

Teaching Faith Vocabulary

As an alternative to the flash card activity suggested in the student texts, use one of these strategies to build religious literacy around faith concepts.

1. Invite the students to create word maps around each week's vocabulary words. Let them work in teams. The recorder places the faith vocabulary word in the center of a piece of art paper. The members of the team brainstorm related or defining words and the recorder places them around the center vocabulary word. Invite the teams to share their work.
2. Invite students to help you build an illustrated word wall. Use a long piece of craft or butcher paper and removable tape to affix it to the wall. Using a marker, write each week's faith vocabulary words on the paper. Leave space around each word so that volunteers can add definitions and illustrations around the words. Remind them that the word itself should always be dominant. The wall can be rolled up and carried to and from the classroom if you share it with other teachers or catechists. By the end of the year, the word wall will contain all the year's vocabulary words. By keeping them all in view of the young people each week you will aid their religious literacy.
3. At the end of each unit, invite the children to create crossword puzzles. Have them create clues for the vocabulary words and to construct a grid into which the answers will fit. Be sure to post their work so they can walk around and see one another's creations.

