

Profile of a Sixth-Grade Child

(AGES 11–12)

This is a time of significant cognitive growth, marked by the continuing development of abstract thought. It is also a time of physical changes with the onset of puberty—especially for girls, whose physical development is normally ahead of that of boys. Becoming increasingly self-conscious about their own bodies, boys and girls gradually begin to separate. This is a time of searching for identity while experimenting with different roles and behaviors. With the changes and confusion that occur at this time, it is important to deal with these issues in an honest, direct, and loving manner.

Children at this age

- ◆ are capable of relating messages from Scripture to their own life experiences.
- ◆ respond well to participating in liturgical celebrations.
- ◆ enjoy a variety of prayer forms.
- ◆ are capable of understanding God, community, and faith in a deeper way.
- ◆ see Jesus as an example to follow.
- ◆ enjoy quiet.
- ◆ are capable of reflecting for longer periods of time.
- ◆ are capable of taking more complex prayers to heart.
- ◆ desire to experience prayer that is focused on emotionally confusing issues.



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The Sixth-Grade Program

The sixth-grade program of *Christ Our Life: New Evangelization Edition—God Calls a People*—is the study of God’s saving love as it is revealed in the Bible, particularly the Old Testament. This program will help your child increase his or her knowledge of Salvation History, in order to respond to God with ever-deepening love and gratitude. As your child learns the stories of our ancestors in the faith and reads God’s Word, he or she will learn to appreciate our ties to the Jewish people and deepen his or her understanding that Jesus is the promised Messiah. Your child will come to love Jesus more ardently and serve him more generously.

New Gather and Go Forth pages at the end of every chapter reveal to children a fundamental truth—to be Catholic is to evangelize. Children grow in their knowledge and love of God and recognize the missionary heart of the Church. Inspired by the Good News, they share their most precious gift, a lived faith, with others.

Unit 1 teaches the value of reading the Old Testament. Your child will learn about the Bible and read Genesis 1–11 to hear about creation, the Fall, the promise of a Redeemer, and the spread of sin. Emphasis is placed on Salvation History as the story of God’s love for his people.

Unit 2 guides your child to develop an attitude of trust and an awareness of God’s providential plan in his or her life and in the world. That God has a plan for his Chosen People—and a plan for us—becomes apparent as your child studies the lives of the patriarchs. Your child will see God’s plan of Salvation take shape in

the call of Abraham, in the forming of a people of faith, and in the events in the lives of Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph.

Unit 3 develops your child’s awareness of God’s powerful presence among his people, of his concern and providential care, through the study of the greatest event in the history of the Israelites: the Exodus. The major episodes—the call of Moses, the deliverance from the Egyptians, the journey in the wilderness, the covenant at Sinai, the infidelities and reconciliation, the uniting of a people, and finally the entrance into the Promised Land under Joshua—are paralleled to events in your child’s life. Emphasis is given to the covenant and the Ten Commandments, which set Israel apart as a holy nation dedicated to God.

Unit 4 develops your child’s understanding of how God’s providential use of persons and events furthers his plan of Salvation. Your child will learn how God led, protected, and united his people through the judges and kings. Themes presented include an understanding of human weakness, of God’s supportive and guiding grace, and of the ideals of leadership and loyalty.

Unit 5 introduces your child to the role and messages of the prophets. Through the prophets, God revealed his Word to his people: his call to sincere worship, to concern for those who are poor, to integrity of lifestyle, and to an unflinching trust in him. Your child will be encouraged to apply these messages to his or her own life, especially in the areas of social justice and authentic growth in and witness to the faith.