

# The Unfolding Tapestry of Life

Stages of Faith When you were in: "Place"	Preschool – Grade 2	Grades 3-5	Grades 6-8	High School	Adult
Geographic/Socio-Economic					
Key Relationships... Family, Teachers, Leaders, Bosses, Self-image					
Who/What was important to you?					
Marker Events – turning points (death, moving, change in status)					
Images of God... (feelings and thoughts, presence or absence of God)					
Events and conditions in Society and the World					
What did you worry about?					
What religious questions did you have?					
What did you like/ dislike about religion classes?					
How did you like to pray?					

Your Story

1. What do I believe about God, Jesus, the Church and the meaning of human life?

2. Why do I believe what I believe?

3. How do I feel about questioning and doubting my beliefs?

4. How have I struggled to understand what I believe?

### **Implications of Faith**

To believe in God, the only God, and to love God with one's whole being has immense consequences for every part of our life:

- It means knowing the greatness and majesty of God.
- It means living out our thanksgiving.
- It means knowing the unity and the true dignity of all.
- It means the proper use of created things.
- It means trusting God in all circumstances, even in times of adversity.

How does this implication of faith and its consequences shape your life?  
How have the implications of faith been tested in your life?

## Talking About God With Children

In Rabbi Marc Gellman and Monsignor Thomas Hartman's book, *Where Does God Live?*, they outline these five principles for talking about God with children. How can you incorporate these principles into your personal catechetical setting?

1. Let your child watch you do religious things.
2. Tell your children what you believe while making it clear that they must decide what they believe.
3. Don't be afraid to say, "I don't know" when talking to your child about God.
4. Try to relate God to how we live and not just what we believe.
5. Don't give answers about God that are too simple.

1. How should you respond when the students ask a question about God?
2. What situations in your student's lives cause them to encounter and struggle with mystery? How can you assist them in their struggle?
3. As a catechist how can you create an environment where faith can grow?

