

Grade 6 - Chapter 9

Discover

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Discover

Catechist Tips: Working Together

Some children may be uncomfortable when working in groups and may need help in doing so.

- Have the children number themselves (from one through seven) to form each small group.
- Encourage everyone to participate in the discussion.

Catechist Tips: Canticle

The word *canticle* means “song.” The canticle in Luke 1:68–79 is often referred to by its Latin name, *Benedictus*, or “blessed,” which is the first word of the prayer.

- The passage is called the Canticle of Zechariah because Zechariah proclaimed these words after naming his infant son John (the Baptist).
- The prayer is part of morning prayer in the Liturgy of the Hours.

Catechist Tips: Prophetic Qualities

Give the children this background on some Scripture passages.

- Psalm 111 is an acrostic in Hebrew.
- In Matthew 10, Jesus commissions and advises the Apostles.
- Ephesians 6 gives advice on how to confront evil.
- 1 Peter 5 gives advice to the Christian community and its leaders.

Glossary Activity: Prophet

Have the children find examples of people who have served as prophets in American history.

- Invite them to work in small groups to research American prophets.
- Have each group role-play a prophetic episode from the life of the selected person.

Additional Activity: Write a Letter

If your parish has a sister parish in another country, learn the names of some of the young people in that parish.

- Invite the children to write letters or emails to their counterparts.
- Encourage them to become pen pals with those to whom they are writing.

Additional Activity: Elijah in Literature

You may wish to read *Journeys with Elijah: Eight Tales of the Prophet*, by Barbara Diamond Goldin (Gulliver Books, 1999), as an additional story.

- This book provides a view of the prophet Elijah from various cultures and traditions.

Additional Activity: Messiah

The Scripture used in this chapter (Isaiah 7:14, 9:5b-6 and Zechariah 9:9) have been set to music, most notably by George Frederic Handel in his oratorio *Messiah*.

- The children may enjoy an updated version called *Young Messiah* (Sparrow Records, 1994).

Additional Activity: Name that Prophet

Supplies:

- Bibles
- board or chart paper

Introduce the activity. *Say: **Prophets are people who speak a message for God. In the Bible, there is a section in the Old Testament (beginning with the Book of Isaiah and continuing through the Book of Malachi) that is often called the Prophets.***

Distribute Bibles and have the children locate the Prophets in the Table of Contents.

*Say: **But prophets appear in other parts of the Bible as well. They were often outspoken and interesting characters, and it's important for us to know their stories and the word of God they shared.***

Organize the large group into smaller groups of four or five. Have them use their Bibles to read about some of the other biblical prophets and be ready to talk to the larger group about them. Include (write the following names and citations on the board or on chart paper):

- Miriam (Exodus 15)
- Deborah (Judges 4)
- John the Baptist (Matthew 3)
- Anna (Luke 2)

Ask each group: **Which prophet did you choose? What is interesting about him or her? What was the message God wanted him or her to speak?**

Additional Activity: A Letter to God

Supplies:

- paper and pen/pencil

Emphasize that:

- Every baptized person is anointed as a prophet at Baptism.
- It is difficult to be a prophet.

Distribute writing materials and direct the children to write a letter to God about their feelings of being called to speak his message, especially when it is difficult. Suggest that they include specific opportunities they have to be prophetic, and how they respond to them.