

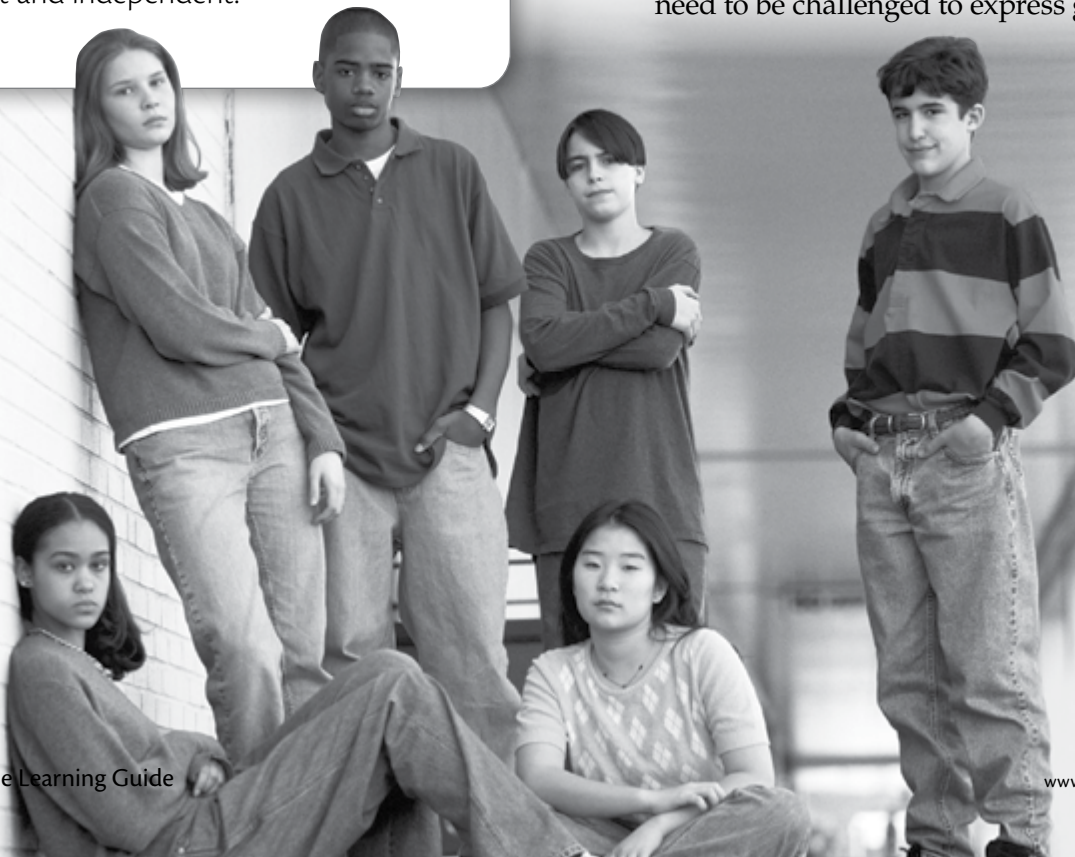
Profile of a Seventh-Grade Child

(AGES 12–13)

Seventh grade is a time of profound and rapid growth, when young people are entering a stage between childish and mature behavior. More than ever, peers are becoming a very strong influence. At the same time, key adults continue to play crucial roles in their lives, especially when they are facing a difficult situation. Moral guidance and faith tradition can provide valuable structure and stability. Girls are developing more quickly than boys, so boys sometimes struggle to behave in socially correct manners. In general, young people at this age are increasingly self-reliant and independent.

Children at this age

- ♦ are capable of logical and abstract thinking based on concrete examples.
- ♦ can be awkward and inconsistent as they seek self-image and self-identity.
- ♦ appear sure of themselves yet question their own judgments.
- ♦ tend toward hero worship and seek authentic models to imitate.
- ♦ begin making decisions that have serious moral consequences.
- ♦ are keenly sensitive to right and wrong.
- ♦ experience fluctuating moods and strong emotional stress.
- ♦ need support in their struggle to be responsible and mature.
- ♦ withdraw to some degree from family; are critical and challenge adult authority.
- ♦ seek peer approval and are eager to have friends, belong to a group, and be accepted.
- ♦ can give more varied forms of service and need to be challenged to express generosity.



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The Seventh-Grade Program

The seventh-grade program of *Christ Our Life: New Evangelization Edition—Jesus the Way, the Truth, and the Life*—is the study of God’s saving love as it is revealed through his Son, Jesus. This program helps your child grow in knowledge of Jesus to love him 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 importance of reading and reflecting on the Bible, especially the Gospels. Your child will be led to see the value of prayer as a means to strengthen his or her relationship with God. As your child learns more about Jesus and the kind of person he is, your child will be asked to reflect on how to best respond to God’s call to walk in his Way. Your child will be guided and inspired by the witness of others who have come to know Jesus and follow him faithfully.

Unit 2 teaches your child to consider Jesus as the Truth. Your child will learn from Jesus’ life and teachings to live his Truth in love. Your child will study morality as given in the Ten Commandments, the Sermon on the Mount, the Beatitudes, and Christ’s Law of Love. Your child will be encouraged to form his or her own conscience according to Christ’s values. He or she will learn a process for making decisions.

Unit 3 guides your child to consider Jesus as the Life. He or she will study Jesus’ Death and Resurrection, the source of eternal life for all. Your child will see that the Holy Spirit guards and strengthens us as we form the faith community—the Church today—and carry on Christ’s mission. Your child will be helped to discern the vocation in life to which God is calling him or her.

Throughout this book, your child will learn how Jesus is with us in the sacraments to sustain us in our journey to the Father. Living in the Spirit, as a member of the Church, your child will be led to work for God’s kingdom of peace and justice. Like Mary, the first disciple, your child will learn to strive daily to live by faith, witnessing to what God can do for those who have put their total trust in him. Your child will be taught to practice the works of mercy and become a sign of Christ’s final coming—when all creation will be renewed and restored to God.