

Introduction and Overview

Questions For God correlates well with all other available catechetical texts. Since it seems easier for children to learn material if it is presented in story form, Questions For God uses this technique to become the framework upon which any additional texts can be utilized. Questions For God can be used as the outline and frame for a 5 day a week in school setting or a once a week Religious Ed program.

To begin to use QFG, one combo set of QFG should be ordered for the teacher to use year after year. One copy of Questions For God - Classroom Edition would be ordered for each child in the class.

A class year would begin with reading Book 1 of QFG. Children would be instructed to tear out the Book 1 pages in the Questions For God - Classroom Edition and staple them together to form their individual booklet. After reading Book 1, the pertinent chapters in the chosen base text would be studied. When all of the appropriate chapters in the base text that relate to QFG,_Book 1, have been studied, the class would reread Book 1 and move on to Book 2. Children would again be instructed to tear out the Book 2 pages in the QFG Classroom Edition. The pertinent chapters in the base text that relate to Book 2 would then be read and Book 2 reread before going on to Book 3. As each new book of QFG is introduced, the children would be instructed to tear out the appropriate pages in their QFG - Classroom Edition and create the next booklet. The teacher would continue with the remaining 8 books in the same manner, making certain to read a book at the beginning and end of each "section" to reinforce the continuity of Salvation History. After a book has been read and reread in preparation for the next "section" of study, the student's copy of QFG can be taken home and the parent's encourage to reread the booklets with their child. (Book 9, dealing with the Sacraments will stand alone, therefore having no book read before Book 9, and having book 8 reread before beginning Book 10.)

Questions For God can be used year after year as a child moves through the grades. The base texts will change each year, thus giving more information to the timeline of Salvation History that Questions For God presents. As QFG covers many subjects not covered in various other texts,

and has one book devoted entirely to the Sacraments, it is recommended to use the series from ages 3 through the 2nd Grade First Communion preparation.

Because the books are simply worded and imaginatively illustrated, schools have found that various individual books will continue to be useful in the upper elementary grades. The additional information gained either from the base texts used or from the teacher as the child progresses through the grades will be enhanced by the visual aspects of QFG: when explaining Apostolic Succession, Book 7 is helpful; Book 2 dramatizes the fall of Lucifer; and book 10 explains judgment and Purgatory.

The prayers at the end of each book can be readily learned by repetition. The younger a child is when the prayers are introduced, the easier it is for him/her to learn. The young child is eager to memorize and there is an enormous feeling of accomplishment. The memorizing of the prayer/prayers at the end of each book should begin after the initial reading of the book. Each line of the prayer should be explained then recited repeatedly during the day. Each day, a new line can be added. These repetitions can be used as opening prayers for the class. As each book is completed and the new prayer learned, it can be added to the opening prayers. Notes to parents, including a copy of all of the prayers contained in the ten books, will encourage the parents to incorporate the prayers into the child's nightly prayers. (Many parents do not know the prayers and the sheet containing the prayers will help them develop nightly prayers with their children.)

The St. Michael prayer is especially suited to the young child. The super heroes in movies and on TV are not real -- St. Michael is! He is a powerful ally for the young child who faces so many fears. St. Michael is God's most powerful angel and he is the protector of God's people, especially the children.

Bible citations are included in certain sections. These are helpful to tell individual happenings more completely. Since the Bible is the inspired word of God, referencing and reading the citations will encourage the children to become familiar with the use of the Bible.

Throughout the books, words will be introduced that may be unfamiliar to the children. They are italicized. These words will form an abbreviated dictionary for the K- 1st & 2nd graders and will be highlighted in red in the following **Teacher's Discussions** and **Classroom Activities**. These sections give suggestions that are appropriate for various ages. The teacher will make the determination which items to use with the class. As QFG will be used year after year, various activities can and should be represented. The repetition will help cement the principles in the children's minds.

The **Teacher's Discussions** and **Classroom Activities** sections are included as suggestions only.