

ALIVE IN CHRIST

GRADE 6

The Word of God in the Old Testament

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Our Sunday Visitor

The Early Church

Let Us Pray

Leader: Renew us in your Spirit, O Lord.

“Send forth your spirit, they are created
and you renew the face of the earth.”

Psalm 104:30

All: O Holy Spirit, inspire us; enflame us with your
love; help us embrace the mission of sharing
the Good News. Amen.

Scripture

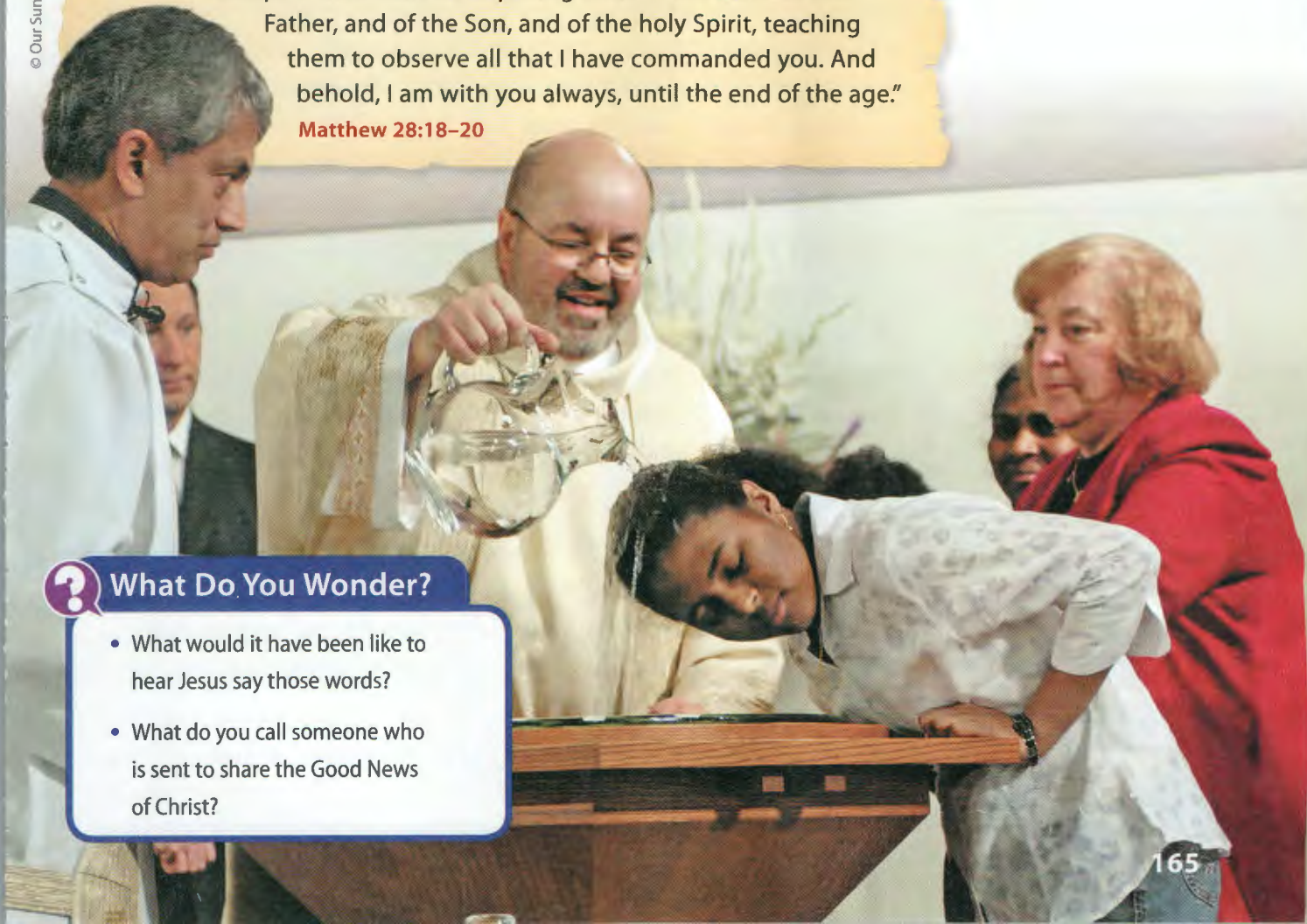
Then Jesus approached and said to [his disciples], “All power in
heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make
disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the
Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching
them to observe all that I have commanded you. And
behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:18–20

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What Do You Wonder?

- What would it have been like to hear Jesus say those words?
- What do you call someone who is sent to share the Good News of Christ?





The Risen Jesus and the Holy Spirit

What happened after Jesus died?

The Apostles did not know what to do after Jesus died. In addition, one of them, Thomas, had a difficult time believing that Jesus had been raised from the dead. The other Apostles had spoken to the Risen Christ and knew his Resurrection to be a true event. It was not until Jesus entered the room without using a door and showed the wounds in his hands and side that “doubting Thomas” came to a fuller faith and realized that Jesus had truly been raised and was alive. (See John 20:24–29.)

Jesus appeared to the Apostles on another occasion. He told them that they would be his witnesses to the ends of the Earth, and promised to send the Holy Spirit, one of the three Divine Persons in the **Holy Trinity**. Then suddenly, Jesus was gone. He ascended to his Father in Heaven. (See Acts 1:1–12.)

After Jesus’ Ascension, the Apostles remained in Jerusalem as Jesus had told them to. While they waited, they elected Matthias to replace Judas. Matthias had been with Jesus ever since John had baptized Jesus in the Jordan River. Mary, Jesus’ mother, was also with the Apostles. She prayed with them and gave them hope. (See Acts 1:13–26.)

- ➔ What do you think the Apostles felt after Jesus’ death?
- ➔ What gave them hope?

Catholic Faith Words

Holy Trinity the mystery of one God in three Divine Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

Scripture

The Coming of the Spirit

When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were filled with the holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven staying in Jerusalem. At this sound, they gathered in a large crowd, but they were confused because each one heard them speaking in his own language. They were astounded, and in amazement they asked, "Are not all these people who are speaking Galileans? Then how does each of us hear them in his own native language?" **Acts 2:1-8**



Highlight the effect the Holy Spirit had on the Apostles.

Share Your Faith

Reflect Imagine that you are with the disciples on Pentecost. What are your thoughts?

Share With a partner list two gifts that the world needs from the Holy Spirit today in order to make communication better between different groups.

In the space below, write a short prayer of petition for one of those gifts.

Catholic Faith Words

mission a job or purpose. The Church's mission is to announce the Good News of God's Kingdom.

Apostolic Succession the term used to describe how the authority and power to lead and teach the Church is passed down from the Apostles to their successors, the bishops

The Church's Work

How does the Church carry out her mission?

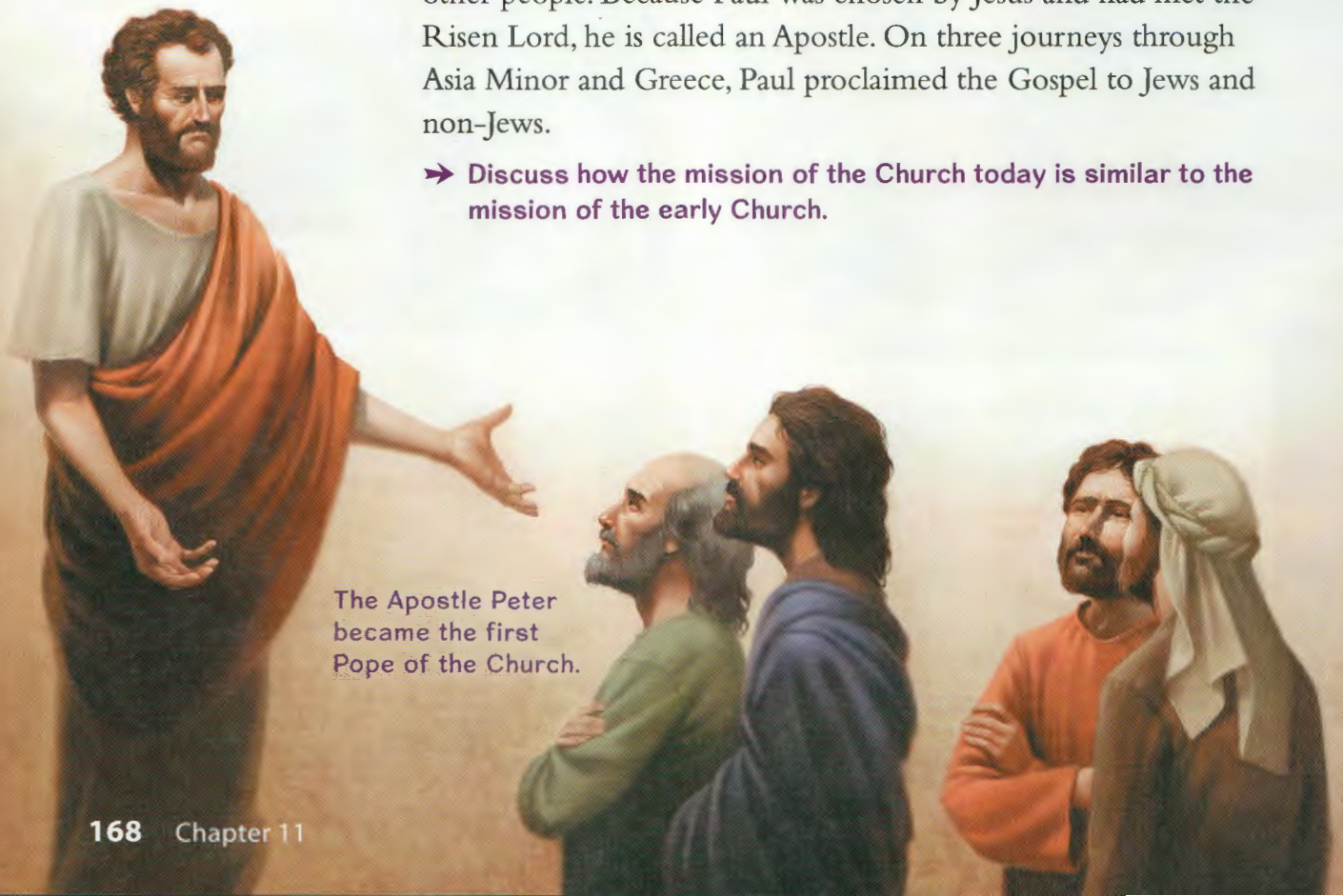
The Apostles were excited. Jesus had given them a **mission** to spread the Gospel. Even though they had not known what would happen next, the Holy Spirit had filled them with courage and helped them to know what to say. Although Jesus wasn't physically present, they had his Spirit to guide and inspire them.

The Early Church

The story of the early Church is told in the Acts of the Apostles, the fifth book of the New Testament. Here you read how the Spirit transformed the Apostle Peter, a humble fisherman, into a powerful leader. Jesus had called Peter to be one of his first disciples. The special authority that Jesus gave to Peter made this Apostle first among the early leaders in the Church.

Unlike Peter, Paul was not a disciple of Jesus during the time when Jesus physically lived on Earth. On the road to Damascus, Paul met the Risen Christ and heard the voice of Jesus. He became a Christian and then a missionary. Missionaries are people who devote themselves to bringing the Good News to other people. Because Paul was chosen by Jesus and had met the Risen Lord, he is called an Apostle. On three journeys through Asia Minor and Greece, Paul proclaimed the Gospel to Jews and non-Jews.

➔ **Discuss how the mission of the Church today is similar to the mission of the early Church.**



The Apostle Peter became the first Pope of the Church.

Leaders and Martyrs

Many powerful leaders, including Roman emperors, feared the spread of the Good News and saw the emerging Christian Church as a threat to their power and influence. When Christians refused to renounce their belief in Jesus, they were often executed for standing up for their beliefs. Called martyrs, they suffered death in witness to their faith in Jesus. Both Peter and Paul were martyred.

The Church Today

Like the early Christians, Catholics today are baptized, and they gather for the Eucharist. They also pray over those who are sick, encourage the confession of sin, and promote faithful marriages. Some even sacrifice their lives as witnesses for Jesus, just as the early Christians did.

The Church is built on the lasting foundation of the Apostles. **Apostolic Succession** means that the bishops, in a direct line of succession from the Apostles, receive the authority and power of Jesus to lead and teach the Church. Therefore, bishops, united with the Pope, share in the mission of the Apostles. The first among the bishops is the Pope, who is Peter's successor and the visible head of the Church.



Pope Saint Pius X,
reigned 1903–1914



Pope Saint John Paul II,
reigned 1978–2005

Connect Your Faith

Name Similarities Name three ways the early Church was like the Church today.



Pope Francis, reigned
2013–present



Pope Benedict XVI,
reigned 2005–2013

Our Catholic Life

How can you be a good witness for Jesus?

Witnesses are people who are called to testify about something they know or something they have seen or heard. You may have seen television shows or movies in which witnesses are called to provide evidence or information in a trial.

In the same way, God calls you to testify to your belief in Jesus. This means that as a follower of Jesus and as a member of the Catholic Church, you are called to be Jesus' witness in what you do and say in your daily life. Here is some helpful advice.



In the space provided, tell how you can use these ideas to be a faithful witness for Jesus.

Be a Good Witness

Be faithful. Follow the examples of the martyrs and Saints who were faithful and loyal to Jesus. These heroes of the faith were steady in their commitment to him, true to their word, and reliable in their actions.

Remember that Jesus is loyal to you. There will be times when your faith in Jesus will be tested. At these times, it may be easier to steal, cheat, be lazy, and betray Jesus than to be loyal to him. That is when you need to remind yourself that Jesus is the most loyal friend you have in the world.

Stay in touch with Jesus. It is difficult to be a friend to someone with whom you seldom talk. And it is hard to be a witness to Jesus when you seldom speak to him or take time to listen to the Holy Spirit. Make a habit of reading the Bible and praying daily.

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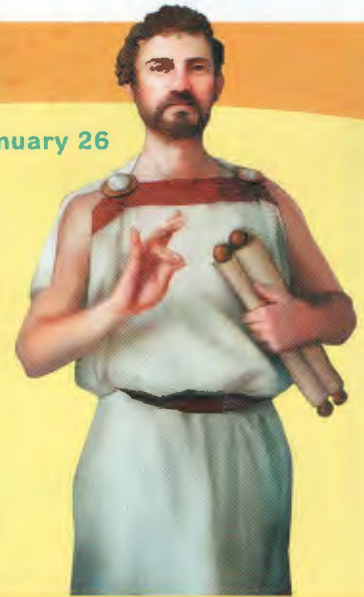


People of Faith

January 26

Saint Timothy, 17–80

Saint Timothy traveled with Saint Paul, helping spread Christianity through Asia Minor and Greece. His story is told in the Book of Acts. His mother and grandmother probably were Christians as well, since Paul says they were pious and faithful. Timothy may have first heard about Jesus from them. Paul says that Timothy knew the Bible very well. He became a bishop in a city in Turkey and was stoned to death when he tried to stop some people from worshipping an idol. Saint Paul wrote two letters to Saint Timothy, which are in the New Testament.



Discuss: Who first told you about Jesus?



Learn more about Saint Timothy at aliveinchrist.osv.com

Live Your Faith

Write What You Believe When the early Christians witnessed to their faith, they told people what they believed. On a card, write a statement of your faith. Start by filling in the spaces below with what you believe about God the Father, Jesus the Son, the Holy Spirit, and the Church.

God the Father _____

God the Son _____

God the Holy Spirit _____

the Church _____

From the above ideas, write a summary statement on your card. Then decorate it with symbols of your faith in Jesus.





Let Us Pray

Prayer of Petition

Gather and begin with the Sign of the Cross.

Leader: Spirit of God, come to our assistance.

All: Lord, make haste to help us.

Reader: Read John 14:23–27.

Side 1: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and kindle in us the fire of your love.

Side 2: Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created, and you will renew the face of the Earth.

Side 1: Lord, by the light of the Holy Spirit, you have taught the hearts of the faithful.

Side 2: In the same Spirit, help us choose what is right and always rejoice in your consolation.

All: We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leader: Let us pray.

Bow your heads as the leader prays.

All: Amen.



Sing "Spirit, Come Down"

Spirit, Spirit, Spirit,
come down from Heaven.

Spirit, Spirit,
and seal us with your love.

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YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

This chapter is about the appearances of the Risen Jesus, Pentecost, and the story of the early Church told in the Acts of the Apostles.

Scripture



Read the **Acts of the Apostles 2:1–4** to find out what happened on Pentecost.

Catholics Believe

- Jesus founded the Church through his life and teachings. He sent the Holy Spirit to help the Church fulfill her mission.
- The Holy Spirit continues to animate the Church today.

To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #763–768, 849–854 at usccb.org.

People of Faith

This week, your child learned about Saint Timothy. He traveled with Saint Paul and served as a bishop in Turkey. He lived his life as a witness to his faith in Jesus.

CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

How They Understand Church History Your child might not yet know a lot about the history of the Church. This is a great time to start learning about it, since children this age have a clearer concept of various time periods. Seeing the Church throughout history can also help to strengthen a sixth-grader's own identity, which is in development at this time, as he or she identifies with being Catholic.



CONSIDER THIS >>>

How necessary is a good leader in achieving a goal?

Good leadership helps us to become and achieve more than we can imagine. Before Jesus ascended into Heaven, he knew the Apostles would need a guide to help them lead. He promised to send the Holy Spirit. As Catholics, we know that “beginning with the gifts of the Spirit at Pentecost, the disciples became dynamic missionaries. He filled those disciples with the gift of courage so that nothing stopped them from proclaiming the love of Christ for all people” (*USCCA, p. 103*).

LET'S TALK >>>

- Ask your child to describe what happened at Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit, and how the Church began.
- Share about a time when someone shared their faith openly and what impact that had on you.

LET'S PRAY >>>



Saint Timothy, pray for us that we teach the world about Jesus as you did. Amen.



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

Chapter 11 Review

A Work with Words Circle True if a statement is true, and circle False if a statement is false. Correct any false statements.

1. The Pope is the invisible head of the Church. **True/False**

2. The first leader Jesus chose for his disciples was Peter. **True/False**

3. A missionary is one sent to proclaim the Good News of Jesus. **True/False**

4. The story of the first generation of the Church is told in the Acts of the Apostles. **True/False**

5. A rabbi is one who suffers death as a witness to his or her faith. **True/False**

B Check Understanding Fill in the circle next to the correct answer.

6. Christians of the first century participated in Baptism and _____.

- the Eucharist
 sacrifices
 tithing
 holy wars

7. The _____ are the successors of the Apostles.

- deacon
 priest
 missionary
 Pope and bishops

8. Paul, chosen by Jesus and knowing the Risen Lord, is called _____.

- a disciple
 an Apostle
 a follower
 the Pope

9. On the day of _____, the Apostles spoke in different languages.

- Passover
 the Sabbath
 Pentecost
 Atonement

10. _____ found it difficult to believe in the Resurrection.

- Thomas
 John
 Matthew
 Peter

