

Faith Lesson Plan and Faith Activity

Chapter 4 - Journeys of Faith

Grades 5 & 6

Doctrinal Content

- The faith stories of Abraham, Sarah, and their descendants teach us about trust in God. (CCC, 145-146)
- We need daily prayer in order to deepen faith. (CCC, 2697-2698)
- God guides our journey of faith through prayer, Scripture, the Sacraments, and the Church. (CCC, 162)

Invite - Let Us Pray

Invite the young people to gather in the prayer space and make the sign of the Cross. Read aloud the leader's prayer. Proclaim the verse from Proverbs 3:5-6 together. Have the young people move out of the prayer space and back to their seats.



Leader: Lord of all faithfulness, keep us faithful to you.

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
on your own intelligence do not rely;
In all your ways be mindful of him,
and he will make straight your paths.”

Proverbs 3:5-6

All: Guide us, O God, on our pilgrimage of faith. Walk with us on our way. This we pray in Jesus' name. In him, may our journey continue. Amen.

Say: Our ancestors in faith asked, “Who will be our devoted leader? Who will walk with us on the way of faith?” God answered.

Guide the young people through the process of Scripture reflection below.

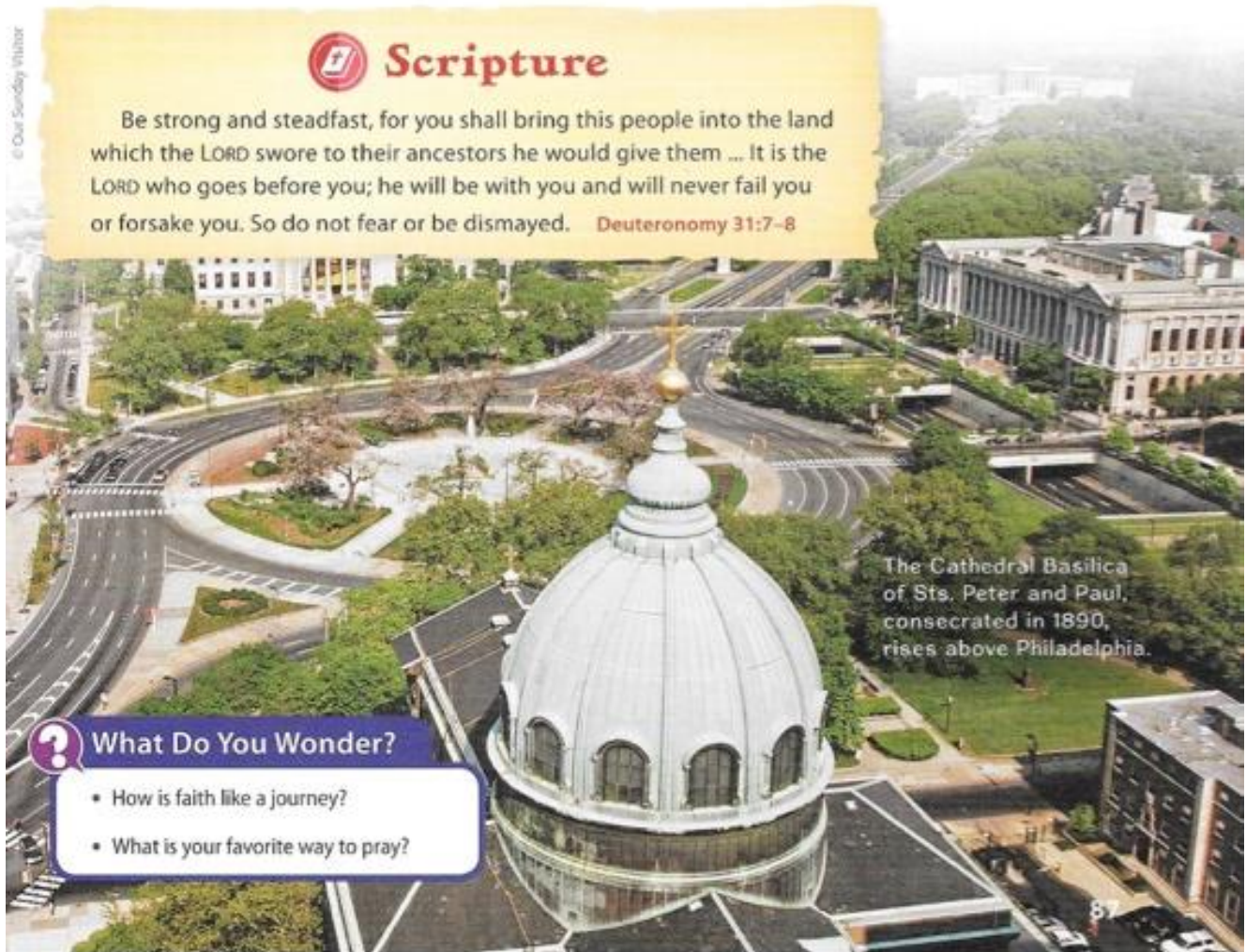
Invite them to close their eyes, be still, and open their minds and hearts to what God is saying to them in this passage.

Proclaim the Scripture.

Maintain several moments of silence.

Display and Read the following.

Read: Deuteronomy 31:7-8



Scripture

Be strong and steadfast, for you shall bring this people into the land which the LORD swore to their ancestors he would give them ... It is the LORD who goes before you; he will be with you and will never fail you or forsake you. So do not fear or be dismayed. **Deuteronomy 31:7-8**

The Cathedral Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul, consecrated in 1890, rises above Philadelphia.

What Do You Wonder?

- How is faith like a journey?
- What is your favorite way to pray?

Ask: What did you hear God say to you in the Sacred Scripture reading? (Engage the young people to respond.)

Say: Let's answer the questions above in the section entitled "What Do You Wonder?" (Engage the children to respond.)

Say: We all need someone we trust to be a leader for us. We all look for someone to walk with us on our way. God promises to both our leader and companion.

Ask: What else they might wonder about the journey of faith. (Engage the children to respond.)

Discover (1)

Objectives:

- Compare Abraham's trust in God with our own trust.
- Recall the faith stories of Abraham, Sarah, and their descendants.

Say: Today's Scripture story is "Abram's Call." So, who is Abraham? (Discuss with the young people to see if any of the children already know the biblical account of God changing Abram's name. Summarize the first paragraph.)

Ask a volunteer to proclaim the Scripture account. Point out that Abram and Sarai were not told in advance where they were to go. God told them to begin the journey, and they had faith that he had a plan for them.

Display and Read the following.

Abram and Sarai's Journey

Who is Abraham?

The risks involved in a journey are not so scary if you know that God is with you. Abram and Sarai learned that God was with them always. They remained faithful to God, and he blessed them in many ways.

Scripture

Abram's Call

Abram and Sarai were getting old and had no children. One day God said to Abram, "Go forth from your land, your relatives, and from your father's house to a land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you."

As God directed, Abram and Sarai took all of their possessions and set out for the land of Canaan. After traveling through the land to a sacred place, Abram had a vision of God, who said, "To your descendants I will give this land." So Abram built an altar there to honor God and continued on the journey with Sarai.

Based on Genesis 12:1-9

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➔ Why would God's words have surprised Abram and Sarai?

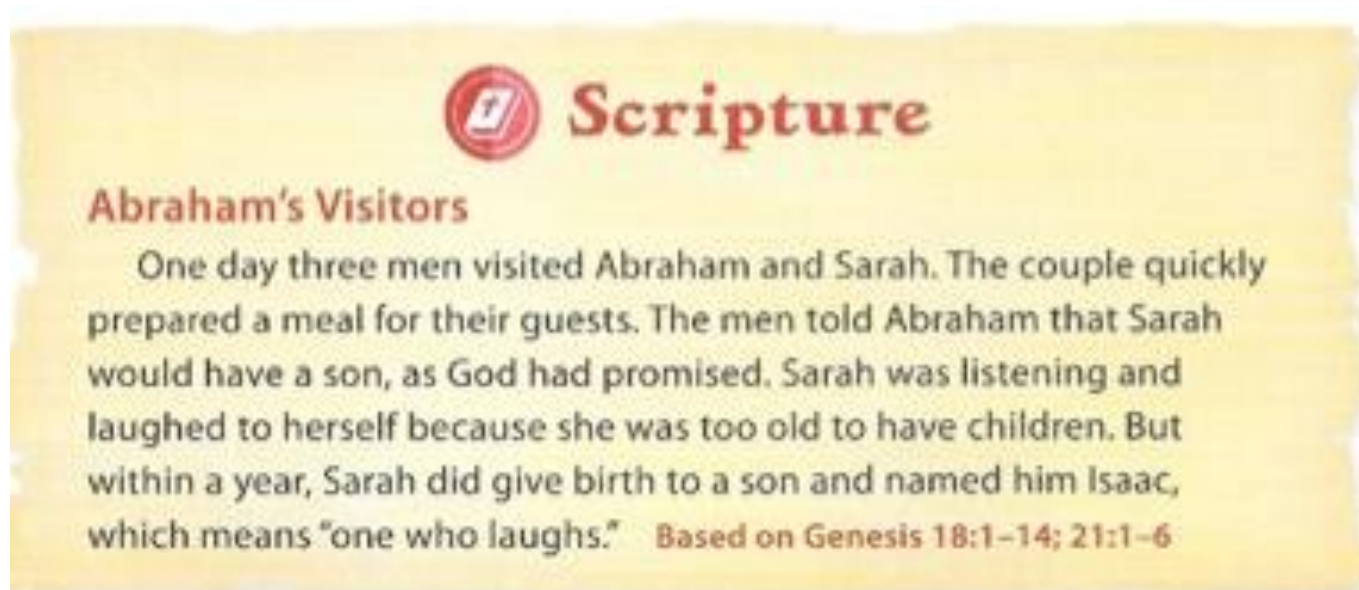


Discuss the question at the bottom of the previous Scripture.

Say: God appeared again to Abram and told him that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the sky and that they would have a land of their own. Although he still had no children Abram put his faith in God. God changed Abram's name to Abraham and Sarai's name to Sarah as a sign of the covenant he made with them.

Ask: How did God keep his promise to Abraham and Sarah? Let's read the following Scripture.

Display and Read the following.



Say: Think about important virtues that people of faith share. Let's unscramble the letters below to discover three of them. (Engage the young people to assist in unscrambling the words.)

1. F I T A H _____

2. O P E H _____

3. V E L O _____

Ask: How did Abraham and Sarah show these virtues? (Choose at least one way for each virtue.)

Hint: Possible responses: Faith - believing in God's call; Hope - trusting God's promise; Love - devoting their future to God.

Quick Review - Summary

Say: God called Abram and promised great blessings in return for his obedience. We should model the faith and trust that Abraham showed.

Discover (2)

Objectives

- Identify God's guidance in our journey of faith through prayer, Scripture, the Sacraments, and the Church.
- Appreciate the need for daily prayer in order to deepen faith.

Ask: What does it mean to have faith? (Engage the young people to respond. Remind the young people that the Bible contains many more stories of faith journeys.)

Say: The journey that began with Abraham continued with his son Isaac and Isaac's son Jacob. These three men are the patriarchs, the male ancestors of Israel who appear in the Book of Genesis both before and after the flood. It is from Jacob that the nation of Israel would take its name. In Genesis, Jacob was renamed Israel after wrestling with an angel. The name means "one who struggles with God."

Direct the young people to silently read "The Story of Joseph." Tell them to note the different stages in Joseph's journey so that they can retell the story in the correct order.

Display and Read the following.

Scripture

The Story of Joseph

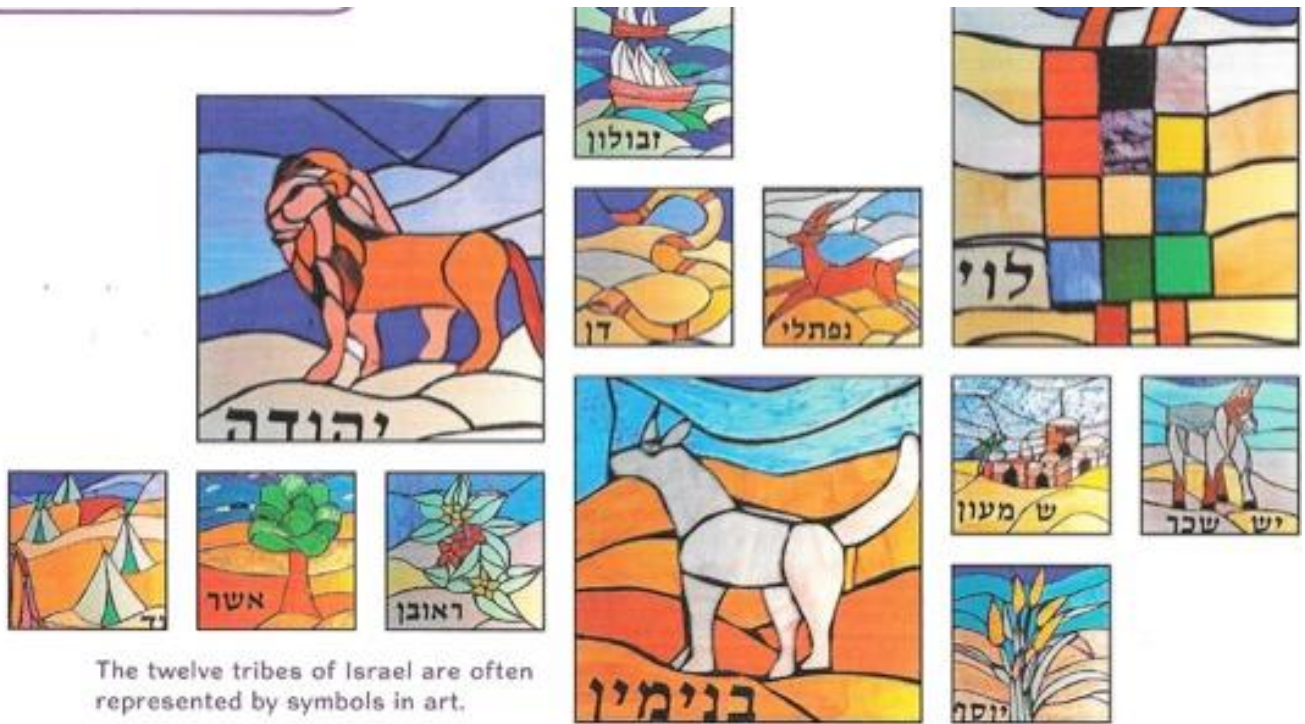
Jacob became the father of twelve sons, but Joseph was his favorite. Joseph's brothers were jealous of him and plotted to get rid of him. They sold him to a caravan of travelers, and Joseph became a slave. Because he could interpret dreams, Joseph saved Egypt from starvation during a great famine. Joseph's brothers arrived in Egypt to buy food and were reunited with Joseph, who forgave them and invited them to settle there.

Based on Genesis 37-45

Display and discuss the following.



Point out the artwork below representing the twelve tribes of Israel. Identify which son/tribe is depicted in each mosaic.



Ask: What helps you on your journey of faith? (Engage the young people to respond.)

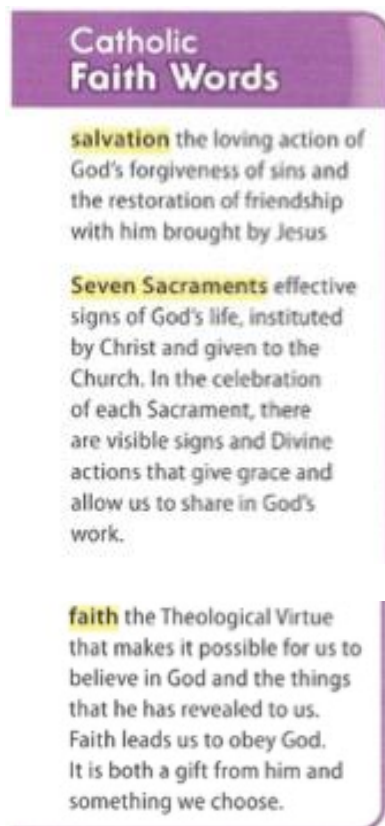
Say: As seen through the faith stories of Abraham, Sarah, and their descendants, God keeps his promise of salvation, of forgiveness of sins and restoration of friendship with him.

Say: You encounter God today through the Bible, the Seven Sacraments, and the Church. God's Son, Jesus, is the way of salvation for you. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to help you on your faith journey. Wherever you go, God the Father is with you.

Say: God invites you to respond to him in the same way that Abraham and Sarah did—with faith. Through faith, you offer your heart and mind to God. You have faith that God will guide you and keep his promises to you.

Work with Words

Review the following Faith Words

A graphic titled "Catholic Faith Words" with three entries. Each entry has a bolded term followed by a definition. The text is enclosed in a purple-bordered box with rounded corners.

Catholic Faith Words

salvation the loving action of God's forgiveness of sins and the restoration of friendship with him brought by Jesus

Seven Sacraments effective signs of God's life, instituted by Christ and given to the Church. In the celebration of each Sacrament, there are visible signs and Divine actions that give grace and allow us to share in God's work.

faith the Theological Virtue that makes it possible for us to believe in God and the things that he has revealed to us. Faith leads us to obey God. It is both a gift from him and something we choose.

Live: Our Catholic Faith

Say: We communicate with God through prayer, and through prayer, we strengthen our faith.

Ask: Do you know the five forms of prayer? (Engage the young people to respond.)

Display, Read, and Discuss the following.

Our Catholic Life

What are some ways to develop your prayer life?

An important way to develop your prayer life is to pray the types of prayers found in the Bible. Because the Bible is God's Word to humans, it contains teaching on prayer that will help you grow as a Catholic. The following examples of prayer will help strengthen your prayer life.



In the space provided, tell when each prayer form is used during the Mass.

Forms of Prayer

Praise Through this form of prayer, you acknowledge that God is God, giving glory not for what he does, but simply because he is.

- When you praise God, in prayer and in song, you give glory to God as his children.
- You give God praise for his friendship, his kindness, and his goodness.

• _____

Intercession You use this form of prayer to pray for the Church or the whole world.

- You ask God to help someone else.
- You intercede on behalf of others as Jesus intercedes for you with his Father.

• _____

Petition In times of need, you turn to God, ask for his help, and acknowledge that you need him.

- You might pray for God's mercy, forgiveness, and guidance when you are sad, sick, troubled, confused, or in a state of sin.
- You also ask God to help others.

• _____

Blessing and Adoration You bless God, who blesses you. You also bless others who are made in God's image.

- A blessing is a prayer of response to all of God's gifts to us.
- Adoration is giving respectful homage to God by honoring the greatness of the Lord.

• _____

Thanksgiving You express your gratitude to God for the good things in your life.

- When you experience some special cause for rejoicing, such as good grades or restored health or a wonderful day, you thank God for it.

• _____



Ask: When and where are you most comfortable praying? (Engage the young people to respond.)

Ask: What helps you listen for God's voice? (Engage the young people to respond.)

Activity

Say: **Think** about which type of prayer you don't pray often, and consider why you don't usually talk to God in this way. Then, **write** a short prayer using this form and pray it during the next week. (Have the young people write the short prayer on a sheet of paper.)

Quick Review - Summary

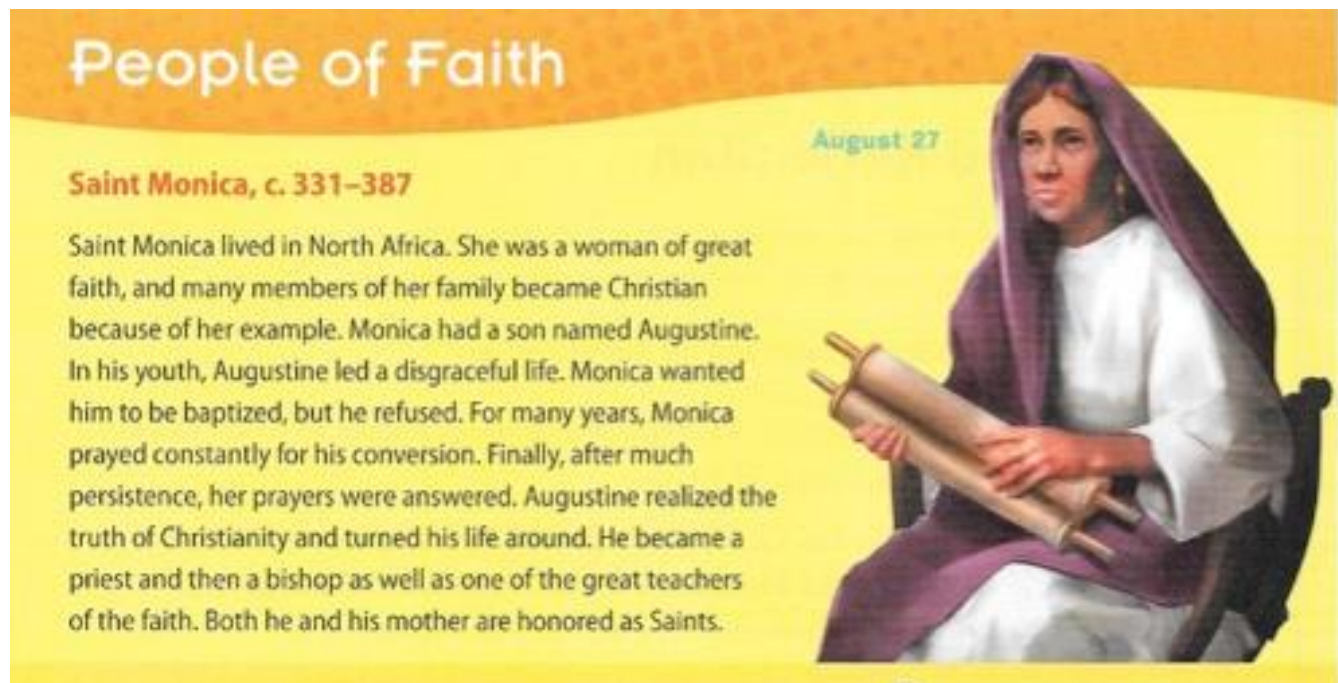
Say: The journey of faith involves communication with God through prayer, Scripture, the Sacraments, and the Church.

People of Faith - Saint Monica, 331-387; Feast Day - August 27

Say: St. Monica truly believed in the power of prayer. She prayed not only for her three sons, but also for her husband who was baptized the year before his death.

Have a volunteer read aloud the paragraph.

Display the following:



The slide has a yellow background with a white wavy border at the top. The title 'People of Faith' is in white. The date 'August 27' is in green. The text is in black, and the portrait of Saint Monica is on the right.

People of Faith

August 27

Saint Monica, c. 331–387

Saint Monica lived in North Africa. She was a woman of great faith, and many members of her family became Christian because of her example. Monica had a son named Augustine. In his youth, Augustine led a disgraceful life. Monica wanted him to be baptized, but he refused. For many years, Monica prayed constantly for his conversion. Finally, after much persistence, her prayers were answered. Augustine realized the truth of Christianity and turned his life around. He became a priest and then a bishop as well as one of the great teachers of the faith. Both he and his mother are honored as Saints.

Discuss: Talk about a time when God answered your prayer.

Display and Read the following.

Emphasis Lectio Divina (Divine Reading) Point out that during their faith lesson today, they began with prayerful reflection on Scripture.

Fun Fact of the Day

Jesus called God the Father, “Abba,” which means “Father.” He taught us to also call God our father.

When you pray, what do you call God?

What the Young People Should Know

- The faith stories of Abraham, Sarah, and their descendants teach us about trust in God. (CCC, 145-146)
- We need daily prayer in order to deepen faith. (CCC, 2697-2698)
- God guides our journey of faith through prayer, Scripture, the Sacraments, and the Church. (CCC, 162)

Faith Activity

Print the next page and distribute to the young people.

Chapter 4 Activity Master

Name _____ Date _____

Word Search

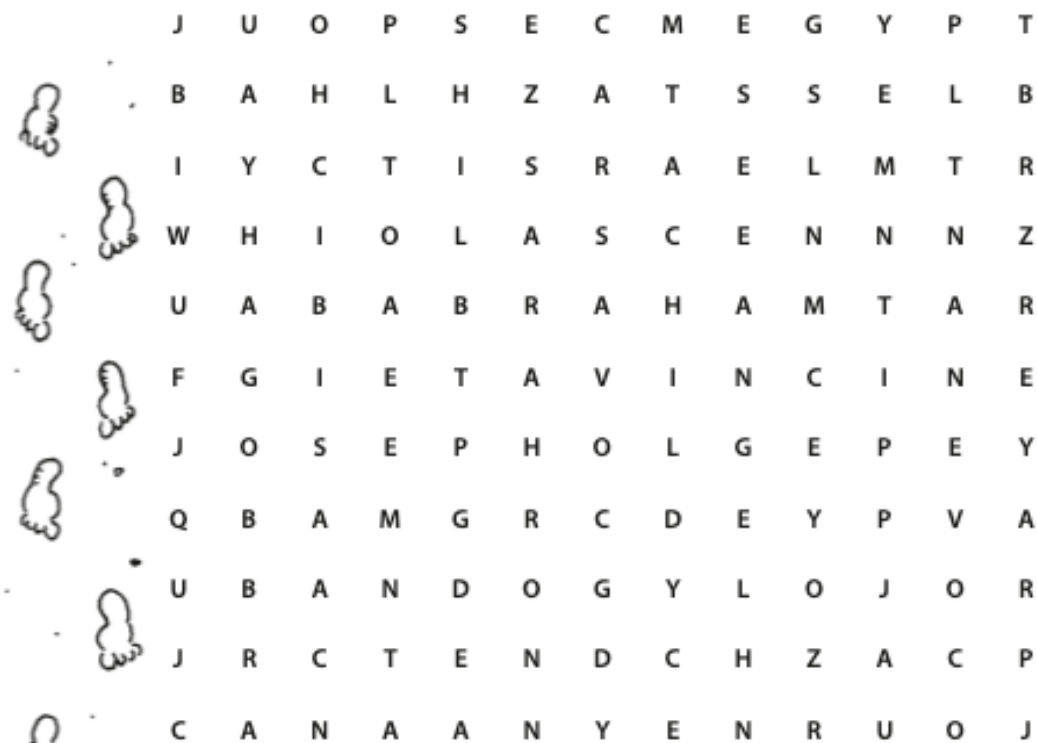
Find each of the following words in the puzzle below. Words may be placed horizontally, vertically, or diagonally.

Abraham
Sarah
Isaac
Jacob
Joseph

tent
child
Israel
angel
Egypt

faith
hope
prayer
journey
Canaan

covenant
Ur
God
bless



J U O P S E C M E G Y P T
B A H L H Z A T S S E L B
I Y C T I S R A E L M T R
W H I O L A S C E N N N Z
U A B A B R A H A M T A R
F G I E T A V I N C I N E
J O S E P H O L G E P E Y
Q B A M G R C D E Y P V A
U B A N D O G Y L O J O R
J R C T E N D C H Z A C P
C A N A A N Y E N R U O J

Now choose one of the words above and explain its meaning in this chapter:

What Did the Young People Learn?

Unit 2-Chapter 4-Grades 5&6

Student Name: _____

Date: _____

1. After Saint Monica had prayed for many years for her son, Saint Augustine, he turned back to God and became _____.
 - a. a priest and bishop
 - b. one of the greatest teachers of Christianity
 - c. both a and b

2. In prayers of _____, we turn to God, ask for his help, and acknowledge that we need him.
 - a. blessing and adoration
 - b. petition
 - c. praise

3. God still communicates with people today and invites them to respond to him through _____.
 - a. prayer
 - b. reading the daily newspaper
 - c. being polite to people in our parish

4. "It is the Lord who goes before you; he will be with you and will never fail you," _____ says, reminding us to have faith in God.
 - a. Deuteronomy
 - b. the Gospel of John
 - c. the Book of Psalms

5. For our journey of faith, we have _____, effective signs of God's life, instituted by Christ and given to the Church.
 - a. the four Gospels
 - b. the Pope and bishops
 - c. Seven Sacraments

6. God changed the names of Abram and Sarai to Abraham and Sarah as a sign _____.
 - a. of their new homeland
 - b. that they be parents in their old age
 - c. of his covenant with them

7. The Theological Virtue that makes it possible for us to believe in God and his revelations is called _____.
 - a. fortitude
 - b. faith
 - c. hope

8. _____ is the loving action of God's forgiveness of sins and the restoration of friendship with him brought about by Jesus.
 - a. Faith

Answer Key

1. After Saint Monica had prayed for many years for her son, Saint Augustine, he turned back to God and became _____.
 - a. a priest and bishop
 - b. one of the greatest teachers of Christianity
 - c. both a and b *
2. In prayers of _____, we turn to God, ask for his help, and acknowledge that we need him.
 - a. blessing and adoration
 - b. petition *
 - c. praise
3. God still communicates with people today and invites them to respond to him through _____.
 - a. prayer *
 - b. reading the daily newspaper
 - c. being polite to people in our parish
4. "It is the Lord who goes before you; he will be with you and will never fail you," _____ says, reminding us to have faith in God.
 - a. Deuteronomy *
 - b. the Gospel of John
 - c. the Book of Psalms
5. For our journey of faith, we have _____, effective signs of God's life, instituted by Christ and given to the Church.
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6. God changed the names of Abram and Sarai to Abraham and Sarah as a sign _____.
 - a. of their new homeland
 - b. that they be parents in their old age
 - c. of his covenant with them *
7. The Theological Virtue that makes it possible for us to believe in God and his revelations is called _____.
 - a. fortitude
 - b. faith *
 - c. hope
8. _____ is the loving action of God's forgiveness of sins and the restoration of friendship with him brought about by Jesus.
 - a. Faith
 - b. Intercession
 - c. Salvation *

9. Saint Monica, the mother of Saint Augustine, offered prayers of _____ for many years for her rebellious son.

- a. praise
- b. intercession *
- c. thanksgiving

10. _____, one type of prayer described in the Bible, means giving respectful homage to God by honoring his greatness as the Lord.

- a. Adoration *
- b. Petition
- c. Intercession

11. Match each option with its appropriate term.

1 = North African mother who prayed for her son's return to God

2 = prayer to God asking him to help someone else

3 = Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—ancestors of Israel whose names appear throughout Genesis

4 = God's loving forgiveness of sins and restoration of friendship with us through Jesus

5 = means "one who laughs" since his mother laughed about becoming a mother

12. How does faith help us on our life journey?

Answers should state that faith, a Theological Virtue, helps us to believe in God. It also helps us to believe in the things he has revealed to us. Faith also leads us to obey God. Faith helps us on our life journey because it helps us trust that God will guide us. Sometimes it is hard to see where we are going. The destination is too far away. Sometimes, it is cloudy or stormy on our journeys. When we have faith, it is as though we can reach out our hands to God. God takes our hands and helps us to make our way. That's what Abraham and Sarah did. They let God walk with them.