

## Fish Awards by Lea Boyd

One challenge that is often asked is how to accomplish grade specific learning for children in such a way that curriculum for children is covered. One strategy that has worked is to establish a partnership between parents and the parish by scheduling a home lesson done by parents in between meeting for a gathered session at the parish. An incentive system we have found successful we call, "Fish Award."

The fish has long been a symbol of being a Christian. Students who demonstrate Christian values and behavior such as complete and return their homework assignment, who volunteer answers in class, and who show helpful behavior earn Fish Awards, paper fish cut-outs on which they write their name and enter them in a drawing for token prizes.

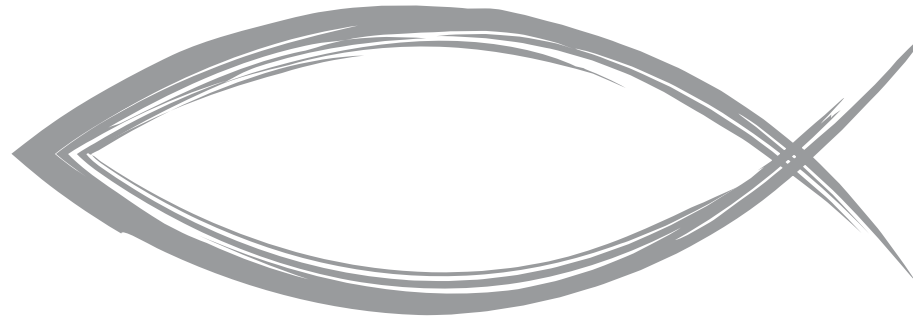
Use a die or a pattern to cut the fish out of various colors of duplicating paper, one color for each grade level. Teachers store the blank fish and award them during class for positive behaviors. Use a glass or plastic fishbowl in a central location to collect all the fish that students have earned. Once a month, draw one of each color and announce the winners. You may choose to do the drawing in private and keep track on class lists to have a record of which students have already won in a year. If a student has a repeat win in a year, you may choose to go ahead and draw the next fish of that color, so everyone gets a chance to win.

The announcement of the winners and inviting the winners to select a simple prize is a big deal for elementary students. It is one way to reward participation in class and encourage active involvement at home.

---

*faith formation*

# FISH AWARD



AWARDED TO

---

*the month of*

---

*in honor of your good work  
and positive contribution to class*