

## Grade 4 - Chapter 2

### Discover

- Catechist Tips: Symbols
- Catechist Tips: Original Sin
- Catechist Tips: Creation
- Catechist Tips: Kinesthetic Learners
- Catechist Tips: Abraham and Sarah
- Catechist Tips: Incense
- Glossary Activity: Faithful
- Additional Activity: Maps and Murals
- Additional Activity: Faith Is... Poster

### Discover

#### Catechist Tips: Symbols

Fourth-graders are old enough to begin thinking in abstract terms.

- They may now begin to grasp the importance of symbols in Bible stories. The “forbidden fruit” in the Adam and Eve story, for example, represents the temptation to disobey God.
- Avoid using the traditional imagery of the apple, which has no Scriptural basis.

#### Catechist Tips: Original Sin

The *Catechism* describes Original Sin as the “reverse side” of the good news. (CCC, 389)

- When you choose to act in ways that reflect the likeness of God, you are destined to live in happiness.
- Every person may choose to reject God’s will and so damage his or her relationship with God and others (a consequence of Original Sin).

#### Catechist Tips: Creation

The creation stories convey important religious truths rather than historical events.

- The story of Adam and Eve shows how sin affects relationships with God.
- Biblical accounts emphasize that it was humans’ choice, not God’s, that changed humanity’s initial relationship with God.
- God has always demonstrated an intimate and loving care for creation.

#### Catechist Tips: Kinesthetic Learners

Suggest that the children play a game of charades to show how God helps them.

- Write situations on slips of paper: feeling lonely, studying for a test, and so on.

- Have the children take turns choosing slips and acting out the situations.
- Have class members tell how God might help in each situation.

### **Catechist Tips: Abraham and Sarah**

In the time of Abraham and Sarah, about four thousand years ago, polytheism, or the worship of many gods, was common.

- Abraham and Sarah's faith led them not only to a new land but also to a new understanding of God.
- The story of Abraham and Sarah continues to inspire Christians with what it means to believe in and trust the one true God.

### **Catechist Tips: Incense**

Incense is symbolic in several ways.

- In its burning, it represents the fervor, sincerity, and sacrificial love of the one praying.
- Its fragrance shows honor.
- The rising smoke symbolizes the wish that the prayers will be acceptable to God.

### **Glossary Activity: Faithful**

#### **Faithful**

Being faithful is being constant and loyal in your commitment to God and others, just as he is faithful to you. Create a graphic organizer to help the children expand their understanding of what it means to be faithful.

- On the board draw a path. At the end of the path write God.
- Ask children to suggest names that belong on the road of faithfulness. (*Adam, Eve, Abraham, Sarah, themselves*)
- Invite children to explain how these people have been faithful.

### **Additional Activity: Maps and Murals**

Abraham and Sarah's story highlight how travel has changed.

- Children can work with the Bible and maps of the Holy Land to trace the journey.
- Have the children create a mural with details such as pack animals and an oasis for fresh water.

### **Additional Activity: Faith Is... Poster**

Supplies:

- dark sheets of construction paper
- colored chalk
- glue
- magazines
- scissors
- other decorations (fabric scraps, jewels, etc.)

Steps:

- Distribute art materials and tell children they will be making a Faith is... poster.
- Have them begin by writing their own Faith is... sentence. (*Faith is...feeling God's presence in both good and bad times, Faith is...helping a friend.*)
- Have them use chalk and write the *Faith is...* sentence in large lettering on the paper.
- Encourage children to use fun, artistic writing, pictures from magazines, or other decorations as desired, and to create a picture or pictures to go along with the sentence.
- When posters are completed, have individuals share their poster with the rest of the group.