

Common Core Standard

The student will gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources, using advanced searches effectively; assess the strengths and limitations of each source in terms of the task, purpose, and audience; integrate information into the text selectively to maintain the flow of ideas, avoiding plagiarism and overreliance on any one source and following a standard format for citation.

[CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.11-12.2](https://www.corestandards.org/ELA-Literacy/SL/11-12/2/)

Learning Objective(s)

Students will be able to explore different faith based organizations around their community by taking the initiative to get involved in different activities and in the process learn more about themselves and others with flexibility, compassion and acceptance.

Materials

- Computer and Projector
- Academic Materials
 - Flash Cards
- Activity Handouts
 - Faith Based Experiences Infographic
 - Self-Reflection: My Faith and Beliefs
 - Web-Search: Faith Based Organizations

Opening Activity – Whole Class, 20 Minutes

Activity Purpose: To understand why Faith Based Organizations are beneficial for the students in order for them to acquire new interests, social skills, communication skills and self advocacy.

Anticipatory Activity:

1. Present the idea that schools have organizations run by school personnel and other students; for example, Future Leaders Organizations, Charities Social, Emotional and Character development workshops, and Self-Esteem Groups .
2. Explain that these organizations are where people with the same interests gather and share their ideas and abilities in many fun activities.
3. Ask the students:
 - a. What do you think is a Faith Based Organization?
 - b. Where in your community would you find a faith based organization?



Opening Activity Continued

Anticipatory Activity continued:

1. Allow the students to answer the questions in their own words and listen to examples. Write these examples on the board so the students can have a concrete view of the different faith based organization examples.
2. Help the students that don't know about any organization providing your own examples and guide them properly to correct ideas that are related to Faith Based Experiences.

Description of Activity:

1. Display on the board the Faith Based Experiences Infographic and hand a copy to all the students in the class.
2. Discuss the first questions of the infographic, "What is a Faith Based Experience?" and ask someone from the group to read out loud the definition.
3. Create six flash cards containing the answers of the second question: What can you do and learn from Faith Based Organizations?.
4. Distribute the six cards to six students volunteers in the classroom.
5. Allow the students with the flash cards to participate by going to the board and placing the cards with the answers correctly.
6. As they place the cards correctly discuss the answer with more depth and examples.
7. Encourage the students to analyze the answers by asking:
 - a. What do you think that sentence means in your own words?
8. Support students that are having problems understanding the card's answer by re-reading it out loud and giving indirect examples to encourage the students to seek for their own answer through comprehension.

How will students demonstrate their learning? The students will be able to correctly identify the answers from the cards and place them on the board and answer the teacher's self reflection questions in their own words.

Lesson 1 – Individual or Small Group, 25 Minutes

Activity Purpose: To self-reflect about how their faiths and beliefs help them and others emotionally during good or difficult times throughout their lives.

Description of Activity:

1. Hand in the Self-Reflection: My Faith and Beliefs worksheet to the students.
2. This activity can be done individually or in small groups of two students. With this method the students can help each other if they need support by listening to their peer's examples.
3. Once everyone had a copy, read the instructions carefully.
4. Go through the four questions by reading them out loud. You can also encourage students to re-read the questions so they can also analyze what they need to answer.

Lesson 1 Continued

Description of Activity continued

1. You can read one question at the time and answer or read all the questions and let the students work with the answers at their own pace.
2. Provide individual support by going back to the questions and giving some examples on how to answer, but keep in mind that they need to answer in their own words. It would be ideal to ask them to answer verbally and then help them write their answer if they can't.

Extension Activity:

1. Permit the students take their self-reflection worksheet home so they can discuss the answers with their caregivers and later with their transition team on their next IEP meeting.
2. Is it optional, but students can be encouraged to share their answers with the group or peer after they answer the self-reflection questions.

How will students demonstrate their learning?

The students will be able to work in small groups and answer the self-reflection questions with little to no help from the lesson provider. They will be able to discuss their answers and share what they believe with their caregivers and their transition team.

Closing Activity – Whole Group, 5 Minutes

Activity Purpose: To value the importance of having faith and positive beliefs in their lives as they develop and transition to adulthood.

Description of Activity:

1. Display once more the Faith Based Experiences Infographic so the students can recall their opening activity.
2. Ask the students the following questions:
 1. How can your faith and belief help you achieve your goals?
 2. How can your positive beliefs help you increase your self-esteem?
3. Give the students time to answer the questions and provide assistance to those who would like to participate, but are having difficulties expressing themselves.

How will students demonstrate their learning? The students will feel motivated to reflect on the importance of their faith and beliefs and how these two concepts are part of their life development. They will share with the group their reflections and talk about their experiences.

Activity Purpose: To know how to research and collect information from different faith based organizations in the community that are matched on the students interests, faith and beliefs.

Anticipatory Activity:

1. Now that the students have an idea of what is a faith based experience and why it could be a good match for them to join an organization. Let's discuss with them how to find the faith based organization that matches their interests.
2. Ask the students the following question:
 - a. When searching for a Faith Based Organization, what are your expectations?
 - b. What would you be looking for when searching for a faith based organization?
3. Give the students time to answer one or the two questions. This will make them rethink their reasons and be more prepared when they start looking for their ideal faith based organization within their community.
4. Some students might already be part of an organization in their community with their families. Encourage these students to explore other possible organizations that they didn't know about and may learn new skills and experiences.

Description of Activity:

1. Take the students to a computer room or library so they can search on the internet different faith based organizations.
2. Pair the student in groups of two and provide them with the worksheet, Web-Search: Faith Based Organizations.
3. Before they start searching, read the instructions out loud and explain each of the questions carefully and give examples for each so the students know what to answer when it's their turn.
4. Some students might not have an idea on how to start the search; that's why provide a list of examples of different faith based organizations already searched by you that are within their community.
5. Display your examples on the board so they can write them in the search bar and gather information from the organization's website. An example of faith based organizations could be "The Salvation Army."
6. Always check the students' answers and progress and offer assistance if they need more guidance or examples to fill the worksheet.

Lesson 2 Continued

Extension Activity:

1. Allow the student to take their worksheet home so they can discuss their answer with the family members.
2. Inform the parents of the activity through a letter so they can also support the student with their own experiences and information about other faith based organizations that they know of and would like for their child to also experience.
3. Encourage the students to discuss their answer with their transition team at their next IEP meeting so they can help the student contact the searched organization and arrange a meeting.

How will students demonstrate their learning? The students will be able to work as a group and search for a faith based organization on the internet and write down their information to see if the organization is a great match for them.

Closing Activity – Whole Group, 15 Minutes

Activity Purpose: To discuss and review what they found when searching for their own faith based organizations and the activities they were interested in.

Description of Activity:

1. Gather the students so they can discuss their findings as a group.
2. Ask the following questions to the students so they can reflect with their peers the answers.
 - a. What faith based organization caught your attention?
 - b. What activities did you find most interesting?
 - c. How will these activities be able to enhance your beliefs and faith?
3. Permit the students to read their answers if they need that kind of support, but encourage them to answer in their own words.

How will students demonstrate their learning? The students will be able to list the activities they found most interesting to them and share why they chose such faith based organization in their community.

What is a Faith Based Experience?

A place (church, synagogue, mosque or others) of gathering and activities to share your faith and beliefs, and learn about yourself and others.



What can you do and learn from Faith Based Organizations?

It can help you learn more about your **Faith** and yourself as a person.

You learn about others in how to understand them with empathy and compassion.

You learn about trust and how to make strong friendships.

You can gain experiences through volunteer and charity work.

You can explore new places from other communities and their customs.

You learn new skills and interests with various fun activities.

Self-Reflection: My Faith and Beliefs

Instructions: Answer the following questions in your own words and discuss your answers with your family members, transition team or other school personnel that you feel connected to.

How can faith help you during stressful times and different moments that feel like a challenge or a barrier for you?

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List 5 positive things that you believe about yourself and your good nature that help you achieve your goals.

Share an experience where your faith or your positive beliefs helped you or someone else in need.

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What activities would interest you the most in a faith based organization in your community?

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Faith Based Organization Community Search

Instructions: With the help of a family member, friend or a member of your transition team, search on the internet for a potential Faith Based Organization that meets your needs based on your interests, faith, beliefs, dreams and preferred activities.

Questions	Answers
What's the name of the Faith Based Organization?	
Where is it located in your community?	
Why does this organization interest you?	
How can this organization help you learn more about your faith and beliefs?	
Name at least <u>5 activities</u> from the organization that you would like to be part of.	
How can this organization help you learn new skills?	
How can this organization help you meet new people and make new friends?	