

# Grade 6 - Chapter 7

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## Discover

### Catechist Tips: Sign Language

Sign language has become not only a tool of communication for those who are hearing-impaired, but also a beautiful visual expression of worship.

- The children may enjoy learning simple signs to enhance their prayer times.
- A book that may be helpful for lessons or hymns is *Religious Signing*, by Elaine Costello and Lois Lehman (Bantam Doubleday Dell, 1997).

### Catechist Tips: Joshua

Joshua proved himself a strong leader in many ways before Moses died.

- He led the Israelites to victory against the Amalekites, a group of people in southern Palestine and the Sinai Peninsula. (See Exodus 17:9-14.)
- He was one of the two spies who believed that the Israelites should enter Canaan despite the giants in the land. (See Numbers 13:25-14:9.)

### Catechist Tips: Prayer Traditions

Prayers are found in many different cultures and religions and have been recited for centuries.

- Prayers in various traditions show the basic need of humans to reach out for help.
- Many prayers from different cultures share common themes of life.

### Catechist Tips: David

David's life before becoming king of Israel was difficult. Saul was envious of David's popularity.

- Saul tried more than once to have David killed.

- David also faced the challenge of the need to unify the Israelites and strengthen their defense against the Philistines. (See 2 Samuel 5.)

### **Catechist Tips: The Psalms**

The Book of Psalms is the longest book in the Bible. Its longest song has 176 verses (Psalm 119).

- The psalms are divided into five books, in imitation of the Pentateuch.
- Nearly half of the psalms have a heading attributing authorship to David.
- Some headings suggest musical accompaniment.

### **Glossary Activity: Christ**

As Christ the King, Jesus is often paired with David, the great king of Israel.

- Have the children make a chart that compares David with Jesus.
- Invite them to decorate the chart with symbols associated with David and with Jesus.

### **Additional Activity: Leadership in Activities**

Many children's activities require leaders.

- Have the children think about how organized groups would function without captains, coaches, or directors.
- Ask each child to draw a split picture of an activity, with and without a leader.
- Discuss with the children how these activities would be less fun, less interesting, possibly more dangerous, etc. without a leader.
- Then have volunteers offer one quality they like to see in a leader. Discuss commonalities if they occur.

### **Additional Activity: Flags**

Have the children research various flags.

- Suggest the flag of their birth state or country, the flag of a country they want to visit, the papal flag, and the United Nations flag.
- Ask each child to explain his or her chosen flag's colors and symbols.

### **Additional Activity: Leadership and the Psalms**

Arrange the group into pairs or have the children choose partners.

- Have each pair choose one of the following Psalms.
- Have the pair read their chosen Psalm, and think about what it says about leadership or being a leader.

Psalm 41: (Hint: a leader's heart for the poor)

Psalm 42: (Hint: being an uncomplicated leader)

Psalm 43: (Hint: a leader's heart)

Psalm 46: (Hint: leaders and the miraculous)

Psalm 47: (Hint: a leader's voice)

- Then have each pair switch partners with another to discuss the meanings they found in different Psalms.

### **Additional Activity: Beatitude Games**

Explain to the children that because Jesus is our leader we follow his example. The Beatitudes give us a good description of what we need to do to "follow the leader."

- Distribute index cards to the children.
- Review the Beatitudes with them. Tell them they have three minutes to write an action, attitude, or habit that matches a Beatitude. Give examples such as, *stand up for someone who is being bullied* (hunger and thirst for justice); *forgive my brother for taking my skateboard* (mercy).

Draw a target on the board or on chart paper. Organize the large group into two teams. Have them choose a name for their team. Write their team-name on either side of the target:

Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_ TARGET Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_

- Draw seven blanks below each team name.
- Team members should take turns identifying the correct Beatitude from the descriptions on the file card.
- For each correct answer the child fills in a blank below his or her team's name to spell *Blessed*.
- The first team to spell *Blessed* wins.