

LET'S GATHER! LET'S SING!

Study Guide

1. BELONGING THROUGH BAPTISM

Related Scripture: Acts 1:5, 8, Acts 2:38–41

Catechism of the Catholic Church 1257, 1262, 1253

Age Group: Children/Adults

Preparation Questions: Why do we get baptized? What are the signs of Baptism and what do they mean?

Follow-Up Questions: What does it mean to belong to the Church family? How does it make you feel to be part of the Church family?

Follow-Up Tasks:

- In small groups, use modelling clay to make the symbols of Baptism.
- On cards, record the different times that the Church family come together.

Consideration for Movement: Arrange the children in two semi-circles around the symbols of Baptism. Use simple arm movements for the chorus. Children stand still and sing the verses. One child stands near each of the four symbols. While their symbol is being sung, they hold it up for all to see.

2. BUILDING GOD'S KINGDOM

Related Scripture: Psalm 105:7, Romans 14:17–19

Catechism of the Catholic Church 543–546, 395, 2819

Age Group: Children/Adults

Preparation Questions: What does it mean when you spread the Good News?

Follow-Up Questions: In what ways do you build God's Kingdom?

Follow-Up Tasks:

- Role-play an example of bringing love, justice, and peace.
- Identify examples when injustice is occurring. Organise your thoughts in groups of ideas that relate to home, school, local community and across the country. Choose one example and write some advice to the people involved in this situation.
- Choose someone's name out of a hat and design an award for them focusing on how they build God's Kingdom.

Consideration for Movement: The children only walk on when the chorus is on. During the verses the next pair in line wait until the chorus is on again. The space is empty and one pair of children enter the space. This continues with each pair waiting until the pair in front of them reaches their spot and stands still before they enter. The idea is for the singing to get louder as more children join in the song when they walk on.

3. CHOICES

Related Scripture: Psalm 119:34, Psalm 32:8

Catechism of the Catholic Church 1777

Age Group: 5yrs–12yrs

Preparation Questions: When do you get to make choices? What are the things that help you make a good or a bad choice? What happens when you make the wrong choice?

Follow-Up Questions: In order for you to make a good choice, what are some questions you could have ready for you to think about when you are making choices?

Follow-Up Tasks:

- Record all the choices you have had to make today. Evaluate whether or not the choice was good and explain why it was good or bad.
- Make a list of choices and categorise them into easy and difficult choices to make.

Consideration for Movement: Arrange children in three groups. One group stands and sings each verse while the others bob up and down. All groups stand and sing the choruses while waving their hands from left to right.

4. CHRISTMAS STAR

Scripture: Matthew 2: 7–11

Age Group: 5yrs–12yrs

Preparation Questions: Why was the star in the sky such an important part of the night that Jesus was born? How do people feel at Christmas time? Why? How do these feelings relate to Mary and Joseph when Jesus was born?

Follow-Up Questions: What other signs and symbols do we have during the Christmas season? Why are these important to our faith?

Follow-Up Tasks: develop a 2D or 3D creation which illustrates the important symbols of Christmas. Attach a label to each symbol explaining the importance it has for the season of Christmas

Consideration for Movement: one gold/yellow star on a stick for each person to use when the words 'Christmas Star' are sung.

5. COME SHARE THIS MEAL

Related Scripture: Matthew 26:26–29, Mark 14:22–26, Luke 22:14–20

Catechism of the Catholic Church 610, 1412

Age Group: 5yrs–12yrs

Preparation Questions: When do you share meals with your family and friends? Do you have any traditions when you get together for special occasions?

Follow-Up Questions: When you have visitors, how does your family welcome them? How does Jesus welcome us to his table? How does Jesus feed you to keep you strong?

Follow-Up Tasks:

- Use the symbol of the Body of Christ in the chalice to represent the bread of life. Write words on each of these to represent the ways Jesus keeps you strong.
- Write a letter to someone that you admire and explain how you see him or her as a person who lives like Jesus did.

Consideration for Movement: Simple arm movements for the chorus: (You're welcome here) *two hands come out from the chest and point out* (Come gather...) join hands to make a circle in front of body, like a table (Come share..) *palms facing up like a plate* (Together at the...) *join hands to make a circle in front of body, like a table.*

6. COME TO THE TABLE

Related Scripture: Luke 22: 14–20

Catechism of the Catholic Church #1324/#1333

Age Group: 10 yrs–Adult

Preparation Questions: What is meant by 'table of the Lord'? How does the Bread nourish us?

Follow-Up Questions: How do you demonstrate to others that you are formed in the love of the Lord?

Follow-Up Tasks: After receiving the Eucharist, write a letter to the Lord explaining the ways that you will show your love for others.

Consideration for Movement: Slow movements in time with the music. Break the group into two or in pairs where the first group/person completes the movement and then the other group/partner copies the movement. All students do the same movements for the chorus.

7. GOD CREATED YOU AND ME

Related Scripture: Genesis 1

Theme: Creation

Age Group: 3 yrs–12 yrs

8. HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A MUSTARD SEED?

Related Scripture: Matthew 13:31–32

Theme: Kingdom of God

Age Group: 3 yrs–12 yrs

9. HE IS RISEN ALLELUIA!

Related Scripture: Luke 24: 1–35

Catechism of the Catholic Church #1169, #656, #638, #655

Age Group: 8yrs–Adult

Preparation Questions: What were the main ideas surrounding Easter Sunday and Jesus rising from the dead? Who were the witnesses to his Resurrection? How important are these people to Jesus?

Follow-Up Questions: What would you have said to Jesus if you saw him after his Resurrection? Why do we say Alleluia when we talk about Jesus rising? When else and why do we use the word *Alleluia*?

Follow-Up Tasks: How is Jesus rising from the dead like a time in your life?

Consideration for Movement: white clothes with strong & quick arm movements, use a variety of movements focusing on celebration, showing the excitement and the belief in Jesus.

10. I'M SORRY

Related Scripture: Psalm 51:12, Luke 18:9–13

Catechism of the Catholic Church 734, 982

Age Group: 5yrs–2yrs

Preparation Questions: When are some times that you need to say sorry? Why is saying sorry so important?

Follow-Up Questions: It is important not just to say the words "I'm Sorry" but to truly show you are sorry. What are some examples of this?

Follow-Up Tasks:

- How many different ways can you show that you are sorry?
- Write an acrostic poem using the word **SORRY**.
- Write a letter to someone you have hurt and explain how sorry you are.

Consideration for Movement: Arrange children in groups of two to three with arms linked, facing the back for the first verse, and then turning around for the second verse.

11. LOVE GOD

Related Scripture: Luke 10:27

Theme: Great Commandment

Age Group: 3yrs–12yrs

12. LOVE LIKE JESUS DID

Related Scripture: Luke 10:25–28, Matthew 5:43–48

Catechism of the Catholic Church 1825, 2443

Age Group: 5yrs–12yrs

Preparation Questions: What are some ways that you show others that you love them? What are some actions or words that don't show love? How do you feel when you are loved?

Follow-Up Questions: In what ways did Jesus show us how to live? How can we follow Jesus' way?

Follow-Up Tasks:

- Sit in a circle and listen to quiet music and reflect on times when the children have not been a loving follower of Jesus. Ask: In what ways did you act? What were the unloving actions or words you used? Children write/draw their thoughts onto paper and place in a small bin in the center

of the circle. Discuss that we have thrown out these unloving actions/words and ask children to share their thoughts with a partner about how they will be more loving. with a partner about how they will be more loving.

- What would a world be like if there was only love and no hatred? What would change in your life? List some possible consequences of this scenario.

Consideration for Movement: Children move around the space in a long flowing line. The leader has one scarf for each child and hands them back, one by one, as they are slowly walking around the space, e.g., leader hands each one to number 2 who hands it to number 3 etc., continue until all the scarves are handed out. Then join the line with the scarves so each child has one in each hand.

13. MARY YOU SAID YES TO GOD

Related Scripture: Luke 1:46–55, Luke 2: 22–40, John 19:27

Catechism of the Catholic Church 273, 967, 971, 974

Age Group: 3yrs–12yrs

Preparation Questions: When are some times that you said "yes" to your parents when you knew that it was going to be a hard thing to do? Why did Mary say "yes" to God?

Follow-Up Questions: Why is Mary such a special part of our Church? Read some stories about Mary:What are Mary's qualities? In what ways would you like to be like Mary?

Follow-Up Tasks:

- Write a letter to Mary asking her questions that you have always wanted to know about her life.
- Create a PMI (Plus, Minus and Interesting Facts) chart that reflects Mary's life and choices.

Consideration for Movement: Arrange children in rows, swaying from left to right for the verses. In the chorus, have a child dressed like Mary in the front and have the children use simple actions to focus on her.

14. MARY'S SONG OF PRAISE

Related Scripture: Psalm 23, John 10: 14–18

Theme: Mary

Age Group: 6yrs–12yrs

15. MY SHEPHERD

Scripture: Psalm 23, John 10: 14–18

Age Group: 6yrs–Adult

Preparation Questions: What is a wrong choice? What are some examples of wrong choices? What are some ways wrong choices have been made right?

Follow Up Questions: Why is the title of this song called My Shepherd? How does a shepherd help his sheep? How does this relate to your life and the life of others in your community?

Follow Up Tasks: Write a thank you letter to a person who has helped you to solve a problem when you made a wrong choice. Explain how you felt and why you appreciate their support OR draw some healing hands and write the names of the people who are like your shepherds.

16. MY TEN COMMANDMENTS

Related Scripture: Deuteronomy 10:12–13, Exodus 17–20

Catechism of the Catholic Church 2051–2052

Age Group: 5yrs–12yrs

Preparation Questions: What are some rules that you follow at home/school? Why do we need rules? What are the rules of our Catholic faith?

Follow-Up Questions: Why do we need the Ten Commandments? If we only had five commandments, which ones would you choose, and why? If you were following the commandments, what would be something you **WOULD NOT** do?

Follow-Up Tasks:

- Using the letters A-Z, think of at least one word, phrase, oration for each letter of the alphabet related to the Ten Commandments, e.g., A—act like Jesus does, B—be kind to others, C—caring, Christian values, call to God
- Write the commandments in your own words and highlight the ones that are a challenge for you at this time in your life. At the bottom of the commandments, describe why the highlighted ones are difficult for you at the moment.

Consideration for Movement: (Verses) Children are broken into three groups and each group sing one verse each. (Chorus) Children

17. NEW LIFE

Related Scripture: Luke 24: 1–12

AGE GROUP: 4yrs–9yrs

Preparation Questions: Where is there new life in God's Creation? What happened to Jesus on Easter Sunday? How did his friends and family feel?

Follow Up Questions: How would you have felt if you saw Jesus after his resurrection? How does Jesus give us a 'new heart'? How can we show our 'new heart' to others?

Follow Up Tasks: Draw faces which show the feelings of the Jesus' friends when he rose from the dead on Easter Sunday OR draw a mind map to show all the different ways we see new life in God's creation.

Considerations For Movement: White clothes with arm movements in the air, moving in unison with basic movements

18. THE GOOD SAMARITAN

Related Scripture: Luke 10:30–37

Theme: Love/Compassion/Mercy

Age Group: 6yrs–2yrs

19. THE GREAT COMMANDMENT

Related Scripture: Luke 10:327

Theme: Commandments

Age Group: 6yrs–12yrs

20. THE HOLY FAMILY

Related Scripture: Luke 2

Theme: Holy Family

Age Group: 3yrs–10yrs

21. THE HOLY SPIRIT

Related Scripture: John 14:15–26, Acts 2:1–13

Catechism of the Catholic Church 2472, 2672

Age Group: 3yrs–10yrs

Preparation Questions: What do you know about the Holy Spirit? Read the story of Pentecost and discuss the Holy Spirit and the Apostles: What happened as a result of the tongues of fire landing on each of the Apostles' heads? What does it mean when people say the **Spirit** or **Holy Spirit**?

Follow-Up Questions: How does the **Spirit** work in your life? How do you and/or other people keep the spirit of your faith alive in your home, school, and parish community?

Follow-Up Tasks:

- Create a **PMI CHART** (Plus, Minus and Interesting Facts) about Pentecost.
- Pretend you are an Apostle who was there at the first Pentecost. What is the conversation you have with your parents when you go home after this extraordinary experience?

Consideration for Movement: (Verses) *Children find a spot within the space and stand on this spot while singing.* (Chorus) *Children move freely within the space for the chorus, moving to the music and waving coloured streamers/shakers/flags (red, orange, yellow).*

22. THE TRINITY

Related Scripture: 2 Corinthians 13:13, John 14:6–7, 16–17

Catechism of the Catholic Church 232, 234, 237, 261

Age Group: 3yrs–10yrs

Preparation Questions: Have you ever heard the word **Trinity**? What do you think it means? Listen to the Chorus twice: Who are the Three Persons in the Trinity?

Follow-Up Questions: What does God the Father do for us? What does Jesus Christ show us? What does the Holy Spirit bring us? How does the Trinity give you strength each day? Why do we make the Sign of the Cross?

Follow-Up Tasks:

- Practice making the Sign of the Cross and clearly saying the words. Use scrap material to make a cross and use symbols to represent the three Persons of the Trinity on the cross as they are said in relation to the Sign of the Cross.
- In groups of threes (triads), work together to create a symbol for the Trinity (each child being responsible for the Father, Son, or Holy Spirit). Older children could write a caption with the group's ideas about why the Trinity is an important part of our faith.

Consideration for Movement: Arrange the children in three rows with each holding a symbol of the Father, Son, or Holy Spirit. (Verses) *Only the children with the symbol related to the verse sing, and slowly wave their symbol in the air i.e., verse 1—Father, verse 2—Son, verse 3—Holy Spirit.* (Chorus) *all wave their symbols in the air slowly while singing*

23. UPON THIS ROCK

Related Scripture: Matthew 16:15–19

Theme: Church

Age Group: 6yrs–12yrs

24. YES LORD I BELIEVE

Scripture: Various

Age Group: 7yrs–Adult

Preparation Questions: When thinking about when Jesus was alive what are some of the ideas that you truly believe? What makes you believe in these ideas?

Follow Up Questions: What does 'our faith' mean? How do we show that we have faith? When thinking about the ideas from the song, how do we share these beliefs in our faith experiences?

Follow Up Tasks: Create a pledge, professing what you believe with belief statements about your faith

Considerations For Movement: simple arm movements for the chorus and for 'Yes Lord I Believe' response

25. YOU'VE GOT TO LOVE THEM

Related Scripture: Matthew 5:44

Theme: Forgiveness/Reconciliation

Age Group: 6yrs–12yrs