CREDO: I BELIEVE, Faith and Life Series: Grade 5
The Teachings of the Apostles’ Creed

LESSON #1 - Chapter 1
I Believe

Objective: The students will learn that faith is a supernatural gift from God. Faith allows us to believe the truth that God has revealed through creation, Scripture, tradition, and (perfectly) through Jesus Christ.

Open with a Prayer: Our Father, Hail Mary

Ice Breaker (20 minutes) – Have students take a 3x5 card and write down the answers to the following questions (pose the questions one at a time to give the students a chance to write their answers). Make sure they do not share any information with each other:
1. Where were you born?
2. Name the people (and animals) in your family.
3. What is your favorite thing to do (aside from coming to religious education )?

Then, collect the cards without having them share with each other. Go through the cards, one after the other, reading out the information and having them write down who they think is being described – it might be fun to throw in a card for yourself as well. Keep the cards to use in choosing someone to read and as a way for you to know your students better. Optional: Have a small treat for the one who gets the most right.

Tell the students (5 minutes): Welcome them to their 5th grade class. Explain that this year they are going to be focusing on the Apostles’ Creed, which is the foundation of our beliefs as Catholic Christians. It is based on the Holy Trinity – God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Spend some time showing them the layout of their text book and explaining the workbook to them. They will begin the year with learning about God the Father.

Teach (5 minutes): Ask students:
1. How do we know God exists? (reason – St. Thomas’ 5 Proofs pg 3 teacher’s guide; and the gift of faith)
2. Who taught you to believe? (teachers, parents - answers will vary)
3. Who taught them to believe? (their teachers, parents - answers will vary)
4. Help the students to understand that their faith is based on the teachings of Christ and the witness of the Apostles. Our faith also relies on the willingness of our brothers and sisters in Christ, including our parents and grandparents, to share their faith with us.
Read: Chapter 1, page 11 student text, paragraphs 2 & 3 (beginning with the third sentence: “But truths about God…”). I would skip the whole fairy tale analogy with them.

5. How do we know something is true? (we experience it with our senses, we rely on the credible witness of others - answers will vary; if they insist it is only through scientific discovery, remind them how often a scientific “proof” has subsequently been refuted, i.e., our planet’s position in the solar system and in the universe (Galileo); global cooling in the 1970s vs global warming in the 1990s vs global cooling again in the past decade; Expansion vs the contraction of the universe; anything else you or they can think of to show that science can sometimes draw the wrong conclusion based on incomplete or inaccurate data.)

Read: Chapter 1, page 12 student text. Hand out a copy of the Apostle’s Creed. It has a brief description/history on the top which you can read through with them.

Briefly, the Creed is the summary of our beliefs as Catholic Christians. It defines the three persons of the Trinity - God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, - as well as the five “marks” of the Catholic Church - belief in the One Holy Catholic Church, the Communion of Saints, the Forgiveness of Sins, the Resurrection of the Body, and Life Everlasting.

Review (5 minutes): questions 1-4 on page 13, student text.
THE APOSTLES’ CREED

The Apostles’ Creed is the Church’s statement of beliefs. If you read the creed carefully, you can see that what it is really saying is that we believe in God, in His son Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Spirit. It also says we believe in the holy Catholic Church, in the community of all saints, in the forgiveness of sins, and in eternal life with God in heaven.

Most theologians agree that the creed was created within the first 100 to 200 years after Jesus’ death and resurrection. Over the years, the words have changed but only very slightly. Every Sunday at Mass, the entire congregation recites another version of the creed called The Nicene Creed. It is a little longer, but it is the same set of beliefs.

I believe in God,
The Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ,
His only Son, Our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
Born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into Hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
And is seated at the right hand of God,
The Father Almighty.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The holy Catholic Church,
The communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And life everlasting.

Amen.
Objective: The students will learn that man can know by reason alone that God exists, that he is the transcendent (pg. 13 of teacher’s guide) Creator of heaven and earth, and that God created humans out of love. *(Tear out pg 7/8 in their student workbooks, to be given to them at the end of class, as they walk out the door!)*

Teach: First discuss the Trinity. The idea of three distinct persons in one God is difficult for even the most learned theologians to explain. However, you can use the water analogy (although imperfect), i.e., the three states of H₂O = liquid, solid, vapor = God, Jesus, Holy Spirit. It does help the kids to get a visual first. God is three persons, God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, with one nature.

Tell the students that we are beginning their study of the Trinity with the First Person, God the Father. Using the copies of the Apostle’s Creed, focus on the opening sentence (paragraph) of the creed. Read it out loud together and aid them in memorizing first paragraph:

“I believe in God, The Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth;”

Ask students:

1. How can we know, aside from what our Faith tells us, that God exists? *(build on previous discussion from Chapter 1; include beauty/balance of nature, the infinitesimal possibility that our complex earth could have happened by chance, must have some intelligent designer or creator. Example, point out that if we saw a beautiful painting on the wall, we would not say, “Isn’t it amazing that those colors just jumped up on the canvass and happened to create a perfect painting of Duxbury Beach?” ). F.Y.I. Some examples of knowing God from reason:

*Argument from Design* – that which has a design must have a designer. Ask students for examples of things which have been designed: painting, jewelry, clothing, design of human brain, design of world for human habitation.

*First-Cause Argument* – that everything is dependent upon another (previous generation) for its existence. But there must be one who is independent = the first-cause. Ask for examples from second week: human beings must have parents, who have parents, who have parents, etc.; oak trees come from acorns which come from oak trees which come from acorns, etc.; but there must be something that came into existence independent of anything else and from which the rest of creation owes its existence – we can call this first thing God.
**Argument from Conscience** – that everyone knows intuitively that he/she must do good things and avoid evil. It speaks to our general sense that things are either fair (or right) or unfair (or wrong). This sense of doing good comes from the source of all goodness – God. - LESSONS #1 & 2, KCS

**Pascal’s Wager** - either God exists or He does not exist, and we must of necessity lay odds for or against Him (using theories of probabilities):

- If I wager *for* and God is = infinite gain;
- If I wager *for* and God is not = no loss; finite gain of having lived a “good” life;
- If I wager *against* and God is = infinite loss;
- If I wager *against* and God is not = neither loss nor gain; have not lived a “good” life.

2. So, how does knowing about the existence of God change the way we should live? Treat others? Take care of ourselves and our world? (God’s profound love for us should be returned from us through our showing love for others and for our actions/our responsibility toward caring for our world - answers will vary;)

3. When did God begin to exist? (God has no beginning and no end)

4. Help the students to understand that their faith is based on the teachings of Christ and the witness of the Apostles. Our faith also relies on the willingness of our brothers and sisters in Christ, including our parents and grandparents, to share their faith with us.

5. Discuss ways to be thankful for what God has given us. (Admire and praise God, Use our talents to give God glory, take care of all of God’s creation – answers will vary.)

**Emphasize:** the importance ways for each of us to take care of ourselves and others through our awareness of potential risks when on our own in public places. By taking care of ourselves, we are demonstrating our appreciation for the unconditional love God has shown us.

**Activity:** Read through “Situation Cards” as you discuss rules for staying safe.

Read about St. Francis of Assisi, pg 27 teacher’s guide.

Conclude with:
Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi:

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.
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LESSON #3 - Chapter 4
Realm of the Angels

Objective: The students will learn that angels are intelligent creatures created by God and that humans and angels are two distinct creatures (people do not “become” angels after death, but their souls do live in communion with God and all the angels and saints). Angels are pure spirit. There are nine choirs of angels according to St. Thomas Aquinas (pg, 35 in teacher’s guide).

Open with a Prayer: Our Father, Hail Mary. Review the first paragraph of the Apostles’ Creed: “I believe in God, The Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth;”

Teach: Tell students, “Today, we are going to learn about angels”:

1. How do we know Angels exist? (by our faith & scriptural references in Old (OT) & New (NT) Testaments: Archangel Gabriel came to Mary – NT; three angels visited Abraham – OT; angel guided Tobit - OT). Ask the students if they can think of other occasions in Scripture when angels appeared. (Angels appeared to Joseph in a dream, angels appeared to shepherds to announce Jesus’ birth, angels came to help Jesus when he was fasting for 40 days in the desert following his baptism.)

2. Who are the angels? (Creation of God which is pure spirit; angels have no bodies, but they do have intelligence; they move through thought alone which is why they are often pictured with wings).

3. Remind the children they each have their own guardian angel. How could your angel help you? Hand out the prayer to the Guardian Angel (attached).

4. Teach the children the tradition of praying to learn their guardian angel’s name. (The tradition says that if they pray to know their guardian angel’s name at bedtime, when they arise in the morning, they should know their angel’s name.) They can say an Our Father, a Hail Mary, and a Glory Be for their angels and for the important work they have in guarding us.

5. Who are the demons? (fallen angels who refused to serve God but, instead, asserted independence from God. They were banished from the realm of angels and became demons. They are unhappy and hope to separate us from God to make us unhappy also – read one paragraph together pg 24 student text, second column, “According to tradition…”.)
6. Pray the Prayer of St Michael the Archangel together (pg 25 student text). Explain that, traditionally, this was recited at the conclusion of every Mass to protect the Catholic Church from the forces of evil.

**Prayer to My Guardian Angel**

The Catholic Church has a tradition of praying to and for our guardian angels. In this way, we are acknowledging and inviting their presence in our lives, as well as strengthening them for their important work of protecting us.

We also have a tradition of praying to learn our guardian angel’s name. The tradition says that if we pray to know our guardian angel’s name at bedtime, when we wake up the next morning, we should know our angel’s name.

Remember to say an **Our Father**, a **Hail Mary**, and a **Glory Be** for our angels and for the important work our angels have in guarding us.
Prayer to Our Guardian Angel

Angel of God, my guardian dear,
To whom God’s love commits me here,
Ever this day, be at my side,
To light and guard,
and rule and guide.

Amen.
**Grade 5**

**Chapters 5 & 6**
**Made in His Image and The Fall from Grace (30 minutes)**

**Objective:** The students will learn that man is an intelligent creature, created body and soul by God. The soul never dies, and although the body does die, it will rise again and be reunited with our soul in heaven. They will also learn that Adam and Eve were the first humans created by God, and of Original Sin and the Fall from Grace.

**Teach:**

1. Draw the “life ladder” diagram on the chalk board or white board. Ask the students to think of examples for each category (page 44 teacher’s guide, #3 in “Develop” section).

2. Ask students to name ways in which humans are different from the angels. Discuss things we share with the angels (pg 44 teacher’s guide, #4 in “Develop” section).

3. Read first two paragraphs from Chapter 5 (pg 28 student text – this chapter is only one page long) and the last paragraph on same page (28). Emphasize that “free will” is the freedom to choose to do good. Ask for a definition of obedience. Ask the children why their parents might ask them to obey their requests and rules. Why do we have rules? Ask the children for a definition of disobedience. Why do we sometimes disobey and break the rules? (answers will vary; emphasize the importance of rules to keep us safe) - LESSONS #1 & 2, KCS

“On My Own” – LESSONS #1, KCS

Tell the students that we are now going to learn the story about the first man, Adam, and the first woman, Eve, and how they chose to disobey God in the Garden of Eden.

Ask students:

4. Who knows the story of Creation? (there are two stories of creation: Genesis, Chapters 1&2 – it would be good to read through these ahead of time). Allow the children to tell what they know of the story.

Read Chapter 6 aloud to the children (have them close their books and just listen). Finish with the paragraph at the top of the left hand column on page 32 (Last
sentence, “Baptism removes original sin, fills our souls with sanctifying grace, and makes us God’s children.”

Ask students:

5. What was Adam & Eve’s sin? (disobedience and pride)

6. Did God stop loving Adam & Eve when they sinned?

7. How do we know? (God did not destroy Adam & Eve but allowed them to continue to live outside of Eden) Who did God promise to send? (God promised he would send a Savior)

8. Does God stop loving us when we have sinned? (remind students the Catholic Church has a special Sacrament for the forgiveness of sins - Penance).

9. Have the students bow their heads and think quietly to themselves about things they may have done wrong over the past week, or the things they could have done to help others but failed to do. After a minute, pray together the Act of Contrition to close the class (pg 138 student text, blue pages):

   **ACT OF CONTRITION**

   O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended thee.
   
   I detest all my sins because of thy just punishments,
   
   but most of all because they offend thee, my God,
   
   Who art all good and deserving of all my love.
   
   I firmly resolve, with the help of thy grace,
   
   to confess my sins, to do penance,
   
   and to amend my life.
   
   Amen.
Objective: The students will learn that God chose a special people to be his own and to prepare for the coming of the Savior. They will learn that, just like with the angels and with Adam & Eve, God tested his people (story of Abraham) and continued to call them back to him.

Open with a Prayer: Our Father, Hail Mary.
Review the first paragraph of the Apostles’ Creed and begin learning the second sentence: “I believe in God, The Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; /and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,”

Teach: Tell students, “Today, we are going to learn about some stories in the Bible which show how God continued to love his people even when they were disobedient. Our first story, though, is about a man named Abraham who was very faithful and obedient to God”:

Read the opening paragraphs of Chapter 7 in the student text (pg 35) and the section on Abraham together. (Remind the students that God has given tests to others – the angels and Adam & Eve. Ask if they remember the tests and the consequences.)

1. What was Abraham’s test? (God asked Abraham to sacrifice his only son, Isaac).
2. What did Abraham do? (prepared to sacrifice his only son in obedience to God).
3. How did God respond to Abraham’s faithfulness? (God sent an angel to stop Abraham from sacrificing his only son and, also, provided a perfect lamb to be sacrificed in Isaac’s place.)
4. Who did sacrifice his only son, many years later? (God sacrificed his only son, Jesus, to redeem humankind.)

Read the story of Jacob and Esau together at the end of Chapter 7 in the student text (pg 36). Whose sons are Jacob and Esau? (they are Isaac’s, who is the son of Abraham)

5. How many sons did Jacob (who became “Israel”) have? Ask the students if they have ever heard of the twelve tribes of Israel. Did they know that God changed Jacob’s name to “Israel”? (Israel means “God intended”)
6. What happened to Joseph? (Joseph was sold into slavery by his jealous brothers).
7. What country was Joseph living in when he was a slave? (Egypt)
8. What good did God bring forth for Joseph and his brothers from the sin the brothers committed in selling Joseph into slavery? (Joseph’s presence in Egypt kept the brothers and their families from starving during the 7 year drought).

9. Remind the students that because of Abraham’s faithful and obedience toward God, Abraham is our “father in faith”. He is also a father in faith for both the Jewish and the Islamic religions.

10. If you have time, allow the children to take parts in the Teacher’s Guide appendix B-5 called Abraham’s Test of Obedience.

Review the first paragraph of the Apostles’ Creed and continue learning the second sentence: “I believe in God, The Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; /and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,”

Finish with the Lord’s Prayer (“Our Father, who art in Heaven…”).
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LESSON #5 - Chapters 8 & 9
Moses leads God’s People
The Forming of God’s People

Objective: The students will learn the story of Moses and how God used an imperfect person (Moses) to help free the Jews from slavery in Egypt. They will also learn about the covenant (sacred promise) that God made with his chosen people, the Jews. *(Tear out pg 33/34 in their student workbooks, to be given to them at the end of class, as they walk out the door!)*

Open with a Prayer: Our Father, Hail Mary.
Review the first paragraph of the Apostles’ Creed and begin learning the second sentence: “I believe in God, The Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; /and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, /who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary.”

Teach:
Tell the students that we are now going to learn the story about Moses and how he saved the Jews from slavery in Egypt. Remind the students that Joseph had come to Egypt hundreds of years earlier and that he saved his family’s (brothers’) life during the drought. In the years that followed, the Jews became slaves to the Egyptian people and had to worship the same way the Egyptians did. God wanted to bring his people back to him, so he called Moses to bring his people out of slavery. This is called the Exodus. The story of the Jews’ Exodus from Egypt (salvation from physical slavery) pre-figured our salvation (from sin) through Christ.

We are now going to watch a 30 minute movie about Moses. While you are watching, answer the following questions *(handout attached)*:

(After the movie, use the questions as discussion points if you have time, or collect them to return next week for discussion).

1. How did God convince the Pharaoh to free the Jews from slavery? *(God used Moses to warn the Pharaoh of punishments the people of Egypt would suffer if God’s people were not freed. Each time Pharaoh refused, one of the 10 plagues were sent to the Egyptians).*
2. What were the ten plagues? (Nile River turns to blood, Infestation of frogs, Swarms of gnats, Swarms of flies, Death of livestock, Boils, Hail, Infestation of locusts, Darkness, The Angel of Death kills first-born – pg 77 teacher’s guide).

3. Explain the significance of the “Passover” meal. (Pre-figured the salvation of all people through Christ: the perfect lamb slaughtered to free the Jews from slavery = the perfect lamb [Jesus] slaughtered to free all of us from the bondage of sin. Christ was celebrating the Passover meal in the upper room on the night [Holy Thursday] he instituted the Sacrament of the Eucharist [the new covenant mentioned during the Eucharistic Prayer]- pg 40 student text).

4. What were the gifts God provided to the people of Israel to keep them fed? (manna from heaven and quail). Who else could be called “manna from heaven”? (Jesus)

5. What special rules did God provide to the people of Israel? (The Ten Commandments)

6. What is the Ark of the Covenant? (the special wooden box lined with gold that the Israelites made to hold the Ten Commandments)

7. Give an example of how God showed this love to the people of Israel. (God brought the people out of Egypt; he provided food and water even though the people forgot to pray for help; he forgave his people for worshipping false gods.) What does this story teach us about God’s love for his people? (God loves us even when we turn away from him and sin. All he asks is that we show remorse and ask for forgiveness).
The Story of Moses

Please answer the following questions which are based on the movie. Be prepared to discuss your answers with your class.

1. How did God convince the Pharaoh to free the Jews from slavery? ____________________
   ____________________________________
   ____________________________________

2. What were the ten plagues? ____________________________________________________
   ____________________________________
   ____________________________________
   ____________________________________
   ____________________________________
   ____________________________________

3. Explain the significance of the “Passover” meal to the followers of Christ who came many years later. __________________________________________________
   ____________________________________
   ____________________________________
   ____________________________________
   ____________________________________
   ____________________________________

4. What were the gifts God provided to the people of Israel to keep them fed? __________
   ____________________________________
   Who else could be called “manna from heaven”? ________________________________

5. What special rules did God provide to the people of Israel? _________________________
   ____________________________________

6. What is the Ark of the Covenant? _____________________________________________
   ____________________________________

7. What does this story teach us about God’s love for his people? ______________________
   ____________________________________
   ____________________________________
   ____________________________________
   ____________________________________
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LESSON #6 - Chapter 10
The Words of the Prophets

Objective: Until now, God was the King of the Israelites. However, the people of Israel wanted their own earthly king. God relented and the kings of Israel were established with authority given by God.

Open with a Prayer: Our Father, Hail Mary.
Review the first paragraph of the Apostles’ Creed and begin learning the second sentence: “I believe in God, The Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; / and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, / who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary.”

Teach: Ask students:

1. What is a “prophet”? (answers will vary – the Prophets of God foretold the future, but most importantly, were sent by God to bring the word of God to his people the Israelites and to remind his chosen people to keep their covenant [their agreement, promise] with God, as well).

2. Remind the students of the covenant between God and the Israelites. (The covenant was God’s promise to make the Israelites his special [chosen] people and their promise to follow God’s commands. The Ark of the Covenant held the stone tablets with the Ten Commandments and was a sign of God’s presence among the Hebrew people. The Ark was to be a central focus for worship, in many ways like our Tabernacle which holds the actual presence of Christ, the Son of God, who remains with us.)

Read the student text together, (pg 44-45), the paragraphs under “The Kings of Israel”. Continue on page 46 beginning with the second paragraph to “Isaiah”.

3. What were some of the ways the Israelites broke the Covenant? (worshipping false Gods, making idols to worship, marrying those who did not believe in God).

4. What happened to Joseph? (Joseph was sold into slavery by his jealous brothers).

5. How did God respond? (sent many prophets to remind the Hebrews to repent, return to God’s commands, and live as God’s chosen people again).

Ask the students to close their books and listen. Read the stories of Isaiah and Jeremiah out loud to the students, (pg 46-47 student text), ending with (replace last paragraph in Chapter 10):

“Other prophets followed Jeremiah. The last and the greatest of the prophets began his mission, not before, but after the birth of Jesus. His name was Saint John the Baptist and we will learn his story next.”
Chapter 11
In the Fullness of Time

Objective: The students will learn the story of the last prophet, St. John the Baptist, who was the son of Elizabeth (Mary’s cousin) and Zechariah. They will also learn of the Annunciation, the Visitation, and the doctrine of Mary’s Immaculate Conception (celebrated on December 8th each year) which made her the pure (sinless) “Ark of the New Covenant”).

Teach:
Have the children take note of the blue page entitled “God the Son, The Redeemer” which separates this section from the preceding one, “God, the Father of All”. Emphasize that we are now going to be learning about Jesus Christ. Chapter 11 is an important chapter for bridging the gap between the Old Testament and the New Testament. You and the students should take some time reading through the entire chapter.

The following are definitions of important vocabulary from Chapter 11:

1. **The Annunciation** (celebrated March 25th – nine months before the birth of Jesus): When the Angel Gabriel came to Mary to tell her she would be the Mother of Jesus. Mary agreed to God’s plan, and on this day Jesus began his life on earth, as a tiny unborn child inside his mother.

2. **The Visitation** (May 31st): When Mary came to visit her cousin Elizabeth who was pregnant with St. John the Baptist, the last prophet and the herald of Jesus Christ. Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and knew that Mary was the mother of the Messiah (the Savior).

3. **The Immaculate Conception** (celebrated December 8th): Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ, was preserved from original sin by God so that she could be the perfect vessel to carry the Son of God. Like the Old Testament “Ark of the Covenant” which was created as a sacred vessel for the stone tablets of the Ten Commandments [the sign of God’s covenant with his chosen people of Israel], so Mary was created as a pure, holy “vessel” to carry Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh and the bearer of God’s New Covenant with all his people.

4. **The Birth of Christ** (celebrated December 25th) is the fulfillment of all prophesies from the Old Testament. He came to show us how to live as Children of God. Each year when we celebrate the birth of Christ, we renew our own promise to bring Christ into the world once more – through our love for each other, through our service to each other, and through our commitment to be “heralds” or ambassadors of Christ.

Conclude with the Hail Mary.

**Review the first two sentences of the Apostles’ Creed:** “I believe in God, The Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; / and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, / who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary.”
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LESSON #7 - Chapter 12
Born in the City of David

Objective: The students will learn that Christ’s birth was the fulfillment of the prophesies found in the Old Testament and that he was the “Incarnation” of God’s Word (Jesus was the “word” [all the scriptural promises] of God made into “flesh” i.e., Man). They will learn the prophesy of Simeon and of the Holy Family’s escape from King Herod’s evil rule to safety in Egypt.

Open with a Prayer: Our Father, Hail Mary.
Review the first two sentences of the Apostles’ Creed and begin learning the third sentence: “I believe in God, The Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; /and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, /who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary. (new line) He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.”

Before you begin Chapter 12, spend some time discussing the Season of Advent:
Use Advent booklet to help students prepare for Christmas and the coming of Jesus.

Teach: Read to students the beginning of the prologue to St. John’s Gospel, Chapter 1, verses 1-5 (John 1:1-5):

“In the beginning was the Word,
   And the Word was with God,
   And the Word was God.
He was in the beginning with God.
   All things came to be through him,
   And without him nothing came to be.
   What came to be through him was life,
   And this life was the light of the human race;
The light shines in the darkness and the darkness does not overcome it.”

1. To help the children integrate what they have learned so far, ask the students, “Why was Jesus sent to us as a human being?” (answers will vary – God had been trying to call his people back to him since the Fall of Adam & Eve in the Garden of Eden. He sent many leaders and prophets who tried to teach the chosen people how to behave. Finally, God sent Jesus to teach us and show us how to behave as children of God, and to provide a path to salvation and eternal life).

2. Explain that the Son of God, Jesus, was fully human and fully divine – Jesus is one person who has two natures, one human and one divine; that Jesus was God “Incarnate” (in the flesh), or said another way, Jesus was the Incarnation of God – the Word (of God) made Flesh.
Read the student text together, (pg 55-56).

3. Why did the Angel of God speak to Joseph in a dream? (Joseph was going to break off his engagement to Mary because he knew she was pregnant with a child that was not his. The angel explained to Joseph that Mary’s child was the son of God).

4. What did Joseph do? (He remained with Mary and became her husband).

5. What did Simeon predict? (that Jesus would bring the Grace of God to all people [not just the Jews], and also that Mary, his mother, would suffer with Jesus).

Chapter 13
The Holy Family

Objective: The students will learn about the “hidden years”, that time in Jesus’ life after the Holy Family leaves Egypt and returns to Nazareth until the time when Jesus begins his public ministry. They will also learn how the Holy Family models behavior for us within our own families.

Teach:

Explain to the children that we do not know much about the life Jesus, Mary, and Joseph had in Nazareth while Jesus was growing up, except for the one story about Jesus traveling to Jerusalem with Mary and Joseph. We do know that Joseph was a carpenter, and that Mary and Joseph were both very faithful Jews. Jesus would have been raised an observant (pious) Jew, celebrating all the Jewish Holy Days, learning scriptures, and worshipping in the Temple. Jesus would also have been taught carpentry like Joseph.

Ask the students to close their books and listen while you read the story of Jesus traveling to Jerusalem to them, (pg 59 student text, last paragraph in right column, “As mentioned earlier…” through pg 60, “Honor your father and your mother”.

Introduce the last section in the chapter, “The Holy Family and You”; then ask several students to read each suggestion in the section. Ask them to give examples from their own experience (of being obedient, disobedient, praying, following God’s will, etc.). Ask them to look for ways they can live as the Holy Family lived, as a loving, supportive family. Tell them this is a good Advent journey for them as we approach Christmas and the coming of our Lord Jesus.

Conclude with the Hail Mary.

Review the first two sentences of the Apostles’ Creed and begin learning the third sentence: “I believe in God, The Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; /and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, /who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.”
LESSON #8 - Chapter 14
The Kingdom of Heaven

Objective: The students will learn that at age thirty, Jesus began his public ministry following his Baptism in the Jordan River. At the time of his Baptism, the Holy Spirit descended like a dove. Before Jesus began his ministry, he withdrew to the desert for forty days where he fasted and prayed. Jesus chose twelve disciples and taught about the Kingdom of God.

Open with a Prayer: Our Father, Hail Mary.
Review the first two sentences of the Apostles’ Creed and begin learning the third sentence: “I believe in God, The Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; /and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, /who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary. (new line) He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.”

Teach: “Today we are going to learn about Jesus Christ and the beginning of his ministry here on Earth. We will learn how Jesus was baptized, and how he was tempted, just like we are. We will also learn about the special stories (called parables) that he told to help all of us understand how to live as God’s children.”

Read: Have student volunteers begin reading Chapter 14, the first four paragraphs (pg 62-63, student text) or you could go around the room allowing each student to read one paragraph, or (this will get them if they’re not paying attention) have their names on slips of paper and randomly select names for each line.

1. To help the children integrate what they have learned so far, ask the students, “Why was John the Baptist surprised to see Jesus come to be baptized in the Jordan River?” (answers will vary – John, who was Jesus’ cousin, knew that Jesus was the Messiah sent by God, and that John was not even worthy to untie his sandals).

2. What happened when Jesus withdrew to the desert to pray? (Jesus was tempted by the devil who was trying to convince Jesus to “take the easy way out”).

3. How did Jesus respond to the devil’s temptations? (Jesus told the devil “no!”)

4. After Jesus returned from the desert, who did he spend most of his time with? (the poor, with sinners, and with others the world decided were not important)
5. Why do you think Jesus wanted to spend time with those who were not seen as important? *(answers will vary)*

**Read:** Have students continue reading Chapter 14 to the end (pg 63-64, student text) in whichever way works the best for your class.

1. What is the name of the stories Jesus told to help his listeners understand what he was trying to teach them about God? *(parables).*
2. Can anyone tell us one of the parables? *(answers will vary).*
3. What was Jesus trying to teach his listeners? *(answers will vary)*

**Ask** for additional parables and have the children work together to figure how what Jesus was teaching.

4. Why do you think Jesus taught with stories, or parables? *(answers will vary)*
Chapter 15
The Father And I Are One – **LESSONS #3 and #4, KCS**

**Objective:** The students will learn that Christ performed many miracles as a proof of his divinity. He revealed this truth to the Apostles before he revealed it to others. Christ’s ultimate proof of his divinity is the Resurrection.

**Teach:**

Emphasize that this teaching of Jesus being both fully human and fully divine is a mystery and difficult to understand, yet we know it is true through the words of Jesus himself in scripture as well as the eye-witness accounts offered by his followers.

Explain to the children that Jesus is God, in the Second Person of the Trinity. As God, he took the form of a human person out of love for us, so that we could see him, come to know him and the Father, and have eternal life.

Ask the students to open their books to page 67 (chapter 15) to learn more about the divinity of Jesus (begin with page 67 student text, fourth paragraph, “Jesus allowed his apostles to learn...” through pg 68, the end of the chapter. Explain that some people had trouble believing that Jesus is the Son of God. But those who could believe had faith in Jesus and became his followers. They were the people who eventually established our Catholic Church, as followers of Christ’s new way of life.

**Discuss human nature.** A human being is a body and soul unity, but is not divine. A **body** is both physical and mortal, with senses, the ability to move and to experience emotions. The body eats, drinks, and sleeps. The **soul** is both spiritual and immortal (it can never die). It has the powers of intellect and will (to choose right from wrong). Jesus, fully human, had all these same qualities of a human person except that he could never sin.

Our bodies are often referred to as “Temples of the Holy Spirit”. This means that our bodies are actually a place where the Holy Trinity dwells (John 14:23,26):

> “Whoever loves me and keeps my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him...The Advocate, the Holy Spirit that the Father will send in my name – he will teach you everything and remind you of all that [I] have told you.”

Since we know that the Holy Spirit can dwell within us, it is so important that we protect ourselves from any potential dangers.
1. What are some things we would want to try to protect ourselves from or places we would want to try to avoid? (answers will vary; strangers, bad things like tobacco or alcohol, isolated areas, being alone in a public place such as a mall or movie theatre, etc.)

2. How can we make sure we protect our “Temples of the Holy Spirit”? (answers will vary; stay with a buddy when in public places without a parent, bring a cell phone with emergency contact numbers, stay away from isolated areas, know who your trusted adults are, etc.).

Activity:

Hand out “Trick Alert Handout” after discussing “tricks” used by people trying to put them in dangerous situations

Using handout, have students identify “Where Can I Get Help” - LESSON #3 & 4, KCS

Remind the students of their last lesson (Chapter 13), “The Holy Family and You”; then ask the students if they have been able to find ways to live as the Holy Family over the last weeks. Ask them to share if they wish and to continue to look for ways they can live as the Holy Family lived, as a loving, supportive family. Tell them this is a good Advent journey for them as we approach Christmas and the coming of our Lord Jesus.

Conclude with the Hail Mary.

Review the first two sentences of the Apostles’ Creed and begin learning the third sentence: “I believe in God, The Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; / and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, / who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.”
CREDO: I BELIEVE, Faith and Life Series: Grade 5
The Teachings of the Apostles’ Creed

LESSON #9 - Chapter 16
Your Sins Are Forgiven

Objective: The students will learn that Jesus, the Second Person of God in the Trinity, can forgive sins. Jesus healed people both physically and spiritually.

Open with a Prayer: Our Father, Hail Mary.
Review the first two sentences of the Apostles’ Creed and begin learning the third sentence: “I believe in God, The Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; /and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, /who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. (new line) He descended into Hell. On the third day he rose again.”

Teach: “Have you ever had the experience of deliberately choosing to do something wrong and had someone else get very mad at you? How did that make you feel? Did you ever ask yourself why you chose to do something wrong? Were you angry? Scared? Frightened? Feeling left out? How does it feel to know you have disappointed someone else? Your friend? Your mom or dad? Your coach or teacher? How about disappointing God? Did you know that when you hurt another, you also hurt God as well?

“Today, we are going to hear about how God, through Jesus his Son, always forgives our sins. All we have to do is ask for forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.”

Read: Have student volunteers begin reading Chapter 16, through the end of the chapter (pg 70-71, student text) using whichever method works best for your class.

1. To help the children integrate what they have learned so far, ask the students, “Why was it hard for the Jews in Jesus’ time to believe that Jesus could forgive sins?” (only God can forgive sins, and they did not believe that Jesus is the Son of God; they thought they could only be forgiven if they obeyed every law of Judaism perfectly).

2. Jesus healed people of sickness, but what did he really come to heal? (Jesus came to heal souls of sin, so that people could draw closer to God).

3. How often should we forgive those who wrong us? (every time!) Give an example of what you should say when you forgive others.
4. What should we do if someone keeps being mean to us, even after we have tried to be friends? *(pray for that person, so that God’s love may enter their hearts)*

5. What should we do if someone tries to physically harm us through bad touching or bully us into doing things we know we shouldn’t? *(get away, find a trusted adult, keep telling until you are believed)* - LESSON #3 & 4, KCS

**Activity:** Have students take a piece of paper (3x5 card) and write down a time when they have had trouble forgiving someone else (brother, sister, friend, parents, teacher, coach, etc.). Give them a few minutes to do this; these should not be shared! When they have finished, have a basket ready for them to place their card. Pray the following prayer with them while they bow their heads:

*Dear Jesus, you have listened patiently to my worries and have helped me to feel better when I’ve been sad. Let me remember your loving presence when I am having a hard time forgiving another person for an unkind word or action.*

*Lord Jesus, you have shown me how to act, what to say, what to do, and yet I sometimes act in anger and find it difficult to forgive others as you so often have forgiven me.*

*Help me to remember your unconditional love and forgiveness toward me whenever I need a forgiving spirit toward another. Amen*

Have all students recite the “Lord’s Prayer” together (“Our Father, who art in Heaven…”).

Ask the students how they feel now that they have asked God’s help to forgive. Encourage them to continue praying for help with forgiveness. Tell them they will have a chance to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation as we get closer to Easter, but remind them that they may receive this sacrament any Saturday afternoon before the 5:00 pm Mass.
Chapter 17
True God and True Man

Objective: The students will learn that Christ is both true God and a true human being. He has the same human nature we do and is like us in all things except sin. He felt hungry, thirsty, sad, and happy, just like we do. Jesus’ divine nature is eternal, like God, and has always been and will always be; his human nature began when he was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of Mary.

Teach: Remind the children how Adam & Eve damaged the relationship between human beings and God when they sinned against God in the Garden of Eden.

Ask: “Who remembers the story of Adam & Eve in the Garden of Eden (show of hands)?” Ask one student to retell the story, prompting and/or filling in where necessary.

Emphasize: Once Adam & Eve were expelled from the Garden of Eden, they no longer had God’s promise of eternal life with him. Over many hundreds of years, God sent many prophets to try to teach the people of Israel how to treat each other and how to pray to God so they could rebuild their relationship with God. But the people kept forgetting, or they would just not understand what they were supposed to do, or they just couldn’t believe that God would want to be so close to them.

Finally, Jesus, the Son of God, came; he became a human person to show us exactly how to live in close relationship with God, our Heavenly Father. He taught us how to pray to our Father, and how to live with each other as children of God.

Ask the students to open their books to page 73 (chapter 17) to hear about how Jesus helped to bridge the divide between God and human beings, teaching us to be true sons and daughters of God. Have the students take turns, completing the chapter and selecting readers in the best way for your class.

Ask: Why do you think God wants so much to be close to us? (answers will vary)

Conclude with the Hail Mary.

Review the first two sentences of the Apostles’ Creed and begin learning the third sentence: “I believe in God, The Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; / and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, / who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. (new line) He descended into Hell. On the third day he rose again.”
Objective: The students will learn that many people did not recognize Jesus as the Savior, the Son of God. Jesus spent much of his time with poor people and with sinners instead of with rich and important people. They will learn that Jesus is really truly present in the Eucharist, Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. *(Tear out pg 70 in their student workbooks, to be given to them at a later time during the class*)

Open with a Prayer: Our Father, Hail Mary.

Review the first two sentences of the Apostles’ Creed and begin learning the third sentence: “I believe in God, The Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. (new line) He descended into Hell. On the third day he rose again.”

Teach: “Think of a time you may have felt left out. Was it on a sports team? Was there a time you were not included in a party? How about feeling left out of a conversation. Were others talking about something that you did not know about? Maybe a television show that was on the night before? Or something that happened at school when you were absent? Have you ever had an experience when someone disagreed with you and got angry about it? Did they criticize you or talk about you behind your back? How did it make you feel? What did you do?

“Many times Jesus was rejected by others. He always spoke the truth, but there were those who did not want to hear what Jesus had to say. Many times Jesus was asking them to look at the way they were treating others and asking them to be more kind and helpful. But many of these people did not want to change their ways and got angry at Jesus. In our lesson today, we will hear how Jesus was treated by some people and what Jesus did.”

Read: Have student volunteers begin reading Chapter 18, through the end of the chapter (pg 76-78, student text) using whichever method works best for your class. Spend some time explaining the difference among the various sects of Judaism in Jesus’ time (page 175 bottom, teacher’s guide). After the students have finished reading the chapter:

*Pass out the copies of the worksheet from their workbooks, pg 70 “Rejecting and Accepting Christ”.*
Ask: “Has there been a time when you chose to do something that you now realize was a rejection of who Jesus would like you to be? Is there anything you can do to ‘fix’ it? Is there any way you can choose to act in the future to avoid the same mistake another time?”

Teach: “We have learned in Chapter 18 how Jesus was treated by those who disagreed with him. Does anyone know what Jesus’ enemies did to him? In the next chapter, we will read about what happened to Jesus at the hands of those who hated him.”
Chapter 19
The Acceptance of the Father’s Will

Objective: The students will learn that Jesus entered into Jerusalem in glory during the week of Passover. Crowds of people honored him by placing palms in his path and singing songs of joy. Those who were jealous of Jesus and did not like him were worried that Jesus would take away their power. Jesus was arrested, tried, convicted, and crucified.

Read: Ask the students to open their books to page 79 (chapter 19) to hear about what happen to Jesus when he arrived in Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. Have the students take turns, completing the chapter and selecting readers in the best way for your class.

Emphasize: read the blue box at the end of the chapter about the Shroud of Turin. Pass around the picture showing the photo (on left) with the negative of the photo (on right). Ask the children if they can see the full figure of Christ in the pictures. Which one is easier to see? The shroud of Turin is kept in a very safe place, in the royal chapel of the Cathedral of Saint John the Baptist in Turin, northern Italy. For additional information on various scientific tests done on the shroud, visit http://www.shroudstory.com/faq/ and/or http://www.shroudstory.com/

Conclude with the Hail Mary.

Review the first two sentences of the Apostles’ Creed and begin learning the third sentence: “I believe in God, The Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; /and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, /who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. (new line) He descended into Hell. On the third day he rose again.”
CREDO: I BELIEVE, Faith and Life Series: Grade 5
The Teachings of the Apostles’ Creed

LESSON #11 - Chapter 20
The Perfect Sacrifice

Objective: The students will learn that a sacrifice is an offering to God. Before Christ came to live among us, neither man nor women were able to atone for their sins through their own sacrifices. Jesus came as the perfect sacrifice, both priest and victim, to atone for all of our sins. The sacrifice of the Mass is the same as Christ’s sacrifice on the cross; we can be in union with Christ at every Mass to offer ourselves as a sacrifice to God the Father. (*Tear out pg 79-80 in their student workbooks, to be given to them at a later time during the class*)

Open with a Prayer: Our Father, Hail Mary.
Review the first three sentences of the Apostles’ Creed and begin learning the fourth sentence: “I believe in God, The Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; / and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, / who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into Hell. On the third day he rose again. (new line) He ascended into heaven, And is seated at the right hand of God, The Father Almighty.”

Teach: “We heard in Chapter 19 how Jesus was hated by some people who were scared that he was going to try to rule earthly kingdoms. They did not understand that Jesus came to create a heavenly kingdom where all who believed would be welcomed.

Ask:
1. What happened to Jesus when he came to Jerusalem? (answers may vary in detail; first he was honored with praises and palms; then he was arrested and crucified by his enemies)
2. Did Jesus know that he would be sacrificed on the cross? (yes; as the second person of the Trinity, he knew things as God that we as humans could not know)
3. Does anyone know why Jesus was willing to die for us? (show of hands – then ask for answers; he was opening up the gates of heaven for us so that we also can live in heaven with God)

“To make a sacrifice, we give up a good for the benefit of another. We sacrifice to God by offering our best in good deeds and penance and by offering Jesus in Holy Communion to the father. We sacrifice in our family relationships by giving up
something good because we love one another. For example, we might give up watching a favorite television show to help do the dishes after dinner.

4. Can you think of sacrifices you make? (answers will vary)

5. Why did you make that sacrifice? (answers will vary)

6. What was the good you were giving up? (answers will vary)

“In Chapter 20, we are going to learn about Jesus as the Perfect sacrifice for all humankind. We will also hear about people who did very brave things and have become saints through their love of Jesus and our Catholic faith.”

**Read:** Have student volunteers begin reading Chapter 20, through the end of the chapter (pg 83-85, student text) using whichever method works best for your class. After the students have finished reading the chapter:

*Pass out the copies of the worksheet from their workbooks, pg 80 “The Sacrifice of the Mass”. As your class is reading the chapter, stop and help them to fill out the appropriate answers on their worksheets.

**Teach:** “We have learned in Chapter 20 how Jesus gave up his life to make up for our sins. We learned how Jesus was the one Perfect Sacrifice forever for all of humankind – for all of us. And we also heard about people just like us who loved Jesus and the Church so much that they sacrificed themselves to help keep our faith growing. There are many ways we can give up something to show God how much we love him, too.”

*(Begin the discussion of the coming of Lent, Ash Wednesday, and how we can give-up or sacrifice throughout Lent to show Jesus how much we love him. Let them know we will be talking about this more as we get closer to Lent)*

Conclude with a circle prayer, asking each child to offer a special intention. **Conclude the circle by asking to God to help us all to recognize the ways in which we can be open to helping others through the sacrifice of our time and talent.**

**Review the first three sentences of the Apostles’ Creed and begin learning the fourth sentence:** “I believe in God, The Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; /and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, /who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into Hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, And is seated at the right hand of God, The Father Almighty.”
CREDO: I BELIEVE, Faith and Life Series: Grade 5
The Teachings of the Apostles’ Creed

LESSON #12 - Chapter 21 (30 minutes)
He is Risen

Objective: The students will learn that, following his crucifixion, Jesus rose from the dead – he was resurrected from the dead and returned to life in a glorified body. Jesus was not a ghost because he ate with the disciples and they were able to touch his resurrected body. Christ’s resurrection, his victory over death, proves he is God. This also gives us all hope of everlasting life. (Tear out pg 85/86 in their student workbooks, to be given to them at a later time during the class*)

Open with a Prayer: Our Father, Hail Mary.
Review the first five sentences of the Apostles’ Creed and continue learning the sixth sentence: “I believe in God, The Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into Hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, And is seated at the right hand of God, The Father Almighty. (new line) He will come again to judge the living and the dead.”

Teach: “Have you ever seen someone get punished for something that he/or she did not do? How did you feel? What if you knew the truth and tried to speak up for your friend or sibling? What if you knew that you had participated in the misdeed? Would you stand by your friend and take your punishment, too? Or would you be too afraid that you would be punished as well?

“We know that, although he was completely innocent of any wrong deed, Jesus was arrested, was crucified and died. How do you think the apostles and disciples must have felt when they saw what happened to Jesus? Why do you think they did not speak up for Jesus?

In this lesson, we are going to hear about what happened to Jesus following his crucifixion and what happened to his followers, too.”

Read: Have the children close their books while you read pages 87-88 in their text books out loud to them. Tell them: “Now I’m going to tell you the story of what really happened to Jesus after his crucifixion.” After reading the two pages, encourage them to attend the Saturday evening Easter Vigil which will not be until April 23rd this year. Describe the ways that this Mass is different from all others.
When you have finished, they may work on the word find (tell them they have 5 minutes or so):

*Pass out the pages from their workbooks, pg 85 “He is Risen”. If you do not have time for this, give them the pages at the end of the class to take home for fun!

**Teach:** “We have just about how Jesus returned to earth following his death. We heard about the women going to see the empty tomb and about how his followers came to believe that Jesus Christ really was the Son of God. Now we are going to learn about what happened to the disciples after Jesus’ resurrection.”
Chapter 22 (30 minutes)
Jesus Sends the Apostles

Objective: The students will learn that Jesus appeared to the disciples many times after he returned to earth following his resurrection. He commissioned the apostles to continue his work here on earth, and he gave them the gift of the Holy Spirit to strengthen them. He also instituted the Sacrament of Penance at this time.

NOTE TO TEACHERS: This is a lovely chapter about the love of Christ and his commissioning of the Apostles as the first priests and bishops of his Church. Plan to read through the chapter with them, emphasizing the last section, “Recognizing Jesus in Others”.

Read: Have student volunteers begin reading Chapter 22, (pg 91-92, student text – stop before “Recognizing Jesus in Others”) or you could go around the room allowing each student to read one paragraph, or (this will get them if they’re not paying attention) have their names on slips of paper and randomly select names for each line.

1. To help the children integrate what they have learned so far, ask the students, “What gift did Jesus give the apostles?” (he breathed on them and they received the gift of the Holy Spirit; remind them that at Confirmation, they will also receive the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit to strengthen them [seven gifts: Wisdom, Understanding, Knowledge, Right Judgment, Fortitude, Piety, and Awe and Wonder of the Lord].

2. Why did Jesus give the Apostles the Gift of the Holy Spirit? (to strengthen them to go out and spread the Word of God [Gospel] and to forgive sins”).

3. Who is Thomas and what happened to him? (one of the Apostles; he did not see Jesus when the other Apostles did, so did not believe until he placed his hands into the wounds of Christ)

4. What did Jesus teach the Apostles while he was here? (he taught them how to continue in his work to bring the Kingdom of God here on earth.)

Read: Have the students close their books while you read the final section, “Recognizing Jesus in Others” out loud to them.

Emphasize: Ask the students to bow their heads and ask Jesus to show them someone they know who could use a friend, or someone they know who would like to have their help. Pray with them:
Lord, Jesus, help us to see those around us who need our help. Please show me how I can help them; please give me the desire to help them; and please strengthen me to help them with your love. Amen

Tell them they have all February break to find others to help and that you will give them an opportunity to share when they return after the break.

Remind the children how to stay safe over February break. Use the materials from LESSON #2, KCS

Conclude with the Hail Mary.

Review the first five sentences of the Apostles’ Creed and continue learning the sixth sentence: “I believe in God, The Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into Hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, And is seated at the right hand of God, The Father Almighty. (new line) He will come again to judge the living and the dead.”
CREDO: I BELIEVE, Faith and Life Series: Grade 5
The Teachings of the Apostles’ Creed

LESSON #13 - Chapter 23 (60 minutes)
The Giver of Life

Objective: The students will learn that the third person of the Holy Trinity is God, the Holy Spirit. They will hear about Pentecost, when Christ gave the Apostles the Gift of the Holy Spirit and commissioned them to continue his work. Pentecost is the “Birthday” of the Catholic Church. *(Tear out pg 91-92 in their student workbooks, to be given to them at a later time during the class)*

Open with a Prayer: Our Father. (5 minutes)
Review the first five sentences of the Apostles’ Creed and continue learning the sixth sentence: “I believe in God, The Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into Hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, And is seated at the right hand of God, The Father Almighty. (new line) *He will come again to judge the living and the dead.*"

Teach (5 minutes): “Remember we have learned that there are three persons in the Holy Trinity. We began the year learning about God, our Loving Father. Just recently, we have been learning about God the Son, Jesus Christ and how he came from heaven to save us and show us how to live as followers of God’s Word. Now we are going to spend the next weeks learning about God the Holy Spirit, the Giver of Life.

“In the last chapter, we heard how afraid the Apostles were after Jesus was crucified.”

Ask:

1. What happened to the Apostles which gave them the strength they needed to continue Jesus’ mission here on earth? *(Jesus gave them the gift of the Holy Spirit which strengthened them, so they were not afraid anymore)*

2. Remember before February break we talked about finding ways that we could be like Jesus to others who need our help? Did anyone have an opportunity to help another person over the last two weeks? What did you do?

Read (20 minutes): Tell the students, “the day that Jesus came to give the Apostles the Holy Spirit is called Pentecost. On this day, the Apostles were
commissioned as priests and bishops to go out and spread the Good News [Gospel] of Jesus Christ. Pentecost is the “Birthday” of the Catholic Church because this was the first day the Apostles became the leaders of our Church.”

**Have student volunteers** begin reading Chapter 23, through the end of the chapter (pg 97-99, student text) using whichever method works best for your class. Spend some time explaining the difference among the various sects of Judaism in Jesus’ time (page 175 bottom, teacher’s guide). After the students have finished reading the chapter:

*Pass out the copies of the worksheet from their workbooks, pg 92 “I Believe in the Holy Spirit” (10 minutes).* Work with children to answer the questions together, or have them work in small groups to answer the questions and then share and discuss answers together.

**Activity (if you have time): 5+ minutes**

**Activity Objective**
To teach the children that God gives each one of us the Holy Spirit

**Lesson Outcome**
The children will understand that the Holy Spirit is with us in everything we do.

**Materials**
- Card Stock Paper (pre-cut for you)
- Crayons or Markers

**Solo Activity**
- Tell the children that they are going to make a Holy Spirit Bookmark.
- Pass out the materials.
- Tell the children to write the words *Holy Spirit* vertically on the front of their strip of paper.
- Write the following seven words on the board: Awe and Wonder of the Lord, Piety, Fortitude, Knowledge, Understanding, Right Judgment, Wisdom.
- Invite the children to choose one of the words and to write it on the back of the bookmark.
- Then encourage the children to decorate their bookmarks using crayons and markers.
Teach (5 minutes): “Each one of us has been given the gift of the Holy Spirit to guide us, to teach us, to help us to do the right things. When you are Confirmed you will receive and be strengthened by the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit, just as the apostles were. Let’s conclude our class today with a special prayer to the Holy Spirit. Please bow your heads and listen carefully for the Seven gifts of the Holy Spirit:”

Prayer for the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Christ Jesus, before ascending into heaven, You promised to send the Holy Spirit to Your apostles and disciples. Grant that the same Spirit may perfect in our lives the work of Your grace and love.

Grant us the Spirit of **Awe and Wonder Of The Lord** that we may be filled with a loving reverence toward You;

the Spirit of **Piety** that we may find peace and fulfillment in the service of God while serving others;

the Spirit of **Fortitude** that we may bear our cross with You and, with courage, overcome the obstacles that interfere with our salvation;

the Spirit of **Knowledge** that we may know You and know ourselves and grow in holiness;

the Spirit of **Understanding** to enlighten our minds with the light of Your truth;

the Spirit of **Right Judgment** that we may choose the surest way of doing Your will, seeking first the Kingdom;

Grant us the Spirit of **Wisdom** that we may aspire to the things that last forever;

Teach us to be Your faithful disciples and animate us in every way with Your Spirit.

(All say) **Amen.**
CREDO: I BELIEVE, Faith and Life Series: Grade 5
The Teachings of the Apostles’ Creed

LESSON #14 - Chapter 24 (30 minutes)
The Mystical Body

Objective: The students will learn that Jesus Christ founded the Catholic Church and that Jesus designated Peter as the first Pope of the Church. They will learn that all believers in Christ are part of the Mystical (Spiritual) Body of Christ. Jesus is the “Head” of the Mystical Body of Christ; the Holy Spirit is the “Soul”, and we all make up the “Body” of Christ – each with a special job (*Tear out pg 99/100 in their student workbooks, to be given to them at a later time during the class*).

Open with a Prayer: Our Father. (5 minutes)
Review the first six sentences of the Apostles’ Creed and continue learning the last sentence: “I believe in God, The Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into Hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, And is seated at the right hand of God, The Father Almighty. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. (last line) I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the Communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the Resurrection of the body, And life everlasting. Amen.”

NOTE TO TEACHERS: Chapter 24 is a beautiful teaching on the Mystical Body of Christ and of our involvement in the Body as believers and followers of Christ. I would suggest having the students read through each section (except the last one on Purgatory), stopping on occasion to emphasize that: each one of us has special talents to strengthen the Body of Christ; that we along with the Pope, the bishops, the priests, deacons, and brothers and sisters all make up the Body of Christ; that all believers in Christ are united to Christ from the moment of their baptisms. When we do good, everyone in the Body of Christ benefits; and when we choose to do bad things, everyone is harmed. It is our mission to do good to continue building up the Body of Christ.

Teach: “In Chapter 23, we learned about how Jesus commissioned the Twelve Apostles to continue his work of creating the Kingdom of God here on earth. We also heard about how Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to strengthen the Twelve Apostles in their work.”

1. Who remembers the story of Pentecost? (*show of hands*)
2. What happened when Jesus appeared to the Apostles? (have them relay as much of the story as they can emphasizing that Pentecost was when the Apostles received the gift of the Holy Spirit from Jesus who then gave his Apostles the power to forgive the sins of others [the institution of the Sacrament of Penance]; the Last Supper was the commissioning of the Apostles to consecrate the Eucharist and to continue Christ’s work [the institution of the Holy Eucharist and the Sacrament of Holy Orders])

Teach: “Now we are going to learn why the gift of the Holy Spirit is important to the whole Church and also to each one of us.”

Read: Have student volunteers begin reading Chapter 24, (pg 101-102, student text – stop before “The Communion of Saints”) or you could go around the room allowing each student to read one paragraph, or have their names on slips of paper and randomly select names for each line (this will get them if they’re not paying attention 😱).

6. To help the children integrate what they have learned so far, ask the students, “What is the Mystical Body of Christ?” (The Mystical Body of Christ is the Church, comprised of each of us who are in union with Christ).

7. How do we join the Mystical Body of Christ? (through Baptism).

8. Who is the “head”? Who is the “soul”? (Christ is the head; the Holy Spirit is the soul)

9. What talents do you think you have to help build up the Body of Christ? (answers will vary, but encourage them to think about the gifts and special talents they have and how they can be used for the benefit of others)

Teach: “Even after believers in Jesus have passed from life here on earth, they still continue to remain part of the Mystical Body of Christ. They are our older brothers and sisters in their faith and in their love for Jesus. They are part of the Communion of Saints which is included in the last sentence of the Apostles’ Creed.”
Chapter 25 (30 minutes)
The Identity of the Church

Objective: The students will learn that they profess their faith by saying the Apostle or the Nicene Creed. They will also learn what the Four Marks of the true Church of Christ are: one, holy, catholic, and apostolic. They will also hear about some of the many symbols of the church found in scripture.

NOTE TO TEACHERS: *Pass out the pages from their workbooks, pg 100 “Four Marks of the Church”. As the class reads through the chapter, have the students stop to fill out the definition to each of the Four Marks.

Read: Have student volunteers begin reading Chapter 25, (pg 104-105, student text – stop before “Symbols of the Church”). At the appropriate place, stop reading to fill out the definition of each mark of the church on their workbook pages:

1. one: *(the Church is ‘one’ because it was founded in truth by Jesus; all members have the same faith and the same seven sacraments throughout the world).

2. holy: *(the Church is ‘holy’ because Jesus gave himself up for the church and gave the church the Holy Spirit which, in turn, sanctifies its members and makes them holy).

3. catholic (small case ‘c’: *(the Church is ‘catholic’ or universal because it was instituted for all peoples over the entire earth)

4. apostolic *(the Church is ‘apostolic’ because it was founded upon the apostles and their preaching which came through Christ. It is continued through the Bishops who are the direct successors of the Apostles through the Sacrament of Holy Orders. We can trace each priest’s ordination directly back to one of the original Twelve Apostles – none of the Protestant denominations can trace their ordinations back to the original twelve)

Read: Ask the students to read the final section, “Symbols of the Church”.

Emphasize: Tell the students that, “these symbols of Christ’s church are familiar to all Christian denominations. They are some of many parts of our church which we share with other followers of Jesus. It is sad, however, that the one, holy, catholic, apostolic church that Christ instituted has suffered so many divisions over the last two thousand years. Open your books to page 105 and pray together the Prayer for Unity of the Church in the yellow box at the bottom of the page”:

*Almighty and merciful God, you willed that the different nations should be one people through your Son. Grant, in your kindness, that those who glory in being*
known as Christians may put aside their differences and become one in truth and charity and that all men [and women], enlightened by the true faith, may be united in fraternal communion in one Church. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen

Conclude with the Hail Mary.

Review the first six sentences of the Apostles’ Creed and continue learning the last sentence: “I believe in God, The Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into Hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, And is seated at the right hand of God, The Father Almighty. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. (last line) I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the Communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the Resurrection of the body, And life everlasting. Amen.”
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The Teachings of the Apostles’ Creed

LESSON #15 - Chapter 27 (60 minutes)
Teach All Nations

Objective: The students will learn that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to guide the leaders of the Church and to make sure that the Church would be free from any errors in teachings. In matters of faith and morals, the Church is error-free (infallible). That does not mean that people in the church do not make mistakes; we are all human and can all make mistakes. It does mean that when the Pope teaches us about our faith and about how we should act as human beings, he cannot teach us falsely. As followers of Christ, we all are called to spread the Good News [Gospel] of Christ to others [Evangelization].

Open with a Prayer: Our Father. (5 minutes)
Review the first six sentences of the Apostles’ Creed and continue learning the last sentence: “I believe in God, The Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into Hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, And is seated at the right hand of God, The Father Almighty. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. (last line) I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the Communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the Resurrection of the body, And life everlasting. Amen.”

Teach (5 minutes): “Have you ever heard about something that was so exciting, so amazing that you just couldn’t wait to tell your best buddy (your BFF)? Maybe you just found out that your family was going on a special trip? That you were going to welcome a new baby brother or sister? That someone special was coming for a visit? Whatever it might be, you just couldn’t wait to share the news!

“Well, that’s how the apostles felt when they finally realized the gift Jesus had given them and the awesome responsibility they had in fulfilling Christ’s mission here on earth. But they had to have the confidence that everything they taught would be the same as what Jesus had taught them.

“That’s where the Holy Spirit comes in; his presence ensures that what the apostles spoke and wrote down was truthful and the same as what Jesus had taught them. We still have the same power of the Holy Spirit protecting us from false teachings today.
“Our bishops and popes have the same direct connection with the Holy Spirit to teach the same truths about our faith that the Apostles heard from Christ two thousand years ago.”

Variation of “Telephone” Game: Ask children to stand in one line. Give the first person one sentence to pass along to the next person in line [ex., If you are going out in the rain, you should always put on your boots and raincoat and carry an umbrella]. Allow each person the authority to change one word in the sentence if they think the sentence would be more interesting/fun with a new word. Each person should whisper the sentence along to the next person in line, the last one would then say the sentence out loud. Compare how different the final sentence is from the beginning sentence. How did it change? Does it still make sense? What happens to the message when everyone has the authority to change it, even just a little bit?

Ask:

1. Why do you think it is important that our teachings about our faith be the same today as they were when spoken by Jesus so many years ago? (answers may vary; we want to be sure we are following the same teachings and that it has not been changed to suit someone else’s opinion or to suit some whim of the moment)

Read (10 minutes): Have student volunteers read only the subsection “All Nations” in Chapter 27 (pg 111-112, student text) using whichever method works best for your class. After the students have finished reading the subsection:

Emphasize: “To share Jesus’ message, we do not need to travel far away to a foreign country. There are so many things we can do to show others what it means to be a follower of Jesus, without leaving the Town of Duxbury” (remind them of their packages to the Iraqi school children).

2. “Saint Francis of Assisi once said, ‘Preach the Gospel at all times and, when necessary, use words.’ What do you think St. Francis meant?

3. “How can our actions be a powerful way to ‘preach’ the Gospel?”

“Think back over your day today. Did your actions ‘preach’ the Gospel of Jesus? Was there anything you said or anything you did that did not show others the love of Jesus?

“Let’s bow our heads and pray for the grace of the Holy Spirit to help us always treat others in the way that shows others the love of Jesus” (pause for about 15 seconds).
Conclude with a Prayer: Hail Mary. (5 minutes)

Review the first six sentences of the Apostles’ Creed and continue learning the last sentence: “I believe in God, The Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into Hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, And is seated at the right hand of God, The Father Almighty. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. (last line) I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the Communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the Resurrection of the body, And life everlasting. Amen.”
CREDO: I BELIEVE, Faith and Life Series: Grade 5
The Teachings of the Apostles’ Creed

LESSON #16 - Chapter 28 (60 minutes)
Called to Holiness – Scheduled Penance for grades 5 and 6

Objective: The students will learn that baptized people are all Children of God and that Jesus gave us the Seven Sacraments as a sure way to receive his grace.


“Today, we are going to have the opportunity to receive one of the Seven Sacraments that Jesus gave us while he lived among us, the Sacrament of Penance.

“Before we go upstairs to receive the Sacrament, we are going to spend a few minutes to think about which sins we should confess. Let’s use the Lord’s Prayer [the ‘Our Father’] to reflect on what we might need to confess:”

TEACHER’S NOTE: Give each student a handout of the Lord’s Prayer Examination of Conscience (next sheet). Pray the Lord’s Prayer together with the children, stopping at the end of each phrase to read the reflections. Students may make notes on their sheets to help them remember what to tell the priest.

Following this, the entire class should go upstairs for Penance. Those who are not comfortable can be encouraged to return with their families on any Saturday afternoon before the 5:00 pm Mass.

Give the children the “Called to Holiness” worksheet (pg 113) to keep them occupied while they are waiting for the rest of their class to receive Penance.
An Examination of Conscience for Children using The Lord’s Prayer.

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by Thy name.

- Do I think about God every day?
- Do I say my prayers?
- Do I pay attention and participate at Mass?

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

- Am I kind to others?
- Do I do what Jesus wants me to do?
- Do I share with others?
- Am I helpful to my family?
- Do I show respect to my teachers and classmates?

Give us this day our daily bread

- Do I remember to say thank you?
- Am I sometimes greedy?
- Do I appreciate the good things I have in my life?
- Do I think of ways to help those who have no food?
- Do I take things that don’t belong to me?

Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

- Do I say I’m sorry when I have been wrong?
- Do I forgive and forget when someone does something bad to me?
- Do I help solve problems between my friends or do I cause more trouble?
- Do I say bad things about people who have hurt me?

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

- Do I play fairly in sports and games?
- Do I cheat in school?
- Do I tell the truth?
- Do I set a good example by my kindness?
- Do I let other kids tempt me to do things I know I shouldn’t do?
CREDO: I BELIEVE, Faith and Life Series: Grade 5
The Teachings of the Apostles’ Creed

LESSON #17 - Chapter 29 (60 minutes)
The Mother of God in Our Lives

Objective: The students will learn that Mary is the Mother of Jesus and, therefore, the Mother of God. Jesus gave Mary to us to be our spiritual Mother when he was upon the cross. Mary is also the Mother of the Church and is our model in faith.

Open with a Prayer: Our Father. (5 minutes)
Review the Apostles’ Creed with the students: “I believe in God, The Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into Hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, The Father Almighty. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the Communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the Resurrection of the body, And life everlasting. Amen.”

Teach (5 minutes): “This year we have talked about God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. In our last class today, we are going to hear about Mary, the Mother God the Son, Jesus Christ. Then, if we can complete the reading, each of you will have time to make a one-decade rosary to keep.”

Read: Have student volunteers begin reading Chapter 29, (pg 119-121, student text) or you could go around the room allowing each student to read one paragraph, or have their names on slips of paper and randomly select names for each line (this will get them if they’re not paying attention 😊).

1. To help the children integrate what they have learned so far, ask the students, “What was Jesus’ first miracle and who was there when he performed it?” (changing the water to wine at the wedding at Cana; his mother, Mary, was there)

2. To whom did Jesus give his mother? (at his crucifixion, he gave his mother to the Apostle John and to us as members of the Church)

3. How is Mary a good model in faith for us? (Mary said “yes” to being the mother of God – she is obedient; Mary followed Jesus’ teachings; Mary stayed with Jesus when he was crucified despite the danger – Mary is faithful)

Emphasize: “Mary continues to pray for us, even as she is now living in Heaven. We know that Mary is very close to God because she lived a good and holy life.
Everything Mary does and prays for will bring us closer to her son, Jesus. One of the most beautiful prayers in the Catholic Church is the Holy Rosary. Today, we are going to make a one-decade rosary and also pray one decade of the rosary as we make it.”

One-Decade Rosary Kits:  [http://www.rosaryshop.com/description2.php/SQL/pn='RK-0008']

You will be provided with directions and all necessary supplies for each member of the class (as well as teachers). This pocket rosary looks like a “mouse tail” with a cross on one end and a Marian metal on the other. In between, there are enough beads to recite one decade of the rosary (picture below).

Conclude with a Prayer: (5 minutes) Review the Apostles’ Creed with the students:
“I believe in God, The Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into Hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, The Father Almighty. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the Communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the Resurrection of the body, And life everlasting. Amen.”

One decade of rosary using new beads.