

# Thematic Units - Fourth Grade

## **Big Picture: How do we get to heaven to be with the Lord?**

Fourth grade focuses on morality, with units on the Ten Commandments, Beatitudes, virtues and corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

The general theme of the year is "How can I get to heaven?" with the answer "By knowing, loving and serving God in this life and being happy with him in the next."

Notes:

- **SWBAT = "Student will be able to..."**
- The standards are numbered according to where they are placed in the curriculum. This is an organizational guide and you can ignore it.
- **Red is review of material which was previously taught.**
- **Green indicates preview of items which will be taught and reinforced in subsequent years**
- **Blue indicates suggestions of topics / strategies / supplemental material which have been tested and used successfully.**
  
- Texts and other materials used in this year are:  
Grade 4 of We Believe - Sadlier  
The students have their own copies of the Breakthrough Bible  
Other materials to look for are 57 Saints and the Beatitudes / Me Attitude posters..

## **Prayer and Spirituality through the year - How do I pray as I grow up?**

*Prayer is integrated throughout the year.*

### **Goals and themes:**

Learning more about how to pray on one's own.  
Reinforcing an effective way to examine one's conscience.  
Continuing to learn the discipline of meditation.

### **Standards:**

- IV.A.a.4th SWBAT describe how the church's liturgy and personal prayer work together. (§ 2655)  
**IV.A.b.4th SWBAT relate how and why prayer is an important part of the daily life of every Christian. (§ 2660)**
- IV.B.a.4th SWBAT demonstrate various forms of prayer: prayers of praise, acknowledging God's greatness; prayers of intercession, praying for the needs of others; prayers of petition - asking for God's help; prayers of contrition, expressing sorrow for sin.(§ 2639, 2649)
- IV.B.b.4th SWBAT describe how prayer expresses and deepens our relationship with God. (§ 2565)
- IV.B.1.a.4th SWBAT pray the Ignatian Examen.**  
IV.B.1.b.4th SWBAT compose prayers for classroom or other group use.

IV.B.2.a.4th SWBAT analyze how the Our Father is a model for how we are to pray.

## **Liturgy and Sacraments through the year - How do I pray as part of the church?**

*These are integrated and reinforced during the liturgical year.*

II.A.3.a.4th SWBAT recall and describe the main parts of the liturgical year:

- ▶ Advent
- ▶ Christmas
- ▶ Ordinary Time
- ▶ Lent
- ▶ Easter

II.A.3.b.4th SWBAT locate the following feasts and holy days in the liturgical year and describe what each feast celebrates:

- ▶ Immaculate Conception
- ▶ Epiphany
- ▶ Ascension
- ▶ Pentecost
- ▶ Assumption
- ▶ All Saints

II.B.a.4th SWBAT categorize the sacraments initiation, healing, vocation. (§1210-1211)

II.B.2.a.4th SWBAT identify how reconciliation occurs in private prayer, the Eucharist, personal encounters and the Sacrament of reconciliation. (§ 1434-1439, 2840-2841)

II.B.2.b.4th SWBAT describe the ways that the sacrament of reconciliation is celebrated by the church.

II.B.2.c.4th SWBAT recall when the sacrament of reconciliation (individual and communal) is available in the parish.

II.C.a.4th SWBAT describe what sacramentals are and that religious statues and objects remind us of God and the saints. (§ 2131, 2132)

II.C.b.4th SWBAT identify different symbols and communicate how symbols stand for and reveal meaning.

II.C.c.4th SWBAT discern literary symbols in the Bible, especially in the stories of Creation and the Fall.

## **Unit one - How do I live in relationship with God?**

### **Goals and themes:**

Explore the beginning stories of the Old Testament and begin to see one's place in creation.

Understand that God wants to establish a relationship with each person.

Begin to understand the idea of covenant.

Begin to recognize the great things that God has done for people - especially in the story of the Exodus.

Learn about Original Sin.

**Standards for this unit:**

- I.B.1.a.4th SWBAT locate a book, chapter and verse in the Bible.
- I.B.2.a.4th SWBAT distinguish between the two stories of Creation in Genesis 1 and 2.
- I.B.2.b.4th SWBAT tell each of the Creation stories in their own words.
- I.B.2.c.4th SWBAT discuss how these stories are true - they tell about God and the goodness of creation, but are not scientifically factual.
- I.B.2.d.4th SWBAT describe how the authors used symbols to communicate true ideas to us.
- I.B.2.e.4th SWBAT describe how the disobedience of the first humans broke relationship with God and will be able to identify this as Original Sin. (Genesis 3)
- I.B.2.f.4th SWBAT tell the following stories from the Old Testament in their own words:
- ▶ The call of Abram (Genesis 12:1-8)
  - ▶ The covenant with Abraham (Genesis 15)
  - ▶ The promise of a son to Abraham and Sarah (Genesis 18)
  - ▶ Joseph and his brothers (Genesis 37-45)
- I.B.2.g.4th SWBAT tell the Exodus story in their own words.
- I.A.2.d.4th SWBAT retell the story of Moses and the Burning Bush, including the revelation of God's Holy Name in Exodus 3.
- I.A.2.e.4th SWBAT identify the name of God (YHWH) and its English usage, LORD, in the Old Testament.
- I.B.2.i.4th SWBAT explain that on Mt. Sinai God gave his law to Moses and the people of Israel so that they might love and serve him as the one true God. (§ 62)
- I.B.2.j.4th SWBAT define the word *covenant*.
- I.B.2.k.4th SWBAT describe the covenants that God made with Noah, Abraham and Moses.(§ 56-64; Genesis 9, Genesis 15, Exodus 19)
- I.B.3.d.4th SWBAT examine the connections between the Exodus and the Passover and between the Passover and the Christian Eucharist.
- I.A.1.a.4th SWBAT examine how God communicates himself to us gradually. (§ 53)
- I.A1.b.4th SWBAT recall that God is truth and all knowing. (§ 215-217)
- I.A.2.a.4th SWBAT recall that God is revealed as Father, Son and Spirit.
- I.A.2.b.4th SWBAT distinguish that the Hebrew people only knew God as Father, as one, because Christ had not yet come.
- I.A.2.c.4th SWBAT articulate that although Jesus had not been born in the times recorded in the Old Testament, that God has always been the Trinity.
- I.A.3.a.4th SWBAT articulate that God calls each of us to happiness in this life and in eternity. (§ 1703)
- I.A.3.b.4th SWBAT characterize each person as created by God in his own image, with a soul, intellect, and free will. (§ 1701-1706)

- I.A.3.c.4th SWBAT explain that God made us to know, love, and serve him in this world, and to be happy with him in heaven. (§1721)
- I.A.3.d.4th SWBAT communicate how at the beginning of history, humanity, represented by Adam and Eve, was tempted by Satan and disobeyed God. (§ 390, 396)
- I.A.3.e.4th SWBAT conclude that God’s response to original sin was to promise salvation and offer a covenant relationship. (§ 70)

## Unit two - What are the Ten Commandments?

### **Goals and themes:**

- Seeing the Commandments as a response to a loving God - living as God wants us to do.
- Seeing the Commandments as a help and a guide to getting to heaven.
- Learning how the Commandments help us to know, love and serve God better.
- Memorizing the Ten Commandments.

### **Standards for this unit:**

- I.B.2.h.4th SWBAT memorize the Ten Commandments.
- III.B.b.4th SWBAT categorize how the Ten Commandments express our duties toward God and our neighbors. (§ 2072)
- III.B.c.4th SWBAT discuss each commandment in their own words and give example of the commandment being fulfilled, as well as broken. (§ 2056-2074)
  - ▶ Second commandment: We should not use the name of God, Jesus Christ, the Virgin Mary, and of the saints in an offensive way. (§ 2146)
  - ▶ Third commandment: Catholics must attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days, refrain from unnecessary work and perform works of mercy. (§ 2181, 2185)
  - ▶ Fourth commandment:
    - ◆ Children must respect and love their parents and those of authority over them. (§ 2217) ;
    - ◆ Parents and those in authority must respect and love their children. (§ 2222)
  - ▶ Fifth commandment:
    - ◆ Human life is sacred from its beginning. God alone is the Lord of life from its beginning until its end. (§ 2258)
    - ◆ Murder - the deliberate killing of a person - is a serious offence against the law of God. (§ 2261, 2268-2269, 2320)
    - ◆ We are called to protect and promote the life and dignity of all persons. (§ 2334, 2393)
  - ▶ Sixth commandment: Adultery refers to marital infidelity. Adultery is an injustice. Whoever commits adultery fails in their marriage commitment.(§ 2380, 2381)  
*Students at this age can phrase this “When you are married, you don’t date other people.” That is enough of an explanation and one that they easily understand.*
  - ▶ Seventh commandment:
    - ◆ Stealing is an offense against God’s Law and the rights of private property. (§ 2401)

- ◆ This commandment also obliges us to justice and charity in the care and distribution of earthly goods, and the fruits of human labor. (§ 2401)
- ▶ Eighth commandment: Lying about others and ourselves is an offence against the truth and God's Law. (§ 2464)
- ▶ Ninth and tenth commandments: Greed and jealousy are an offence against others and God's Law. (§ 2534, 2536, 2552)

- III.C.3.a.4th SWBAT demonstrate examples of how and why men and women are caretakers over all creation. (§ 373, 380)
- III.D.a.4th SWBAT deduce that since men and women are made in God's image, therefore our bodies are worthy of respect. (§ 2331,2334)
- III.D.b.4th SWBAT integrate that respect for our bodies means respect for ourselves and for each other. (§ 2338, 2346-2347)
- III.D.c.4th SWBAT discriminate between how we show affection for each other in appropriate ways, keeping in mind the need of each person for privacy.
- III.D.d.4th SWBAT distinguish between appropriate and inappropriate signs of affection or touching.
- III.D.e.4th SWBAT give examples of how to avoid or to call a halt to inappropriate behavior.
- III.D.f.4th SWBAT recall the concept of chastity - keeping oneself free from undue pressure toward inappropriate behavior.

## Unit three - How did Jesus teach us to be a disciple and get to heaven?

### **Goals and themes:**

Learning about the Beatitudes and how they can help one become a better disciple.

Being able to identify the Beatitudes as they are lived out in the lives of the saints.

Memorize the Beatitudes.

Explore other parables and the Lord's Prayer as guides that Jesus gave us to help us become holy.

### **Standards for this unit:**

- I.A.4.a.4th **SWBAT articulate that Jesus is both truly God and truly human. (§ 464)**
- I.A.4.b.4th SWBAT characterize Jesus as our model in everything that he did. (§ 520-521)
- I.A.4.b.4th SWBAT recall that the Christian church expects Christ to come again. (§ 671)
- I.B.3.a.4th SWBAT locate the Beatitudes in Matthew 5.
- I.B.3.b.4th SWBAT memorize the Beatitudes.
- III.B.a.4th SWBAT communicate the meaning of each of the Beatitudes, giving examples of ways that they can be lived out, and the opposite mode of living.
- I.A.6.a.4th SWBAT define four ways that they participate in the Reign of God: (§ 547-549)
- ▶ Believing in the Gospel (§ 767)
  - ▶ Following Jesus (§ 542, 1816,2466)
  - ▶ Avoiding sin (§ 1700,1955)
  - ▶ Working actively for justice and peace (§ 2302-2305)

- I.B.3.e.4th SWBAT explain the following parables about the Reign of God:
- ▶ The treasure in the field (Mt. 13:44)
  - ▶ The woman and the lost coin (Lk. 15:8-9)
  - ▶ The mustard seed (Mt. 13:31-32)
- I.B.3.c.4th SWBAT locate the origin of the Lord's Prayer in the Gospels. (Mt. 6:9-15, Lk. 11:1-4; § 2621)

## Unit four - How does God continue to help us to live a moral life?

### **Goals and themes:**

- Learning about the virtues - ways to cultivate strength in living as a disciple.
- Discovering the ways that God helps us through the gift of the Spirit to live a moral life.
- More exploration of the nature of sin - and how to avoid it.
- Discovering how the church helps us to live the moral life.

### **Standards for this unit:**

- I.C.1.a.4th SWBAT articulate how the church helps to bring about the Reign of God. (§ 669, 763-764)
- I.C.1.b.4th SWBAT understand that everyone in the Church shares in Christ's role as priest, prophet, and king. (§ 783-786)
- I.A.6.b.4th SWBAT describe grace as the free help God gives us to respond to his call to become children of God. Grace is a participation in the life of God. (§ 1996, 1997)
- III.A.1.a.4th SWBAT define the theological virtues - faith, hope and love. (§ 1812-1829)
- III.A.1.b.4th SWBAT define the cardinal virtues - fortitude, justice, prudence and temperance. (§ 1805-1809)
- III.A.1.c.4th SWBAT give examples of how the theological and cardinal virtues can help them to avoid sin.
- III.A.2.a.4th SWBAT characterize sin as a choice against God's law of love. (§ 1874)
- III.A.2.b.4th SWBAT point out that since we are created in God's image, we are created to do good and to avoid evil. (§ 1706)
- III.A.a.4th SWBAT communicate that we are responsible for our actions. (§ 1734, 1736)
- III.A.b.4th SWBAT examine that in order to judge the morality of an action, we have to know what has been done, the intention of the person doing it, and the circumstances in which it was done. (§ 1750)
- III.A.c.4th SWBAT articulate that God speaks to us in our conscience, our secret core of life. (§ 1776)
- III.A.d.4th SWBAT illustrate how conscience enables us to assume responsibility for the acts we performed. (§ 1781)
- III.A.e.4th SWBAT describe that we form our conscience in light of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, witness of other people, Scripture and the teaching of the Church. (1785)
- III.A.f.4th SWBAT recall that the teaching office of the church, teaches our moral principles. (§ 2032)

- I.A.5.a.4th SWBAT describe the gifts of the Holy Spirit. (§ 1830-1831, 1845)
- I.A.5.b.4th SWBAT invoke the Holy Spirit to help them make sound decisions about their behavior. (§ 1830-1831)
- I.C.3.a.4th SWBAT describe the jobs of those on the parish pastoral staff.
- I.C.4.b.4th SWBAT articulate how the Spirit works in the life of the church and in their individual lives. (§ 688,797, 901-902)
- I.C.5.a.4th SWBAT deduce from the lives of saints how they lived lives of virtue, obeying the commandments and Beatitudes and using the gifts of the Holy Spirit. *Some examples of saints' lives they can explore:*
- ▶ *St. Francis of Assisi*
  - ▶ *Martin de Porres*
  - ▶ *Dorothy Day*
  - ▶ *Maximilian Kolbe*
  - ▶ *Katharine Drexel*
  - ▶ *Miguel Pro*
  - ▶ *Damien of Molokai*
  - ▶ *Elizabeth Seton*
  - ▶ *Elizabeth of Hungary*
  - ▶ *Francis Xavier*
- I.C.5.b.4th SWBAT describe how Mary is a model for all believers. (Mary invites us to share her concerns and to imitate her actions.) (§ 2030, 967)
- I.C.5.c.4th SWBAT describe the following devotions and what actions they invite us to:
- ▶ Fatima - Mary and us as people of prayer and intercessors.
  - ▶ Lourdes - Mary and us comforting and healing the ill.
  - ▶ **Guadalupe - Mary's and our concern for the poor.**

## Unit five - How do we live as disciples in our everyday lives?

### Goals and themes:

Learning concrete examples of how to practice the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.  
 Learning concrete examples of what the church expects of us daily.

### Standards for this unit:

- I.C.4.a.4th SWBAT give examples of how life in their family helps to bring about the Reign of God.
- III.B.d.4th SWBAT list the precepts of the church and to describe how each one of them helps us to live as Christians. (§ 2041-2043)
- III.B.e.4th SWBAT list the corporal works of mercy and give examples of how they can perform them. (§ 2447-2448)
- III.B.f.4th SWBAT list the spiritual works of mercy and give examples of how they can perform them. (§ 2447)

III.C.a.4th SWBAT explain that it is our duty as citizens to contribute along with the civil authorities to the good of society in a spirit of truth, justice, solidarity, and freedom. (§ 2239)