



WORD of LIFE™

Classroom Resources: Extra Learning Support

Introduction

This guide was created to help catechists, parish leaders, and teachers feel equipped to teach in a classroom with multiple learning needs and make the most of the additional faith formation resources available on Catholic Market, Formed, and in the Word of Life curriculum. Every child learns differently, and this document organizes a wide variety of resources by both topic and learning style, helping you find what best supports your classroom or ministry.

How the Guide Is Organized

This overview offers initial recommendations for four primary types of learning styles to incorporate in the classroom:

- **Visual Learning:** for students who learn best through images, color, and observation
- **Kinesthetic Learning:** for those who remember best through hands-on activities and play
- **Auditory Learning:** for learners who benefit from listening, music, or spoken storytelling
- **Reading & Writing Learning:** for students who engage through reading, journaling, or writing reflection

Every student has a wide range of learning abilities and needs. This guide is not to assess those needs for any particular student. Rather, we encourage you to use these ideas as a springboard to incorporate different learning methods in the classroom.

Word of Life incorporates each of these learning styles in the textbook and additional activities. However, should you need additional resources, you can find a list of specific products sorted by topic and age group in the appendix. There you can also find further catechist tips particular to the different topics listed.

For additional assistance in training catechists or incorporating these practices in the classroom, please contact your Ministry Success Coach.

Learning Recommendations

Visual Learning

- Use posters, flashcards, or coloring pages during explanation time.
- Point to visuals as you speak and keep them visible throughout the lesson.
- Assign visual jobs, such as arranging Bible stories on a timeline or matching vocabulary words to images.
- For non-readers or younger learners, pair each concept with an image (e.g., Eucharist = a picture of a host and chalice).
- Incorporate sacred art in the lesson when sharing stories on Scripture or the Church (e.g., an image of the Last Supper when teaching about the Eucharist). Decorate the classroom with prints of the sacred art you use around the classroom to anchor these lessons.

Kinesthetic Learning

- Plan movement breaks every 10–15 minutes—simple things like standing to answer or moving to different “learning stations.”
- Use card games, puzzles, and props to make lessons tactile.
- Allow “quiet fidgets” (rosary ring, stress ball) for those who need to move to stay focused.
- Turn lessons into group challenges and activities—build a “virtue tree,” act out a saint or Bible story, or create simple crafts related to the liturgical season.

Auditory Learning

- Read stories and Scripture aloud.
- Use music strategically—opening songs, sung prayers, or reflective hymns can reinforce learning.
- Ask open-ended reflection questions (“What did you hear Jesus say in this story?”).
- Encourage verbal repetition of key phrases or prayers—hearing and saying helps retention.

Reading & Writing Learning

- Provide short writing prompts or journaling reflections after each lesson.
- Use the student textbook, blank paper, or give students their own journals to record prayers, saint facts, etc..
- Offer story-based learning—regularly read directly from Scripture, the saint stories in the student textbook, or Gabriel’s Quest/Small Wonders.
- Pair reading with small creative responses (draw a symbol, write a prayer, or copy down vocabulary words).

Additional Special Needs Support

- Use clear, simple instructions and demonstrate visually whenever possible.
- Provide choice (“Would you like to listen to the story or color while I read it?”) to give autonomy and reduce stress.
- Pair students by assigning a “buddy” to help peers follow along during games or transitions.
- Offer sensory breaks, like a quiet prayer corner, water break, or short walk, which can reset attention.
- Recognize effort and participation more than completion—“I love how you listened to the story!”
- Keep directions consistent week to week and use visual cues (like color-coded signs) to support memory and focus.

Appendix: Extra Learning Resources

Saints & Virtues Visual Learning

Grade Range	Resource	Description
K-2	<u>Glory Stories: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton CD & Coloring Book Set</u>	Audio/Visual/Kinesthetic learning, where children can listen to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton's story while coloring pictures based on her life.
K-2	<u>Brother Francis: The Saints Coloring and Activity Book</u>	Coloring and activity book introducing children to the lives of saints.
K-2	<u>Brother Francis: Following in His Footsteps</u>	DVD video about growing in holiness and devotion to God (also available on Formed).
K-2	<u>My Secret Friend: A Guardian Angel Story</u>	DVD video teaching children about their guardian angels with stories and songs
K-3	<u>Brother Francis Fan: Saints and Prayers for All Occasions</u>	Illustrated fan with saint images and prayers.
K-5	<u>Our Heavenly Friends Flash Cards</u>	Flash cards with saint images and stories to help children remember 40 saints.
K-8	<u>My Heavenly Friends Prayer Card Collection</u>	Set of 70 prayer cards featuring saint images and prayers for intercession, great for classroom displays or take-home devotionals.
K-8	<u>The Virtue Tree Poster</u>	Poster for classroom use offering a visual illustration to understand the virtues.

Kinesthetic Learning

Grade Range	Resource	Description
K-8	<u>Sin Squash Game</u>	Game based on Slap Jack that teaches virtues and vices.
K-8	<u>Guess the Saint Game</u>	Interactive guessing game that teaches children about different saints and Catholic terminology.
K-8	<u>SaintCards Collection</u>	Educational card game for learning about the saints through images and quick facts.

Auditory Learning

Grade Range	Resource	Description
I-3	<u>St. Dominic Savio: The Schoolboy Saint</u>	Audio story about St. Dominic Savio (also available on Formed).
I-3	<u>St. Teresa of Avila</u>	Recorded audio story about the life of St. Teresa of Avila (also available on Formed).
I-5	<u>Glory Stories CDs (Volumes 1–17)</u>	Engaging audio stories about the lives of saints.
4-8	<u>Brother Francis: The Barefoot Saint of Assisi</u>	Audio story dramatizing the life of St. Francis of Assisi, plus discussion guide (also available on Formed).
4-8	<u>Ode to Saint Cecilia</u>	Audio drama on the life of St. Cecilia, patron of musicians (also available on Formed).
4-8	<u>The Trials of St. Patrick</u>	Audio adventure telling the dramatic story of St. Patrick's missionary life in Ireland (also available on Formed).
4-8	<u>The Legends of Robin Hood</u>	Morality-based audio drama highlighting virtue, justice, and courage (also available on Formed).

Reading & Writing Learning

Grade Range	Resource	Description
K-2	<u>Saint Bernadette and the Miracles of Lourdes</u>	Story of St. Bernadette and the apparitions at Lourdes.
K-2	<u>Peter, Apostle of Jesus</u>	Storybook about St. Peter's life, courage, and role in the early Church.
K-2	<u>Mother Teresa: Smile of Calcutta</u>	Storybook about the saint's service and joy, introducing children to living virtue.
K-2	<u>Mother Teresa of Calcutta</u>	Focused biography emphasizing the saint's lived virtues and compassion.
2-5	<u>The Adventures of Nick & Sam</u>	Chapter book series teaching moral and virtuous living through Catholic family life.
4-6	<u>Student of the Cross: Saint Edith Stein</u>	Comic book story of St. Edith Stein's life of faith and sacrifice.
4-6	<u>Messenger of Mercy: St. Faustina Kowalska</u>	Comic book story about St. Faustina and Divine Mercy.
5-8	<u>The Virtues Chronicles Series</u>	Adventure fiction teaching moral lessons and virtues through engaging storytelling.

Tips for Catechists – Saints & Virtues

- Teach about the saints year-round with prayer cards and other visuals; rotate based on feast days.
- Let students act out saint stories or virtues.
- Use audio saint stories for reflection or during quiet activity times.
- Have students answer journal prompts based on saints they learned about, e.g., "How can I be like St. [Name] this week?"

Jesus & the Sacraments

Visual Learning

Grade Range	Resource	Description
K-2	<u>Brother Francis: The Mass</u>	Animated episode on the meaning of the Mass (also available on Formed).
K-2	<u>Brother Francis: The Sacraments</u>	Cartoon introduction to the sacraments with visuals and explanations (also available on Formed)
K-2	<u>Brother Francis: Forgiven</u>	Animated teaching on confession and God's mercy.
K-2	<u>Brother Francis: Confirmation</u>	Video introducing the sacrament of Confirmation (also available on Formed).
K-2	<u>Brother Francis: The Rosary Coloring and Activity Book</u>	Video and coloring book companion on the Rosary.
K-2	<u>Brother Francis: The Sacraments Coloring and Activity Book</u>	Activity-based coloring book and video introducing children to the sacraments.
1-3	<u>My First Holy Communion</u>	Picture book explaining the meaning of the Eucharist and preparing children for their First Communion.

Kinesthetic Learning

Grade Range	Resource	Description
K-2	<u>Brother Francis: Forgiven Coloring and Activity Book</u>	Offers activities and coloring to reinforce understanding of Reconciliation.
K-2	<u>The Seven Sacraments Chunky Wood Puzzle</u>	Wooden puzzle introducing children to the symbols of the sacraments.
K-5	<u>Scrambled Sacraments Game</u>	Interactive card game that reinforces knowledge of the sacraments.
K-5	<u>Mass Memory Game and Flashcards</u>	Matching memory activity that reinforces liturgical symbols and terms, can be used as flashcards for older grades.
3-8	<u>Alleluia Card Game</u>	Card game teaching Catholic symbols and teaching.

Auditory Learning

Grade Range	Resource	Description
2-5	<u>Glory Stories Vol. 17: The Eucharist is My Highway to Heaven</u>	Audio story about St. Carlo Acutis and the Eucharist
2-5	<u>Glory Stories Vol. 8: Best-Loved Catholic Prayers and Prayers of the Mass</u>	Audio compilation teaching prayers.

Reading & Writing Learning

Grade Range	Resource	Description
K-2	<u>The Stations of the Cross (Children's Book)</u>	Picture book introducing the Passion of Christ.
K-2	<u>Jesus, I Adore You: Children Praying Before the Blessed Sacrament</u>	Picture book on Eucharistic adoration.
K-2	<u>Illustrated Parables of Jesus</u>	Storybook with illustrations teaching Jesus' parables.
3-6	<u>Tell Me About the Catholic Faith: From the Bible to the Sacraments</u>	Overview of Catholic teaching on Scripture, faith, and sacraments.
3-6	<u>Who is Jesus? His Life, His Land, His Time</u>	Illustrated reference book introducing children to the historical world of Jesus.
4-8	<u>Digital Disciple: Carlo Acutis and the Eucharist</u>	Comic book about Eucharistic devotion through the story of St. Carlo Acutis.

Tips for Catechists – Jesus & the Sacraments

- Use videos or images to illustrate different objects used in sacraments.
- Turn sacrament lessons into hands-on lessons with items like water, oil, or candles for students to see and interact with.
- Read directly from the Gospels so students can hear Jesus in his own words.
- Bring students into the Church to see the tabernacle, confessional, baptismal font, etc.

Scripture & Salvation History

Visual Learning

Grade Range	Resource	Description
K-2	<u>Angel Stories from the Bible</u>	Illustrated stories showing angels' roles throughout Scripture.
K-2	<u>Mary Stories from the Bible</u>	Picture book teaching about Mary.
K-2	<u>Jesus Stories from the Bible</u>	Illustrated Gospel stories on Jesus' teachings and miracles.
K-2	<u>The Gospel Told by the Animals</u>	Unique retelling of Jesus' life from the perspective of animals in the Gospels.
K-2	<u>Illustrated Parables of Jesus</u>	Storybook with illustrations teaching Jesus' parables.
K-2	<u>Drawing Closer to God Coloring Book</u>	Coloring book to be paired with Formed's Drawing Closer to God series.
K-5	<u>Jesse Tree Poster and Sticker Activity</u>	Visual Advent tool connecting Old Testament stories to Jesus.

Kinesthetic Learning

Grade Range	Resource	Description
K-5	<u>Jesse Tree Poster and Sticker Activity</u>	Visual Advent tool with stickers connecting Old Testament stories to Jesus.
K-5	<u>Stations of the Cross Cards</u>	Illustrated cards depicting each station that can be used to walk through the Stations with children.
K-8	<u>Fun Fact Faith Trivia Game</u>	Bible-based game set involving 3 games in one.

Auditory Learning

Grade Range	Resource	Description
K-2	<u>Brother Francis: JoyToons</u>	Music-based animation teaching on Scripture and the Christian life through song (also available on Formed).

Reading & Writing Learning

Grade Range	Resource	Description
4-8	<u>Jonah's Voyage to Atlantis</u>	Graphic novel retelling of the story of Jonah.
K-2	<u>Angel Stories from the Bible</u>	Illustrated stories showing angels' roles throughout Scripture.
K-2	<u>Mary Stories from the Bible</u>	Picture book teaching about Mary.
2-4	<u>Tell Me About the Catholic Faith: From the Bible to the Sacraments</u>	Overview book connecting Scripture, sacraments, and Church teaching.

Tips for Catechists—Scripture & Salvation History

- Read directly from the Bible when possible, and incorporate sacred art prints to offer visual support to lessons.
- Turn Bible stories into short skits or trivia challenges to encourage engagement.
- Encourage students to copy or illustrate favorite Bible verses in their journals or textbooks.
- Regularly incorporate Lectio Divina for prayer. Offer short writing prompts (“What is God saying to me in this passage?”) after leading students through prayer.

Liturgical Seasons

Visual Learning

Grade Range	Resource	Description
K-2	<u>24 Christmas Stories to Welcome Jesus</u>	Illustrated readings for Advent leading to Christmas.
K-2	<u>Brother Francis: The Days of Advent</u>	Videos about the Advent season with meditations and prayers for each day (also available on Formed).
K-2	<u>Let's Learn About Advent</u>	Illustrated picture book introducing Advent and preparation for Jesus.
K-2	<u>The First Christmas: It's a Reader and Coloring Book</u>	Combines coloring and early reading to tell the story of Jesus' birth.
K-2	<u>Brother Francis: O Holy Night — The King is Born</u>	Animated video introducing the Nativity and the meaning of Christmas (also available on Formed)
K-2	<u>Let's Learn About Christmas</u>	Picture book explaining the Christmas story and season in simple terms.
K-2	<u>Let's Learn About Lent</u>	Picture book teaching the Lenten season.
K-2	<u>Brother Francis: He Is Risen</u>	Easter-focused animation on the Resurrection (also available on Formed).
2-6	<u>Lent Flash Cards: A Great Way to Learn About Lent!</u>	Illustrated flashcards explaining the season of Lent.
K-8	<u>Lent Liturgical Art</u>	Lent-themed art prints paired with meditations and verses.
K-8	<u>Easter Liturgical Art</u>	Art prints depicting Resurrection-themed Scripture with reflection and prayer aids.

Kinesthetic Learning

Grade Range	Resource	Description
K-2	<u>What is Lent? Coloring Book</u>	Coloring resource teaching Lent's meaning, symbols, and purpose.
K-5	<u>Jesse Tree Poster and Sticker Activity</u>	Visual Advent tool connecting Old Testament stories to Jesus.
2-6	<u>Lent Flash Cards: A Great Way to Learn About Lent!</u>	Illustrated flashcards explaining the season of Lent.

Auditory Learning

Grade Range	Resource	Description
K-2	<u>The Story of Christmas</u>	Audio drama of the story of the Nativity.
K-2	<u>The King is Born Christmas Songs</u>	Collection of traditional and new Christmas songs.

Reading & Writing Learning

Grade Range	Resource	Description
3-5	<u>The Adventures of Nick & Sam: The Best Advent Ever</u>	Chapter book connecting everyday life to Advent themes of hope and waiting.
3-5	<u>The Adventures of Nick & Sam: Trouble with Lent</u>	Chapter book teaching the meaning of Lent through a relatable family narrative.
K-2	<u>24 Christmas Stories to Welcome Jesus</u>	Illustrated readings for Advent leading to Christmas.

Tips for Catechists—Liturgical Seasons

- Have a liturgical calendar on display with corresponding colors and art. Change visuals as the Church season changes to anchor lessons in the liturgical year.
- Create interactive options to reinforce learning—students can add symbols to the Jesse Tree, make Advent wreaths, or walk through the Stations of the Cross.
- Use seasonal songs or short audio reflections at the start or end of class to help children learn more about the season.
- Encourage daily reading or prayer challenges during Advent or Lent. Provide short reflection sheets tied to the readings.

Further Resources on Formed

Visual Learning

As a video resource library, the majority of Formed's content assists visual learning. Below are a few selected recommendations that can easily be integrated with Word of Life curriculum.

Grade Range	Resource	Description
K-2	<u>Brother Francis</u>	Hear from Brother Francis as he teaches young children about the faith.
3-5	<u>Littlest Saints</u>	Learn about the saints through other children as they act out different saint stories.
6-8	<u>The Search Begins</u>	Series designed to foster discussions on identity, purpose, God, and life.

Kinesthetic Learning

Grade Range	Resource	Description
K-5	<u>Drawing Closer to God</u>	Teaches Lent, Advent, and Salvation History through drawing classes. Adjustable for different ages and abilities.
For Teachers; All Grades	<u>Catholic All Year at Home</u>	Learn different ways to teach the faith with food in these episodes.

Auditory Learning

Grade Range	Resource	Description
K-2	<u>Christine in Action</u>	Learn prayers and other Church teachings through music.
3-8	<u>Audio Dramas</u>	Explore our library of audio dramas for students to listen to during quiet activity time.

Reading & Writing Learning

Grade Range	Resource	Description
All Grades	<u>Books: Kids and Teens</u>	Explore our library of ebooks for all ages on Formed.

Considerations for Word of Life

Word of Life's curriculum is designed to integrate visual, kinesthetic, auditory, and reading/writing throughout the textbook and activities. Below are some examples of where these learning types are integrated within each lesson.

Visual Learning

Activity	Description
Sacred Art Reflection	Use sacred art to teach children about God and the saints.
Enhancement Videos	Dive deeper into the lesson with accompanying videos.
Textbook Illustrations	Utilize accompanying pictures to reaffirm various points.
Teacher Doodles	Visually demonstrate key concepts for students.

Kinesthetic Learning

Activity	Description
Focus Activities	Assigned Focus activities usually involve hands-on participation from the students to engage with the material differently.
Faith Alive Section	The Faith Alive section can integrate different types of learning to reemphasize the lesson.
Bonus/Optional Activities	These activities are typically acting or craft-related to enhance the lesson topic.

Auditory Learning

Activity	Description
Proclamation	The proclamation statement at the beginning of each chapter is an opportunity for students to say and memorize the key takeaway for that section.
Songs	Some lessons for younger students include songs to sing together that refer to the chapter's content.
Unit Prayers	Hearing and saying unit prayers aloud teach students to pray and helps them encounter God.

Reading & Writing Learning

Activity	Description
Lectio Divina	Teach prayer in a format that works well for students who prefer this type of learning.
Textbook and Scripture Reading	Read aloud or have students quietly read what is being discussed in the lesson.
Vocabulary Words/Flashcards	Emphasize key takeaways with vocabulary words.
Small Wonders and Gabriel's Quest	Understand lesson themes in the context of real-life examples for younger elementary students.
Saint Stories	Learn from the stories of the saints.