

Grade 6 - Chapter 11

Discover

- Catechist Edition Instruction
- Catechist Tips: Women in the Early Church
- Catechist Tips: Pentecost
- Catechist Tips: Disciple
- Catechist Tips: Martyr
- Catechist Tips: English Language Learners
- Catechist Tips: Follow the Leader
- Glossary Activity: Martyr
- Additional Activity: Brochure
- Additional Activity: Hold a Mock Trial
- Additional Activity: Describe Yourself
- Additional Activity: WWJD Bracelets and Key Chains
- Parish Video Connection: Apostolic Succession

Discover

Catechist Edition Instruction

Discover (1)

Objective

- Describe the feast of Pentecost as the celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles

The Risen Jesus and the Holy Spirit

Ask: What happened after Jesus died?

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

Invite a volunteer to read aloud the first paragraph.

- Point out the artwork on the page that shows the interaction between Jesus and Thomas. Explain that Jesus understood Thomas's need to see in order to believe.

- Have another volunteer continue reading to reveal what happened to Thomas and the rest of the Twelve.

- Ask: What do you think the Apostles felt after Jesus' Death? What gave them hope?

- Discuss responses as a group.

► Music Option: Sing with the children "Come to Us, Holy Spirit," downloaded from aliveinchrist.osv.com.

Scripture

Ask two volunteers to proclaim the Scripture.

- Point out that the disciples believed in Jesus' promise, even though they did not know what would

happen.

★ Have the children highlight the effect the Holy Spirit had on the Apostles.

• Then, have them turn to page 324 in the Our Catholic Tradition section in the back of the Student Book. As a group, pray aloud the Prayer to the Holy Spirit.

Activity

Read aloud the activity instructions.

- Have the children brainstorm with a partner to come up with two gifts.
- Then have the children work independently to write their prayers or petitions.
- Allow several volunteers to share what they came up with.

Quick Review

The feast of Pentecost is a celebration of the Holy Spirit coming down and filling the Apostles.

Discover (2)

Objectives

- Examine how the Acts of the Apostles tells the story of the early Church
- Define *Apostolic Succession* as the passing down of authority and power to lead and teach the Church from the Apostles to the bishops
- Appreciate that the Holy Spirit continues to animate the Church today

The Church's Work

Have a volunteer read aloud the question at the top of the page.

- Tell the children they will learn the answer on the next two pages.

Ask the children to silently read the first paragraph.

Work with Words

Have the children circle the word *mission* in the text.

- Ask a volunteer to read aloud the definition in the Catholic Faith Words box.
- *Ask:* Have you ever been given a special mission or job before?
- Allow several children to share.

The Early Church

Summarize the text.

- Discuss how the mission of the Church today is similar to the mission of the early Church.
- Encourage the children to give specific examples.

Leaders and Martyrs

Ask the children to silently read the text.

- Tell them that many Christians suffered persecution in the early Church and some Christians still suffer persecution in the world today.
- *Ask:* To what extent are you willing to openly profess your faith as a Christian? When is this hardest

to do?

- Allow the children to discuss these questions in small groups.

The Church Today

Ask two volunteers to read aloud the two paragraphs

Activity

Have a volunteer read aloud the instructions.

- Allow time for the children to write their answers.
- ▶ Music Option: While the children work, play “Come, Holy Ghost,” downloaded from **aliveinchrist.osv.com**.
- Invite volunteers to share their responses.

Quick Review

The Church is built on the foundation of the Apostles and, with the help of the Holy Spirit, she continues to spread the Good News of Jesus. The bishops, successors to the Apostles, lead and teach the Church today.

Catechist Tips: Women in the Early Church

Acts 1:14 illustrates that women played a significant role in the life of the first Christian community. Women were an important part of Jesus’ life at a time when women had few or no legal rights.

- The Gospel according to Luke includes several stories of women interacting with Jesus. (See Luke 7:36-50, 10:38-42.)
- Women came to the empty tomb on Resurrection Sunday. (See Luke 24:1-10.)

Catechist Tips: Pentecost

The Feast of Pentecost celebrates the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Various cultures have developed unique ways to celebrate this feast.

- In France, trumpets are traditionally blown during Mass, to recall the sound of the “strong driving wind” that accompanied the coming of the Spirit.
- Believers in Russia carry flowers and green branches in their hands.

Catechist Tips: Disciple

Anyone who learns from a master is a disciple.

- The words *disciple* and *Apostle* are sometimes used interchangeably, but they are not synonyms. The Apostles were those Twelve followers whom Jesus specifically selected as leaders.
- In the New Testament, Paul, Barnabas, and James are also called Apostles. (See Acts 14:4, 14; Galatians 1:19; 2:9.)

Catechist Tips: Martyr

A Christian takes part in the life of the Church by acting as a witness to the Gospel. This may lead to persecution and even martyrdom.

- *Martyr* is a Greek word that means “witness.”
- A martyr is a supreme witness to the truth of faith, one who willingly sacrifices his or her life for that faith through an act of fortitude.

Catechist Tips: English Language Learners

You may have some children in your class who are recent immigrants and may not be fluent in English.

- Consider pairing each child who is not fluent in English with a child whose first language is English.
- Encourage new children who are from other countries to share their stories of coming to this country.

Catechist Tips: Follow the Leader

Explain that this game is about following a leader and finding a leader.

- Have the children sit in a circle. Ask for one child to be "it" and to leave the immediate area.
- Then choose someone in the circle to be the leader. Tell the leader to create a rhythm (by patting legs, snapping fingers, tapping his or her head, etc.) for the entire group to follow. Tell the leader to keep the rhythm but to change the motion periodically.
- The others will follow the leader as he or she changes motions. Once everyone in the circle is doing the rhythm, call the "it" person back to the circle.
- That person should try to figure out who the rhythm leader is. Once the leader is identified, a new "it" and "leader" are selected for another round.
- Try to give all children an opportunity to be "it" or the leader.
- At the conclusion of the game, invite the children to talk about what they learned about leaders through doing this game.

Ask: What does a good leader do? What does a good follower do?

Glossary Activity: Martyr

Have groups of children research the witness of Christian martyrs, such as Saints Perpetua and Felicity or Saint Cyprian, during the time of the Roman persecutions.

- Invite groups to present their research to the class.

Additional Activity: Brochure

Help the children create an advertising brochure based on the ideas from this chapter.

- Fold a piece of paper in thirds to create a brochure.
- The text might discuss activities in your local parish and invite members of the community to participate in them.

Additional Activity: Hold a Mock Trial

Arrange with the children to place one or two of them on trial for being Christians.

- Assign the roles of judge, lawyers, and jury members among the group. You may choose to have the children role-play a situation in the early Church or a contemporary situation in a country where Christians are persecuted for their faith.
- Before the "trial" begins, allow time for the children to research and discuss the ways their faith can

be challenged, and how they can defend their faith.

- Be sure to assign the roles of the children "on trial" to children who are confident and who will not be intimidated by the process.
- Be conscious of any signs of discomfort among the group. Redirect discussions as necessary.
- Encourage and affirm all positive defenses of the faith and have suggestions of your own on hand to be sure the trial concludes well.

Additional Activity: Describe Yourself

Have the children describe their own characteristics by answering the following questions:

- What are your three strongest characteristics? How can you use these characteristics as a leader?
- Have them write their answers, and ask volunteers to share their responses.

Additional Activity: WWJD Bracelets and Key Chains

Supplies:

- elastic string (available at craft stores in the beading section or online)
- beading cord
- colorful beads (plastic or glass)
- WWJD letter beads
- key rings
- safety scissors
- superglue or clear nail polish (adult use)

Introduce the activity. Say: **Our church community is a great place to practice living God's Word. One question that can help us do this is "What would Jesus do?" Many people often use the letters "WWJD" to remind them of this question. We're going to make WWJD bracelets and key chains. Then when we see these letters, they will remind us to follow and witness to Jesus each day.**

Set out supplies as the children decide whether to make a bracelet or a key chain. For bracelets, use elastic string. Thread beads on the string, including the WWJD letter beads, and tie ends together in a double knot. Trim the ends, and dab superglue or clear nail polish on the knot to secure it.

For key chains, use beading cord. Tie a knot on one end. Thread beads on the cord, including the WWJD letter beads. When the desired length is reached, tie the end of the cord around a key ring.

Talk about how these WWJD items can help remind us to witness to Jesus.

Parish Video Connection: Apostolic Succession

After completing the Catechist Edition instruction on page 169 through The Church Today, but before beginning the Connect Your Faith activity, play this video for the children to expand on the definition of Apostolic Succession.

Say: We've learned about the Pope and the bishops being successors of the Apostles, sharing in their mission. How do the Pope and bishops act as apostles now?

YouTube Link: <https://youtu.be/hLVE8Uy7sSA>

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