

The *Be My Disciples* Summer Program Contract

Background

The *Be My Disciples* Summer Program Contract is a method for opening up the shared responsibility of passing on the faith, which exists between the parish and the household. The contract is especially appropriate for parishes choosing the Two-Week + At Home Model for the Summer Program. Based on the work of Bill Huebsch (The 50-50 Covenant, © PastoralPlanning.com 2006), the contract makes clear the roles and expectations of parents, families, catechists, and the parish.

What the Parish Might Promise

Here's an example of what the parish might promise. Any given parish may promise all of these items, some of them, or others which fit into their culture and parish spirit.

As a Parish:

- We promise to offer catechetical gatherings that give faithful instruction about the fundamentals of the Catholic faith.
- We promise to use materials approved by the local bishop and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).
- We promise to make sure that catechists and volunteers who are well prepared for their ministry facilitate all Summer Program sessions held at the parish.
- We promise to offer you, the parents and families, opportunities to gather for information and formational gatherings that will assist you in both teaching and living your faith in the home.

- We promise to do everything possible to offer help, prayerful support, and resources needed to help guide you and those who live within your household in the Catholic way of life, a life based on Sacred Scripture, Sacred Tradition, prayer and worship, and service.

As a Family:

- We promise to complete the third week of the Three-Week Summer Program in our home, following the schedule outlined by the catechist and Summer Program director.
- We promise to use the materials provided, which have been chosen by the parish and approved by the local bishop and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).
- We promise to attend the informational and formational gatherings held in relation to the *Be My Disciples* Summer Program.
- We promise to continue to growing in our Catholic faith by: attending Sunday Mass on a regular basis; praying as a family; doing works of charity and service together; and continuing to learn about our Catholic faith.

Suggested Format

A suggested format for the contract follows. Again, please note that the content of the contract should reflect your *Be My Disciples* Summer Program structure, schedule, and expectations. Also take into consideration what is do-able for the parents and families. You do not want to overwhelm them with too many expectations. You do, however, want to help them recognize and take responsibility for their child's faith formation.

[Name of Parish or School]

***Be My Disciples* Summer Program Contract**
with

[Name(s) of the Family]



1. _____ will serve as catechist(s) in our home, our domestic Church, in order to ensure that our child(ren) complete the Summer Program.
2. I/We agree to use the materials provided by the parish and/or school, approved by the local bishop and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).
3. _____ agree(s) to attend all informational and formational gatherings held for parents and families in relation to the *Be My Disciples* Summer Program.
4. We agree, as a family, to continue to learn about and grow in our faith by regularly attending weekend Mass, taking part in opportunities for outreach and service, and making time for daily prayer as a family.

We make this commitment in good faith, and with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Name

Date

Name

Date



[Name of Parish or School]

***Be My Disciples* Summer Program Contract**

-
- 1.** We promise to provide a welcoming and safe environment for your child(ren) during the *Be My Disciples* Summer Program.
 - 2.** We promise to offer catechetical sessions that will help deepen your child's knowledge of the Catholic faith, and invite him or her into a deeper knowledge of and relationship with Jesus Christ.
 - 3.** We promise to use resources that are approved by our local bishop and by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).
 - 4.** We promise that all *Be My Disciples* Summer Program catechists and volunteers are well trained for their tasks. We will also ensure that they have received the training and education mandated by our diocese regarding Child Protection policies.
 - 5.** We promise to provide informational and formational gatherings to prepare and assist you in completing the Summer Program with your child(ren) in your home.
 - 6.** We promise to be available to meet with you, respond to your questions and concerns, and support you in any way possible as you share the responsibility of forming your child(ren) in the faith of the Church.

We make this commitment in good faith, and with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Director of *Be My Disciples* Summer Program

Date

