## GOD IS GOOD: CATECHIST'S GUIDE: GRADE 1 (CHRIST OUR LIFE 2009) BY SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME CHARDON OHIO

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#### About the Author

Since their founding in 1850, the Sisters of Notre Dame have embraced religious faith formation and identity as part of their congregation's ministry. They authored Christ Our Life to extend their commitment to pass on the Catholic faith and through this new edition continue to provide solid doctrine, scripture, and tradition—with Jesus as the heart of every lesson.

The 2009 edition of Christ Our Life, grades 1–8, offers the original spiral curriculum first developed in 1973—a model that others imitate because it insures that fundamentals of our faith are taught and reinforced at all grades. Students and teachers will benefit from the extensive teacher preparation and resources. Christ Our Life nurtures catechists' own faith as they prepare their lessons using in-depth preparation pages that precede every lesson.

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#### PROGRAM OVERVIEW

#### Welcome to Christ Our Life

Since 1973, Christ Our Life has taught children that Jesus is the one around whom each of our lives is centered. This thoroughly revised edition encourages prayer and guides children to a deeper personal relationship with Christ. It teaches them how to live out their faith in their daily lives and in communion with the Church. Based on a spiral curriculum, it integrates Scripture, Catholic doctrine and Tradition, and the Church's social teachings into each lesson. Christ Our Life empowers teachers and parents to grow in their own faith as they pass on to children the love we find in Jesus.

#### Spiral Curriculum

To ensure consistent progress and development, the Christ Our Life series employs the spiral curriculum, originally introduced by Loyola Press in 1973. The program for each grade level builds upon previous ones, following a pattern of continuous growth in depth and scope.

At the heart of the Christ Our Life program is a harmonious integration of Scripture, tradition, and action. In the spiral curriculum, Scripture is centered between the four fundamental themes of the Catechism of the Catholic Church: Creed, Sacraments, Morality, and Prayer. In addition, Catholic social teachings are woven into each chapter to encourage active participation in the faith.

#### **Program Components**

- Student Book
- Two Music CDs
- Catechist's Guide (School and Parish editions available)
- Blackline Masters, including assessments
- Poster
- Catholic Prayer for Catholic Families
- Online Program Support www.christourlife.org

#### Student Book

- Faith content is developed throughout with Scripture integrated into each lesson.
- Family resources connect family and faith to enrich the children's experience.
- Traditional and familiar prayers invite personal and communal prayer.
- A Moment with Jesus provides opportunities for prayer in every chapter.
- Punchouts and pullouts bring the content to life in hands-on activities.
- Parish religious education and Catholic school needs are met using the same Student Book.
- Christourlife.org offers online support, including chapter reviews for the children to test their knowledge.

Appealing art and graphics capture children's attention.

Prayer is integrated throughout using traditional and guided prayer.

Scripture and doctrine help children learn the traditions of the faith and know the Bible as God's Word.

Two additional sections cover Special Seasons and Lessons and What Catholics Should Know.

Punchouts and pullouts in the back of the book provide hands-on, grade-specific activities.

#### Family Components

- Review of the lesson involves parents in each chapter.
- Building Family Faith offers ideas and activities to reinforce learning and involve the family.
- Family resources are available online in Spanish.
- Family Feature at the end of each unit offers additional support for parents.
- Catholic Prayer for Catholic Families contains traditional prayers plus suggestions for everyday prayer. Free book for every Christ Our Life family.

#### School Teacher's Guide

- Faith Focus is introduced in the first lesson and enriched in remaining lessons.
- Flexible structure adapts easily to include liturgical seasons and special feast days.
- The Catechist's Handbook is included in every guide.
- Preparing for the Faith Experience offers background resources and support.
- Special Seasons and Lessons provide lessons on liturgical seasons and saints' feast days.

- Saints and Feast Days provide a description of the lives of dozens of saints and the lessons they teach us.
- Web support and resources are featured at christourlife.org—register with access code XXX-XXXXX.
- Lesson scripting for new catechists has flexibility built in for experienced catechists.
- Music suggestions are offered throughout each chapter and within the Catechist's Handbook.

#### The Catechist's Handbook

The Christ Our Life Catechist's Handbook is included in every Catechist's Guide. It provides essential information to help catechists build their programs on a strong foundation.

- The catechist's important role in faith formation is featured as central.
- Background on children's developmental stages and areas of growth in faith and spirituality supports catechist's effectiveness.
- Teaching techniques, tools, and methods section offers ideas for variety and creativity.
- Music list provides age-appropriate resource recommendations for each chapter.
- Catechist tips provide novice catechists with important information on the basics of teaching.

Free components with every Teachert's Guide

- Poster
- Blackline Masters (includes assessments)

#### Online Support at www.christourlife.org

Christourlife.org is a free Web site that offers a wealth of resources to support and enhance the program content. To access protected catechist materials, you will need to register online with access code XXX-XXX-XXX.

- Online Lesson Planning provides convenience to new and experienced catechists. Customized plans can be saved and modified for future use.
- Interactive Chapter Reviews allow children the opportunity to test their comprehension and prepare for upcoming assessments.
- Activity Finder offers over 400 activities for all grade levels and learning styles.
- Sunday Connection provides background information and classroom activities to explore the Sunday readings. This service is also available as a free weekly e-mail subscription.
- Blackline Masters for the entire program are conveniently available online for easy printing.
- Seasonal Resources feature great ways to connect faith to the liturgical year.
- Family Resources in Spanish are available online to print and send home for families whose primary language is Spanish.

#### Getting Ready

Two teacher-preparation pages introduce the background information and preparation steps for each chapter. The preparation begins with the Faith Focus, which provides the theme of the lesson.

Reflecting on the Faith Experience encompasses a consistent three-step preparation process—Listening, Reflecting, Responding.

- Listening: A Scripture passage related to the Faith Focus invites the catechist to listen to God's Word.
- Reflecting: A reflection on the theme provides background information and links the Faith Focus to the catechist's own faith life.
- Responding: A prayer starter relates the chapter theme to the catechist's role and invites a personal response to the Faith Focus of the lesson.

Preparing for the Faith Experience provides an overview of the themes for the lesson, as well as additional information to make lesson preparation easier.

- Multiple references to Scripture, the Catechism, and other resources provide background reading recommendations.
- Catholic Social Teaching themes are integrated throughout the program.
- Bulletin-board ideas and images are suggested for each chapter.

#### Three-Step Teaching Method

A three-step teaching method—Centering, Sharing, Acting—provides the children with routine and repetition to aid in understanding the content and learning to pray.

Step-by-step directions clearly show the progression of each step in the chapter. These numbered steps guide new and experienced catechists through the chapter.

Lesson activities focus on the three-step teaching method—Centering, Sharing, Acting.

Use the Planning Calendar on pages OV-14-OV-15 to develop plans based on your school cal...

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