

Grade 6 - Chapter 20

Discover

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Discover

Catechist Edition Instruction

Discover (1)

Objectives

- Appreciate Jesus' desire for unity among his believers
- Examine the Catholic Church's desire to bring all Christians together in unity
- Explore the Protestant Reformation as a separation from the Church led by Martin Luther

Unity and Division

Ask: What did Jesus teach about unity?

- List the children's responses on the board or on chart paper.

Read the introduction to the lesson.

Scripture

Tell the children to look and listen for a reference that applies to them within the text.

- Proclaim the Scripture passage.
- Then, ask the children where they are mentioned. ***those who will believe in me, meaning Jesus' followers, or us***

★ Have the children highlight how Jesus described the unity he prayed for.

Read the last paragraph as a summary of Jesus' prayer for unity.

- Ask: Why do you think unity was so important to Jesus?
- Discuss possible answers.

The Story Continues

Invite a volunteer to read aloud the text.

- If time permits, turn to 1 Corinthians 1:10–13 in a Bible and read aloud the passage.

More Divisions

Ask the children to silently read the two paragraphs and identify the two major divisions that occurred in the Church.

► Music Option: While the children read, play “Seek Ye First,” downloaded from aliveinchrist.osv.com.

- Ask volunteers to name and describe the two divisions.

Work with Words

Draw the children's attention to the Catholic Faith Words feature, and answer any questions they may still have about the Protestant Reformation.

Activity

Read aloud the Reflect portion of the activity. Have a volunteer read aloud the Share portion.

- Organize the children in pairs.
- Distribute paper and colored pencils or markers.

Quick Review

Jesus prayed for unity, but throughout history the Church has been tested by various divisions. The Catholic Church desires to bring all Christians together in unity.

Discover (2)

Objective

- Recognize that the ecumenical movement looks for ways to help Christians work toward unity

New Hope

Tell the children that in today's lesson, they will learn about ecumenism.

Read aloud the first paragraph.

- Tell the children to look and listen for the explanation of the term *communities*.
- Ask them to give examples of various Protestant communities. **Possible responses: Lutheran, Presbyterian, Episcopalian, Baptist, and Methodist**

Have volunteers read aloud the next two paragraphs.

- Tell the children to find the definition of the word *ecumenism* in the text.
- Have a volunteer read aloud the definition in the text, followed by the definition in the Catholic Faith Words box.
- Ask: How can you be respectful of other people's beliefs?
- Encourage group discussion.

Ecumenism Today

Tell the children to underline the main idea in each paragraph as they follow along with the reading in their books.

Invite a volunteer to read aloud the first paragraph.

- Ask the children which issues were addressed by the Second Vatican Council.

Ask a volunteer to read aloud the second paragraph.

- Have the children identify the steps toward unity outlined by the bishops. ***talking, praying, and serving together***

Read aloud the final paragraph, ask the question at the end of the text, and summarize the teaching on ecumenism.

Activity

Read aloud the instructions for the activity.

- Allow time for the children to write their poems.
- ▶ Music Option: While the children write, play “Many and One,” downloaded from **aliveinchrist.osv.com**.
- Invite volunteers to share their poems.

Quick Review

In spite of divisions among Christians, there is hope for ecumenical unity because of the power of the Holy Spirit.

Catechist Tips: Celebrate in Unity

Jesus prayed his prayer for unity gathered at a table with his community at the Last Supper.

- Read the Scripture passage on The Prayer of Jesus.
- Ask the children why they think Jesus chose this holy meal as the time and place to talk about unity.
- Explain that meals are a sign of unity. Because this was also the first Eucharist, Jesus showed us the importance of celebrating the Eucharist with friends around the altar table.
- Have the children list signs of unity when we celebrate the Eucharist (*gather with friends, pray together, share the holy meal at the altar table, sing, offer a Sign of Peace, etc.*).

Catechist Tips: The Second Vatican Council

In 1959, Pope Saint John XXIII called for a council of bishops. The Pope created the Secretariat for the Promotion of Christian Unity before the council convened in 1962.

- Observers from various faiths were welcomed at this Second Vatican Council, which published its Decree on Ecumenism in 1964.

Glossary Activity: Ecumenism

To expand on the concepts of ecumenism and commonalities of Christian denominations, distribute parish hymnals and, if possible, some hymnals from local Protestant churches.

- Select texts of hymns that express the hope or need for unity. Share these texts with the children.
- Invite the children to write songs about unity and to create a prayer service that uses their songs.

Additional Activity: Religious Demographics

Have the children find out about the religious demographics of your local community.

- Help them use telephone directories, newspaper religion coverage, or the Internet to research the

distribution of Christian denominations in your area.

Additional Activity: Guest Speaker

Invite a local pastor from another Christian denomination to come and speak to the group about his or her church's community, history, and practices.

- Alert young people to listen for similarities with and differences from Roman Catholicism.
- Have the children ask questions.
- Discuss the children's reactions to the presentation after the talk.

Additional Activity: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Assign the children to research the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on the Internet, through the diocesan newspaper, the local ministerial association, the parish staff, or the *Catholic Encyclopedia*. Have them find out:

- how and when it was started
- when it is
- how their local parish is involved
- how young people can be involved

Additional Activity: Prayer

Make the Sign of the Cross.

Then pray together: **Lord God and King of Kings, help us bring your Kingdom here on Earth by living in unity with all of your creation. Amen.**

Reader: Read 1 Thessalonians 5:12a, 13b-18.
(Silent reflection.)

Pray the Lord's Prayer.

Parish Video Connection: An Ecumenical Search for Meaning

After completing the Catechist Edition instruction on page 271, but before the children work on the Connect Your Faith activity, play this short video on ecumenism as expressed in the Taize community.

Ask: Why is it important for people of all Christian denominations to work together for Christian unity? How could you work with others to share your common faith?

YouTube Link: <http://youtu.be/lycimcwcgiA>

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