



What's My Child Learning?

This is a review of the information your child is learning in Christ Our Life, Grade 8.

Unit 1: The Mystery of the Church

Goal

The students should deepen their understanding and appreciation of the Church.

Chapter 1: A Community of Disciples

The students explore the Church as a mystery. They reflect on the biblical images of the Church and determine whether the spiritual truths the images represent are evident in their own lives. They come to see Mary as the best image of the Church, and the Spirit as the sanctifier. They review keeping a reflection notebook.

Chapter 2: Tracing Our Roots

The students gain an overview of salvation history. They come to understand Scripture and Tradition as expressions of God's Revelation in Jesus Christ. They study the people who belong to the Church and the duties of the members.

Chapter 3: A Closer Look

The students learn about the origins of the Church and its early stages. They become acquainted with the six models of the Church proposed by theologian Avery Dulles.

Chapter 4: A People of Prayer

The students reflect on the importance of prayer, what it is, its purposes, and various types of prayer. They review how Jesus prayed and what he taught about prayer. They explore various times and places for prayer. They are introduced to the Liturgy of the Hours, the prayer of Christians.

Chapter 5: A People of Service

The students learn that every Christian is called to share in the mission of Christ and his Church. They also study the Beatitudes and corporal works of mercy and consider ways to apply them to their lives.

Unit 2: The Marks of the Church

Goal

The students should grow in their understanding of the four Marks of the Church—one, holy, catholic, and apostolic.

Chapter 6: One in the Spirit

The students explore the concept that all Catholics are united as one in the Church. We are one in faith, in worship, in governance, and in charity. Also addressed is the idea that working toward unity is the responsibility of all members of the Church.

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Chapter 7: Made Holy in the Spirit

The students learn that the Church is holy because it was founded by Jesus, is guided by the Holy Spirit, is led to be holy, and is called to help carry out Christ's saving mission. They study the lives of holy people who have come before them in the faith.

Chapter 8: A Church That Is Catholic

The students examine the universal nature of the Church. They reflect on Jesus' mission to proclaim the Good News to all and consider practical ways that they can participate in this same mission in their lives.

Chapter 9: An Apostolic Church

The students gain a brief overview of the apostles as the early Church leaders and the pope and bishops as their successors. They reflect on the notion that, as followers of Christ, they, too, are called to help serve the mission of the Church.

Unit 3: The History of the Church: Part I

Goal

The students will be able to identify key people and events in the Church's history.

Chapter 10: The First Years

The students learn how the Holy Spirit guided the Christians of the first century as the Church took shape and spread the Good News. They study the contributions of Peter, Paul, and Stephen, and other early Christians. They are encouraged to be witnesses today.

Chapter 11: The Church Grows

The students focus on the story of Saul's conversion and how he, along with Peter, brought the Gospel to the Gentiles. The Council of Jerusalem is explored as a turning point in the Church's mission to bring the Gospel to all nations.

Chapter 12: A House Built on Rock

The students consider the Roman persecutions that threatened to eliminate the Church and the heresy that divided it. They find inspiration in the actions of the martyrs and defenders of the faith. They learn about the Church Fathers and the monks, and they are challenged to increase their trust in God's love for them.

Chapter 13: A Light in Darkness: Part I

The students receive an overview of the Church in the Middle Ages. They see how the Church was a light for a dark world of fighting and feudal power. They learn about the missionary monks and are reminded that they are to be a light for the world.

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Chapter 14: A Light in Darkness: Part II

The students study the problems of the Great Schism and the Crusades. They see how the Church continued to be a light for a dark world through the establishment of universities and the rise of the Mendicant Orders.

Unit 4: The History of the Church: Part II

Goals

The students will be able to identify key people and events in the Church's history.

Chapter 15: The Church Faces Challenges

The students study the problems of the Great Western Schism, the Black Death, the Renaissance, and the worldliness of some Church leaders that harmed the Church. They are also introduced to the Protestant Reformation.

Chapter 16: Reforming the Church

The students learn about the Catholic Reformation, the Council of Trent, and the saints who saw the Church through this challenging period.

Chapter 17: In a Changing World

The students consider how the Church, having lost economic and political power, emerged as a spiritual leader. They see the effects of the Enlightenment and the French Revolution on the world and on the Church and learn about the Church's response to Rationalism at the First Vatican Council.

Chapter 18: Signs of the Times

The students focus on the effects of the Industrial Revolution and the roles of the popes and the saints in teaching the Gospel values of justice, love, truth, and peace. They study some of the changes the Second Vatican Council made.

Chapter 19: The Church in North America

The students become familiar with the beginnings of the Church in North America and some landmarks in the course of its history. They study some heroes of the Church in North America and are led to appreciate its persistence in the face of difficulties.

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Unit 5: The Witness of the Church

Goals

The students will realize what it means to live a Christian life.
They will desire to live by Christ's moral standards.

Chapter 20: The Way of Holiness

The students learn about their obligations under the New Covenant of Jesus. They learn to recognize the seven capital sins and the corresponding virtues that free us from them. They make a plan for growth in the Christian way of life.

Chapter 21: The Way of Faith

The students reflect on what it means to love God above all things. They learn about practices that are directly opposed to love of God: sacrilege and the occult. They recall that they witness to their love for God through prayer and by honoring God's name.

Chapter 22: The Way of Worship

The students learn about the Sabbath, the liturgical year, and the holy days of obligation. They reflect on the greatness of the Eucharist, our central act of worship. They identify responses to objections to participating in Mass, and they plan to make their Sundays holy.

Chapter 23: The Way of the Family

The students consider obedience as a way of loving and serving God and learn that listening to lawful authority is required under the Fourth Commandment. They are also led to view life as a gift from God. They study ways to care for, protect, and nurture life.

Chapter 24: The Way of Human Dignity

The students learn to make decisions that respect the gift of sex according to the teachings of Christ and the Church. They are encouraged to adopt practices that help them to holiness and to support one another in living a chaste life.

Chapter 25: The Way of Justice and Truth

The students examine their call to use their gifts in service of others. They consider how, as Christians, they have a responsibility to work for peace, truth, and justice.