

ROMAN CATHOLIC

ARCHDIOCESE
of DUBUQUE

Grades 3-5

**Religion Curriculum Guide for
Catholic Schools and
Parish Faith Formation Programs**

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GOAL ONE

Goal 1: Students form a knowledge and appreciation of the sense of the Church and of the fundamentals of Catholic teaching.

Essential Learning A: Acknowledge that the fundamental teachings of the Catholic Church are set forth in the Creed.

KNOWLEDGE: Students will...	COMPETENCY: Students will be able to...	LIFE APPLICATION: Students will...
1. Understand that God's very being is truth and love; God is all present, all knowing and eternal.	1. Recite the Apostles' Creed.	1. Attend Mass with family and pray the Nicene Creed along with assembly.
2. Acknowledge the Creed as a statement of our beliefs as Catholics.	2. Recite the Nicene Creed with others.	2. Share with family their understanding of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
3. Acknowledge that both the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed are statements of our Catholic faith.	3. Illustrate beliefs using drama, art, music, technology, etc.	3. Paraphrase Creed with family.
4. Comprehend the terms and understand the outline of the Creed (CCC 184 ff): one God: Father, Son, Holy Spirit; Church.		
5. Break down the Creed to understand each part.		
6. Identify our Catholic beliefs as stated in the Creed – from Creation to Life Everlasting.		
7. Acknowledge the Nicene Creed as an important part of the Mass and of our Christian life.		

Curriculum Checklist

Name _____

Goal 1: Students form a knowledge and appreciation of the sense of the Church and the fundamentals of Catholic teaching.

	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
Essential Learning A: Acknowledge that the fundamental teachings of the Catholic Church are set forth in the Creed.			
1. Recite the Apostles' Creed.			
2. Recite the Nicene Creed with others.			
3. Illustrate beliefs using drama, art, music, technology, etc.			

GOAL ONE

Essential Learning B: Comprehend the life of Jesus, which is made known through the Scriptures.

KNOWLEDGE: Students will...	COMPETENCY: Students will be able to...	LIFE APPLICATION: Students will...
1. Identify Jesus in the Gospel and how Jesus' life applies to their lives.	1. Tell the story of Jesus' life.	1. Be attentive to Liturgy of the Word at Sunday Mass.
2. Recount the life and the teachings of Jesus as told in Scripture.	2. Connect Bible stories to their personal experiences.	2. Act in ways that show they follow Jesus.
3. Comprehend the life of Jesus through Church year, traditions, devotions (Rosary, Stations of the Cross, etc.), and prayers.	3. Identify the value expressed in the Gospel stories and tell how they would apply this value to their life.	
	4. Give examples of how they can imitate Christ.	
	5. Illustrate Bible Stories through drama, art, music, technology, etc.	

Curriculum Checklist			
Name _____			
Goal 1: Students form a knowledge and appreciation of the sense of the Church and the fundamentals of Catholic teaching.			
	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
Essential Learning B: Comprehend the life of Jesus, which is made known through the Scriptures			
1. Tell the story of Jesus' Life.			
2. Connect Bible Stories to their personal experiences.			
3. Identify the value expressed in the Gospel Stories and tell how they would apply this value to their life.			
4. Give examples of how they can imitate Christ.			
5. Illustrate Bible Stories through drama, art, music, technology, etc.			

GOAL ONE

Essential Learning C: Understand the significance of the Virgin Mary in Catholic teaching as well as the lives of the saints.

KNOWLEDGE: Students will...	COMPETENCY: Students will be able to...	LIFE APPLICATION: Students will...
1. Recognize Mary as model of Christian discipleship.	1. Pray the Rosary and other Marian devotions.	1. Accept the example of Mary and of the saints as models for daily living.
2. Understand how different cultures, both past and present, honor Mary.	2. Define the communion of saints.	2. Continue to develop devotion to Mary and to the saints in their personal prayer life.
3. Know holy days of obligation honoring Mary.	3. Report on a patron saint or another saint.	3. Celebrate with family the special days honoring Mary and the saints.
4. Be familiar with the communion of saints and be able to recognize saints as models of discipleship.	4. Illustrate the lives of Mary and the saints as models of discipleship using drama, art, music, technology, etc.	
5. Acknowledge faith in action in the lives of Mary, in the saints, and in members of the Church.		
6. Understand that Mary is the model for holiness.		
7. Recognize we are all called by God to be holy.		

Curriculum Checklist			
			Name _____
Goal 1: Students form a knowledge and appreciation of the sense of the Church and the fundamentals of Catholic teaching.			
	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
Essential Learning C: Understand the significance of the Virgin Mary in Catholic teaching as well as the lives of the saints.			
1. Pray the Rosary and other Marian devotions.			
2. Define the communion of saints.			
3. Report on a patron saint or another saint.			
4. Illustrate the lives of Mary and the saints as models of discipleship using drama, art, music, technology, etc.			

GOAL ONE

Essential Learning D: Comprehend how the Catholic Church was founded and how spreading the Good News is a primary task of the Church.

KNOWLEDGE: Students will...	COMPETENCY: Students will be able to...	LIFE APPLICATION: Students will...
1. Comprehend that Tradition comes from the apostles who handed on what they received from Jesus and what they learned from the Holy Spirit (CCC 83).	1. Appreciate and share Catholic Tradition, beliefs and heritage.	1. Spread the Gospel message by joyfully sharing our faith and our practices with others.
2. Comprehend the significance of Pentecost to the Church.	2. Connect values of early Christian community with contemporary issues.	
3. Understand the role of Tradition in the Church.	3. Compare/contrast general family traditions with Tradition of the Church.	
4. Know that our Tradition includes various forms of prayer and of devotion.	4. Illustrate the origin, Tradition and mission of the Church using drama, art, music, technology, etc.	
5. Be familiar with current structure of the Church and with the roles within the community.		

Curriculum Checklist			
			Name _____
Goal 1: Students form a knowledge and appreciation of the sense of the Church and the fundamentals of Catholic teaching.			
	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
Essential Learning D: Comprehend how the Catholic Church was founded and how spreading the Good News is a primary task of the Church.			
1. Appreciate and share Catholic Tradition, beliefs and heritage.			
2. Connect values of early Christian community with contemporary issues.			
3. Compare/contrast general family traditions with Tradition of the Church.			
4. Illustrate the origin, Tradition and mission of the Church using drama, art, music, technology, etc.			

GOAL TWO

Goal 2: Students form the beginnings of a spiritual life experienced through the liturgy and sacraments within the Catholic community.

Essential Learning A: Participate in the liturgical life of the Catholic Church including practices, rituals and prayers as a way of becoming closer to Jesus.

KNOWLEDGE: Students will...	COMPETENCY: Students will be able to...	LIFE APPLICATION: Students will...
1. Know liturgical calendar and its: a) Connection to life of Christ b) Connection to Lectionary c) Order of the Seasons.	1. Utilize prayer, reflection, ritual, and community worship to celebrate an awareness of God's presence in their life.	1. Attend and actively participate with family in weekend liturgy throughout the year.
2. Know that Sunday is the principal day for celebration of Eucharist.	2. Take part in various liturgical roles, including the Assembly.	2. Display proper etiquette and reverence while actively participating in liturgical celebration.
3. Know the symbols, practices, and celebrations (including cultural celebrations) of the liturgical year.	3. Set-up a classroom prayer center to reflect liturgical season after designing its components.	
4. Know the different parts of the Mass: Liturgy of the Word and Liturgy of the Eucharist.	4. Reflect on their experiences of liturgical celebrations using the senses, e.g. what you hear, what you see, what you smell (Mystagogia).	
	5. Experience the Church's seasonal celebrations in their lives and their family traditions.	

Curriculum Checklist

Name _____

Goal 2: Students form the beginnings of a spiritual life experienced through the liturgy and sacraments within the Catholic community.

	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
Essential Learning A: Participate in the liturgical life year of the Catholic Church including practices, rituals and prayers as a way of becoming closer to Jesus.			
1. Utilize prayer, reflection, ritual, and community worship to celebrate an awareness of God's presence in their life.			
2. Take part in various liturgical roles, including the Assembly.			
3. Set-up a classroom prayer center to reflect liturgical season after designing its components.			
4. Reflect on their experiences of liturgical celebrations using the senses, e.g. what you hear, what you see, what you smell (Mystagogia).			
5. Experience the Church's seasonal celebrations in their lives and their family traditions.			

GOAL TWO

Essential Learning B: Understand that sacraments are celebrated as visible signs of God's love.

KNOWLEDGE: Students will...		
KNOWLEDGE: Students will...	COMPETENCY: Students will be able to...	LIFE APPLICATION: Students will...
1. Know the seven sacraments as sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist), service (Matrimony, Holy Orders) and healing (Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick).	1. Relate their experiences of sacrament celebrations after reflection.	1. Attend and participate in the celebration of the sacraments.
2. Know symbols and signs for each sacrament.	2. Express why the celebration of the sacraments is a sign of God's loving presence and saving power.	2. Relate stories about family members' experiences of the sacraments.
3. Know how God's love and saving power is celebrated and is received in each of the seven sacraments.	3. Portray an understanding of how God's love is shown through the seven sacraments using drama, art, music, technology, etc.	
4. Understand that the sacraments are a community celebration.		
5. Know the proper disposition for receiving the sacraments.		

Curriculum Checklist			
			Name _____
Goal 2: Students form the beginnings of a spiritual life experienced through the liturgy and sacraments within the Catholic community.			
	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
Essential Learning B: Understand that sacraments are celebrated as visible signs of God's love.			
1. Relate their experiences of sacrament celebrations after reflection.			
2. Express why the celebration of the sacraments is a sign of God's loving presence and saving power.			
3. Portray an understanding of how God's love is shown through the seven sacraments using drama, art, music, technology, etc.			

GOAL TWO

Essential Learning C: Recognize the meaning of the Eucharist and realize that participating in the Eucharist is important as the core belief that unites all Catholics.

KNOWLEDGE: Students will...	COMPETENCY: Students will be able to...	LIFE APPLICATION: Students will...
1. Understand the Eucharist (Mass) as the most important celebration of our Catholic Faith Community.	1. Express how their active participation in the liturgy helps build the Body of Christ.	1. Attend and actively participate in the Eucharist (Sunday Mass) with family and with community.
2. Know that Eucharist is the memorial and making present of Christ's Passover.	2. After reflection, express their appreciation of the Eucharist.	2. Demonstrate appreciation for Jesus' gift to us by being kind and generous to others.
3. Know that through the power of the Holy Spirit, the bread and wine are transformed into the Body and Blood of Jesus, and that Jesus is truly present.	3. Portray an understanding of the Eucharist using drama, art, music, technology, etc.	
4. Know that the effect of the Eucharist is to build up the Body of Christ, the Church.		
5. Know the proper etiquette and appropriate disposition for receiving Eucharist.		

Curriculum Checklist			
			Name _____
Goal 2: Students form the beginnings of a spiritual life experienced through the liturgy and sacraments within the Catholic community.			
	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
Essential Learning C: Recognize the meaning of the Eucharist and realize that participating in the Eucharist is important and a core belief that unites all Catholics.			
1. Express how their active participation in the liturgy helps build the Body of Christ.			
2. After reflection, express their appreciation of the Eucharist.			
3. Portray an understanding of the Eucharist using drama, art, music, technology, etc.			

GOAL THREE

Goal 3: Students recognize that as Catholics, by virtue of Baptism, they are called to life in Christ.

Essential Learning A: Comprehend the meaning of the Beatitudes and of the Ten Commandments, which serve as a guide to conscience formation.

KNOWLEDGE: Students will...	COMPETENCY: Students will be able to...	LIFE APPLICATION: Students will...
1. Acknowledge that all people are God's Children.	1. Recite the Beatitudes.	1. Develop a right relationship with God, others and self.
2. Acknowledge that even though people are different, all are created in God's image.	2. Share the story of how we received the Beatitudes.	2. Integrate the virtues (faith, hope, charity, prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance) into their lives.
3. Acknowledge the meaning of Jesus' law of love: Love one another as I have loved you.	3. Recite the Ten Commandments.	
4. Acknowledge that they must respect themselves as the "dwelling place" and "image" of God so that they can respect others.	4. Communicate the story of how we received the Ten Commandments.	
5. Acknowledge the corporal and spiritual Works of Mercy.	5. Examine their conscience using the Beatitudes and the Ten Commandments.	
	6. Show examples of living the Beatitudes, the Ten Commandments, and the virtues using drama, art, music, technology, etc.	

Curriculum Checklist

Name _____

Goal 3: Students recognize that as Catholics, by virtue of Baptism they are called to life in Christ.

	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
Essential Learning A: Comprehend the meaning of the Beatitudes and of the Ten Commandments, which serve as a guide to conscience formation.			
1. Recite the Beatitudes.			
2. Share the story of how we received the Beatitudes.			
3. Recite the Ten Commandments.			
4. Communicate the story of how we received the Ten Commandments.			
5. Examine their conscience using the Beatitudes and the Ten Commandments.			
6. Show examples of living the Beatitudes, the Ten Commandments, and the virtues using drama, art, music, technology, etc.			

GOAL THREE

Essential Learning B: Be familiar with Catholic Social Justice Teaching and discern how to apply such teachings to life and serving others.

KNOWLEDGE: Students will...	COMPETENCY: Students will be able to...	LIFE APPLICATION: Students will...
1. Acknowledge that all people are God's Children.	1. Name people of service in the parish, in the community, and in the world.	1. Mirror the love of Christ by loving, by caring and by accepting others.
2. Acknowledge that even though people are different, all are created in God's image.	2. Share different ways to consciously help others.	2. Start to perform acts of service for family, for Church and for community.
3. Acknowledge the meaning of Jesus' law of love: Love one another as I have loved you.	3. Talk about ways to help others through corporal and through spiritual Works of Mercy.	
4. Acknowledge that they must respect themselves as the "dwelling place" and "image" of God so that they can respect others.	4. Develop a service project with class.	
5. Acknowledge the corporal and spiritual Works of Mercy.	5. Demonstrate an understanding of helpfulness and a respect for diversity using drama, art, music, technology, etc.	

Curriculum Checklist			
Name _____			
Goal 3: Students recognize that as Catholics, by virtue of Baptism they are called to life in Christ.			
	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
Essential Learning B: Be familiar with Catholic Social Justice Teachings and discern how to apply such teachings to life and serving others.			
1. Name people of service in the parish, in the community, and in the world.			
2. Share different ways to consciously help others.			
3. Talk about ways to help others through corporal and through spiritual Works of Mercy.			
4. Develop a service project with class.			
5. Demonstrate an understanding of helpfulness and a respect for diversity using drama, art, music, technology, etc.			

GOAL THREE

Essential Learning C: Understand how the grace of God is present in everyday life.

KNOWLEDGE: Students will...	COMPETENCY: Students will be able to...	LIFE APPLICATION: Students will...
1. Understand that grace is a gift freely given by God to help us respond to the call to become God's Children.	1. Explain the meaning of grace.	1. Recognize God's grace in their lives and respond to it.
2. Acknowledge God's presence and grace in their daily lives.	2. Provide examples of how they are open to God's gift of grace.	
3. Recognize that God is reaching out to every person through the Holy Spirit.	3. Acknowledge and share their personal experiences of God's grace.	
4. Recognize that God has the power to influence our lives with our cooperation.	4. Show God's blessings using drama, art, music, technology, etc.	
5. Comprehend that God's presence helps us through difficult times.		

Curriculum Checklist

Name _____

Goal 3: Students recognize that as Catholics, by virtue of Baptism they are called to life in Christ.

	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
Essential Learning C: Understand how the grace of God is present in everyday life.			
1. Explain the meaning of grace.			
2. Provide examples of how they are open to God's gift of grace.			
3. Acknowledge and share their personal experiences of God's grace.			
4. Show God's blessings using drama, art, music, technology, etc.			

GOAL THREE

Essential Learning D: Acknowledge that we should be good stewards of the world around us and we are called to spread the Good News of Christ through evangelization.

KNOWLEDGE: Students will...	COMPETENCY: Students will be able to...	LIFE APPLICATION: Students will...
1. Understand that we are members of the universal Catholic Church.	1. Communicate faith with others through word and through deed.	1. Communicate their faith with others.
2. Understand the responsibilities of being a member of the Catholic Church.	2. Explain about the responsibilities of being Catholic.	2. Demonstrate a Christian model of living.
3. Understand what stewardship of God's world means, e.g. respect for life, needs vs. wants, recycling.	3. Provide examples of how they can take care of God's world, e.g. people, animals, nature.	
4. Understand that our faith calls us to share the Good News of Christ.	4. Show reverence for property and environment at school, at home, in the parish and in the community.	
	5. Take part in experiences of environmental stewardship.	
	6. Demonstrate stewardship and evangelization through drama, art, music, technology, etc.	

Curriculum Checklist

Name _____

Goal 3: Students recognize that as Catholics, by virtue of Baptism they are called to life in Christ.

	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
Essential Learning D: Acknowledge that we should be good stewards of the world around us and we are called to spread the Good News of Christ through evangelization.			
1. Communicate faith with others through word and through deed.			
2. Explain about the responsibilities of being Catholic.			
3. Provide examples of how they can take care of God's world, e.g. people, animals, nature.			
4. Show reverence for property and environment at school, at home, in the parish and in the community.			
5. Take part in experiences of environmental stewardship.			
6. Demonstrate stewardship and evangelization through drama, art, music, technology, etc.			

GOAL FOUR

Goal 4: Students participate in all forms of prayer, both personal and communal, and understand how the study of Scripture can impact one's journey of faith.

Essential Learning A: Know how important it is to enter into a personal relationship with Christ.

KNOWLEDGE: Students will...	COMPETENCY: Students will be able to...	LIFE APPLICATION: Students will...
1. Know God calls each person to encounter Him in prayer.	1. Pray using various forms such as spontaneous, formal, meditation, etc.	1. Make prayer a part of their daily life.
2. Know that prayer is a personal dialogue and relationship with God.	2. Discuss ways to build a closer relationship with God.	2. Pray with family. ("Christian family is first place for education and prayer". CCC #2694)
3. Understand that prayer is the raising of their minds and hearts to God.	3. Name sins and tell how they might hurt a relationship with God, e.g. hurtful conversations, lying, cheating, disobeying.	
4. Know basic forms of prayer are blessing, intercession, thanksgiving and praise.	4. Write a prayer letter to God.	
5. Know that there are many ways to pray.	5. Discuss prayers of blessing, thanksgiving, praise, and intercession.	
	6. Illustrate expressions of prayer through drama, art, music, technology, etc.	

Curriculum Checklist

Name _____

Goal 4: Students participate in all forms of prayer, both personal and communal, and understand how the study of Scripture can impact one's journey of faith.

	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
Essential Learning A: Know how important it is to enter into a personal relationship with Christ.			
1. Pray using various forms such as spontaneous, formal, meditation, etc.			
2. Discuss ways to build a closer relationship with God.			
3. Name sins and tell how they might hurt a relationship with God, e.g. hurtful conversations, lying, cheating, disobeying.			
4. Write a prayer letter to God.			
5. Discuss prayers of blessing, thanksgiving, praise, and intercession.			
6. Illustrate expressions of prayer through drama, art, music, technology, etc.			

GOAL FOUR

Essential Learning B: Understand the significance of prayer and value the traditions of prayer and the many ways of praying.

KNOWLEDGE: Students will...	COMPETENCY: Students will be able to...	LIFE APPLICATION: Students will...
1. Know that the three expressions of prayer are vocal prayer, meditation and contemplative prayer.	1. Experience the different forms of prayer through a variety of prayer celebrations.	1. Pray personally, devotionally, and liturgically.
2. Know the importance of liturgical prayer such as Mass and Liturgy of the Hours (morning/evening prayers).	2. Participate in Mass, in prayers and in responses.	
3. Know and experience devotional prayer such as seasonal customs (Advent Wreath, Way of the Cross, litanies, Rosary/Marian).	3. Know and recite the following prayers: Act of Contrition, Apostles Creed, Rosary, Jesus Prayer, Act of Faith, Act of Hope, Act of Love.	
4. Know that The Lord's Prayer is the model prayer given to us by Jesus.	4. Discuss the formal prayers and know what the words mean.	
5. Understand that Faith Formation is not just another class or academic subject, but is a lifelong journey.	5. Utilize prayer partners within school, parish, or community.	
	6. Illustrate the experience of prayer through drama, art, music, technology, etc.	

GOAL FOUR

Curriculum Checklist

Name _____

Goal 4: Students participate in all forms of prayer, both personal and communal, and understand how the study of Scripture can impact one's journey of faith.

	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
Essential Learning B: Understand the significance of prayer and value the traditions of prayer and the many ways of praying.			
1. Experience the different forms of prayer through a variety of prayer celebrations.			
2. Participate in Mass, in prayers and in responses.			
3. Know and recite the following prayers:			
Act of Contrition			
Apostles Creed			
Rosary			
Jesus Prayer			
Act of Faith			
Act of Hope			
Act of Love			
4. Discuss the formal prayers and know what the words mean.			
5. Utilize prayer partners within school, parish, or community.			
6. Illustrate the experience of prayer through drama, art, music, technology, etc.			

GOAL FOUR

Essential Learning C: Comprehend how to read Sacred Scripture and be able to integrate Scripture into one's prayer life.

KNOWLEDGE: Students will...		
KNOWLEDGE: Students will...	COMPETENCY: Students will be able to...	LIFE APPLICATION: Students will...
1. Know that the Old Testament takes place before the birth of Christ; the New Testament is the fulfillment of salvation history through Jesus.	1. Study Scripture and apply to their own experiences/lives.	1. Read the Bible and use it in prayer.
2. Know stories, parables and teachings of Jesus from the Bible.	2. Pray together using Scripture and/or readings from Lectionary.	
3. Understand how bible stories connect to their lives today.	3. Discuss how Jesus prayed.	
4. Understand that the 1st Reading at Mass is the Old Testament and that the 2nd Reading and the Gospel is New Testament.	4. Select a Scripture verse/story and discuss how it applies to their lives and to world events.	
	5. Locate passages in the Bible, i.e. book, chapter and verse.	
	6. Illustrate how Scripture is a part of personal prayer through drama, art, music, technology, etc.	

Curriculum Checklist			
			Name _____
Goal 4: Students participate in all forms of prayer, both personal and communal, and understand how the study of Scripture can impact one's journey of faith.			
	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
Essential Learning C: Comprehend how to read sacred Scripture and be able to integrate Scripture into one's prayer life.			
1. Study Scripture and apply to their own experiences/lives.			
2. Pray together using Scripture and/or readings from Lectionary.			
3. Discuss how Jesus prayed.			
4. Select a Scripture verse/story and discuss how it applies to their lives and to world events.			
5. Locate passages in the Bible, i.e. book, chapter and verse.			
6. Illustrate how Scripture is a part of personal prayer through drama, art, music, technology, etc.			

GOAL FOUR

Essential Learning D: Understand how significant Scripture study can be in lifelong faith formation.

KNOWLEDGE: Students will...		
KNOWLEDGE: Students will...	COMPETENCY: Students will be able to...	LIFE APPLICATION: Students will...
1. Know that studying and sharing Scripture with others helps us to learn how God is acting in our lives.	1. Discuss the Sunday readings and the Homily.	1. Read or tell Bible stories together as a family.
2. Know that the Homily explains the readings of the day.	2. Discuss Scripture and apply it to their lives.	2. Attend Mass and discuss Sunday readings.
	3. Identify and discuss Christian values in a Scripture story.	3. Share their response to Bible stories or Sunday readings as an integral part of their lifelong faith formation.
	4. Share Scripture stories as a group through drama, art, music, technology, etc.	

Curriculum Checklist			
			Name _____
Goal 4: Students participate in all forms of prayer, both personal and communal, and understand how the study of Scripture can impact one's journey of faith.			
	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
Essential Learning D: Understand how significant Scripture study can be in lifelong faith formation.			
1. Discuss the Sunday readings and the Homily.			
2. Discuss Scripture and apply it to their lives.			
3. Identify and discuss Christian values in a Scripture story.			
4. Share Scripture stories as a group through drama, art, music, technology, etc.			