

# OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## Archeparchy of Pittsburgh

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**September 2016**

Dear Coordinators and Catechists,

The Office of Religious Education for the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh is providing two Safe Environment resources to be included in your Eastern Christian Formation program.

Choose one and send to the chancery the documentation form by November 1, 2016 indicating the material has been covered in your 2016-2017 Eastern Christian Formation program.

Thank you for your cooperation in this important matter and may your year be filled with many of God's choicest blessings!

### Option One:

Preview yourself or view with your students the free presentation "KID SMARTZ" and discuss the contents with your students. This resource can be found at [kidsmartz.org](http://kidsmartz.org) – choose "Teaching Tools" then "Presentation" and Register to download the program.

### Option Two:

Incorporate the handout, "*God With Us* Curriculum, Safe Environment Resource for Lesson Two" in your Eastern Christian Formation curriculum for grades one through eight. Initiate with your students a discussion on the additional information for the second lesson in each student text.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>GOD WITH US</i> Curriculum</b> <b>Safe Environment Resource for Lesson Two</b></p>
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### **Grade One**

#### Lesson 2, "Our Church Family Worships God" page 9

Our ears hear singing and beautiful prayers in Church. Like all of our senses, they are a gift from God. Sometimes, our friends or others tell us secrets. How can we know if a secret is a good secret or a bad secret? (Sexual abuse is a secret no child should have to keep.)

### **Grade Two**

#### Lesson 2, "God Our Creator, Loves Us" page 9

God our Father cares for us very much. How do we know people care for us? People who care for you do not try to trick you, scare you or promise you things to make you do something you don't want to do.

## **Grade Three**

### Lesson 2, “Jesus is Our Savior” page 9

The word “covenant” is an important word because it’s like a promise. There are good promises and bad promises. If someone makes a promise to you or asks you to promise something that makes you feel bad, sad, scared or confused, you must tell a trusted adult. Jesus, Our Savior wants all people to care for one another, never to hurt others.

## **Grade Four**

### Lesson 2, “Jesus Sends the Holy Spirit” page 9

In the Mystery of Chrismation our head, chest, back, hands and feet are anointed with chrism. That is a lot of body parts! This anointing is a reminder that our body is a gift from God. Nobody has a right to touch your body in a way that makes you feel uncomfortable. If they do, you have the right to say “NO.” If they continue you must tell a trusted adult.

## **Grade Five**

### Lesson 2, “Baptism: The Lord Enters Our Life” page 11

The activity for this lesson talks about our Baptism, a wonderful gift from God. Everybody loves to receive gifts. Most of the time the intention and motive for the gift is love. Many of you have already received a cell phone or a Smart phone as a gift. How can that particular gift be helpful or harmful to you?

## **Grade Six**

### Lesson 2, “We Are Called to Grow in the Church” page 10

There are some very important words in the box on this page that says, “You are linked to all God’s people through the centuries. Know yourself and know your world. Know your history.” The “www” (World Wide Web) can be a good link or a bad link. We are all familiar with the benefits and love them. Let’s talk about the dark side. Give some examples of how technology can bring personal harm to yourself and others.

## **Book Seven**

### Lesson 2, Life is From God” pages 7, 8 & 10

What do the icons in the lesson tell us about our responsibility to all of God’s creatures? You are a creature of God who deserves respect. Name some ways in which you respect yourself. How can social media do the opposite?

## **Book Eight**

### Lesson 2 “People Travel Together”

Our parents tried to teach us not to be picky when it comes to food and they were probably right. One thing we can be picky about is choosing your traveling companions carefully, especially through technology. If your traveling Tech friends are communicating something of value and worth, continue the journey. If they are contradicting what you are hearing at home, in Church and in school, end the journey.

Do you agree with this statement:

“Everything we say and do in cyberspace and in person is in the presence of God.” Why or Why not?