

# Grade 3 - Chapter 19

## Discover

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## Discover

### Catechist Edition Instruction

## Discover (1)

### Objectives

- Define a covenant as a sacred promise between God and humans
- Examine the covenant between Abraham and God, which led to the beginning of God's People

### God's Covenant

Tell the children that this section will focus on how God cares for his People.  
Read aloud the first paragraph.

### God's Word

Proclaim the Scripture story.

- Emphasize the point in the story where God changed Abram's name to Abraham.
- Say: This is when God made a covenant with Abraham and his family.
- ★ Have the children underline God's promises to Abraham.
- Finish the Scripture at the top of page 259 before reviewing the Catholic Faith Words.

### Work With Words

Ask two volunteers to read aloud the Catholic Faith Words and their definitions.

- Have the children make vocabulary cards for each term and use the cards to prepare for chapter and unit reviews.

### I Will Be Your God

Continue proclaiming the story.

- Ask: What family stories do you enjoy hearing again and again?

- Invite the children to share family stories that have been told to them.

## **Fulfilled in Jesus**

Ask the children to silently read the text.

- Point out that this lesson may seem to be on “fast forward” as it moves from Abraham to Jesus.
- Explain that the Bible contains so many stories about people's faith in God that one lesson cannot tell all of them.

## **Activity**

Read aloud the directions for the Share Your Faith activity.

- Allow time for the children to write their promise and share with a partner.

## **Quick Review**

A covenant is a sacred promise or agreement between God and humans. God established a covenant with Abraham, and from that came the beginning of God's People.

## **Discover (2)**

### **Objectives**

- Recall that through Jesus the Church continues to be a sign of God's covenant, which extends to all people
- Recognize the faithfulness and commitment of early Christians to the covenant and to God

### **The Early Church**

Ask a volunteer to read aloud the question.

- Tell the children that we will learn the answer as we cover the next two pages.

Invite three volunteers to read aloud the three paragraphs.

• Explain that some people did not want to hear the Good News about Jesus and made laws against the Christian faith. Help the children understand the term *persecution*—harassment of or harm done to a group because of some difference.

- Ask: Why is it important to learn about the early Christians?
- Write the responses on the board or on chart paper.

Ask the children what they think the photo on the page represents.

- Have a volunteer read the caption.

### **Work with Words**

Read aloud the Catholic Faith Word and its definition.

- Have the children make a vocabulary cards to be used for memory games or for review.

### **The Church Grows**

Have a volunteer read aloud the paragraph.

• Explain that many years passed between the beginnings of the Church and the time of the Irish and Scottish Saints. Even more time passed before the Church spread to the Americas.

## Into the Present

Ask a volunteer to read aloud the text.

- Ask the children how they are part of the Church's history. **Possible response: They follow Jesus and share their faith with others.**

## Activity

Read aloud the directions for the Connect Your Faith activity.

- Have the children work independently to answer the questions.
- ▶ Music Option: Have the children sing “Share the Light,” downloaded from [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com).

## Quick Review

As the Son of God, Jesus fulfills God's promise and his covenant extends to all people. The first Christians faced difficult times, but they were faithful to God and to the covenant, and the Church grew.

## Catechist Tips: Saints

Several saints are mentioned in the text.

- Saints Patrick (390–461), Brigid (450–525), Kevin (d. 618), and Columba (521–597) are associated with the Catholic Church in Ireland, although Patrick was born in Britain and Columba evangelized Scotland.
- The teachings and writings of these saints influenced the Northern European Church for centuries.

## Catechist Tips: Christians and Jews

The term Christian was first used in Antioch to describe the followers of Jesus (Acts 11:26).

- Explain that Christianity must be understood within its Jewish context.
- Remind the children that Jesus was Jewish.
- Discuss aspects of Christianity common to Judaism, such as observing the Sabbath, praying psalms, and having ritual meals.

## Glossary Activity: Faithful

Help the children understand who the faithful are/were. Learn about names and meanings.

- Many children are given Saints' names. Tell about a Saint whose name is represented in your group.
- Others may have names of family members. Invite them to tell family stories about the people for whom they are named.

## Additional Activity: Success Stories

Have the children learn some of the “success stories” of missionaries.

- Assign the children to research the stories of Pierre De Smet, Vincent Lebbe, or the Jesuit reductions of Paraguay.
- Direct the children to list some of the good or respectful things done by these missionaries.

## **Additional Activity: Church History**

Church history is interrelated with social and political events.

- Encourage the children to look at what was happening in the world that affected Church history at any given time.
- Also look for Church leaders who have affected the secular world.

## **Additional Activity: Drama - A Pledge Is a Promise**

Supplies:

- index cards (*each* with one of the following scenarios written on it)
  - swearing in at a trial (Bible)
  - Pledge of Allegiance (flag)
  - Boy/Girl Scout pledge (handkerchiefs)
  - cross my heart...(cutout of heart)
- Bible
- flag
- handkerchiefs
- heart

Organize the group into four teams. Give each team an index card and the prop noted in parentheses. Instruct the teams they will have a few minutes to work together to develop a pantomime about their pledge.

Have teams dramatize their pledge. When each team is finished, have the group try to guess what pledge is being made. *Ask:*

- **What does the pledge really mean?**
- **Is it expected to be kept? Why or why not?**
- **Whose pledges are reliable no matter what?**

Remind the children that **God always keeps his promises. God is faithful. He can be relied on.**