

Grade 6 - Chapter 21

Discover

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Discover

Catechist Edition Instruction

Discover (1)

Objectives

- Define apocalyptic literature as a type of writing that claims to reveal what humans cannot see.
- Recognize that God will triumph over evil when Christ comes again in glory.

The Triumph of Good

Ask: What is the Book of Revelation about?

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

Read aloud the first paragraph.

Have a volunteer read aloud the rest of the text.

- Ask: How does apocalyptic literature differ from most books that you have read? ***It uses numbers and symbols to help convey a message.***
- Ask the children why the Holy Spirit inspired John to write the Book of Revelation. ***to encourage Christians in a time of persecution***

Scripture

Have a proficient reader proclaim the Scripture passage.

- Discuss the first question at the bottom of the page.
- Ask: What is God's message for us today?
- Discuss how God's message, shared by John, applies to Christians today.

Unveiling the Future

Read aloud all three paragraphs. Tell the children to follow along in their books as you read.

Next, arrange the children in pairs. Have the partners use the Key to Revelation as they reread the text and discuss the images mentioned.

- Invite the children to share ideas about why the symbols were used. ***Because those who might want to harm Christians would not understand the meaning of the book, but Christians facing persecution would understand.***

Remind the children that Sacred Scripture is not always easy for us to understand on first reading. Send the children to page 304 in the Our Catholic Tradition section of the Student Books to read How to Better Understand Scripture.

► Music Option: While the children read or work on the activity, play “Come Now, Almighty King” or “Holy, Holy, Holy,” downloaded from aliveinchrist.osv.com.

Activity

Ask a volunteer to read aloud the activity directions.

- Have the children work in small groups to complete the activity.
- Ask volunteers to share their messages.

Quick Review

The Book of Revelation was written as a form of apocalyptic literature. One message of this book is that God triumphs over evil.

Discover (2)

Objectives

- Explore the resurrection of the body and life everlasting as central tenets of the Catholic faith
- Reflect on the things that can help deepen our trust in God's promise of eternal life, like virtues, the Sacraments, and the Church

Hope for the Future

Ask: What is God's new creation?

- List the children's responses on the board or on chart paper.
- Music Option: Play or sing with the children “Lord of All Hopefulness,” downloaded from aliveinchrist.osv.com.

Have three volunteers each read aloud one of the paragraphs.

- Ask: How does your belief in the Resurrection affect how you feel about loved ones who have died? How does it affect the way you live today?
- Arrange the children in groups of three, and have each group discuss ways in which the Resurrection makes a difference in the lives of Christians.
- Remind the group that the Resurrection is the foundation for all Christian living and future hope.

New Creation

Invite the children to silently read the text. Tell them to look for ideas and images of what the new creation will be like.

- Point out that the Church is the beginning of the New Jerusalem on Earth.

Work with Words

Have two volunteers read the words and definitions in the Catholic Faith Words box.

- Ask the children if they have any questions about Resurrection and the new creation or anything you have talked about so far.
- The concepts in Revelation can be difficult. If you are not sure of the answers to their questions, tell the children that you will get back to them at a later time— and remember to do so.

Activity

Read aloud Revelation 21:1-4, or have the children read the passage from the Bible. Have a volunteer read aloud the instructions for the activity.

- Provide colored pencils and markers.
- Invite the children to share their creations with the group.

Quick Review

Just as Jesus was raised from the dead, we, too, will be raised. God will triumph over evil, and there will be a new creation where we live with God forever.

Catechist Tips: Apocalyptic Tradition

The tradition of apocalyptic writing gained prominence in the Jewish community through the Book of Daniel.

- Historical apocalypses, such as in the Book of Daniel, focus on the future course of history.
- Other apocalypses, such as those attributed to Enoch, Adam, Moses, Abraham, Ezra, and Baruch, focus more on the exploration of the heavenly world.

The Book of Revelation is an example of both the above types of apocalyptic writing.

Catechist Tips: Stay Hopeful

Give the children these pointers on keeping the virtue of hope alive in difficult times:

- Trust God and do not worry.
- Find one positive thing you can do, and do it.
- Choose companions who will encourage you and build you up.

Glossary Activity: New Creation

Have the children find poems or stories about Heaven as part of the new creation.

- Direct the children to library resources that will help them find poems or stories by theme.
- Invite volunteers to read aloud these literary visions of eternal life.

Additional Activity: Rainbow of Hope

Have the children work together to create a class mural of hope.

- Have them paint or color a large rainbow on mural paper.
- Invite each child to write on the bands of the rainbow his or her ideas about staying hopeful.

Additional Activity: Make a Time Line

To review the events of salvation history covered during the year, invite the children to make a time line.

- Go through the chapters and develop one-sentence prompts to help the children recall what they learned in each chapter.

Additional Activity: Book of Revelation

Supplies:

- three Bibles
- drawing paper
- markers or colored pencils

Organize the large group into three smaller groups. Assign one of the following passages to each small group:

Revelation 1:12-16

Revelation 4:1-11

Revelation 21:1-5

Have members of each group read the passage, talk about what it means, and draw illustrations of what is described in the passage.

Additional Activity: Box of Hope

Supplies:

- boxes (one per child)—paper and wooden boxes can be purchased relatively inexpensively at most craft stores
- magazines
- scissors
- markers
- glue
- Bibles
- various items for decorating the boxes—glitter, ribbon, "gems," etc.

Compile several Bible verses about hope (consider 1 Timothy 6:17-19; Psalm 42; Psalm 43; Romans 5:1-11; 1 Corinthians 15; Colossians 1:3-27; and 1 Peter 1:13-16, or visit an online Bible to search out your own verses). Write them out or provide references for children who may want to include them in their boxes.

- Distribute the boxes and give access to other materials.
- Explain that the task is to create a personal box of hope for the new creation that the children can use for prayer or meditation.
- Using the materials on hand, have the children decorate the boxes with symbols and signs of God's promises and the hope they offer. Point out the list of hopeful Bible verses, the first item for their collection of reminders of God's hope.
- Suggest that they keep on the lookout for items or Bible verses that speak God's promises to them that they can keep in their "box of hope." (*Some suggestions: items in their favorite color; things that remind them of Baptism; notes to themselves about God; and prayers that they've written to*

God.)

Parish Video Connection: The Resurrection of Jesus

After completing the Catechist Edition instruction on page 280, have the children watch this video from *The Passion of the Christ* depicting the Resurrection.

Ask: What did you notice about this scene? What do you think is the significance of the changes between darkness and light? How important was it that we saw the wound in Jesus' hand?

YouTube Link: <https://youtu.be/KDlCFqy7KG4>

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