

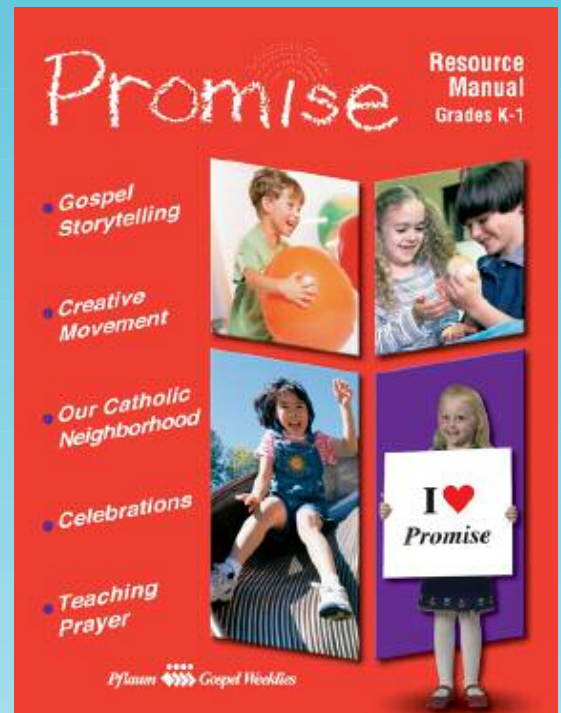
## Promise Resource Manual

### Grades K-1

This new 2005 edition – revised to coordinate with the just-published *National Directory for Catechesis* – helps build staff confidence while enriching lessons. Content emphasizes the importance of lectionary-based catechesis, how doctrinal concepts flow through the liturgical year, how a young child learns.

#### Highlights include:

- How a *Promise* lesson works
- Classroom atmosphere and good order
- Techniques for teaching young children
- Listening for the big questions
- How *Promise* teaches Catholic doctrine and practice
- Prayers and music



48 pages, 8 1/2" x 11" #9701

### In this Product Preview you'll find these sample pages . . .

- Table of Contents
- How a Promise Lesson Works (page 12, first page of the section)
- Making the Promise Lesson Go Smoothly (page 18)

Scroll down to view these pages.





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## Handing on Jesus' Message

The Church's Vision for Catechesis ... page 5

## Part 1: Teaching *Promise* to Kindergarten and First Grade Children

### 1 How Does a Young Child Learn? ... page 8

Physical Development Affects Learning  
Developing Ability to Think Abstractly  
Learning to Make Moral Judgments  
Children's Social Development  
Teachers Are the Key

### 2 How a *Promise* Lesson Works ... page 12

Becoming Familiar with the Teaching Guide  
Part 1: Sharing Our Life Stories  
Part 2: Listening to God's Word  
Part 3: Building Christian Community  
Making the *Promise* Lesson Go Smoothly

### 3 Classroom Atmosphere and Good Order ... page 19

Be an Example of Hospitality  
Establish a Story Circle and a Work Area  
Maintaining Classroom Discipline  
Creating a Good Environment

## 4 Techniques for Teaching Young Children

... page 25

Storytelling

When to Use Creative Dramatics

Introducing Creative Dramatics to Your  
*Promise* Class

Sense-Involving Activities

## 5 Listening for the Big Questions ... page 29

## Part 2: How *Promise* Teaches Catholic Doctrine and Practice

### 6 Lectionary-Based Catechesis ... page 32

What Is the Lectionary?

The Lectionary, a Privileged Source of Catechesis

The Liturgical Year Celebrates the Creed

### 7 The Catechism of the Catholic Church

... page 35

Pillar 1: Creed

Pillar 2: Sacraments of Faith

Pillar 3: Life in Christ

Pillar 4: Christian Prayer

### 8 Who Can Be a Catechist for Young Children?

... page 44

### 9 Prayers and Music

... page 46

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES  
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# 2

## HOW A PROMISE LESSON WORKS

Each week *Promise* engages primary children in a process that moves from story to Gospel to actions that build Christian community. Each *Promise* lesson begins with stories out of the children's own life experience, moves to the Sunday Gospel story, and concludes with activities and prayers that invite the children to live the Gospel in their lives, families, and communities in ways appropriate to their age.

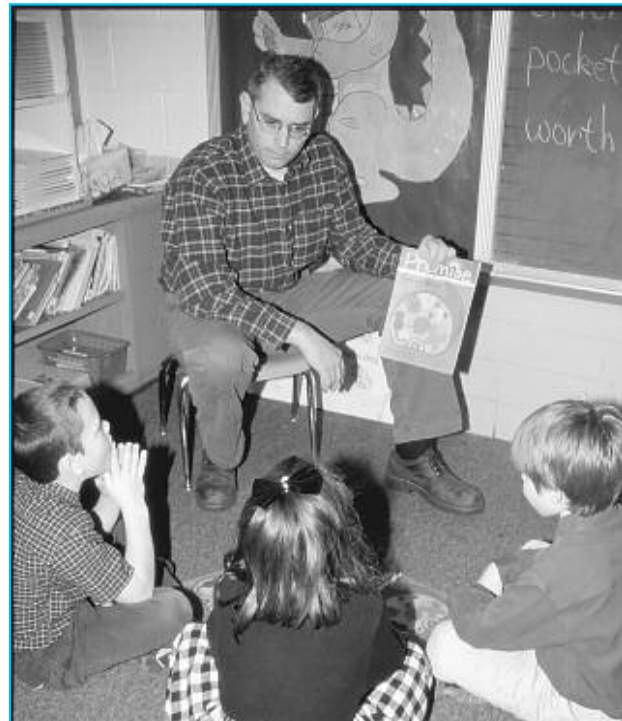
*Promise* wants discovering Catholic faith to be fun, exciting, and lastingly worthwhile.

### BECOMING FAMILIAR WITH THE TEACHING GUIDE

The key for the catechist in directing a successful *Promise* session is in the *Teaching Guide*. Time spent with the guide before class begins will reward the teacher or catechist with confidence, an orderly classroom, and satisfied students.

The very first section of the Guide, labeled *OVERVIEW*, is essential to understand where a lesson is headed. This section begins with the Gospel theme highlighted in bold print. Following the theme statement is a paragraph showing how the Gospel relates to *Promise*-age children and how the lesson will develop the theme.

The Doctrinal Concept is from the *National Directory for Catechesis*, published by the United States Clergy in 2005. This directory provides theological and pastoral principles for carrying out



the Church's mission to teach and evangelize. The text of the principle which guides a particular *Promise* lesson is quoted with its paragraph reference.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* is set up in the same numbered paragraph arrangement as the *National Directory for Catechesis*. Since parishes and even individual catechists are more likely to have an individual copy of the *Catechism*, only paragraph numbers are given.

## MAKING THE *PROMISE* LESSON GO SMOOTHLY

### PREPARING BEFORE CLASS

1. Know how your lesson and materials fit into the story, Gospel, and activity pattern.
2. Separate your *Promise* materials for the week.
3. Have materials ready.

### PREPARING DEMONSTRATIONS AND GIVING DIRECTIONS

Does this week's lesson include cutting, pasting, putting together a booklet or collage? Have a finished product—your own—available so the children can see and understand their task. Doing the project ahead of time enables you to anticipate and guide your students through potential problems. Keep a set of materials ready for one-step-at-a-time demonstration.

Don't start a step of the demonstration or directions until all eyes are on you. Don't let children begin until you have said, "Now you do it," but remember to keep the lesson moving to avoid boredom and the restlessness that accompanies long periods of waiting.

*Promise*-age children can retain two- or three-step directions for simple projects; ask a volunteer to repeat directions in sequence.

### PLANNING YOUR CLASS TIME

*Promise* lessons move from introducing, to exploring, to Gospel-telling, to applying, and conclude with prayer. The following is one typical way to divide up a class period of from 40 to 60 minutes.

### A TYPICAL *PROMISE* LESSON

#### 1. SHARING LIFE STORIES

- a. Gather in the circle to settle in and quiet down.
- b. Use the *Promise* cover activity to help children focus on the Gospel concept and remember experiences they have had that may relate to this concept.
- c. Tell the *Promise* story.
- d. Talk together about the story and its meaning.
- e. Invite children to retell or review the story.
- f. Suggest a way the story prepares them for the Gospel.
- g. Give directions for their proclaiming of the Gospel in their prayer space.

#### 2. LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

- a. Gather the children around the Bible and have one of them open it.
- b. Tell them the Gospel story.
- c. Use the *Promise* Gospel illustrations or any other appropriate visual to make the story concrete.
- d. Have children retell the story by dramatizing a character's feelings or Jesus' actions, or teach an appropriate song.
- e. Give directions and focus the children's attention for doing their Gospel hands-on activity.
- f. Sing a Gospel acclamation.

#### 3. BUILDING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

- a. Have children move to their work places with needed supplies ready for them.
- b. Demonstrate what they will do or lead them as the weekly *Guide* directs step by step through the activity.
- c. Help children where needed.
- d. Take time for children to show each other their work, put it up for display, get it ready for the concluding prayer time, or put it in a folder for home.
- e. Gather the children in a prayer circle around their prayer space or as the *Teaching Guide* directs.
- f. Use the concluding prayers in the *Guide*. They regularly involve movement, songs, and use of the hands-on project the children have just made.