



SUGGESTIONS FOR TEACHING THE CONCEPTS FOUND IN THE PART I - KNOWLEDGE SECTION OF NCEA ACRE

God

Church: On, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic

Liturgy and Sacraments

Revelation, Scripture and Faith

Life in Christ: Personal Morality and Catholic Social Teaching

Church History

Prayer/Religious Practices

Catholic Faith Literacy

These suggestions have been created to help catechetical leaders, catechists, principals and Catholic school teachers teach the concepts and terms found in the eight domains of NCEA ACRE. These suggestions are intended to offer a creative spark to those looking for a place to begin or who want some ideas to add to their own or those in the text. It is intended that these ideas be refined and adapted to fit the parish or school where they will be used. Click on a domain above to get teaching ideas.

For further assistance, call your regional consultant or your regional media center. Search for other print and media resources by title, topic or author at <http://www.catholiccincinnati.org/oec/catalog>.

Office of Evangelization and Catechesis

Archdiocese of Cincinnati

April, 2008

NCEA ACRE DOMAIN: GOD

Student Objective

To know and understand basic Catholic teaching about God as Father, Son, and Spirit.

GOD, THE FATHER

1. Use "Abba Father" from *Glory and Praise, Vol. I* in prayer and masses.
2. Use scripture passages in which God is referred to as Father (Mark 14:36, Romans 8:15, Galatians 4:6, Matthew 5:16, 6:9 and Luke 11:2)

Media:	VC 975.01	God the Father	(JSA)
	VC 1613.01 - .03	The Mystery of God: Father, Son, Spirit	(SA)
	VC 2184	I Believe	(SA)

GOD, THE SON

1. Discuss the meaning of Easter and what it reveals about Jesus as God.
2. Read and discuss Jesus' resurrection appearances in the Bible, noting that he is somehow the same and somehow different.
3. Use scripture passages John 3: 31 - 35 and 10:30.

Media:	VC 329	Jesus B.C.	(PI)
	VC 608.1	Jesus Then and Now, Segments 1 &7	(JSA)
	VC 733.5	Resurrection Road	(PI)
	VC 1476	Easter	(IJ)
	VC 1722	Easter Promise	(PI)
	VC 1832	Three Days that Changed the World	(SA)

GOD, THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. Use and explain the Sign of the Cross and the Glory Be.
2. After a lesson on the Trinity, have students draw a picture of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Can we "give a face" to the Holy Spirit?

Media:	VC 608.1	Jesus Then and Now, Segment 11: The Spirit	(JSA)
	VC 1128	Jesus Promises	(PI)
	VC 975.3	God the Spirit	(J-A)
	VC 1353	What Catholics Believe About the Holy Spirit	(SA)
	VC 1769	Who is the Spirit	(PI)

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NCEA ACRE DOMAIN CHURCH: ONE, HOLY, CATHOLIC AND APOSTOLIC

Student Objective

To understand the origin, mission, structure, community, and membership of the Church.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

1. Ask a neophyte (newly baptized) and his/her sponsor to speak to students. Ask them to talk about the reasons for becoming Catholic, what preparation for the sacraments was like and what happened at the rites.
2. Have students correspond and become prayer buddies with RCIA catechumens and candidates.
3. Display the catechumens' and candidates' pictures in the school or parish center. Include prayer for them in liturgies and prayer services, especially during Lent.
4. Encourage students to attend mass when a Rite of Acceptance, Rite of Welcoming, Rite of Sending, Scrutinies and Easter Vigil are celebrated.
5. Have students attend a Dismissal or Catechetical Session.
6. Explore the Archdiocese's web page on RCIA at www.catholiccincinnati.org/worship/rcia.

Media:	VC 157	RCIA: The Journey Through Easter	(SA)
	VC 1115.03	What Catholics Believe about the RCIA	(JSA)
	VC 1869	The Catechumenate in Brief	(SA)
	DV 0001	Come to the Water: The Adult Journey to Baptism	(SA)
	DV 0054 or	Becoming Catholic: An Adult's Faith Journey	(SA)
	VC 1338		

CHURCH

1. Research and study the four marks of the Church.

Media:	VC 315	Persons, Places and Practices of the Catholic Church	(I-A)
	VC 1040	The Church Today	(SA)
	VC 1348.01-.02	Come On In! A Church Tour for Children	(PI)
	VC 1854	A Tour of Our Parish Church	(P-J))
	VC 2060	Why Catholics Do What They Do (In Church)	(I-A)
	DV 0051	Catholic Basics for Kids	(P-J)

THE POPE AND THE VATICAN

1. Ask someone who has been to Vatican City and been in an audience or mass with the pope to speak about the experience and show photos.
2. Gather news clippings or video news footage of the pope to show for class discussion.
3. Create a chart or poster of the hierarchy of the Catholic Church.
4. Remind students of the hierarchy of the Church by displaying photos of the pope, archbishop, bishop, pastor, deacons and lay persons in the classroom or hallway. Use the parish photo directory to point out persons involved in the various ministries of the parish.

Media:	VC 1255.02	Upon This Rock: The Hierarchical Structure of the Church	(J-A)
	VC 1287	Pope John Paul II: Statesman of Faith	(SA)
	VC 2127	Pope John Paul II: Crusader for Human Dignity	(JSA)
	VC 2136	Mysteries of the Vatican	(SA)
	VC 2177	Inside the Vatican	(J-A)
	VC 2196	Witness to Hope: Life of John Paul II	(J-A)
	VC 2218	Vatican Revealed	(J-A)
	DV 0086	Holy Secrets: Electing a Pope	(SA)

THE EARLY CHURCH AND PETER AND PAUL

1. Read and study the Acts of the Apostles.
2. Serialize events from Acts of the Apostles 1 - 9. Assign events to small groups or individual students to read, illustrate and present a one minute report. Post the illustrations on the wall to form a time line of the events of the early Church.

Media:	VC 0674	Rome in the Footsteps of Peter and Paul	(J-A)
	VC 721.1 - .3	A.D.	(J-A)
	VC 1649.1	Upon This Rock	(SA)
	VC 1995	Peter: Keeper of the Keys	(SA)
	DV 0156	Adventures with the Apostle Paul	(PI)

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NCEA ACRE DOMAIN: LITURGY AND SACRAMENTS

Student Objectives

1. To be knowledgeable about the Church's liturgical life in terms of liturgical feasts, seasons, liturgical symbols, religious practices, and concepts of prayer.
2. To know and understand the sacraments as signs and instruments of grace.

THE LITURGICAL YEAR, SEASONS, FEASTS

1. Post a Liturgical Year Calendar or refer to the one in the student book often. Point out the start of a new season and talk about the vestments and other uses of the season's color in the church.
2. Have a prayer table covered with a cloth of the liturgical season's color or pin a ribbon of the season's color to a white cloth.
3. Use a bookmark of the liturgical color in the class Bible.
4. Use the liturgical color and symbols in other places in the classroom.
5. Frequently point out the current season by saying something like, "We will be saying special prayers today because it is Advent," or "Because it is Lent and we are preparing for Easter, we will collect food for the poor this month."
6. Keep the season's name in front of the students on bulletin boards, in vocabulary or spelling words and review games.
7. In class prayer use the same response to the intercessions (e.g. Lord, bring us Easter joy.) or use the same seasonal song to begin prayer for the whole season.
8. Have students dramatize or mime the Gospel reading for an up-coming feast. Discuss the meaning of the feast.

Media:	VC 733	Following Jesus Through the Church Year	(PI)
	VC 933	The Donkey's Tale	(PI)
	VC 1071.3	Special Things, Special Seasons, Special Days	(PI)
	VC 1954	Angel's Church Year Lesson	(PIJ)
	VC 2122	The Liturgical Year & Sunday	(SA)

Also, search the media catalog on-line for the specific season or feast you desire.

SACRAMENTS

1. Buy or make posters of each sacrament and put them on the bulletin board as they are studied.
2. Place symbols or stand-up pictures of the symbols of the sacraments on the prayer table.
3. Refer to Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist as the Sacraments of Initiation.
4. Ask persons who are married or ordained to come to class and explain the meaning of their sacrament. Ask them to bring photos or videos of their marriage or ordination.

Media:VC 1296.01-.07	Sacraments: Loving Actions of the Church	(I)
VC 1531	Sacraments of Initiation	(JS)
VC 1856	What is a Sacrament?	(P-J)
VC 1868	Close Encounters with the Sacraments	(PI)
VC 1964-1966	Sacraments of Initiation, Healing, Service	(JS)
VC 2004	Sacraments: Celebration of God's Life	(J-A)
VC 2138	Angel's Sacrament Lesson	(PI)

Also, search the media catalog on-line for Sacraments or the specific sacrament you desire.

LITURGY

1. Use the words, "Mass," "Eucharist" and "Liturgy" in your classes. Discuss the meanings.
2. Ask your pastor or deacon to bring the vestments and vessels of Mass to class and explain them. Let your students reverently touch them. Or, take a field trip to church to learn about the vestments and vessels.
3. Use the words, "Prayer of the Faithful," "Intercessions" and "Petitions" when appropriate. Give your students practice in writing them for class prayer.
4. Use the Gloria, Holy, Holy, etc. in classroom prayer.
5. Sometimes introduce the Our Father with the words the priest uses to introduce it at Mass.

Media: VC 1071.01-02 The Marvelous Mystery (Mass, vestments & ministers) (PI)

Also, search the media catalog on-line for the words, Mass, Eucharist and Liturgy.

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NCEA ACRE DOMAIN: REVELATION, SCRIPTURE AND FAITH

Student Objectives

1. To be able to recognize Scripture as God's inspired word.
2. To know the major divisions of the Bible, the chief persons in biblical history, and major biblical themes from the Old and New Testaments.

BIBLE

1. Find or write a Bible Enthronement Prayer Service for the beginning of the year. Put the Bible, a candle and other symbols on the classroom prayer table. For younger students use a children's Bible.
2. Buy or draw a poster of the books of the Bible arranged on a bookcase by category. Explain that the Bible is a library of many books. Explain that each book has its own author and was written at a unique time and place for a specific audience just like other books in a library.

OLD TESTAMENT

1. Arrange a field trip to a local synagogue. Ask the rabbi to give students a tour and explain the role of Abraham and the other patriarchs as fathers of our common faith.
2. Have students talk with their parents and grandparents about some of the family ancestors. Have them put together a family tree of family members. Do the same with our ancient biblical ancestors in faith, beginning with Abraham.
3. For a creative writing assignment, have students imagine being a mouse or a fly at the expulsion from the Garden of Eden, on the Ark or leaving Egypt in the Exodus. Their stories could express the excitement or fear they and the main characters felt.

NEW TESTAMENT

1. Create a Scripture Scavenger Hunt to find objects in certain passages.
2. Ask students to "interview" persons in the New Testament (apostles, Mary, the blind man, the woman at the well, Lazarus, etc.) and create a newspaper article. Students could write articles on the weather, crops, geography, family life, etc. Let them use the internet to do the research. Put all the articles together to create a newspaper or magazine.
3. Have students choose their favorite parable or miracle from the New Testament to write for a first grader to read. They would type it and illustrate the page. Collect all the stories into a book to present to the first grade class. Compare this process to how the evangelists collected stories to form a Gospel.
3. Lead students through a Guided Meditation on being at the Last Supper, the Walk to Calvary, the Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes or the Sermon on the Mount.

Media: Search the media catalog on-line for topics such as: Bible, Scripture, Old and New Testament, Books of the Bible, Covenant, Abraham or other persons in the Bible.

Print Resources: Search the print catalog on-line for print resources on the topics above for both catechist information and student enrichment and activities.

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NCEA ACRE DOMAIN: LIFE IN CHRIST: PERSONAL MORALITY AND CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

Student Objectives

1. To be knowledgeable about the teachings of Jesus and the Church as the basis of Christian morality and to understand Catholic Social Teaching.
2. To be aware of the importance of a well-formed conscience for decision-making.

TEN COMMANDMENTS

1. Use memorization games to help students learn the Commandments.
2. Assign one commandment to each student to memorize. Have the students recite the commandments in order. Repeat in later classes. Assign a different commandment to each student.
3. Write the commandments on separate sheets of paper. Distribute randomly and have the students put them in the proper order.
4. When a moral issue arises in class, in the lives of the students or in the news, try to relate the issue to one of the commandments to help the students see that the commandments have implications for all moral laws and situations.
5. Over the weeks that the commandments are being studied ask the students to gather photos and news clippings about people who are living the commandments and about people who are not living them. As each commandment is studied, have them discuss what was found. Attach the photos or articles to a mural or bulletin board with its corresponding commandment. Have students write about how the persons in their photos or articles are living or not living the commandments.
6. Create a service project that coordinates with a Commandment, Beatitude or Catholic Social Teaching. After the event, break open the experience in an atmosphere of prayer.

Media: Search the media catalog on-line for the topics of Ten Commandments, Beatitudes, Decision-making, Conscience, Discernment, Choices, Morality, or Catholic Social Teaching.

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NCEA ACRE DOMAIN: CHURCH HISTORY

Student Objective

1. To become familiar with the central stories, key events, and major figures that have shaped the history and development of the Church over time as appropriate for the student's grade level.

PENTECOST

1. Since Pentecost usually is celebrated after school and religious education classes are over, use mail, email or the parish bulletin to send parents a reminder of the upcoming feast. Give a short history and the theology of Pentecost and some prayers and activities to use at home.
2. Near the end of the school or religious education year have a party for the birthday of the Church. Have students dramatize or mime the story of Pentecost. Provide red ribbons for the class to wear and ask them to wear the ribbons or red clothing on the Feast of Pentecost.

Media:	VC 0730	Pentecost	(PI)
	VC 0733.06	Pentecost Passage	(PI)
	VC 1217.04	Pentecost	(I)
	VC 1561.01	Acts, Vol. 1	(J-A)
	VC 1789	Faith First Series – Grade 5	(I)

EVENTS IN CHURCH HISTORY

1. Use the mysteries of the Rosary during October to teach the events in Jesus' and Mary's lives. Create bulletin boards using purchased or student-made posters of the events brought to mind in the mysteries.
2. Use Time Lines to situate events in relation to each other. Use purchased ones, create your own or assign students to research, illustrate and caption events on pieces of paper. Connect the papers in order to form a Time Line.
3. Serialize segments of an event such as the Exodus, Holy Thursday and Good Friday or parts of the Acts of the Apostles. Have students illustrate and give a thirty second report of their part.
4. Have students research an event and write a newspaper or magazine article as if they were there as reporters or eyewitnesses. Put the articles together as a magazine or newspaper and share with other grades.
5. Have students dramatize an event complete with costumes. Use a camcorder to record the dramatization, review it in class and lend it to a lower grade studying the same event.

Media	VC 1598	Local Church of Cincinnati (1821-1966)	(SA)
	VC 1792.01-.06	Introduction to the History of Christianity	(SA)
	VC 1802.01-.04	The Founding of a Faith: The First Thousand Years	(SA)
	VC 1895 & 2012	The Inquisition	(SA)
	VC 2013	Crusades & Knights of Malta	(SA)

Also search the media catalog on-line in the topics of Church History, Vatican II or specific events.

SAINTS

1. Have your students research their Baptismal, Confirmation, parish patron or other favorite saint's life.
2. Have students create a small banner on felt and decorate it with the saint's name and symbols.
3. Here are good web sites to use:
www.catholic.org/saints
www.catholicforum.com/saints
www.americancatholic.org
4. Explain the Communion of Saints and tie this concept to the study of All Saints' Day, All Souls' Day, Canonization and the Creed.

Media: Search the media catalog on-line for saints, a specific saint or canonization.

EVANGELISTS

1. Introduce a Gospel passage by saying, "A reading from the evangelist Matthew (or Mark, Luke or John)."

Media: VC 1550-1553 Vision of the Gospel: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John (SA)

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NCEA ACRE DOMAIN SUGGESTIONS: PRAYER/RELIGIOUS PRACTICES

Student Objective

1. To recognize and learn how to engage in Catholic forms of personal prayer and ways of deepening one's spiritual life.

PRAYER

1. Use both "Our Father" and "The Lord's Prayer" interchangeably.
2. Have students imagine being present when the followers of Jesus asked him how they should pray. Read Matthew 6: 5 - 14 or Luke 11:1 - 13. Ask how they would have reacted or what they would have done next.
3. Help your students learn sign language or create gestures for memorized prayers or prayerful songs. Use them during class prayer.

Media:	VC 1352	What Catholics Believe About Prayer	(SA)
	VC 1565	Pray Today	(JS)
	VC 1628	Prayer Bear: Best Friends	(EP)
	VC 1629	Prayer Bear: How to Pray	(EP)
	VC 1668	Angel's Prayer Lesson	(PI)
	VC 1968	Connecting with God-Ways to Pray	(JSA)
	VC 2072	The Lord's Prayer	(IJS)
	DV 0025.01-.04	Meaningful Conversations about Prayer	(SA)

CULTURAL EXPRESSIONS OF FAITH

1. Invite parents or others of different cultural backgrounds to come to class and explain their expression of faith (traditions, prayers, special days, food, celebrations, dress, music, etc.)
2. Study Our Lady of Guadalupe, the patroness of the Americas, in December. Celebrate the feast on Dec. 12 with Mexican food, roses, a guest speaker, games, etc.

Media:	VC 0606.01	Church Alive: Black Catholics in America	(SA)
	VC 1062.03	Cultural Diversity: Enriching Human Community	(A)
	VC 1130	Multicultural Christmas	(PIJS)
	VC 1888	Enduring Faith: Story of African American Catholics in America	(SA)
	DV 0028	Harmony in Faith: Asians & Pacific Presence	(IJS)

Also search the media catalog on-line for Our Lady of Guadalupe & Juan Diego.

ROSARY

1. Together with your students create a class wall rosary using giant beads.
2. Pray one decade of the rosary each week in October or May.
3. Buy or have students create posters of the Mysteries of the Rosary.
4. Teach older students how to make rosaries for missions or the military. For materials see Our Lady's Rosary Makers at www.olrm.org.

Media:	VC 1203	Let the Little Children Come	(EPIJSA)
	VC 1441	Rosary for Little Children	(PIJSA)
	VC 1529	The Rosary	(IJSA)
	VC 1840	Praying the Rosary	(JSA)
	VC 2083	Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary	(IJSA)
	VC 2172	Close Encounters with Mary & the Rosary	(IJ)

Also search the media catalog on-line for the Rosary, Mary or a mystery.

SACRAMENTALS

1. After a lesson on sacramentals, create a bulletin board of illustrations of sacramentals drawn or found in church goods catalogs by students.

PRECEPTS OF THE CHURCH

1. Compare and contrast the Precepts of the Church and the Ten Commandments. Display posters of both.

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NCEA ACRE DOMAIN SUGGESTIONS: CATHOLIC FAITH LITERACY

Student Objective

1. To be literate in the use of Catholic religious terminology.

CATHOLIC VOCABULARY

1. Give the Catholic Faith Literacy Lists of Terms on pp. 51 - 52 in the NCEA ACRE Interpretation Manual to your catechists. These lists have the fundamental vocabulary words used in the assessment and necessary for Catholic literacy.
2. Communicate to your catechists that Catholic vocabulary needs to be addressed in all grades, not just those grades participating in NCEA ACRE.
3. The catechists themselves need to be literate in the use of religious terminology. Taking certification courses impacts this knowledge.
4. Search the on-line print catalog for books on Catholic Terminology to borrow from the media centers.
5. Arranging for catechists to participate in the "Information For Growth" adult inventory from NCEA could help to determine areas in need of improvement.
6. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* can be accessed on-line at www.usccb.org.
7. Use the week's religion words in spelling and vocabulary lists. Study the words by giving the origin and English translation.
8. Write words and definitions on the board, newsprint, flash cards or long rolls of paper.
9. Adapt quiz or trivia games such as Who Wants to be a Millionaire, Jeopardy, Trivial Pursuit, Baseball, Hangman, etc. to review religion vocabulary words.

Media: Search the media catalog on-line for the specific topics to learn more about.

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