

Grade 6 - Chapter 12

Discover

- Catechist Edition Instruction
- Catechist Tips: The Nicene Creed
- Catechist Tips: Use Religious Imagination
- Catechist Tips: The City of Ephesus
- Glossary Activity: Marks of the Church
- Additional Activity: Explore the Vatican
- Additional Activity: Letter
- Additional Activity: Early Christianity
- Additional Activity: Match the Mark
- Parish Video Connection: Marks of the Church

Discover

Catechist Edition Instruction

Discover (1)

Objectives

- Recognize the many ways the Church uses to communicate God's truths
- Define the Epistles as Letters written by Saint Paul and several other Apostles to the new Christian communities they established

Keeping in Touch

Read aloud the introductory paragraph.

- Discuss what sorts of information people need to share.

Sharing God's Word Today

Have volunteers read aloud the text.

- Ask the children what kind of information they get over the Internet.
- Discuss the question at the top of the page, writing the children's responses on the board or on chart paper.
- Invite volunteers to share the advantages and disadvantages of getting information over the Internet rather than in person.
- Share some of your own ideas on the advantages and disadvantages.

Tell the children about World Communication Day:

- Venerable Pope Paul VI initiated World Communication Day in 1967. It has several purposes:
- To recognize the power of the media in forming public opinion.

- To encourage proper use of the media by people in power.
- To foster critical evaluation skills in the public so that messages that are morally erroneous will be rejected.
- World Communication Days usually celebrated in May.

Letters of the New Testament

Tell the children to silently read the two paragraphs.

► Music Option: While the children read, play “They’ll Know We Are Christians,” downloaded from aliveinchrist.osv.com.

- Remind them that during the days of the early Church, sending letters and communicating through messengers were the only means of contacting someone far away.

Work with Words

Ask: Who has heard the word *Epistles* before?

- Allow volunteers to share what they know about this term.
- Read aloud the definition in the Catholic Faith Words box.
- Tell the children they will be reviewing a few Scripture passages from some of the Epistles in today's activity.

Activity

Read aloud the directions.

- Give the children time to silently read the Scripture passages and choose their favorite.
- Have the children share their passages with a partner.

Quick Review

The Epistles are Letters written to early Christian communities. Today, the Church uses many other methods to communicate.

Discover (2)

Objectives

- Note that there are two main creeds of the Church—Nicene and Apostles'
- Identify the Marks of the Church—one, holy, catholic, and apostolic—as essential characteristics that distinguish Christ's Church and her mission

Marks of the Church

Tell the children that they will learn about the Marks of the Church on the next two pages.

Read aloud the first paragraph.

★ Have the children underline a time when we hear the Marks of the Church during Mass.

- Write the words *one*, *holy*, *catholic*, and *apostolic* on the board or on chart paper. Tell the children that these are the marks, or essential characteristics, of the Church.
- Point out that the Nicene Creed and the Apostles' Creed are the two main creeds of the Church.
- Organize the children into four groups, and assign one of the marks to each group.

What Scripture Says

Ask one member of each group to turn to page 309 in the Our Catholic Tradition section of their books. Start with the first mark. Have that group member read aloud the description of their assigned mark. Have another member of the group proclaim the Scripture passage that goes with their mark. Continue until you have heard from all four groups.

Marks of the Church, *continued*

Have the groups work together to read and discuss the text concerning the marks they have been assigned.

- When the groups have completed their review, have a member of each group report the main points of their discussion.
- Then, have the children turn to page 308 in the Our Catholic Tradition section of the Student Book. Ask them to identify where the marks are mentioned in the Nicene Creed.

Activity

Read aloud the directions for the activity.

- Have the children write their letters and allow volunteers to share them with the class.
- ▶ Music Option: While the children work on the activity, play “Somos el Cuerpo de Cristo/We Are the Body of Christ,” downloaded from aliveinchrist.osv.com.

Quick Review

The Letters of the New Testament show that the Church is one, holy, catholic, and apostolic. These Marks distinguish Christ's Church and her mission. They are also part of the Nicene and Apostles' Creeds.

Catechist Tips: The Nicene Creed

The Nicene Creed was formalized during the Council of Chalcedon in A.D. 451. This creed is a profession of faith based on the work of two Church councils, the Council of Nicaea in A.D. 325 and the Council of Constantinople in A.D. 381.

- This creed was developed in response to the Arian heresy, which denied the divinity of Christ.

Catechist Tips: Use Religious Imagination

This skill helps people grow in their personal relationship with Jesus.

- Encourage the children to read the Gospels and imagine themselves as one of the disciples.
- Invite them to follow the spiritual practice of Christian mystics by imagining themselves in prayerful dialogue with Jesus.

Catechist Tips: The City of Ephesus

Ephesus was an important center for the worship of the goddess Diana, whose temple in the city was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world.

- Paul had a close relationship with the Christians at Ephesus. He spent more than two years with them. (See Acts 19:10.)

- The content of the Letter to the Ephesians is similar to that of the Letter to the Colossians.

Glossary Activity: Marks of the Church

Review with the children that a creed is a statement of what is believed.

- See if they can find the Marks of the Church in the Apostles' Creed.
- Have the children imagine being asked to summarize their faith in three sentences.
- Invite them to write their own three-sentence creeds.

Additional Activity: Explore the Vatican

Invite the children to visit the Vatican website (<http://w2.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html>) to learn more about the Church.

- Allow small groups to select an area of the website that interests them.
- Have them report back to the larger group about what they learned from the website.
- Consider allowing the children to make an electronic slide presentation based on the website.

Additional Activity: Letter

Have the children write a joint letter to their parish community that addresses a problem within that community.

- Brainstorm ideas if the children need help identifying a problem.
- Tell them to offer encouragement and ideas for solving the problem.
- You may wish to bring the children's concerns and suggestions a leader in your parish.

Additional Activity: Early Christianity

Research the art and architecture of early Christianity.

- Have the children find pictures of early Christian churches and art objects online.
- Ask them to report on the contributions of Judaism and of Greek and Roman culture to early Christian art and architecture.

Additional Activity: Match the Mark

Supplies:

- handouts ([download here](#))
- pens or pencils

Distribute the handouts. Clarify the directions.

- Have the children fill in the handout.
- When they have finished, go over the responses and clarify any questions or misunderstandings.

Parish Video Connection: Marks of the Church

Before the children begin working on the activity outlined in the Catechist Edition instruction on page 178 in *What Scripture Says*, have them watch this video that further explains the Marks of the Church.

Ask: Which Mark of the Church would you like to learn more about? Let's do some research now.

YouTube Link: http://youtu.be/lhxxaAJ7_nY

DISCLAIMER