

Grade 4 - Chapter 5

Discover

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Discover

Catechist Tips: Catch Them!

Many children are already living as responsible members of the community.

- When you see a child performing a kind act, praise and affirm that child.
- Call or send notes home to tell parents or guardians about a child's kindness.
- Consider awarding stickers for good deeds.

Catechist Tips: Good Deeds

In *Matthew 6:1-4* Jesus recommends doing good in secret.

- However, in *Matthew 5:16*, Jesus says "Your light must shine before others."
- Followers of Jesus set an example by their actions, but they should not do so only because they wish to look good.

Catechist Tips: Religious Orders

One way of living as a Christian community is by becoming a part of a community of professed men and women religious.

- Have the children research various religious orders.
- You may wish to have the group write a letter to a priest, a brother, or a sister, asking about the way of life and the ministry of that person.

Glossary Activity: Common Good

Have the children create an acrostic using the words *common good*.

- Have them write the words COMMON GOOD vertically.

- Invite them to write a word horizontally that begins with each letter.
- Each word should describe something that pertains to the *common good*.

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Additional Activity: Rights and Responsibilities

Discuss rights and responsibilities of United States citizens.

- Ask the children to name rights guaranteed in the U.S., such as freedom of speech and religion.
- Have the children list responsibilities of citizens, such as obeying laws and paying taxes.
- Discuss the two lists.

Additional Activity: Use the Lists

Help the children extend their ideas beyond the classroom.

- Have the children make posters of the suggestions that they think will be most useful. Display the posters in your school or at a community center.
- Have each child write and illustrate a paragraph about his or her favorite suggestion. Bind these in a booklet to share with families.

Additional Activity: Hymnals

With the children, take a "tour" of your parish hymnal.

- Look for songs about unity, and then for different types of songs: songs of praise, Eucharistic songs, and so on.
- Preview the hymnal and find good examples.

Additional Activity: Want Ads

Supplies:

- copies of the Want Ad Handout (one per child; [download here](#))
- writing paper

- pencils

In advance of this lesson, determine areas of service in your parish where your group can help. Talk to your pastor or parish staff members if you need help. Arrange to have a representative from each of the areas available. Inform the representative about the project and what the children need to know.

Introduce each of the representatives. Encourage the children to ask questions and take notes as they listen to each speaker. Tell them to be sure to get details (*the name of the ministry, the qualifications, time frame etc.*).

When the presentations are completed, distribute the Want Ad Handout. Guide each child to select one ministry he or she would like to create a want ad for, and complete the top portion. Once they have finished their rough draft, they may write the ad on the bottom of the page. Invite volunteers to share the ads they have written. Post the ads where parish members can read them.

Additional Activity: Spruce It Up Art!

Supplies will vary. Be sure to let parishioners know what you are planning before you begin. Often people have supplies in basements or garages. They are willing to donate when asked. Speak with a pastor, DRE, school principal, youth minister, or building manager ahead of time. Get a game plan and ask for parent and other volunteers to join in your spruce-up mission.

Have the children choose an artistic "spruce up" project from which your parish would benefit, and you know you have approval from the appropriate parish staff. Ideas include:

- Paint a bench in an entryway.
- Paint playground equipment or a rocker in the nursery.
- Add a mural to an ordinary wall.
- Design and plant an outdoor prayer garden.
- Create interesting cross collages for individual age/grade level rooms.
- Paint a welcome sign for outdoors or in the main area where children gather for catechesis.

Decide upon the time when you will do the activity and the resources you will need and go for it!

Parish Video Connection: Catholic Social Teaching

Once you've finished the Catechist Edition instruction on page 101, show the children this video.

Ask: Who is a part of the common good? **Every person is a part of the common good, but a special emphasis is placed on caring for those who are the most vulnerable** Who benefits when we work toward the common good? **Everyone**

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