert and wandered from place to place preaching to the people. He told the people when they asked that he was not the Christ, but he was one sent to prepare the way for him. John explained that the one who would be the Messiah was so great that he (John) would not even be good enough to unstrap his sandal. John said "prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." We remember this during Advent as we prepare to remember the coming of the Messiah at Christmas. John also said of Jesus "here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world." We say these words when we celebrate the Eucharist, remembering how Jesus has saved his people. The Roman leaders became worried as more and more people gathered to hear John speak. He also taught the people to pray.

SCRIPTURE

Mark 1:1-7

This is the good news about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It began just as God had said in the book written by Isaiah the prophet, "I am sending my messenger to get the way ready for you. In the desert someone is shouting, get the road ready for the Lord! Make a straight path for him." So, John the Baptist showed up in the desert and told everyone, "turn back to God and be baptised! Then your sins will be forgiven." From all Judea and Jerusalem the crowds of people went to John. They told how sorry they were for their sins, and he baptised them in the River Jordan. John wore clothes made of camel hair. He had a leather strap around his waist and ate grasshoppers and wild honey. John also told the people, "someone more powerful is going to come. And I am not good enough even to stoop down and untie his sandals. I baptise you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit." (Bible for Today's Family - Contemporary English Version)

The Presence of Sin is Against the life of the Holy Spirit

Most days we try to live our lives in a good way - we go about our normal activities and we don't often deliberately choose to upset people or cause unhappiness.

1. Recall a day's event eg meal times, sleeping, playing. Write on a chart with a timetable for the day. Discuss some of the times when things go wrong and we act or speak in ways that hurt others. Act out a common situation when you act badly towards family members, friends. Work out what gift of the Holy Spirit you are not using well.

CATECHIST'S PRAYER  
 "For through the Spirit, by faith, we eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness."  
 Galatians 5:5

These actions and words that we have acted out are against the life of the Spirit - because everything that the Spirit leads us to is a way of loving. When we act in the opposite way we are going against the life that the Spirit wants us to live.

2. Recall the fruits of the Spirit again - List and then together work out the opposite eg love - hate joy - sadness kindness - meanness Explain that the opposite word or action can also be called sin. See Children's Activity book, page 19.

3. On coloured card have the children copy out and decorate the Peace Prayer of St Francis. Talk about what it means. Words in Music and Prayer Resource

All the fruits of the Spirit are just different ways of being loving people.

SONGS OF PRAYER:  
 'Peace is Flowing'  
 "Peace Prayer of St Francis"  
 Page 20 Children's Activity book.

Learning Outcomes  
 The children will be able to:

- explain simply what we mean by sin
- recognise some ways how sin is against the life of the Spirit.

The Holy Spirit Helps us to Forgive

There are many names for the Holy Spirit. Sometimes the Holy Spirit is called the "Enlightener". That means that it is through the Holy Spirit that people can understand more clearly what they have done that is good or bad.

1. Make a list and draw the people in your life who help you to understand the right way to live and behave. Together, make a T chart - one side put things that you do wrong - on the other side put how it makes you feel. Discuss together what our "conscience" sometimes tells us when we don't live like Jesus wants us to.

God's love helps us to forgive and be forgiven. In some ways we can think of sin as something that makes us broken and weakens us. It is the Holy Spirit who heals us and makes us whole again.

2. What are some ways you can show or receive forgiveness? Draw symbols and decorate forgiveness words including:
 

<b>Words</b>	<b>Symbols</b>
I am sorry..	shaking hands
I will try...	hugs
Can we start again	a bridge
Lets work it out	own thoughts

 Display with the caption  
**THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US TO FORGIVE AND BE FORGIVEN.**

3. Complete Children's Activity, page 21. Set up a simple forgiveness ritual. Use oil and cotton wool. Bless each other on the forehead and say:  
  
**THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US TO FORGIVE AND BE FORGIVEN.**

It is the Holy Spirit who helps us to see when we have sinned and it is the same Holy Spirit who helps us to forgive and make up for what we have done or not done.

CATECHIST'S PRAYER

So let us not grow weary in doing what is right for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up.

Galatians 6:9

Learning Outcomes

The children will be able to:

- recognise that the Holy Spirit helps us to forgive and be forgiven.
- demonstrate an attitude of forgiveness and reconciliation.

Preparing the Way

1. Welcome the children  
 Introduce prominent leaders such as Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King, Mahatma Gandhi  
 Encourage discussion...  
 why are these people famous?  
 what caused them to be famous?  
 what are the needs/challenges they faced?  
 how did people react to them?  
 what was their 'call' to their people?

**They fought oppression/injustice.  
 They led their people to freedom.**

2. Share with the children  
 That a long time ago, the Jewish people were hoping and waiting for someone to save them - someone who would lead them to freedom.

**God had promised the people a MESSIAH**

Explain the meaning of Messiah (see next page)  
 what sort of person do you think a Messiah should be?  
 what qualities/gifts should they have?  
 how could the Messiah free the people?  
 who is the Messiah?

(Compare to section 1 - emphasise difference between leader such as Gandhi and the Messiah)

**SONG:**

"Prepare the Way"

**Learning Outcomes**

The children will be able to:

- recognise and explain meaning of Messiah and Prophet
- will be able to relate 2 or 3 facts re John the Baptist
- will recognise the call to Prepare the Way

CATECHIST'S PRAYER

This is the good news about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It began just as God had said in the book written by Isaiah the Prophet, I am sending my messenger to get the way ready for you. In the desert someone is shouting, "Get the road ready for the Lord! Make a straight path for him."

Mark 1:1-7

3. Introduce the word Prophet  
 Encourage discussion on what the Prophets were trying to do.  
 Help the children to find books of Isaiah, Hosea etc in the bible.  
**John the Baptist was the last of the Prophets.**  
 (see next page)  
 who is John the Baptist?  
 who is he to Jesus?  
 what do you know about him?

Read Mark 1:1-7 (see next page)

Invite the children to relax and try to picture John in their mind. Reread the scripture.

Can you describe John?  
 what is he like?  
 what did John say to the people?  
 what did he want them to do?  
 who did John want the people to know about? Why?

Encourage sharing.

**John the Baptist wanted to prepare the people to follow Jesus the Messiah**

Sing "Prepare the Way"

Complete Children's Home Activity, page 22