



WORD of LIFE™
Build Strong Catholics



Word of Life - Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Word of Life catechesis program?

The Word of Life curriculum is a new K-8 program designed to assist parents and teachers in catechizing their children. Word of Life seeks to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and help students enter into the narrative of Salvation History, grow in virtue and character, understand their identity, dignity, and purpose, and become Christ's disciples in the world.

The Word of Life program includes a student text, teacher/catechist manual, and a Word of Life online portal. The online portal contains supplemental material for the classroom (including videos, assessments, and classroom activities), as well as resources for teachers, administrators, and parents.

Given the number of catechetical programs that are currently available, why was it necessary to create an entirely new program?

An authentic catechetical renewal requires new catechetical models that help children, teachers, parents, and families discover their authentic Catholic identity to reinvigorate fruitful participation in the Church's life and mission. The Church needs new catechetical resources to not only provide faithful teaching, but also be able to explain why the faith is relevant in our modern culture.

The Augustine Institute and Ignatius Press have partnered to create Word of Life. What does that partnership entail?

The partnership between the Augustine Institute and Ignatius Press brings together two of the leading Catholic apostolates. Staff from both apostolates work together on all aspects of the project, from the curriculum plan and design to the editing and sales of the curriculum



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Why is the program called Word of Life?

The phrase “Word of Life is used in two New Testament passages: 1 John 1:1 and Philippians 2:16. In 1 John, the phrase refers to Jesus himself, the incarnate Word of God. In the Letter to the Philippians, Saint Paul uses the same phrase to refer to the Gospel (good news) of Christ that he proclaims. At its heart, then, Word of Life focuses on the person of Jesus Christ and seeks to proclaim him to students, catechists, and families alike.

Who is the target audience for Word of Life?

Word of Life is intended for children and teens grades K-8 as well as their parents, catechists, and teachers. The curriculum is designed for both Catholic school and parish settings. Grades K-5 include separate school and parish editions of the student books, whereas grades 6-8 will have a single student book each that is used in both parish and school contexts.

How is Word of Life different from other catechetical programs?

- 1) Word of Life weaves four golden catechetical threads throughout the curriculum to meet the needs of students and families today:
 - Salvation History
 - Christian Anthropology
 - Heroic Virtue & Character Formation
 - Learning Through Discipleship
- 2) Word of Life invests in the formation of students, their parents, and catechists in an effort to transform Catholic parishes and schools.
- 3) Word of Life offers a cutting-edge digital platform of digital resources for students, parents, and catechists.
- 4) Word of Life emphasizes on virtue development as a way to better understand and apply the examples of the saints to daily life.



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Word of Life is one of the first catechetical programs to be approved during the pilot phase of the new accompaniment process with the USCCB. What does this mean?

Word of Life is approved for use by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). This new process for evaluating and approving catechetical materials is described by the USCCB as follows: “This process evaluates catechetical materials for conformity to the Catechism using the same Protocols as prior Conformity Reviews, but with a new methodology that permits the evaluation and use of digital materials. Materials in this section are evaluated (accompanied) throughout their creation to ensure conformity to the Catechism and to promote effectiveness in how they present the truths of faith.”

Word of Life can be found on the USCCB Curriculum conformity list:
<https://www.usccb.org/committees/catechism/conformity-review-list>.

What resources are available for Word of Life teachers, students, and parents?

All teachers and catechists have access to a basic catechist certification program from the Augustine Institute. This certification program is designed to form catechists in the Catholic faith. It is available through the Word of Life online portal.

Parents will have access to parent formation program resources that can be completed individually or in small group settings. The initial set of parent formation is built around three existing Augustine Institute programs: *The Search*, *Forgiven*, and *Presence*. These programs are available on FORMED.org.

Students have access to a library of digital activities and videos through the Word of Life portal. The full student text is available on the online portal along with complementary digital resources.



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The Word of Life curriculum is organized by four golden threads that not only provide faithful teaching but explain why the faith is relevant in modern culture. What are the four golden threads?

1. **Salvation History** - The core of Word of Life is the unfolding of Salvation History. Each year progresses through the history of salvation and invites students to contemplate their place within it.
2. **Christian Anthropology** - This golden thread responds to the question that is at the heart of all human pursuits: Who am I? Through this golden thread, students explore the teachings of the Church for answers to this question.
3. **Heroic Virtue & Character Formation** - Through the lives of the saints, students are presented with models of heroic virtue. With the saints as a model, students are encouraged to form their own lives modeled on the virtues that the saints modeled so well.
4. **Learning Through Discipleship** - An important part of every lesson is to apply what is learned. This golden thread is designed to guide students towards living out what they have learned as an expression of their Catholic faith.

What impact will Word of Life have on students, teachers and parents?

Word of Life will inspire students, parents, and teachers to learn about their Catholic faith and put their faith into action. Word of Life encourages students to live out their baptismal call and pursue sanctity throughout their whole life.

Why is Word of Life needed now?

We live in a world full of turmoil, division, and increasing atheism. Word of Life seeks to unite students, parents, and catechists in the common goal of pursuing a life of holiness. The curriculum is not only faithful to Catholic teaching, but it is also faithful to the experience of the human person.