

Questions from Religion Teachers

About *Faith First Legacy Edition*



What makes the Faith First Legacy Edition different from all other religion programs?

- *Faith First* is the only religion series with a pure spiral learning method that provides a complete, balanced, and holistic scope and sequence based on doctrine, Scripture, and the liturgical year.
- *Faith First* is the only religion series to offer unparalleled formation and support for teachers in the teacher guides.
- *Faith First* is the only religion program that offers an award-winning Web site—the best and most widely used Web site in Catholic religious education.
- *Faith First* is the best value among religion programs today. Using *Faith First Legacy Edition* saves your school money every year with the most affordable student books and resources.



Why is the spiral learning method used in Faith First so effective?

- Each year students grow in their knowledge and understanding of the four pillars (Creed, Sacraments, Morality, and Christian Prayer) of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* because the timeless truths of our faith are taught every year on every grade level in *Faith First*.
- Every year, students review and learn more about each of these important doctrines and beliefs of the Catholic faith. Woven through this doctrinal presentation are special Scripture chapters and celebrations of the liturgical year. This is far superior to

the thematic approach in which children are expected to learn most of what the Catholic Church teaches about a given theme in one year.



How does Faith First teach Sacred Scripture?

- The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches that Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition are the primary sources for education in the faith. Recognizing the importance of children learning that God speaks to us through the Bible, *Faith First* grades 1–8 provides sixty-eight core Scripture chapters dedicated totally to the study of Sacred Scripture. In addition, Scripture passages and references are found in every chapter of the program.
- The chapters dedicated to Scripture represent the equivalent of more than two years of Scripture study during a student’s eight years of religion classes. Each dedicated Scripture chapter consists of sections entitled “Bible Background,” “Reading the Word of God,” and “Understanding the Word of God.” This approach, unique to *Faith First*, ensures that students will grow in their understanding of and appreciation for Sacred Scripture year by year.



What time frame is suggested for teaching a Faith First chapter?

The *Faith First Legacy Edition* teacher guides are organized using a five-day plan, but can be taught in a three- or four-day format as

well. The flexibility of the program allows for variation in daily time frames. To extend the material for longer classes, you can easily incorporate the “Enriching the Lesson” activities suggested throughout the chapters, the ideas and tips presented in the boxes at the bottom of each page in the lesson plan, or the suggestions from the “First Thoughts” column in the teacher background pages at the beginning of each chapter.



How can I best use Faith First with primary grade students who do not yet read well independently?

Primary texts in all religion series are written for the teacher to read to the children because some of the vocabulary words and terminology necessary to define the doctrines of the Catholic Church are not part of the normal vocabulary of young students. It is appropriate to read the text aloud since children’s listening comprehension is normally ahead of their reading ability. Once the children hear the text, work with the pictures, engage in discussion, and participate in the hands-on activities, they will understand the concepts. In fact, all children learn best when they actively work with the content rather than just read the text.



How will using the Faith First Legacy Edition teacher guide make me a better religion teacher?

- **QuickStart for Religion Teachers.** The QuickStart multimedia workshop in the front of your teacher guide provides unprecedented support. This video-assisted workshop will help you reflect on your role as a religion teacher and catechist. It will also provide insights into how children

learn, what you will teach, and methods you can use for successful religion classes. Utilizing this workshop will prepare you for a more fruitful year of sharing faith with young people while also introducing you to the key features of *Faith First Legacy Edition*.

- **Chapter Background.**

—The background essay that opens every core chapter of the teacher guide helps you grow in your understanding of the Catholic faith and provides you with the opportunity to connect the faith concepts to your life.

—“First Thoughts,” which is found on the chapter background pages, offers insights from veteran teachers on the chapter theme and practical ideas on how to present the theme to students.

- **Lesson Planner.** A one-page lesson planner gives you an approach for teaching the chapter and guides you to available resources which will help you plan and enrich your sessions.
- **Teaching Process.** The *Faith First* teaching process—Engage, Teach and Apply, and Connect—will enable you to successfully achieve the chapter goals each week.
- **Wraparound Lesson Plan.** Your lesson plan is filled with ideas, tips, and additional background materials that will fill you with confidence and expertise as you teach each chapter.
- **Evaluation.** The built-in evaluation tool at the end of each chapter helps you assess each session immediately while the lesson is still fresh in your mind.

In short, your *Faith First Legacy Edition* teacher guide is everything you’ve ever asked for—and more!