

Church Jeopardy

Templates online, chalkboard or poster board (jguris@transfiguration.com for templates)
Design based on curriculum content.

Wheel of Faith

Find ten words or phrases taught at your grade level. Have three contestants work together.

What If....

Form groups of four

What if you were sitting with Jesus at the table of the Last Supper? What would you say when he tells you the bread and wine are His Body and Blood? How does Jesus respond to what you say?

What if you had been in the crowd the day Jesus carried His cross to Calvary? What if you had witnessed Jesus' crucifixion? What would you have told your neighbors about all that you had seen that day?

What if a friend asked you to summarize the Ten Commandments? How would you respond? What if some friends asked you to tell them about Jesus? What are three things you would say?

Stations of the Cross

Ask what the students know about the Stations of the Cross. Ask how many have ever prayed the stations... or seen the stations in your Church? Explain that the Stations are an ancient prayer in which we proclaim our belief in Jesus' passion, suffering and death.

When we pray the Stations, we stop at every station, recall Jesus' path and pray. We thank Him for his great love for us.

- Divide students into small groups and give them a stations book, pencil and paper.
- Assign several stations to each group so that all the stations are covered.
- Instruct each group to read what the book says and then write a brief description and prayer for each station.
- Optional... when the project is finished you can even make a brief video to share with families.

You may have to space this project out over a few weeks. You can include families to come and pray the stations with your class.

Celebrity Interviews

- Choose someone to be a celebrity (Mother Teresa, St. Peter, Pope Francis, Pastor, Abraham, King David, Mary, Moses, God, St. Francis of Assisi, St Paul or seasonal celebrities; Veronica, Simon of Cyrene, Pilate, Judas, Good Thief)
- Choose a pool of reporters (3-4) and hold a 5 minute press conference

Dramatizing Scripture Stories

Birth of Jesus (Luke 2:1-20)

Good Samaritan (Luke 10:29-37)

Zaccheus (Luke 19:1-10)

Lost Sheet (Matthew 18:12-14 or Luke 15:3-7)

Last Supper (Matthew 26:26-30)

Washing of the Feet (John 13:2-17)

Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32)

Prayers with Gestures

Teach gestures to a prayer and then pray together

Scramble Puzzles

Print a message on the board that you want your kids to remember. Scramble the letters of some of the key words. Unscramble/decode to discover an important message about what they are learning. Read the message aloud several times.

Praying the Psalms

Find the book of Psalms in the Bible. Have students write a Psalm that is meaningful to them on cardstock and decorate. Can also write on rocks or shells.

Cards

Have students write and decorate cards for those in your parish who are sick, have had babies, experienced loss or those in RCIA. Help children to locate meaningful Scripture passages to write in the cards.

Recruitment advertisements for catechists... to join your Church or be a disciple for Jesus

T-shirt designs

Have students design T-shirts based on their curriculum Email parents to send in white T-shirts, purchase paint pens and have a class T-Shirt.

Tour of the Church

Take children on a tour of your church pointing out sacramentals, parts of the Church.

Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament

If your Church has an Adoration Chapel, bring the children for a visit. Before going, explain Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament to them and the proper behavior in the Chapel. Lots of resources online or email Joyce or Sheila, smurray@transfiguration.com.

The Alphabet Prayer:

- Although this format can work with kids as young as first grade, it is most effective with older students who have a broader vocabulary. Assign a letter of the alphabet to each class member. To engage the kids more fully, you may want to prepare a “deck” of alphabet cards. Shuffle the deck and have students draw their own letters for the prayer. Point out that expressing our gratitude to God helps us develop and deepen the habit of daily prayer.
- Invite students to quiet themselves and think of something for which they are grateful to God. Explain that it must begin with the letter of the alphabet they chose. It is not necessary to limit students to one choice; you can ask them to name two or three things for which they want to give thanks. If necessary (or preferred), have students write down their responses.
- Then gather students in a prayer circle. After making the Sign of the Cross together, spontaneously ask God to listen as you thank him for his many gifts. Then invite students, in alphabetical order, to name the things for which they are grateful. After each child prays, have the class respond, “We give you thanks always, Father!”
- Sometimes kids get a little giggly during the alphabet prayer. It’s normal. Keep in mind that the purpose of the prayer is to help students recognize that everyone and everything is a gift from God—even pancakes and zebras!

This activity can also be adapted to make an ABC book of sacraments, Saints, ABC book of being Catholic... again this activity may stretch over a couple of weeks. Adapted from Kate Ristow, Catechist Magazine, February 2013

The Object Prayer (for intermediate and junior high)

- This idea is adapted from a 1975 book titled *Experiments in Prayer* by Betsy Caprio, originally published by Ave Maria Press. The Object Prayer helps young people recognize that they can find God in almost everything if they just take the time and use their religious imaginations.
- Assemble a box filled with approximately 30 to 50 small, common objects—things like a bandaid, a light bulb, a mirror, a ruler, a pair of eye glasses, a piece of candy, a cell phone, a few Lego® pieces, a toy car, a birthday-cake candle, an eraser, a plastic knife, a bar of soap, an emery board, a roll of transparent tape, a comb, a cross, a map, and so forth. Show the children each object and tell them they are going to use the objects to create a prayer. Lay out the objects you are going to use for this sample prayer:

Loving Jesus,
 Help me to see you in everyone I meet (eyeglasses).
 Wash away my sins (bar of soap).
 Stick with me, Lord (tape).
 Help me remember that I can always find my way to you (map).
 Amen.

- Divide the class into small groups, give each group a piece of paper, and turn them loose! The only “rule” I insist on is that the number of objects in their prayer must equal the number of kids in their group.
- After giving the groups time to compose their prayers, ask each group to come to the front of the room and pray it for the class, demonstrating each object as it is named in the prayer.