

Grade 5 - Chapter 2

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Discover

Catechist Tips: Longing

The Church teaches that God created humans with a desire for God that lies deep in the human heart (CCC 27), and that humans give expression to that longing through religion (CCC 28).

Gather the children for a brainstorming session. Distribute paper and pencils. Write the word *religion* on the board or on chart paper. Tell the children they will have one minute to write down all the words they can think of that are related to religion. After one minute, stop the children and organize the large group into smaller groups of three or four. Tell them they will have four minutes to compare their lists and come up with one list. They may add things as they go. When the time is up, have children count the number of words on their lists. Ask someone from the group with the most words to read their list. As the others hear something on their list named, they should cross it off. When the first child completes the reading, have members from the other groups add words that were not mentioned.

Ask the children to turn to the Catholic Faith Words feature on page 65 in their book. Invite a volunteer to read the definition of *religion*. Write the word *beliefs* on the board or on chart paper. Explain that beliefs are the articles of faith which we know are true and we trust, such as everything we say in the Apostle's Creed. Have the children look over their lists and find some of the things they wrote down which are Catholic beliefs. Write the word *prayers* on the board or on chart paper. Explain that prayers are the way we communicate with God such as in the Mass and the Lord's Prayer. Have the children look over their lists and find some of the things they wrote down that are Catholic prayers. Write the word *practices* on the board or on chart paper. Explain that practices are the actions we take or the things we do because we are Catholic, such as we go to Mass every Sunday or we use holy water to make the Sign of the Cross.

Catechist Tips: Reaching All Learners - Sensitivity

Be sensitive to the fact that you may have a child with a hearing loss or impaired sight.

- Accommodate the needs of such children discreetly.

- Discourage the children from pointing out the limitations of others.
- Encourage all the children to recognize the universal human need for communication.

Catechist Tips: The Samaritan Woman

This story is found only in the Gospel according to John. Among other things, this story...

- illustrates the tensions between Samaritans and Jews of the period.
- makes the important point that Jesus offers salvation to all people.

Catechist Tips: Living Water

In the Gospel according to John, water is a symbol with many meanings.

- Ask the children which Sacrament has water as its most important sign. *Baptism*
- Point out the connection between the “living water” of which Jesus spoke to the Samaritan woman and the water used in the Sacrament of Baptism.

Catechist Tips: The Samaritan Woman

Read The Samaritan Woman on page 66 and discuss what the woman did after Jesus announced who he was. (*She put down the water and ran to tell everyone*) Ask, **Why?** (*The news was so important to her that she wanted to share it.*) Ask, **How do you show and tell that the Messiah is important to you?** (*how they live, how they treat others at home and school, how they talk, etc.*) Let each child draw a large water jar on their paper with colored markers. On their jar, they will write the ways they show their belief in Jesus.

Glossary Activity: Religion

Encourage the children to find their own expression of Catholic beliefs and practices.

- Distribute art materials, and ask each child to draw a picture of a religious belief or practice.
- As an alternative, encourage volunteers to pantomime a belief or practice.

Additional Activity: Inspirational Cards

Distribute index cards, glue, magnets, and markers. Tell the children to write on the card the most important idea from this lesson.

- Have each child glue a magnet on the back of their card.
- Invite the children to use the cards as refrigerator magnets.

Additional Activity: Guided Meditation

To enrich the story of the Samaritan woman, lead the children through a guided meditation.

- See “Jesus and the Woman at the Well” in *Guided Meditations for Children*, by Jane Reehorst, BVM (Our Sunday Visitor Curriculum Division, p. 186)