

ALIVE IN CHRIST

GRADE 6

The Word of God in the Old Testament

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Our Sunday Visitor

The Church



Our Catholic Tradition

- Jesus founded the Church and built it on Peter and the Apostles. (CCC, 857)
- The Church's mission and work is rooted in the Gospel, the Good News of God's Kingdom and his saving love. (CCC, 768)
- Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to give life to the Church and help us spread the Good News. (CCC, 798)
- All Church members share the Gospel with others, and together we become closer to the Triune God. (CCC, 738)

How does the Holy Spirit continue to guide the Church and help you be a witness for the Gospel?



The Gospel Message

Let Us Pray

Leader: God our Father, we give you thanks for the Good News of our salvation.

“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the one bringing good news, Announcing peace, bearing good news, announcing salvation, saying to Zion, ‘Your God is King!’” **Isaiah 52:7**

All: Loving God, open our ears, our minds, and our hearts to hear the Good News. Amen.



Scripture

“Son, why have you done this to us?” Mary said to Jesus. “Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety.”

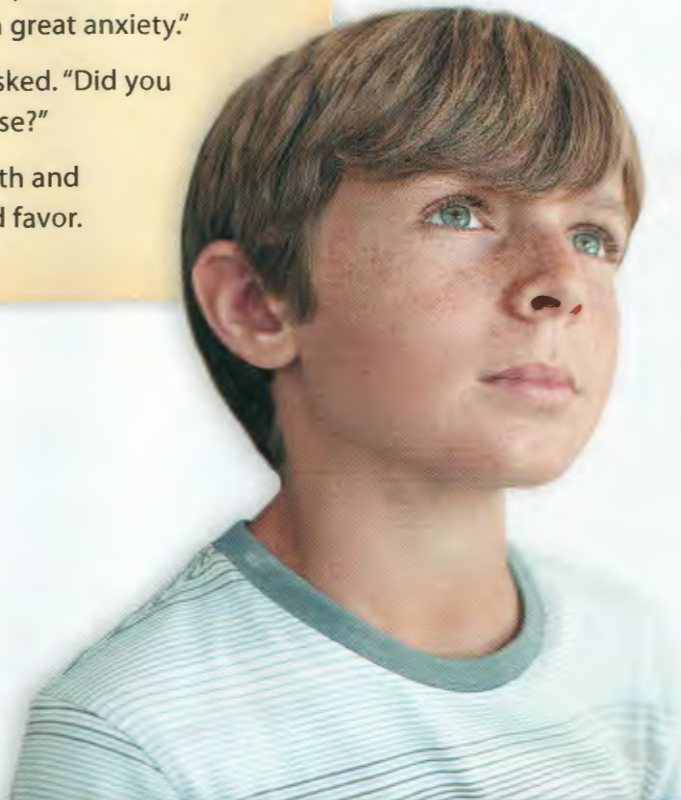
“Why were you looking for me?” Jesus asked. “Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?”

Jesus returned with his family to Nazareth and was obedient. He grew in age, wisdom, and favor.

Based on Luke 2:41–52

What Do You Wonder?

- What is Jesus’ “Gospel,” his Good News?
- How did the Good News spread, and how can you help it continue to spread?



Catholic Faith Words

Redeemer a title for Jesus, because by his Death on the Cross, he “bought back” the human race from the slavery of sin

Sabbath the seventh day of the week in the Jewish calendar. It is still observed by Jews as a day of rest, prayer, and worship.

Jesus is the Good News

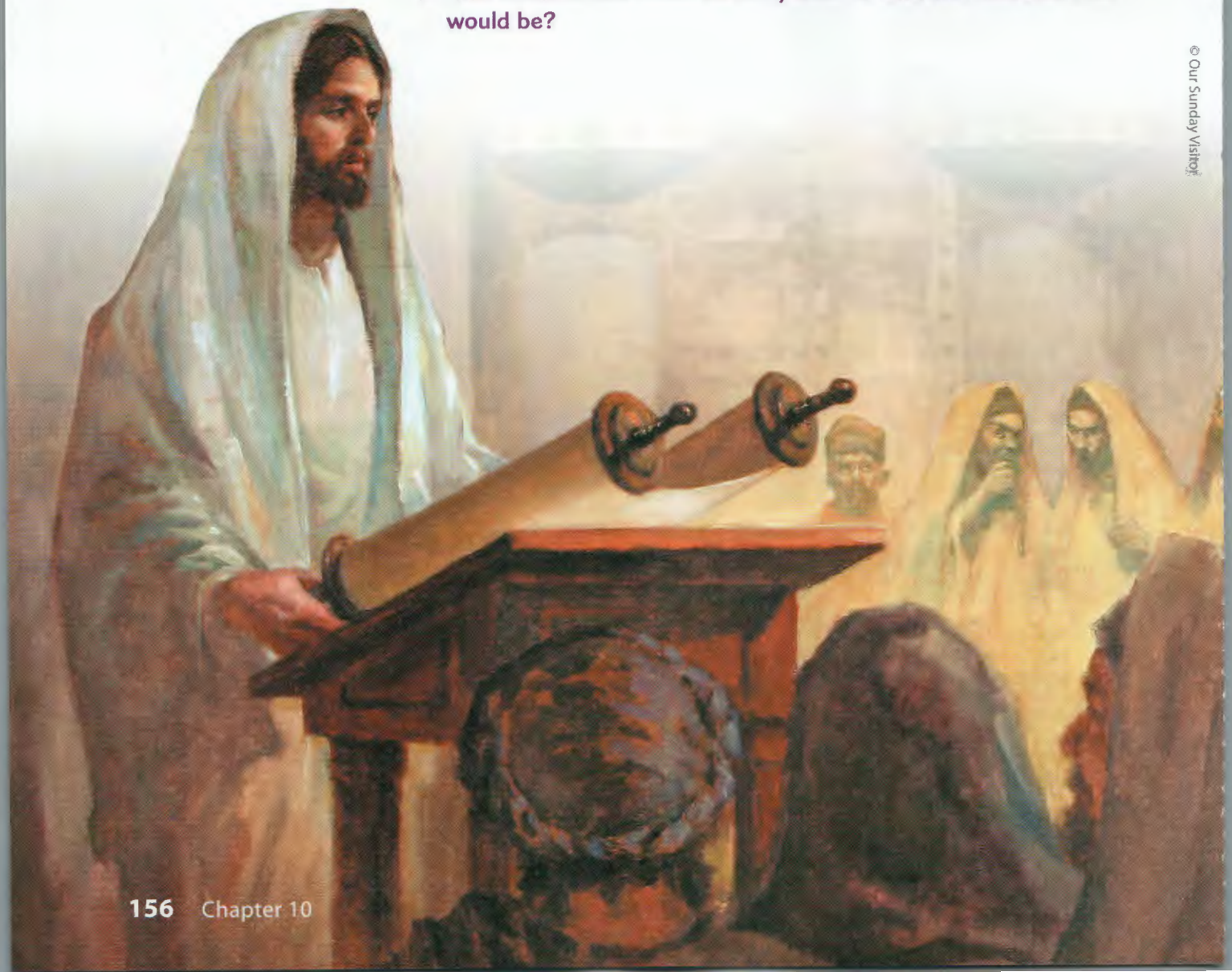
What Good News did Jesus share?

Jesus began to share his message as a faithful Jewish boy who knew the Hebrew story of faith. As the Scripture account of Jesus in the Temple as a young boy tells, he already understood that he had a unique role to play. In the Temple, he spent time listening to the teachers and asking questions.

Many years passed before Jesus, now a grown man, began his public ministry, proclaiming that “This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel” (Mark 1:15).

One day, Jesus would be revealed to all of his followers as the **Redeemer** who would give his life for all and save the human race from the slavery of sin.

➔ How could Jesus know so early who he was and what his role would be?



Not long after he began his public ministry, Jesus went to the synagogue in Nazareth on the **Sabbath**, a day of rest, prayer, and worship, to read Scripture and to worship God.

Scripture

The Anointed One

On this Sabbath, Jesus was invited to read from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. He read about the promised one, God's anointed.

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring glad tidings to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord."

After reading, Jesus said, "Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing."

Everyone was amazed. "Isn't this the son of Joseph?" they asked.

Based on Luke 4:16-22



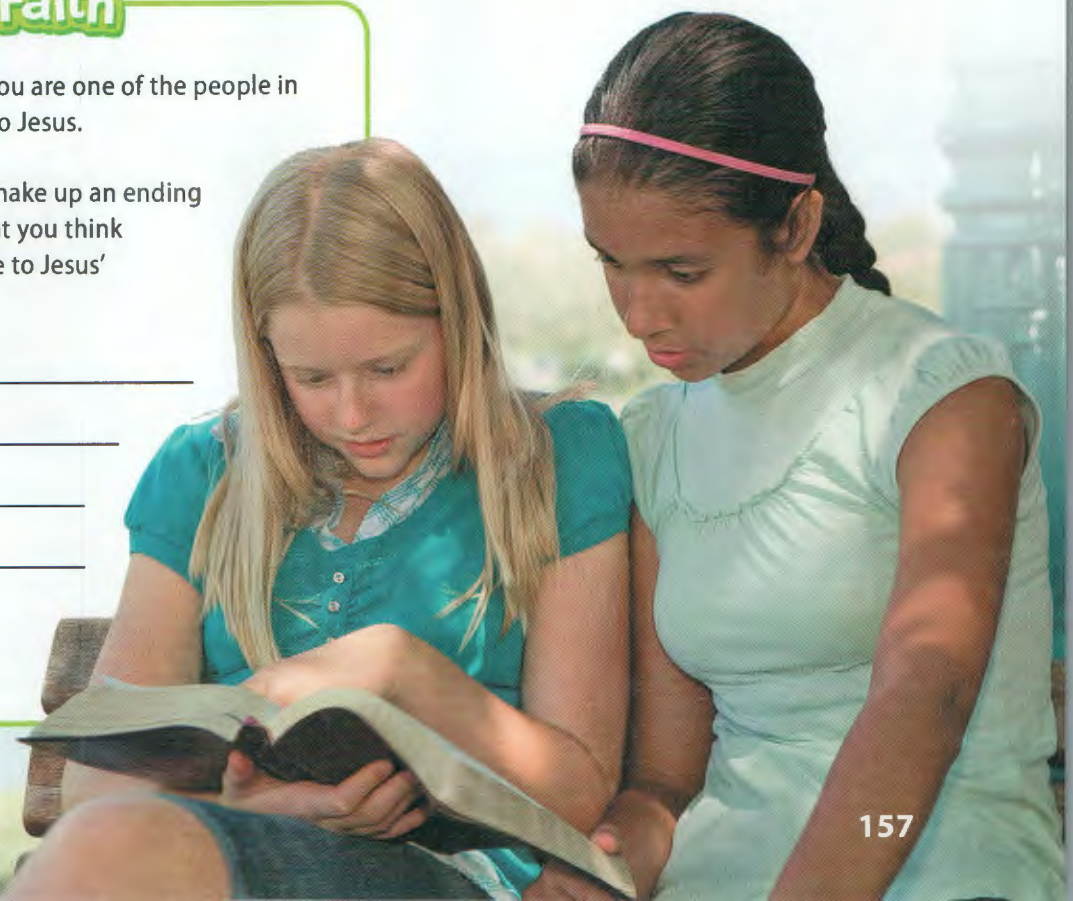
1. Underline what Jesus said God had sent him to do.
2. Explain which of these things sounds hardest to you.

Share Your Faith

Reflect Imagine that you are one of the people in the synagogue, listening to Jesus.

Share With a partner, make up an ending for the story that tells what you think the people did in response to Jesus' announcement.

Then read Luke 4:28-30 to find out what really happened.



Catholic Faith Words

Gospel a word that means “Good News.” The Gospel message is the Good News of God’s Kingdom and his saving love.

New Testament the second part of the Bible, about the life and teaching of Jesus, his followers, and the early Church

Church the community of all baptized people who believe in God and follow Jesus. The word is often used for the Catholic Church because we trace our origins back to the Apostles.



The Gospels

How did Jesus’ Good News spread after his Ascension?

There were no reporters or historians taking notes when Jesus lived on Earth. The words Jesus spoke and the events of his life were handed down through oral tradition, by word of mouth.

After Jesus’ Death and Resurrection, the Apostles and other followers of Jesus told people what they had experienced. Their stories were written down after a time and became the **Gospel**. The word *gospel* means “Good News.” The Gospels are part of the **New Testament** of the Bible. They are the foundation of the Church’s faith.

The Gospel according to Matthew comes first in the New Testament. It was written after A.D. 72 and it is named for the Apostle Matthew, a former tax collector. This Gospel was written for Jewish Christians, and begins with a list of Jesus’ ancestors. It includes many stories of healing and parables.

The Gospel according to Mark probably came first, before A.D. 72. It is traditionally attributed to John Mark, a companion of Paul and Peter. This Gospel starts with the ministry of John the Baptist. Almost all of what the evangelist wrote is also in the Gospels according to Matthew and Luke.

The Gospel according to Luke was also written after A.D. 72. The author was probably a companion of Paul. He wrote for Christians who were not Jewish, and he started his Gospel with the announcement of Jesus’ birth. More than half of this Gospel is unique from the other Gospels.



The Church and the Gospels

After Jesus' Death and Resurrection, the Holy Spirit moved the Apostles and other followers of Jesus to announce the Good News to the world. They proclaimed that Jesus is the Son of the living God. By his Paschal Mystery, we are offered the gift of new life. The enthusiasm of Jesus' followers led many people to join them in believing in Jesus. Communities of prayer and worship started to emerge, and so the **Church** grew.

Over time, many names and images have been used to describe the Church.

- The Church is a worldwide **assembly**, or convocation, of all those who believe in the Good News of Jesus.
- The Church is the **Sacrament** of salvation. She proclaims and lives the Gospel in the world. The Church is the sign and instrument in Christ of the communion of God and humans. She is a visible and effective sign of God's love for the world.
- The Church is the **Body of Christ**. Christ is the head of the body. Through the Spirit and his actions in the Sacraments, Christ establishes the community of believers as his own Body.

All members try to imitate Jesus as they continue his work in the world.



The Gospel according to John was written near the end of the first century A.D. The author, probably a disciple of the Apostle John, wrote to a community of believers, probably in Asia Minor. This Gospel stands apart from the other three because so much of its content is not found anywhere else.



Connect Your Faith

Describe the Church Look up the Bible passages listed below. Write a description of the image of the Church in each passage. On a separate sheet of paper, design one of the images.

John 10:1–11 _____

John 15:1–10 _____

Revelation 21:2–3 _____

Our Catholic Life

How does living in love demonstrate the Good News of Jesus?

Living the Good News involves loving others. You could stand in a school hallway and tell others about Jesus, or you could set up a website and announce the Good News from there. But one of the best ways to share the Good News of Jesus is to love and care about people as he loves and cares about them.

How to Live Love

1 Corinthians 13:4–8 gives an excellent description of what love is. Each description is actually something you can do or be.

1. Circle the descriptions of love that best describe you.
2. Underline the descriptions of love in which you need to grow.

Search It

Love is patient.

is kind.
 is not jealous.
 is not pompous.
 is not inflated.
 is not rude.
 does not seek its own interests.
 is not quick-tempered.
 does not brood over injury.
 does not rejoice over wrongdoing.
 rejoices with the truth.
 bears all things.
 believes all things.
 hopes all things.
 endures all things.
 never fails.



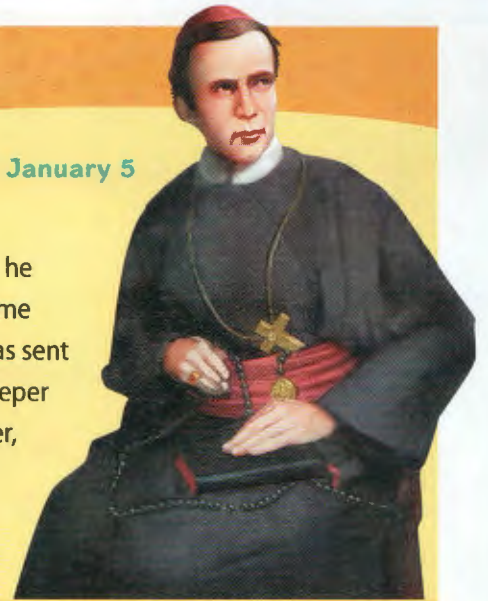
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People of Faith

January 5

Saint John Neumann, 1811—1860

Saint John Neumann knew his vocation was to become a priest. However, he couldn't be ordained in his native country of the Czech Republic. So he came to the United States. Soon after his arrival, he was ordained a priest. He was sent to serve European immigrants, mostly Germans, in New York. Feeling a deeper call, he joined the Redemptorist Order and established many schools. Later, Saint John was named bishop of Philadelphia. He encouraged religious orders to settle in the area. He also built a number of new parishes and began building a cathedral.



Discuss: How do you respond to God's call to serve others?



Learn more about Saint John Neumann at aliveinchrist.osv.com

Live Your Faith

The Church and You Create an image of the Church today that shows how you live as a member of the Body of Christ.

 Let Us Pray

Prayer of Intercession

This prayer follows the format of the Prayer of the Faithful, from the Mass. We come before God, trusting he will care for the needs of others.

Gather and begin with the Sign of the Cross.

Leader: We gather, knowing our God loves us and hears us. We entrust to God our needs and the needs of all the world.

Reader 1: God of the ages, we look to you to guide all leaders to seek your truth.

All: Hear our prayer.

Reader 2: God of the suffering, hear us, we pray. Comfort your people, hold us to you.

All: Hear our prayer.

Reader 3: God of the searching, hear us, we pray. Guide us in safety and lead us home.

All: Hear our prayer.

Reader 4: God of the broken, hear us, we pray. Nourish our hungers and heal our hearts.

All: Hear our prayer.

Reader 5: God of all people, unite all nations and bring us peace.

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving Father, we know you are with us always. Send your Spirit to strengthen us to live out your Son's Good News.

All: Amen.



Sing "Hear Our Prayer"

YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

This chapter recalls some of the images that describe the Church, presents the four Gospels, and examines the ways in which Jesus shared the Good News of salvation.

Scripture



Read **Mark 1:15** to find out about the important announcement Jesus makes.

Catholics Believe

- The Gospels are called the Good News of Jesus because they proclaim his life and teachings.
- They are interpreted by the Church through Tradition and are the source of our belief.

To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #109–119, 124–127 at uscgb.org.

People of Faith

This week, your child learned about Saint John Neumann, who emigrated from the Czech Republic to the United States, and who served European immigrants as a priest.

CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

How They Understand the Gospel Your child may recall that there is a Gospel reading at Mass, but might not have paid a great deal of attention to the passages up until now. He or she might also need some guidance on living the Gospel in everyday life. However, the sixth-grader's emerging abstract reasoning skills might make it easier to see the connections between the principles we profess as Catholics and the actions we take in our communities and schools.



CONSIDER THIS >>>

Do you think seeing a commercial repeatedly influences what you think about that product?

When we read or hear something repeatedly, we come to know it by heart. It becomes part of us. It can influence our motivations and our actions. As Catholics, we know that “if we want to know Jesus, we should know the Scripture. This is certainly true about the Gospels... which were written ‘that you may [come to] believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name’ (Jn 20:31)” (USCCA, p. 79).

LET'S TALK >>>

- Ask your child to name the four Gospels and tell why they are important to the Church.
- Share what is most important to you in Jesus' message, and how you have shared that with others by words and actions.

LET'S PRAY >>>



Saint John, pray for us that we may respond to God as he calls us to serve him and other people. Amen.



For a multimedia glossary of Catholic Faith Words, Sunday readings, seasonal and Saint resources, and chapter activities go to aliveinchrist.osv.com.

Chapter 10 Review

A Work with Words Fill in the circle next to the correct answer.

1. _____ is a title for Jesus because by his death he “bought back” the human race from the slavery of sin.
 Rabbi
 Redeemer
 Incarnate One
 High priest
2. Reading from the scroll of Isaiah, Jesus announced that he was _____.
 God’s anointed
 God’s ruler of Israel
 God’s priest for the Temple
 God’s friend
3. There are _____ Gospels in the New Testament, the second part of the Bible.
 five
 seven
 three
 four
4. The Church is a worldwide _____.
 building
 assembly
 government
 country

5. An image of the Church with Christ as her head is the _____.
 assembly
 Sacraments
 Body of Christ
 olive tree

B Check Understanding Circle the word that best completes the sentence.

6. The Church is a visible sign of God’s (love, power) for the world.
7. Jesus came to establish God’s (creation, Kingdom) for all people.
8. Jesus went to the synagogue in (Nazareth, Jericho) to read the Scriptures and worship God.
9. When Jesus was a young boy, he and his family went to Jerusalem for the feast of (Passover, Pentecost).
10. The word (Redeemer, Gospel) means “Good News.”

