

Jesus Our Guide

Parish Catechist Manual

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Parish Catechist Manual

Faith and Life Series
Third Edition

BOOK FOUR

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INTRODUCTION TO PARISH CATECHIST MANUAL

Welcome to the *Faith and Life* Series Parish Catechist Manual. We would like to begin by thanking you for responding to God's call to pass down our Catholic Faith to our children. We hope that this resource will help you to enter in to this most important task, and that the Holy Spirit will guide you, your students, and their families as you journey together in faith, hope, and love. Please take time to read through this introduction.

You are more than simply one who imparts a set of facts. You are a catechist, and the role of a catechist is even broader and deeper than the already important role of a teacher. The word "catechesis" comes from the Greek, meaning "to echo the teaching," and the teaching that you are echoing down will come not only through the words you say, but through the life you live and the witness you give. Your first and most important task, then, as a catechist is to commit yourself more deeply to a life of prayer and holiness, asking God to strengthen you as a disciple and then to help you lead others to the Faith.

NOTES FOR CATECHISTS

Catechesis: Nature and Purpose

Catechesis is the systematic instruction of children, young people, and adults in the Catholic Faith and the teachings of the Church with the goal of making them into Christ's disciples (cf. CCC 5). It is the handing-on of Christ's message to His people. The *General Catechetical Directory* describes catechesis as a form of ministry of God's Word, "which is intended to make men's faith living, conscious, and active, through the light of instruction" (GCD 17; 1971).

Catechesis is part of the evangelization process of turning toward Christ. Evangelization is a first hearing of the Good News of salvation. This can be a moment or a process of conversion. Therefore, as catechists, we must be always evangelizing our youth by leading them to Jesus Christ. This manual includes discussion and activities that encourage evangelical engagement.

The Catechist: God's Instrument

To be a catechist is to be God's instrument. Every catechist has a responsibility to teach the fullness of the truth faithfully, while witnessing to those entrusted to His care. A fervent sacramental life and regular prayer life are the catechist's best personal preparation. Any instructor can use textbooks and teaching tools, learn various methods for effective classroom participation, and develop lesson plans to facilitate an academic environment. But nothing is as important as witnessing through your words and deeds and petitioning God for the ongoing formation and spiritual growth of the students. No matter how much knowledge you impart to your students, you should recognize that you merely plant the seeds of faith that God Himself must cultivate in their souls.

John Paul II states in *Catechesi Tradendae*: "At the heart of catechesis we find ... the Person of Jesus of Nazareth... In catechesis it is Christ ... who is taught ... and it is Christ alone who teaches" (CT 5, 6). Religious education must always be centered on the Triune God, and on Christ Himself. God chose to reveal Himself throughout salvation history, through His creation, the prophets, the Scriptures, and most perfectly in the Person Jesus Christ. This revelation, preserved faithfully through Sacred Scripture and Tradition, has been entrusted to the Church that every catechist is called to serve.

Through catechesis, you should guide your students to seek, accept, and profoundly investigate the Gospel so that they in turn may become witnesses to Christ. The *Faith and Life* series assists the catechist in this role by integrating the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* together with Sacred Scripture into the lessons.

The Role of Parents: The First Catechists

The family provides the first and most important introduction to Christian faith and practice for any child, since parents are the primary educators of their children. Instruction in the Faith, which begins

at an early age, should include not only the parents' good Christian example, but also a formation in prayer and virtue as well as an explanation and review of what students have learned from religious instruction and attending liturgical events.

Parental participation is an integral component of the faith formation of children. Catechists should involve parents in their children's instruction. As a catechist you should discuss with parents the program and methods you are using, consult with them about better ways to teach their children, and encourage them to ask for assistance if problems arise. Let parents know that you are there to help them fulfill their duties in forming and educating their children in Christ (cf. *GCD* 226, 227).

The *Faith and Life* Family Guide is an excellent resource that equips parents to become involved as the primary educators of their children's faith formation.

FAITH AND LIFE PARISH CURRICULUM

Parish Catechist Manual

The *Faith and Life* Parish Catechist Manual has been developed for once-a-week parish catechetical programs. This manual replaces the parish lesson plans available online that are used with the school Teacher Manual. The online parish lesson plans and the specific directives from the school Teacher Manual have been integrated into one easy-to-use Parish Catechist Manual.

The Parish Catechist Manual is used with the *Faith and Life* Third Edition Student Text, Activity Book, and Family Guide. The parish curriculum occasionally combines chapters from the Third Edition textbooks in order to provide a curriculum of 22 weeks plus 3 supplemental lessons, yielding a total of 25 teaching lessons. If parish programs add liturgical events such as Mass, Confessions, etc., parishes have a total of 30+ sessions. This allows flexibility for programs that meet between 22 and 36 weeks per year. The supplemental lessons include a grade-level introductory lesson with an overview of salvation history as related to each grade level, and two lessons on the liturgical year.

See Ecclesial Methodology below for more details on implementation.

Third Edition Components

The *Faith and Life* series for grades one through eight has been used in schools, parishes, and homes across the country since its original publication in 1984. This Third Edition of the original series continues our commitment to the faithful transmission of the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, placing special emphasis on the importance of Scripture and the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

The Third Edition Student Text, Student Activity Book, and Family Guide correlate with both the Teacher Manual (for schools) and the Parish Catechist Manual (for parish programs).

Student Text: *Faith and Life* Student Texts are written at an advanced reading level in order to maintain the richness of the Faith with a depth of understanding. Salvation history and doctrine is presented in a way that challenges the student's intellect so that its meaning resonates with students. In order to optimize use of this series, the text should not be used merely as a reader. This manual with suggested methodologies should be used in order to implement this series effectively. Chapter reading can be done by students either before each class or following each class.

Each chapter opens with a passage from Sacred Scripture. Additional Scripture verses are interspersed throughout the books to help demonstrate the biblical backing of the Faith. The chapters close with catechism questions that distill and synthesize key doctrinal elements from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. These questions are used either for memorization or for review purposes.

Each text chapter offers new vocabulary words in bold type. These words are also defined in a glossary found at the end of the book. Additionally, at the end of each text is a section of common Catholic prayers.

One of the first things you will notice about the *Faith and Life* Student Texts is the beautiful and inspiring religious artwork. Faith has inspired art for centuries, and religious art has, in turn, inspired our Faith. Art is a valuable educational tool, especially in the teaching of religious truths to children, for, in addition to the oral and written word, it offers a visual image of the subject matter. Art can also be

a source of meditation for students and catechists alike as they investigate the paintings, discuss the religious imagery, and come to understand the beautiful symbols and the artistic expressions of the realities they communicate. This manual gives a basic description for each work of art.

Activity Book: The *Faith and Life* Activity Books contain four supplemental written activities for each chapter. These activities consist of a variety of activities that reinforce or apply what the students have learned in class. These can be used for reinforcement, enrichment, student assessment of the material learned, or homework.

In the primary grades the activities focus on drawing, coloring, and simple puzzles and exercises. In the middle grades, the activities focus on comprehension and integration; memorization is also emphasized. In the final grades the activities focus on comprehension and synthesis of the ideas expressed, as students are encouraged to integrate, both intellectually and actively, what they have been taught.

Family Guide: The Family Guide is designed to guide parents in their children’s faith formation and to equip them as primary teachers of the Faith. Step-by-step instructions assist parents each week through prayer, study, life application, and means of living out the Faith. Parents, too, grow in their understanding of Jesus Christ and the Catholic Faith through the Family Guide. The Family Guide is an optional component, but its use is strongly suggested to maximize parental participation.

Assessment Tools: Chapter quizzes and unit tests are available in parish manuals and online. Additional yearly cumulative tests are also available. There is a wide variation in the application of the quizzes and tests, depending on the goals of your parish program. Quizzes and tests can be used simply as reinforcement or as an assessment of student understanding of the material. It is important that students read chapters and study vocabulary words in order to prepare for quizzes and unit tests. Quizzes may also be used as a follow-up for chapter reading at home. You may want to consider open-book quizzes as well.

Catechists may also use Parish Catechist Manual discussion questions or Activity Book questions as an informal assessment of student understanding of subject matter.

Curriculum Outline: A full detailed curriculum outline is available for each grade level. You may download these on www.faithandlifeseries.com.

Parish Catechist Manual Curriculum: A 22–25 week outline of the Parish Curriculum can be found in this manual (see below) and is available on www.faithandlifeseries.com.

Pedagogy

Pedagogy can be simply defined as the art of teaching. When asked by the Deacon Deogratias, “How are we to catechize?” Saint Augustine responded, “The instruction should begin with a narration of God’s dealings with man from the creation of the world down to the present period of Church history; they should all be referred to love as their final cause” (no. 10). The *Faith and Life* series mimics this pedagogy. Through the narration of salvation history students learn about God’s saving actions. This foundational structure serves as the basis for a deeper understanding of the Faith, which elicits a response of faith.

Faith and Life models the divine pedagogy—the manner in which God has revealed himself. The Church has passed on his revelation. The content of the Faith unfolds through the story of salvation history as presented in Sacred Scripture and developed in Sacred Tradition. Doctrinal, liturgical, moral, and spiritual elements of the Faith flow from God’s saving work in history. Each lesson in *Faith and Life* should be taught within the context of the narrative of God’s love story so that the Good News of Jesus Christ is evident to students. Lessons and teaching resources allow for a variety of activities for different learning styles and educational needs, but all students participate in the common approach of drawing on Scripture and salvation as the basis for coming to understand sacred doctrine, the Sacred Liturgy, and the moral and spiritual life. Students encounter life in Christ and the Church as a living whole.

By using *Faith and Life*, catechists not only pass down doctrinal truths of the Faith, but moreover they echo down a family story of love. This story is one that begins with creation by a loving God, and one that moves each of us through this earthly life to life eternal in a love that never ends. For this reason, it is important that we share our family story of faith, also known as salvation history. When we share the story of salvation history, this narration increasingly becomes our own story. It then leaves in the hearts of our young students the knowledge that they have been loved into being by a God who has a special plan for their lives.

To assist catechists in effectively implementing this pedagogical structure, the parish curriculum provides several tools: (1) a written overview of salvation history to provide a bird’s-eye view of the pedagogical structure; (2) a timeline of salvation history; (3) an introductory lesson of salvation history for each grade level; and (4) liturgical year lessons that are presented within the context of salvation history. Each lesson of the *Faith and Life* series should be taught within the context of salvation history in order that the love story becomes the story of each student.

Methodology

This parish manual incorporates various catechetical methods. Imparting knowledge of the Faith is accomplished through prayer, liturgy, words, and deeds, as well as through activities. While methods are important, nothing can replace the value of the catechist. The catechist must be a witness to faith working in his life. Catechists should also be open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, who inspires and convicts us of truth.

Love should be the golden thread of the entire catechetical process. The content of the Faith is primarily about God, who loves us. Through a catechist’s response of love, we seek to make disciples who also respond in faith out of love. Our ultimate goal then is for the Word of God to become flesh in our hearts and the hearts of our students.

The parish manual uses the Ecclesial Methodology for each lesson. It is important for catechists to have a basic understanding of this methodology for optimal use of the *Faith and Life* Parish Catechist Manual. Monsignor Francis Kelly’s book *The Mystery We Proclaim* gives a full explanation of the Ecclesial Methodology. Below you will find a summary of the five steps.

Ecclesial Methodology

The Ecclesial Method is a comprehensive catechetical approach. Because evangelization is critical to the catechetical process, this Parish Catechist Manual provides engaging discussion and pedagogical techniques to engage the minds and hearts of students and lead them to conversion. In order to maximize the effectiveness of both the evangelization and catechetical process, all of the steps should be used. Each step of each lesson indicates a specific time allotment to provide for a total of 60–90 minutes per class session. Optional activities are provided for different teaching styles or for longer sessions.

While using this manual, be sure to keep close to the prescribed time allotments. The time designation “30–40 minutes” means 30 minutes for a one-hour class; 40 minutes for an hour and a half class. In order to maximize the effectiveness of the Ecclesial Method, it is important to finish the lesson and use all of the five steps. Lessons can be expanded by using all of the optional activities and discussion. Lessons can be condensed by using focus points, summaries, and conclusions, and using less discussion under each focus.

Preparation: The preparation step in the Ecclesial Method is to prepare the students for learning and conversion. The intention is to draw students away from secular distractions into a prayerful learning environment, in order that they become open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

Depending on time and space limitations in a parish setting, the catechist may incorporate a sacred space or prayer table with visuals. Cover the table with a color to designate the liturgical season (purple: Advent, Lent; green: Ordinary Time; white: Christmas, Easter; red: the Passion, martyrs; etc.). This table may also include symbols that may be used in the lesson (crucifix, holy water, Bible, etc.).

The Parish Catechist Manual provides several tools to enhance the prayer experience of students. Depending on time limitations, choose one or more of the tools provided for the preparation: Sacred Scripture; sacred art; spontaneous or Catholic prayers.

Sacred Scripture and sacred art are inspired by God. Therefore, their use is an effective means that will give rise to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. Each chapter begins with a verse from Scripture that is related to the lesson. Read this Scripture verse with the short explanation provided. Sacred art draws students to Jesus Christ by visually and spiritually immersing them into the mysteries of Christ. Allow students to look at the art while you provide a very brief reflection. This step should be limited to a spiritual reflection.

Proclamation: The proclamation provides a succinct statement of truth. Its purpose is to convict the students of the Good News of Jesus Christ. Announce the provided proclamation with conviction. You

may want to repeat the proclamation slowly, but do not take time to explain it, as that is the purpose of the explanation.

Explanation: Once the proclamation has been made, it needs to be explained using methods that develop an understanding of the Faith that leads to conversion. The explanation step is generally divided into three to four focus points. Each focus point begins with a summary statement for the catechist. This is followed by bulleted discussion and ends with a conclusion. Discussion includes questions and answers. These questions provide opportunities to draw students into the lesson, assess student understanding, encourage evangelical engagement, and assist students to apply what they have learned to their lives, all leading students to become disciples of Christ. The explanation step ends with optional activities designed to reinforce the material learned or to nourish spiritual development.

Allocate your time so that you are able to teach all of the focus points. If time is tight, use the focus summaries with less discussion; if you have extra time, use the optional activities to expand on the lesson.

Life Application: Once the material has been presented and explained, catechists should facilitate a response of faith whereby students further absorb and incorporate the Faith into their lives. Because the Catholic Faith is a living faith through which we are forming young disciples, this is a critical step in the process. This step allows students to process their understanding of faith on a personal level so that it takes effect in their lives. Also, during this step, catechists should become witnesses to their own faith experiences as transformative and should encourage students to provide examples of their own lives. Specific discussion questions encourage students to apply what they have learned to the daily experiences of their lives. Choose one or more of the life application discussions or activities.

Celebration: The celebration should be carried out in a spirit of thanksgiving and praise. This step facilitates a celebration of our faith in God, hope for the Kingdom, and love of God and neighbor. Opportunities are provided to encounter Christ. Celebration activities include prayer, liturgical rites, the Sacraments, Scripture, songs, liturgical symbols, and the lives of the saints. Each lesson provides ways to celebrate and give glory to God in all that we do.

Optional Activities and Resources

This manual has been developed to include flexible options for new or experienced catechists, class times that range 60–90 minutes, and style of teaching. Please note that the Activity Book and Family Guide are optional components depending on the allotted class time and catechist or parish preferences. Additional activities and resources (Appendix B) can be accessed online through www.faithandliferies.com.

Other Methods Incorporated into the Framework of the Ecclesial Method

- Inductive and deductive methods: According to the *General Directory for Catechesis*, the inductive method “consists of presenting facts (about biblical events, liturgical acts, events in the Church’s life as well as events from daily life) so as to discern meaning these might have in divine Revelation” (GDC 150). Induction is the process of reasoning from particular to general principles. Deduction reasons from general to the particular and includes interpretation and determining cause and effect. These two methods, taken together, aid in the students’ understanding of the unity of the Faith, the interrelation of topics, and, most importantly, their practical applications. The parish manual provides step-by-step discussions and explanations that will engage students in their assimilation of the truths of the Faith.
- Formulas: Formulas allow for ease of memorization and better understanding of a topic. In the early stages of education, memorization should be used more frequently since children first need language to communicate meaning. In theology, semantics are very important, for Christians have died for their faith and schisms have occurred because of word use (e.g., the *Filioque* in the Nicene Creed still distinguishes Roman Catholics from Eastern Orthodox). Such formulas also provide a uniform method of speaking among the faithful. Formulas in the parish manual include chapter vocabulary words, catechism questions, or other means of expressing thoughts or ideas succinctly and accurately in a memorable form.
- Experience: Experience transforms abstract theories into applicable and memorable concepts. Catechists should use concrete examples in class and encourage their students to judge personal experience with

Christian values. Discussion questions in this manual or in the Activity Books provide an opportunity for students to provide and reflect on personal experiences. Students are encouraged to share experiences in which their lives have been transformed by faith.

- **Activity and creativity:** Activity and creativity can be understood as “learning while doing.” “The active participation of all the catechized . . . to respond to the gift of God through prayer, participation in the sacraments, the liturgy, ecclesial and social commitment, works of charity and promotion of human values, such as liberty, justice and peace and the protection of creation” (*GDC* 157). Creative activities also provide opportunities for students to participate actively and become engaged in the learning process. Creative activities include anything from skits to visual aids, such as the Chalk Talks, which provide concrete examples for abstract ideas.
- **Groups:** In catechesis the importance of group instruction is becoming more apparent. Groups aid the social and ecclesial formation of students, and they foster a sense of Christian co-responsibility and solidarity.

GRADE 4 OVERVIEW

Grade 4 Text Overview

The fourth grade text, *Jesus Our Guide*, is a simple introduction to Bible stories and teachings of the Faith. The fourth grader has an active imagination and is easily convinced by his emotions as well as his reason. The teacher should, therefore, make use of creative presentations reinforced through repetition, such as those included in this manual, in addition to the catechist’s personal good example.

Grade 4 Scope and Sequence

THEME: God’s plan to save his people from sin (salvation history), how we participate in that plan, and the many ways God helps us in our pilgrimage on earth to heaven through his Word, his law, and his Church

Weeks 1–9

- **Part I: B.C.: Before Christ**
- Chapters 1–15: The Fall and the first murder; the sin and suffering of mankind; God chooses his people and their leaders

Weeks 10–22

- **Part II: A.D.: In the Year of Our Lord**
- Chapters 15–30: History changes when Jesus the King comes; through grace, especially in the Sacraments, we receive the strength to do good

Grade 4 Lesson Outline—Jesus Our Guide

Faith and Life Series Parish Catechist Manual 22–25 Week Curriculum*		
LESSON #	CHAPTER	TOPIC
	S	INTRODUCTION
1	1	Creation/The Fall/Original Sin
2	2–3	Cain & Abel/Noah & Flood/Tower of Babel
3	4	Abraham and Isaac
4	5–6	Jacob & Esau/Joseph
5	6–7	Joseph/Israel in Egypt
6	8–9	Moses and The Exodus
7	10–11	Wandering in the Desert/Joshua/Samson/Ruth
8	12–13	Samuel/Saul/David
9	14–15	Solomon/Isaiah/Babylonian Captivity
10	15–16	John the Baptist/Jesus/Baptism/Free Will
11	17	1–3rd Commandments
12	18	4th and 5th Commandments
13	19	6–10th Commandments
14	20–21	Jesus Christ/Passion/Resurrection/Ascension
15	22	Sacrifices and The Mass
16	23	Manna/Communion/True Presence
17	24–25	Conscience/Sin/Confession
18	26	Trinity/Holy Spirit/Pentecost
19	27	Catholic Church
20	28	Grace and The Sacraments
21	29	The Blessed Virgin Mary
22	30	The Last Things
	S	Advent/Christmas
	S	Lent/Easter
		S=SUPPLEMENTAL LESSON
<p>*25 Week Curriculum includes 3 Supplemental Lessons: 1 Introduction Grade Level Overview of Salvation History and 2 Liturgical Year Lessons</p> <p>With addition of Mass/Confession and other liturgical year rites, etc., 25 weeks usually goes to 30–32 weeks. For parishes that have more than 25 teaching classes, it is suggested to expand combined chapters using provided optional activities.</p>		

GRADE 4 SALVATION HISTORY OVERVIEW

Salvation History Overview

Every person has a family, and every family has a story. Some families are big, and some families are small, but when we gather together here at church, we realize that we all have a very large church family. And no matter which family or town or country we come from, there is one family to which we all belong—God’s family. To learn more about how we are all a part of God’s family, we need to listen to our family story. Let us begin, then, *in the beginning* . . .

In the beginning, God had so much love that he wanted to share that love. The first way that God shared his love was by creating the whole universe, and everything in it. God created the heaven and the earth, the light and the sky, the sea and the land. Then God created all of the living things—all kinds of beautiful plants, creatures of the sea, birds of the air, and every kind of animal and creature that crawls on the earth. Finally, in the greatness of his love, God created people in his own image. Male and female he created them (Adam and Eve), and he told them to take good care of everything on earth he had given them. The place where Adam and Eve lived was called the Garden of Eden, and they lived in perfect happiness and unity with God, with one another, and with all of creation. It was truly paradise.

Because God loved Adam and Eve so much, he gave them the freedom to choose to listen to him and to love him in return. God warned Adam and Eve that they should not eat the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil; but the evil serpent came to trick them, and Adam and Eve disobeyed God and ate from that tree. Because Adam and Eve disobeyed God, sin and death entered the world, and life was not perfect anymore. Still, God loved Adam and Eve too much to leave them in their sin; he promised that he would send someone to save them from their sins so that they could live with God in perfect happiness and unity again.

God wanted his family to be back together again, so he made special sacred family bonds (also known as covenants) with people to help bring his family back together. While sin had separated people from God, God used his special covenants to make his family bigger and bigger until we could all be one family again. After his first covenant with Adam and Eve in marriage, God made his next covenant with Noah and his whole family, saving them with an ark and giving a rainbow as a sign of God's everlasting love. Next, God made a covenant with Abraham, making him the father of large numbers of people. God then entrusted Moses with the Ten Commandments and made him the leader of a national family made of twelve tribes. Then a young man named David was chosen by God to be a king for the people, the leader of a national kingdom. All of these people were preparing the way for someone very special, the one whom God would send to bring all of the human family back together again.

Finally, God sent down his Son, Jesus, to save all of us from our sins and to bring back the whole human family from every household, every tribe, and every nation. Through Jesus' covenant, every person in the whole world could be united again in the same family under our one Father in heaven, God. Where Adam and Eve failed to obey God and to sacrifice, Jesus and his Mother, Mary, always obeyed God the Father. Jesus even sacrificed his own life on the Cross so that we could be saved from our sins. On the third day after he died, Jesus rose from the dead and now lives in heaven; he sent us the Holy Spirit to stay with us in the Church until Jesus comes to earth again at the end of the age.

When Jesus sent the Holy Spirit down on the day of Pentecost, this was the beginning of the Church. Through our Baptism, we receive that same Holy Spirit within us and receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Baptism is only one of the seven Sacraments that Jesus gave us through the Church to stay close to him as we journey through this life toward heaven. Jesus also gave us his Mother, Mary, as our Heavenly Mother, and all of the Communion of Saints as our spiritual brothers and sisters. Whenever we attend Mass and receive the Sacraments, we become closer to Jesus and to the whole family of God.

Just like we spend time with our own families at home to celebrate our lives together, we also come together as God's family to celebrate in the Church. Jesus gave us priests to baptize to take away our sins, so we could be God's adopted sons and daughters; to stand in his place, so that our sins can still be forgiven through the Sacrament of Reconciliation; and to give us Jesus in the Eucharist (Holy Communion) at Mass, so that we can always stay close to him and to one another in this life.

Through Jesus, we are united with all of God's family throughout the whole world, and even with those already in heaven, the saints. God the Father, his Son, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, along with all of the angels and saints, are praying for us every day and hoping to someday welcome us to heaven, our eternal home, where we will live for all eternity as one large family of God.

RESOURCES

Faith and Life website (www.faithandliferies.com): The following are available for each grade level: scope and sequence, curriculum outlines, samples, updates, Parent as Primary Educator in the Family Guide, webinars, and other resources.

Online Resources: Go to the resources tab for online resources for each chapter of each grade level. These include a lesson plan, PowerPoint presentation with visual aids, related video clip, and a related activity.

Catechist Formation Resources at faithandlifefseries.com

- *The Catechism of the Catholic Church and the Craft of Catechesis*, Ignatius Press
- Webinars provided: “*Faith and Life Overview*” and “*How to Effectively Implement the Faith and Life Series*”
- *Faith and Life Training Seminar DVD*
 - Part I—Overview of Catechesis and *Faith and Life*
 - Part II—Ecclesial Methodology
 - Part III—Overview of Salvation History
- **Other Resources:**
 - **Faith and Life Online website:** Activities and sacred art explanations. *Faith and Life Online* is also available through this website.
 - **Education in Virtue:** Supplemental materials to teach and nurture virtue
 - **Music:** See specific music recommendations in each lesson. Website provides links for downloadable MP3s.
 - **Bibles:** Ignatius Bible: RSV, Second Catholic Edition, or *The Catholic Bible for Children* (M:CBS-P)

The Catechism of the Catholic Church

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* is an important tool for all catechists to use as a reference and teaching guide. The structure of the *Catechism* consists of four parts. The first two parts are about God’s saving works: Part 1, The Profession of Faith (the Creed); Part 2, The Celebration of the Christian Mystery (the Sacraments and the Liturgy). The remaining two parts consist of our response of faith: Part 3, Life in Christ; Part 4, Christian Prayer. Catechesis should begin with God’s works as found in the first two parts. “It is significant that these two parts precede those on morality and prayer, which identify the character of our response to God’s saving work for us and in us. God’s action comes first; how we live and pray comes second (*The Catechism of the Catholic Church and the Craft of Catechesis*, p. 21). *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* presents these pillars of truth as a living unity of faith. *Catechism* references are found at the beginning of each lesson.

The Creed: The Creed is a summary of the Faith and the Church’s baptismal promises. As a public profession of faith, Catholics find in it their identity as members of Christ’s Mystical Body. This is the Faith handed down from Christ to the Apostles and to the entire Church.

Sacraments: The seven Sacraments are outward signs instituted by Christ to confer grace. Active participation in the sacramental life of the Church, such as attending Mass prayerfully and faithfully, should be encouraged from a young age.

The Moral Life: The moral life does not limit; instead, it provides the boundaries that define the Catholic identity and allow for proper love of God and neighbor. A right moral life is man’s gift to God, a response to His unconditional love, and a pathway to true freedom. Every Catholic should be an example to others.

Prayer: Prayer unites a person with God (through words, actions, silence, and presence) and should be encouraged and put into practice from early childhood. There are many forms of prayer, and each brings the soul closer to God.

Faith and Life Series

Parish Catechist Manual

Grade 4 Supplemental Lessons

Three Supplemental Lessons

The *Faith and Life* Series Parish Catechist Manual includes three supplemental lessons:

- Supplement #1—Introduction to Salvation History (used as an introduction and welcome)
- Supplement #2—Liturgical Year: Advent/Christmas
- Supplement #3—Liturgical Year: Lent/Easter

Aims of Faith and Life Supplemental Lessons

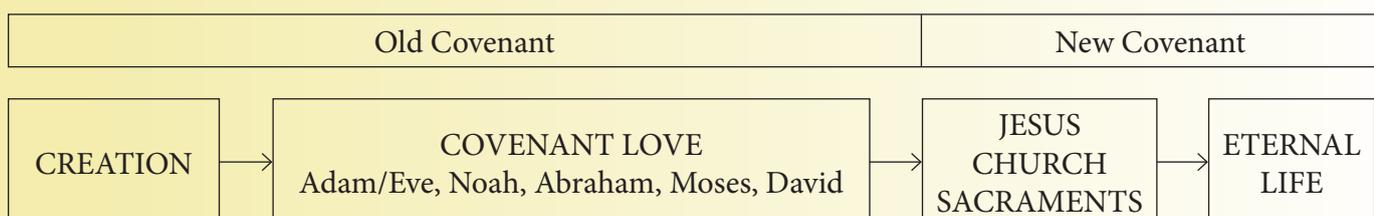
The story of salvation history provides the pedagogical structure of the *Faith and Life* series. Doctrinal, liturgical, spiritual, and moral elements of the Faith flow from this structure. Therefore, the objective of these supplements is to provide students with a bird’s-eye view of God’s saving plan. In these lessons students will learn that

- God has a plan for their lives and that they are part of his plan of love and mercy.
- God reveals his saving plan through covenant love.
- The purpose of our life on earth is to attain eternal life.
- Because of the sin of Adam and Eve the nature of man is fallen; therefore, each of us is in need of a Savior.
- Our Savior Jesus Christ became man and was crucified for our sins; he was resurrected from the dead and is a living God.
- God gave us the gift of the Church and the Sacraments as part of his plan.
- Each of us is called to a response of faith to Jesus’ act of self-giving love. In our response of faith, we come to encounter the Risen Christ and live out the Gospel message.
- Through our faith response, we come to know, love, and serve our Lord, through whom we will attain eternal life.
- Through our participation in the liturgical year, we walk with Christ as we celebrate the history of our salvation.

Salvation History Overview Supplement

This supplement provides students with a general overview of God’s saving plan. Lessons for the Student Text should be presented within the context of this larger picture. Understanding salvation history provides purpose for learning and purpose for life itself. In order to implement the pedagogical structure of the series effectively, *it is strongly encouraged* to begin the year with the overview of salvation history found in each grade level lesson plan.

GOD’S PLAN OF SALVATION OVERVIEW



Scripture References	Catechism References
<p>Salvation History Creation: Genesis 1:1–2:25 Man Made in the Image of God: Genesis 1:26–27 Fall of Man: Genesis 3:1–24 The First Gospel: Genesis 3:15 Covenant with Adam and Eve: Genesis 1:27–28 Covenant with Noah: Genesis 9:1–17 Covenant with Abraham: Genesis 12:1–3 Covenant with Moses: Exodus 12:5; 24:8 Covenant with David: 2 Samuel 7:11–14 Jesus’ Fulfillment of Prophecies: Matthew 28:19 (Mark 1:8); John 19:32–33 (Psalm 34:20) Eternal Life: Revelation 21:1–3</p>	<p>Salvation History Old Law Preparation for the Gospel: 1964 God Forms His People: 62 Covenants: 54–64 Jesus’ Mission of Salvation: 456–60 Typology and Unity of the Old and New Testaments: 128–30, 140</p>
<p>Advent/Christmas Word Becomes Flesh: John 1:1, 14 Annunciation: Luke 1:28–35 Birth of Christ: Luke 2:5–7 Shepherds: Luke 2:8–11 Epiphany: Matthew 2:2–8</p>	<p>Liturgical Year: 1168–173 Advent: 522–24, 1095 Christmas: 1171</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Incarnation: 258, 262, 456–64 • Conceived by the Power of the Holy Spirit and Born of the Virgin Mary: 484–511 • The Christmas Mystery: 525–26 • He Will Come Again in Glory: 668–77
<p>Lent/Easter Temptation of Christ: Matthew 4:3–7; Luke 4:5–7 Trial of Jesus: Mark 15:1–26 Last Supper: Matthew 26:17–30; Mark 14:13–26; Luke 22:11–22 Agony in the Garden: Mark 14:34–36 Passion of Christ: Matthew 26:30–27:54; Mark 14:26–15:25; Luke 22:39–23:33; John 19:23–42 Resurrection: Matthew 27:55–28:8; Mark 16:1–5; Luke 23:53–24:49; John 19:40–20:18 Ascension: Acts 1:1–11</p>	<p>Lent: 540, 1095, 1438 Easter: 638–58, 1168–70</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passion and Death of Christ: 595–637 • Resurrection: 638 • Ascension of Christ: 659–66 • Pentecost: 731–32, 1076, 1287, 2623 • Penance: 1430–39, 1450–60 • Sin: 1846–76

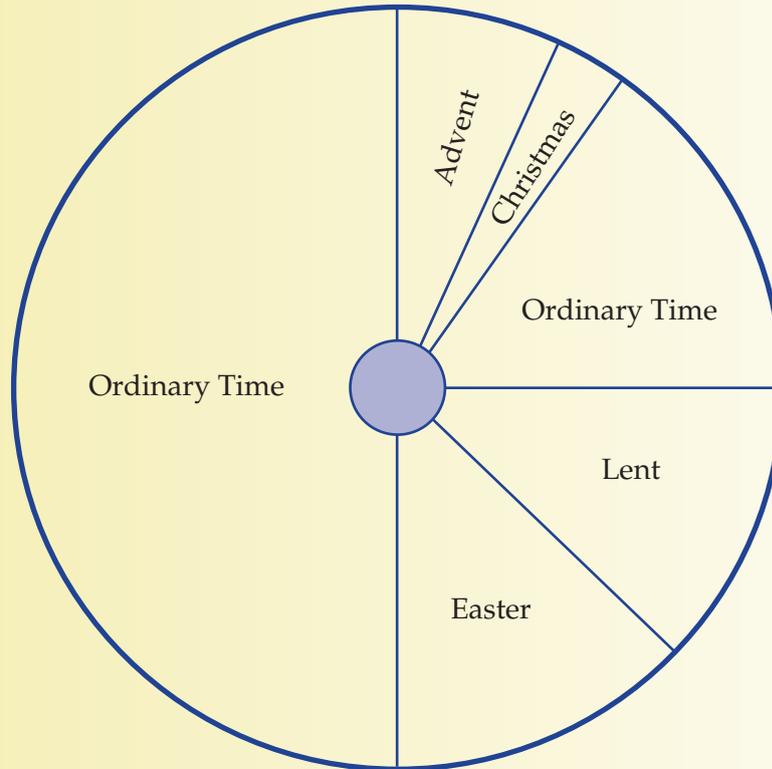
Liturgical Year Supplement

The Church celebrates the history of our salvation through the liturgical calendar. This celebration begins with the season of Advent and culminates in the Easter season with the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. The last Sunday in the liturgical calendar is the Feast of Christ the King. The liturgical calendar is marked by events of the mysteries of the life of Christ as well as the lives of the saints and the Blessed Mother. In the *Faith and Life* series the liturgical year is naturally woven into the curriculum as it appropriately fits into the story of salvation history. However, in some grade levels supplemental chapters found at the end of the text highlight particular Church seasons. These liturgical year lessons maximize use of existing text material as they highlight aspects of the Church seasons. Through our participation in the liturgical year, which highlights the mysteries of Christ, salvation history continues and God’s story becomes our story.

Liturgical Calendar

Use the following liturgical year calendar (or the one found in this Appendix). Point out to students that through the liturgical calendar year they participate in the story of salvation history.

Almost every feast of the Church gives me a deeper knowledge of God and a special grace. That is why I prepare myself for each feast and unite myself closely with the spirit of the Church. (Saint Faustina Kowalska)



Grade 4

Introduction to Salvation History

Note to catechist: See Salvation History Overview in Introduction.

LESSON FOCUS

This lesson will introduce students to one another and to the theme of their book, *Jesus Our Guide*. God the Father loves us unconditionally, and he has a plan for us to be in communion with him in heaven. God tells us the love story between himself and each of us in the Bible; this story is our love story. God makes a covenant of love with Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, Moses, and David. This covenant is fulfilled through Jesus Christ. Each of us is invited to come to know and love Jesus, who will guide us to eternal life. Part of God's plan for us is that Jesus would be our guide in everything we do. We grow closer to Jesus through prayer, our life in the Church, and the Sacraments.

AIMS

- Students will be introduced to one another and to the new Student Text, *Jesus Our Guide*.
- Students will know that Jesus fulfills Old Covenant promises.
- Students will know that our ultimate goal in life is to be with God in heaven.

Begin the Lesson

Preparation (5–10 minutes)

Use one or more of the following resources for prayer and student preparation for the lesson.

SCRIPTURE:

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him”
(1 Corinthians 2:9).

Jesus has prepared a place for us in heaven far beyond what our eyes have ever seen, far beyond what our ears have ever heard, and far beyond anything that has ever entered our hearts.

SACRED ART: Student Text cover

Christ and the Money Changers, Van Dyck

We see the face of Jesus, who will lead us to heaven. Jesus promises us that heaven will be beyond our imagination.

PRAYER WITH CHILDREN: Our Father, Student Text, p. 161

Welcome (15–20 minutes)

- Optional ice breaker activity: Scavenger hunt. Make up one bingo card and copy for all students. The bingo card should have the squares already filled in with things such as “a person who is the oldest sibling,” “a person who owns a cat,” “a person who went to another state for vacation,” etc. (suggestions below). Students (even though they know each other, they get to learn things they don't know) have to go around the room and get a signature for each square (only one signature from each student per card); the teacher is included in the game. After five minutes, the one with the most signatures wins.

(Optional: Have a small treat for the one who gets the most right. The following are suggestions only; you're welcome to use your own creativity!)

1. A person who is the oldest child in the family
2. A person who owns a cat

MATERIALS

- Bible
- White board and markers
- Grade 4 Student Text, *Jesus Our Guide*

Optional:

- Blank bingo cards; small treat for prize (see Welcome Activity)

WORDS TO KNOW

salvation history: the story of God’s plan to save each of us from the consequences of sin. Salvation history began with Creation and will continue to the end of time. Each of us is a part of this love story in our own lives. As the story unfolds, God’s love and mercy become evident through his Son, Jesus Christ, as well as through the Church and grace received in the Sacraments.

3. A person who went to another state over vacation
4. A person who owns the most pets
5. A person who is the youngest child in the family
6. A person who has lived in ____ since birth
7. A person who moved to ____ the most recently
8. A person who has a birthday closest to today’s date
9. A person who likes black jelly beans
10. A person who can touch his nose with his tongue

- Welcome students to their fourth grade class. Take some time to point out the features of their Student Text, *Jesus Our Guide*, in the Table of Contents.
 - First section: B.C., Before Christ
 - Second section: A.D., In the Year of Our Lord
 - ***What do you think we are going to learn about this year? (The Old Testament and the New Testament; Jesus fulfills the promises of the Old Covenant.)***
- Hold up a Bible and show students that the Bible is divided into two similar parts; explain that everything in the Bible points to Jesus Christ. The name of their book this year is *Jesus Our Guide*—Jesus is our guide to heaven!

Proclamation (1 minute)

(Proclaim slowly, then repeat.)

Everything in the Old Testament points to Jesus Christ; everything in the New Testament shows that Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of all that God promised. Jesus is our guide to eternal life.

Lesson Explanation (30–35 minutes)

Explain focus points in your own words or use the discussion points and questions.

Focus 1: Our ultimate goal in life is to be one with God in eternal happiness.

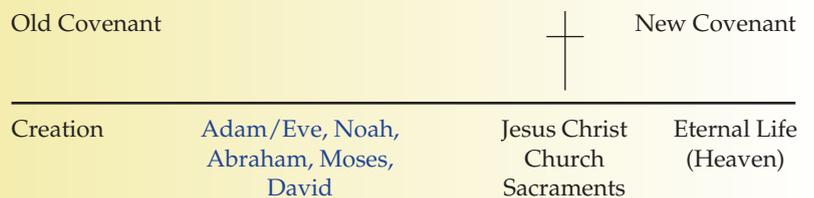
- Use any or all of the following questions to prompt students to take a look at the bigger picture of life and the fact that we are made for God, to be one with him in eternity.
 - Our lives can be so busy and caught up with school, sports, family, and friends that sometimes we forget about the bigger picture of our lives.
 - ***Have you ever asked yourself, where am I really going in this life? (Answers will vary.)***
 - ***Is it all about getting good grades, winning the next game, getting the most recent video gadget, or is there more to life? (Answers will vary.)***

- *After all, when we die, we cannot take any of this with us, can we? (No.)*
- This life is only a drop of water in the ocean compared to eternity.
- *Why do you think we should want to learn more about God? (Answers will vary. Lead students to say: for guidance in our journey here on earth, like a compass; for hope, when in trouble or sad; to help us know how to be the best person we can be; to receive God's grace through the Sacraments; etc.)*
- *Do you think having faith (believing and trusting in God) makes a difference in your life? (Answers will vary. Remind students that our faith gives our life meaning and purpose. You may share an experience with them if you wish to help them identify their own stories.)*

Conclusion: This life will end. Our ultimate goal is to be with God in heaven.

Focus 2: The Bible tells us everything we need to know about our lives. God loves us and he wants to be in communion with us, now and one day in eternal life.

- Tell the story of God's saving plan. Keep it simple; draw a simple timeline, and point to people and events on the timeline.



- *What was God's main purpose in creating us? (He loved us and wanted to share his life with us.)*
 - When God created the world and mankind, everything was perfect. The first man and woman, Adam and Eve, disobeyed God.
 - When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, everything changed. *Exactly what did change? (The gates of heaven were closed. The life of grace was lost. Adam and Eve were banished from paradise. Man was in need of a Savior.)*
- What happens next is a love story between God and mankind, between God and you. We learn about this love story in the Bible. The Bible tells a love story between God and his people.
 - *What are the two parts of the Bible? (The Old Testament and the New Testament.)*
 - The Old Testament tells the story of God's saving plan before Jesus came.

- This story is about covenant love: God made a covenant (promise) with us in the Old Testament. Each promise showed God's people that he would take care of them and send a Savior.
- *Who were the five people/covenants that God made in the Old Covenant? (Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, Moses, and David.)*
- With each of these covenants we learn that God never abandons his people; God is always merciful despite the sins of mankind; God always keeps his promises.
- *Can anyone tell about a time that you needed God and he took care of you? (Answers will vary. Note: This would be a good opportunity for the catechist to witness about a time that God provided for him.)*
- In the Bible, God makes promises to us that he will take care of us and send a Savior. The New Testament tells the story of how Jesus fulfills God's plan. (Point to New Covenant on timeline.)
 - Jesus Christ redeems mankind (gives us hope for heaven) through his life, death, and Resurrection. Jesus is the Savior that God promised in the Old Covenant.
 - *What did Jesus leave us with that guides us to heaven? (The Church.)*
 - *What is the main way we receive God's grace and are nourished so that we may become like Jesus? (Through the Sacraments.)*
 - *What do you think it might be like if Jesus had not yet come to save mankind? (No Church, no Sacraments, no real guidance to heaven, no truth of Jesus Christ, no peace, no real joy, etc.)*
 - On the other hand, many people in our culture today live as though God did not exist; they forget God and think only of the things of this world.
 - *Does your life ever get so busy that you forget about God? (Answers will vary.)*

Conclusion: God became man because he loves us. Jesus Christ is the center of **salvation history**, and he should be at the center of our lives. Each of us is called by Jesus to come to know and love him who will lead us to heaven.

Review Supplemental Lesson—Introduction to Salvation History

- Our ultimate goal in life is to be one with God in eternal happiness.
- The Bible tells us everything we need to know about our lives.

Application (5–10 minutes)

Choose one or more of the following for discussion.

- **How will we get to heaven? Who must ultimately lead us to heaven?** (Jesus Christ. No matter how hard we may try, we cannot get to heaven by ourselves.)
- **Tell students** to think about Jesus as their guide to heaven as they look at the cover of the book. Have students close their eyes and picture Jesus knocking on the door of their home, room, or hearts.
 - Jesus invites us to heaven; however, *we must respond in faith.*
 - **Read** Revelation 3:20: “Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any one hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.”
 - **Knowing that God is knocking on the door of your heart, what is one thing you can do today to open that door?** (Allow students some time to reflect.)
 - Pray: Jesus, help me to allow you to guide me so that I know you will never abandon me; you will always be my guide to everlasting happiness. You give yourself to me in the gift of the Eucharist. You are always present to me in Holy Communion; help me to be present to you. Your love never stops pouring out to me; help me to love you in return. Jesus, please tell me what I can do to respond in faith.
 - **Would anyone like to share how you will respond to God?** (Answers will vary. Lead students to say: love God and our neighbor; pray; obey; be thankful and follow God’s direction for our lives through our parents, teachers, and priests.)

Celebration (5 minutes)

- Pray: Dear Jesus, thank you for revealing your love to us in the story of salvation history. Thank you for inviting us to enter the gates of heaven and for the gift of the Eucharist. Help us to open the door to eat with you.
- Read Revelation 3:20: “Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any one hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.”

Lesson 1

Chapter I—The Fall of Man

Correlated Materials

Student Text: Chapter 1, pp. 12–16
Activity Book: Chapter 1, pp. 1–4
Family Guide: G 4–1, pp. 198–99

CHAPTER FOCUS

God is our Creator and Father, who loves us and cares for us. He made the world and everything in it. He blesses us with all good things, providing for all our needs. We should recognize those gifts and thank him for them. We also should talk to God, just as we talk to our earthly fathers. That’s what prayer is—talking to God. Because God is our Father and because he created and loves everyone, we should love everyone too.

AIMS

- Students will learn that God created us so that we may be with him in heaven.
- Students will learn that we are dependent upon the life of grace in our souls in order to have eternal life.
- Students will learn that God is loving and merciful.

Begin the Lesson

Preparation (5–10 minutes)

Use one or more of the following resources for prayer and student preparation for the lesson.

SCRIPTURE: Student Text, p. 13

“Then the LORD God said, ‘Behold, the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil; and now, lest he put forth his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever’—therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from which he was taken” (Genesis 3:22–23).

God did not want Adam and Eve to eat the fruit from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil because man was full of God’s grace and he knew no evil. Once Adam and Eve disobeyed God, they were separated from God and came to know evil.

SACRED ART: Student Text, p. 12

Separation of the Earth and Water (detail), Michelangelo

In this fresco, we can envision the power and goodness of God as he separates the land and water during Creation. God is all powerful, all knowing, and all good. Adam and Eve, in their sin of disobedience, wanted to be God. There is one God, and we should not want to be God.

PRAYER WITH CHILDREN: Glory Be, Student Text, p. 161

Proclamation (1 minute)

(Proclaim slowly, then repeat.)

God created man in his image and likeness to love him, but man sinned and separated himself from God. God did not abandon man, but promised to send a Redeemer who would open the gates of heaven.

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH REFERENCES

- Angels: 326–35, 350–53, 391–95, 414
- Consequences of Original Sin: 55–58, 399–409, 416–19
- Fall of Man: 385–95, 414
- God as Creator of Heaven and Earth: 279–81, 325–27
- Man’s Freedom: 1730–42, 1743–48
- Original Sin: 388–90, 396–401, 415
- Grace: 1996–2005, 2021–24
- Promise of a Redeemer: 55, 410–12, 420–21

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- Genesis 1–3 (Focus on Genesis 2:3–25; 3:15)
- Psalm 8
- John 3:16–17

MATERIALS

- White board and markers
- Bibles for students
- Activity Book
- A copy of the Hail, Holy Queen prayer

Angels

God created angels, who are pure spirits. All of the angels God created were good angels; they were created to be God’s messengers. Through the sin of pride, one of the angels, Lucifer, made a choice to turn against God. Scripture tells us that he took one-third of all of the angels with him into hell. This was the beginning of the battle of good and evil.

Lesson Explanation (40–50 minutes)

Explain focus points in your own words or use the discussion points and questions.

Focus 1: God is the Creator of all things seen and unseen, of earth and heaven. In creating the world, God first created angels, then the earth as an inhabitable place, then man as the image of himself to exercise dominion over creation.

- The **angels** were created by God to worship and serve him. They are pure spirit and have intelligence. However, some of them decided to wage war against God and his creation.
 - There are both good and bad angels. *Can you name one of each?* (Gabriel, Michael, and Raphael are the good angels named in the Bible. Satan is a bad angel.)
- **Review** the story of Creation in the first chapter of Genesis and see what the children remember. You may want to begin with Activity Book, page 1, as a review quiz (or read Student Text, p. 13).
- **Read Genesis 2:7:** “Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.”
 - *What did God give to man when he breathed into his nostrils the breath of life?* (A soul.)
- **Adam and Eve** were created in a very unique state of being. They were created out of the dust of the earth and had life breathed into them from God.
 - *What else was unique about Adam and Eve before the Fall?* (They would not die. There was no tendency toward sin. They had a privileged place in creation and lived in harmony with God. They were born with sanctifying grace, which allowed them to have the life of God within them.)
- **Discuss** the staircase of creation. (See Chalk Talk on the next page.) God, himself, is uncreated; he always was and always will be. He is the Creator; all other things are created.
- We all have moments of recognizing the awesomeness of creation. *What are some of the moments that you have had in particular when you want to thank somebody for the beauty of the world around you?* (Answers will vary.)

Conclusion: God designed his creation in such a way that he could be in relationship with man, his image. He provided all that man needed and would find pleasing. God’s creation reflects his character of being generous and loving. God also created man with the dignity to choose to love him back.

WORDS TO KNOW

angels: pure spirits created by God

soul: the spiritual part of a person. It is individual and immortal.

Adam: the first man created by God

Eve: the first woman created by God. Eve was the wife of Adam.

Eden: the beautiful garden in which God put Adam and Eve when he created them

Tree of Life: a tree in the middle of the Garden of Eden. Anyone who ate its fruit would live forever.

Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil: a tree in the middle of the Garden of Eden. To test their love, God forbade Adam and Eve to eat of the fruit of this tree.

devils: those angels who refused to serve God and to do his will. They were created good by God, but became evil by their own choice. They try to lead us from God.

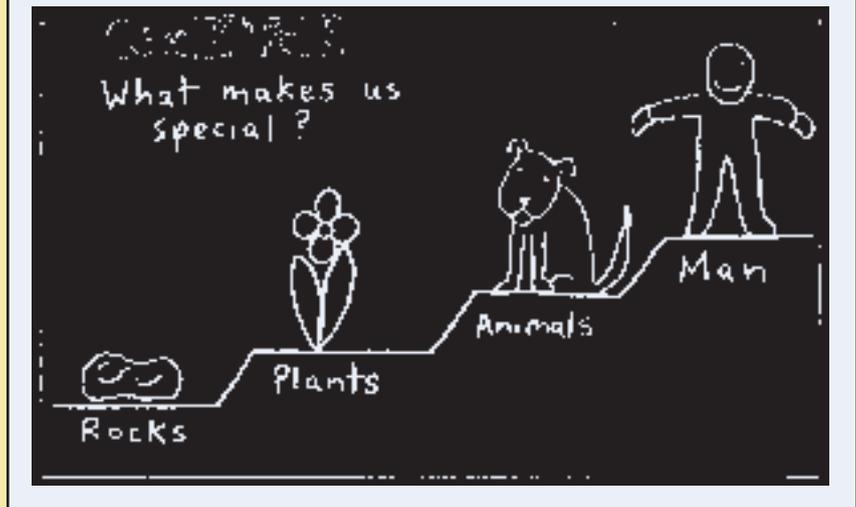
Redeemer: a title for Jesus since he redeemed (freed) us from sin

heaven: eternal life and happiness with God

FOCUS 1 OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Activity Book, p. 1
- Read aloud together Psalm 8. This may serve as an appropriate thank-you to God.
- Discuss Chalk Talk: Hierarchy of Creation.

CHALK TALK: STAIRCASE OF CREATION



Focus 2: God is the all-powerful Creator who, out of his goodness, created man, and wants man to love him freely. Man had a chance to choose freely to respond to God in love by obeying him, serving him, and living a good life in Eden. Adam and Eve failed to make the choice to show their love through obedience to God.

- **Read “The Test”** on Student Text, page 14, with the students. Have the students compare the fall of the angels with the Fall of Adam and Eve.
 - *What did the creatures owe to their Creator? (They owed him love and obedience.)*
 - *What test did Adam and Eve face? (They could eat of every tree in the garden except the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.)*
 - *What prompted Adam and Eve to disobey? (They were lied to and tempted by the devil.)*
 - *What was the vice that the devil used to seduce them? (They gave into pride when they thought they could actually be like God.)*
 - *How is this vice similar to the fall of the angels? (They wanted to be like God and rule the world.)*
- **The devil, Satan,** sowed the most deadly lie when he told Eve that God wasn’t being truthful with her. He began the lie that God couldn’t be trusted.
- After Eve told Satan that they were forbidden to eat the fruit from the **Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil**, or they would die, Satan said, “You will not die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil” (Genesis 3:4–5).
 - *When Satan told Eve that she would not die from eating the forbidden fruit, what really was going to happen? (They would die and lose eternal life. Likewise, all of mankind would now face death.)*
 - We all have moments when we are prideful or disobey and want to become our own God.

FOCUS 2 OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Activity Book, p. 2
- Discuss the Our Father, noting “lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil” and what this means. Ask students, “Why is this prayer so necessary for all of us?”

Before and After the Fall

BEFORE

- Had grace
- With God in the garden
- Adam and Eve friends
- Knew things easily
- Never sick
- No death
- Naked (no shame)
- Easy work
- Knew good

AFTER

- Lost grace
- Out of garden
- Blame each other
- Learn with difficulty
- Pain and suffering
- Death
- Need clothes (shame)
- Hard work for food
- Know good and evil and have a hard time choosing the good

- *Can you think of a time when you disobeyed God’s laws because you thought there would not be consequences, only to find that God was right? (We don’t need to share these publicly but may think of a time when we gossiped and lost a friend, or a time when we lied about something and lost someone’s trust.)*
- *When we turn away from God’s ways, then later we realize we were wrong, how should our thinking change? (We should always come away from that experience saying, “God can be trusted!” We should humble ourselves, admit our pride, and ask God for his forgiveness.)*
- **Discuss** some evil things in our world that look beautiful, delicious, or good but in fact are evil and lead to death. (Examples: Having lots of material wealth can make us feel like we are self-sufficient and don’t need God. Endless sweet foods can lead to bad health. Impure thoughts and actions can make us feel valued for the wrong reasons.)

Conclusion: Because God gave man choices, he tested Adam and Eve to allow them to exercise love and obedience. They then learned that there are consequences to their choices. The sin of Adam and Eve affected the whole of creation.

Focus 3: Because of sin man is divided against himself and others.

He is also divided against nature and God. Sin has introduced injustice, illness, conflict, violence, and death into the world.

- **Read** “A Sad Ending” in Student Text, pages 14–15, with the students.
- **Discuss** what life in **Eden** was like before and after the Fall. **Make** two lists on the board from the discussion. (See sidebar for suggestions.)
- Adam and Eve are now unhappy for the first time. They have learned a very important lesson.
 - *How do we feel when we have sinned? (We may feel sorry. We may feel that people don’t love us anymore. We may feel angry at ourselves. We may feel ashamed.)*
 - We are only truly happy when we are in union with God because we were made to be in union with him.
 - So when we sin we are not in perfect union with God; it is like we are broken.
 - *What kind of sin completely breaks our union with God? (Mortal sin.) What three conditions are necessary for us to commit a mortal sin? (Serious matter, full knowledge, and full consent.)*
 - When we sin, we are not just breaking God’s laws.
 - *How are we hurting ourselves through sin? (Answers will vary.)*
 - By separating ourselves from God we are not happy. Each time we sin, we lose more of God’s life in our souls; therefore, we will commit other sins.

Protoevangelium, the “first gospel”

“The Christian tradition sees in this passage an announcement of the ‘New Adam’ who, because he ‘became obedient unto death, even death on a cross,’ makes amends superabundantly for the disobedience for the disobedience of Adam. Furthermore many Fathers and Doctors of the Church have seen the woman announced in the *Protoevangelium* as Mary, the mother of Christ, the ‘new Eve.’ Mary benefited first of all and uniquely from Christ’s victory over sin: she was preserved from all stain of original sin and by a special grace of God committed no sin of any kind during her whole earthly life” (CCC 411).

FOCUS 3 OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Activity Book, p. 3
- Have the students imagine what life would be like for us if Adam and Eve had not sinned.

- **Discuss** God’s love.
 - *Did God stop loving Adam and Eve after they sinned?* (No!)
 - In fact, God went to them in the Garden of Eden.
 - God’s love is greater than any one of our sins. He always wants us to be in union with him, and because of his mercy, he will forgive any sin for which we show sorrow and repentance.
 - *What should we do when we know we have sinned?* (Repent—be sorry for our sins, go to Confession, and change our ways.)
- There were consequences to Adam and Eve’s sin that are still with us today.
 - *What was the consequence for Eve?* (The consequence was that she would have pain in childbirth.)
 - *What was the consequence for Adam?* (His labor would be hard. The ground would be cursed with thorns and thistle.)
 - Adam and Eve would pass their sin down to all the living. This first sin is known as Original Sin. Because we are born with Original Sin, we will always have a tendency to sin. This means we will be subject to temptations and will sometimes give in to sin.
 - *What should we do when we are weak or tempted to sin?* (Pray; receive the Sacraments; talk to someone who can help us.)
 - *Do you sometimes find it hard to do the things you ought to do and also hard to not do the things you ought not to do?* (Answers will vary.)
 - Even though God washes away all of our sins when we are baptized, because of Original Sin, we will always have a tendency to sin. But God provides us with grace, his life in us, to help us overcome our temptations to sin.
 - *How can we receive grace in our souls?* (The Sacraments, prayer, reading the Bible, etc.)

Conclusion: Adam and Eve found themselves afraid and ashamed. They no longer felt comfortable with God; they were banished from the garden. In fact, they could no longer stay in the garden. But God did not stop loving them. He immediately promised that evil would be defeated through a Savior.

Focus 4: God in his merciful love has made a way back for mankind. After the fall of Adam and Eve, God promised that he would send someone who would defeat sin and death. Jesus is the **Redeemer** and Savior of the world.

- **Read Genesis 3:15.** God is speaking to Satan. Explain that Mary is the woman and Mary’s seed is Jesus, who will crush the head of Satan:
 - “I will put enmity between you (Satan) and the woman (Eve/Mary), and between your (Satan’s) seed and her seed (Mary’s seed is Jesus); he (Jesus) shall bruise your

Hail, Holy Queen Prayer

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of Mercy,
our life, our sweetness, and our hope!
To thee do we cry, poor banished
children of Eve; to thee do we send
up our sighs, mourning and weeping
in this valley of tears. Turn, then,
most gracious advocate, thine eyes of
mercy toward us; and after this our
exile show unto us the blessed fruit
of thy womb, Jesus; O clement, O
loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

head (Jesus shall destroy evil), and you (Satan) shall bruise his heel" (Satan will cause pain and suffering; but his power is limited). (See sidebar.)

- *Who will bruise the head of Satan? (Jesus.)*
- *How do we know that Satan will be limited in this battle? (God said that Jesus will bruise Satan's head; Satan will only bruise the heel of Jesus.)*
- Adam and Eve had to leave the garden because they broke their relationship with God. Sin created a wound in their relationship.
- *Have you ever had a friend deceive you? Did you remain friends? Was there distrust there? (Answers will vary.)*
- For trust to be rebuilt, your friend would need to prove his trustworthiness; but if he always deceived you, he could not.
- Man needed God's grace in order to become trustworthy again. Without the gift of grace, man continued to sin.
 - God's plan was to restore to us the gift of sanctifying grace, by which we can live a life pleasing to God.
 - "Sanctifying Grace is the gratuitous gift of his life that God makes to us; it is infused by the Holy Spirit into the soul to heal it of sin and to sanctify it" (CCC 2023).
 - *When did you first receive the gift of sanctifying grace? What Sacrament? (Baptism.)*
 - *If we sin, do we lose all of the sanctifying grace in our souls? (Not unless we commit a mortal sin; although we can lose some graces through lesser sins.)*
 - *What Sacrament restores sanctifying grace after we have sinned? (The Sacrament of Penance or Confession.)*
- Jesus is the promised one. Jesus is our Redeemer. He is known as "the new Adam."
 - Unlike Adam, Jesus was obedient unto death, conquering sin and opening the gates of heaven.
 - **Read aloud John 3:16–17:** "For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him."
 - Jesus' name means "Savior," further meaning that "God saves." The "Son of God made man" is our Savior.
 - *Why did God send Jesus, his only Son, as our Savior? (Out of love.)*
- Mary, in obedience, gave life to Jesus, who gives us the life of grace. Therefore, Mary is our Mother according to the life of grace. This is why Mary is the "new Eve."
 - Mary is the Mother of all the living in the life of grace.
 - Through Mary's act of obedience, she helped reverse Eve's act of disobedience.
 - *How should we be like Mary, in order to show our love for God? (Through obedience.)*

FOCUS 4 OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Activity Book, p. 4
- **Introduce** the Hail, Holy Queen prayer to the students.

Saint Augustine and Grace

In the history of the Church, one of the most striking stories of God's grace and redemption can be found in the person of Saint Augustine. Born into privilege in the twilight years of the Western Roman Empire, Augustine lived a life that was focused upon pleasure, greed, and pagan philosophy. Throughout his youth and young adulthood, he had nothing but contempt for the Christian Church. He thought the Gospels and Letters of Paul to be nothing but badly written rhetoric, undeserving of his attention. Augustine's way of living made his mother very sad, for she knew God had other plans for her son. Finally, Augustine became frustrated with his life of sin and dissipation. He threw himself to the earth and begged for God's help. Just then, he heard a child singing *Tolle Lege* ("Take Up and Read"). Taking the child's song as a sign from God, Augustine began reading the Scriptures. He decided to follow Paul's admonition to live as Christ lived. To his mother's great joy, Augustine was baptized and began a life of dedication to Jesus. Not only was his once sin-filled life now filled with God's own life, but he was so dedicated that he became a bishop, a defender of the Church against heresy, and a saint. Augustine wrote of his conversion in his autobiographical masterpiece, the *Confessions*.

Conclusion: God's plan of redemption unfolded throughout the history of mankind. It all lead up to the Incarnation of God's Son, Jesus, who became our Savior. God used the Blessed Mother to restore this amazing relationship with God. Now we can all live the life of grace in Christ Jesus.

Review Lesson I, Chapter I (3 minutes)

- God created man in his image and likeness to love him, but man sinned and separated himself from God.
- God did not abandon man, but promised to send a Redeemer who would open the gates of heaven.

Application (10–20 minutes)

Choose one or more of the following for discussion.

- God created us in his image. **What are some ways that God is reflected in us?** (Answers will vary; lead students to say that we can think, love, and make choices. We are called to love as God loves.)
- Adam and Eve failed to obey God when they were faced with temptation. **Have you ever been tempted?** (Answers will vary.) **What are some things we can do to become strong in times of temptation?** (Answers will vary. Examples: pray, ask a friend for assistance, etc.)
- God loves us so much that he gave us his only Son, Jesus. Thank God in your morning prayers for his great love.
- Even though Adam and Eve sinned against God, he never stopped loving them and was merciful toward them. The next time someone hurts you, ask God for the grace to be merciful.

Celebration (5–10 minutes)

Choose one or more of the following.

- Talk about Saint Augustine. (See sidebar.)
- Sing "Sing Praise to Our Creator" in the *Adoremus Hymnal*, #500.
- Concluding prayer: Thank God for creating us and for loving us so much that he sent Jesus as our Redeemer. Pray the Our Father.

Take Home

- Student reading for next lesson: Student Text: Chapter 1, pp. 12–16; Chapter 2, pp. 17–19; Chapter 3, pp. 20–23
- Optional: Activity Book: Chapter 1, pp.1–4
- Optional: Family Guide: G 4–1, pp. 198–99



12

CHAPTER 1

The Fall of Man

“Then the LORD God said, ‘Behold, the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil; and now, lest he put forth his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever’—therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from which he was taken.”

Genesis 3:22–23

In the Beginning

Before God created the world, he made beautiful creatures called angels. **Angels** are pure spirits created to glorify God and serve him.

All the angels were very good when God created them. But some of them began to think that they were wiser than God. These angels turned against God and wouldn’t have anything to do with him. They cut themselves off from him forever. We call the state to which they were condemned hell. Hell is eternal suffering of separation from God.

After God had finished creating the world and all the plants and animals in it, he made a creature in his image. He made a body out of dust from the ground and breathed into its nostrils the breath of life, which was the man’s **soul**. The man came to life and God called him **Adam**.

Then God planted a beautiful garden on the earth in a land called **Eden**, and there he placed Adam. A wide river flowed through the garden,

making it green and cool. In order to make Adam happy, God also made to grow every tree that was beautiful or had good fruit to eat on it. In the middle of the garden, God placed two special trees. One was the **Tree of Life**. If Adam ate the fruit from this tree, he would be young and strong forever. The other was the **Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil**.

When man was created, he was happy. He was never tired or sick. He was surrounded by animals, which he named. Yet, there was still something missing. Adam was the only human being.

“It is not good that the man should be alone. I will make a suitable helpmate for him,” said God. So he caused Adam to fall into a deep sleep and took out one of his ribs, which he made into a woman. And then he brought her to Adam.

“At last!” cried Adam. “This is a creature like myself. I will call her woman because she was taken out of man.”

13

Adam and his wife, **Eve**, were very happy in their garden, which was paradise. They were able to walk with God, speak with him, and be very close friends with him. They were completely happy. Their bodies were holy and would not grow old. They would never die. They weren’t at all ashamed of being naked. In fact, they never noticed it. They had never even heard of anything bad.

The Test

Adam and Eve loved God. God was the Creator and they were his creatures. He wanted them to love him freely and so gave them free will.

“You may eat the fruit from any tree in the garden,” God told them, “except for the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, which I have put here next to the Tree of Life in the middle of the garden. Do not eat from it. For if you do, you shall die.”

The fallen angels in hell hated God. These **devils** were miserable and wanted Adam and Eve to be unhappy too. One day while Adam’s wife was walking through the garden, the devil, disguised as a serpent, called to her, “Did God tell you not to eat from any of the trees in the garden?”

“Oh no,” she answered. “We may eat from all the trees, all but this one in the middle of the garden. God said not even to touch it. If we do, we will die.”

“Oh, that’s not true. You won’t die,” lied the devil. “God is afraid that if you eat from that tree, you will become just like him. You will know good and evil.”

The woman then saw that the fruit on the tree looked very good. And to think, if only she ate it, she’d be just like God! She picked the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to Adam and

ate it too. This temptation from the devil was a great test of their love for God.

A Sad Ending

All at once, Adam and Eve felt unhappy because they now knew evil. Before they had known only good; but now they knew what it was like to be bad. Suddenly, they realized they were naked and they were very embarrassed. They looked around and found some leaves from fig trees, which they sewed together to make aprons for themselves.

But even with clothes on, they were miserable and ashamed. Their souls still felt naked because they were wounded, and so they were unhappy. They didn’t know quite what to do with themselves. Nothing made them happy or interested them any more. They had sinned.



14

When it was evening, God came for a walk in the garden. Whereas before Adam and his wife would run to meet and talk with him, now they were so ashamed and afraid that they ran and hid among the trees.

“Adam, where are you?” called God.

Adam answered, “I heard you walking in the garden and I was afraid because I was naked and so I hid from you.”

“Who told you that you were naked?” asked God. “Have you eaten from the tree from which I have forbidden you to eat?”

Adam was very ashamed but he had his excuse ready. He wanted God to know that it was not his fault. “The woman that you made for me—she gave me some of the fruit and so I ate it,” he said.

Then God asked the woman, “What have you done?”

The woman had someone to blame, too. “The serpent fooled me and so I ate the fruit,” she said.

God said to Eve, “I will greatly multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children, yet your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.”

God said to Adam, “Because you have eaten the fruit I forbade you to eat, the ground shall be cursed because of you. You shall have to work hard to get your food from it. It will grow thorns and thistles for you. Only by hard work and sweat will you find food to eat. And this will go on until you, yourself, return to the ground, for now you will die. You were taken from the ground and you will return to it; you are dust and to dust you shall return.”

The Promise of a New Beginning

Adam and Eve had lost their Heavenly Father’s grace. They could no longer walk and talk with him and be his friends as before. It



was necessary for them to leave paradise. They would suffer, but in his kindness and love, God still cared for them. He promised that one of their descendants would crush the power of evil that they had brought into the world. One day in the future God would send them a **Redeemer** to save them from sin and open the gates of heaven again. **Heaven** is eternal life and happiness with God.

Out into the world went the poor man and woman, dressed in animal skin clothes that God had made for them. Behind them were angels to guard the entrance to the Garden of Eden so that they could not return.

Adam and Eve settled somewhere outside the Garden of Eden. They must have cleared the land, which had been producing weeds and thorns. They probably gathered wild seeds and sowed them in their newly cleared fields. They may have rounded up enough goats, sheep, and cattle for their needs. They had to work hard.

15

Although they distanced themselves from God, he was watching over them with his loving care. He knew that they were sorry for having offended him.
Adam knew that his wife would have children and that their descendants would fill the whole earth. So he called her "Eve" which means "mother of all the living."

Words to Know:

angels soul
Adam Eden Tree of Life
Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil
Eve devils Redeemer heaven

- Q. 6** *What is heaven?*
Heaven is eternal life and happiness with God (CCC 1023–24).
- Q. 7** *What is hell?*
Hell is the eternal suffering of separation from God (CCC 1033–35).
- Q. 8** *What are the angels?*
The angels are pure spirits, created to glorify and serve God (CCC 328–29).
- Q. 9** *Was man created weak and sinful as we are now?*
Man was not created weak and sinful as we are now, but was created holy, in a state of happiness (CCC 374–76).
- Q. 10** *How is man different from the animals and special in God's eyes?*
Man is different from the animals and special in God's eyes because he possesses an immortal soul (CCC 356–58, 363).
- Q. 11** *What did God give to Adam and Eve so they could love and obey him freely?*
God gave Adam and Eve free will. (CCC 396).
- Q. 12** *When Adam and Eve, after being tempted by the devil, sinned, did God abandon them without any hope?*
When Adam and Eve failed the test of their love for God, God did not abandon them without any hope. He promised them a Savior and God's final victory over sin and death (CCC 55, 410–11).

Name: _____

The Fall of Man

Quiz 1

Word Bank

Angels	Heaven	soul	Redeemer	Hell
test	grace	Eve	Devils	

Fill in the blanks with the correct words from the Word Bank.

- Heaven is eternal life and happiness with God.
- Hell is the eternal suffering of separation from God.
- Angels are pure spirits created to glorify God.
- The soul is the spiritual and immortal part of man.
- Devils are angels who refused to serve God and do his will.
- God promised he would send a Redeemer to save us from sin.
- Eve was the person who first ate fruit from the forbidden tree.
- Adam and Eve lost grace after they ate the fruit.
- Adam and Eve faced a great test of their love for and obedience to God.

Name: _____

Creation



Circle the best answer.

- Before God created the world, he made beautiful creatures called:
 - spirits
 - angels
 - devils
 - Blessed Trinity
- The angels were:
 - wiser than God
 - created good
 - bad
 - cut off from God
- God created the world in:
 - seven days
 - six weeks
 - six days
 - six months
- God made man:
 - from dust
 - in his image
 - with his breath
 - all of the above
- Eden is:
 - Adam's wife
 - a river
 - an angel
 - none of the above
- God made two special:
 - angels
 - animals
 - rivers
 - trees
- Before the Fall, Adam was:
 - happy
 - never sick
 - surrounded by animals
 - all of the above
- God made woman from:
 - dust
 - out of nothing
 - Adam's rib
 - an animal
- Adam and Eve were:
 - in communion with God
 - happy in Eden
 - in communion with each other
 - all of the above
- Their bodies:
 - would not grow old
 - were naked
 - were holy
 - all of the above

Name: _____

The Test

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

- What were Adam and Eve forbidden to do?
Eat fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.
- Why did God give Adam and Eve this command?
He wanted to give them a chance to love and obey Him freely.
- Why did the devil want Adam and Eve not to be happy?
He hated God and wanted Adam and Eve to be as unhappy as he was.
- How did the serpent (the devil in disguise) trick Eve?
He told her that they wouldn't die if they ate from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil; he told them her would be like God.
- What did Eve (and Adam) do? Did they pass God's test?
No, they ate the fruit.



Name: _____

A Sad Ending

Fill in the blanks below with the following words. You will use each word once.

Ashamed	Thistles	Hid
Dust	Work	Sin
God	Blame	Thorns
Naked	Evil	

1. W O R K
2. T H O R N S
3. E V I L
4. G O D
5. H I D
6. N A K E D
7. A S H A M E D
8. B L A M E
9. D U S T
10. T H I S T L E S
11. S I N

Answer these questions using complete sentences.

1. What happened when God came into the Garden of Eden?

Adam and Eve tried to hide from God.

2. What was Adam and Eve's punishment for sin?

They were forced to leave the garden. They had to suffer and work hard. They lost grace.

Name: _____

God promised a Savior

1. What did God promise Adam and Eve?

He promised to send them a Redeemer.

2. What would this Savior do?

He would save them from sin and open the gates of heaven again.

3. Who is the Savior God promised?

The Savior is Jesus.

4. Write out God's promise to Adam and Eve, which is found in Genesis 3:15.

"I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."
—Genesis 3:15

Lesson 2

Chapter 2—The World’s First Murder Chapter 3—Turning Away from God

Correlated Materials

Student Text: Chapter 2, pp. 17–19;
Chapter 3, pp. 20–23
Activity Book: Chapter 2, pp. 5–8;
Chapter 3, pp. 9–12
Family Guide: G 4–2, pp. 200–201;
G 4–3, pp. 202–3

CHAPTER FOCUS

After Adam and Eve were exiled from the garden, they had two sons named Cain and Abel. Many years passed. One day, Cain and Abel offered sacrifices to God. God was pleased with Abel’s sacrifice because he gave God the best he had to give. Cain, however, did not give God his best and grew envious of his brother. Then he killed Abel. As a punishment God sent Cain away from his family. He had taken a life, and that was a grave offense.

With each passing generation, Adam and Eve’s descendants grew more and more wicked. Finally, God sent a flood that washed the world clean. The only survivors were a righteous man named Noah and his family, as well as all the animals they had saved on the ark that God had told Noah to build. After the flood, God made a covenant with Noah, swearing never to destroy the world again. It didn’t take long, however, for Noah’s children and their descendants to fall deeply into sin again.

Begin the Lesson

Preparation (5–10 minutes)

Use one or more of the following resources for prayer and student preparation for the lesson.

SCRIPTURE: Student Text, p. 17

“And the LORD said, ‘What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood is crying to me from the ground’” (Genesis 4:10).

After Cain takes his brother’s life, God asks him what he has done. Each of us is accountable for our sins.

Student Text, p. 20

“For behold, I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life from under heaven; everything that is on the earth shall die. But I will establish my covenant with you; and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons’ wives with you.” (Genesis 6:17–18).

Sin grows quickly over the world, and God washes it away with a flood. Yet, he promises to establish a covenant with Noah and his family, because Noah loved the Lord.

SACRED ART: Student Text, p. 17

Cain and Abel, Titian

Cain is jealous of his brother Abel, who gave the best of his flock to God. Cain did not have it in his heart to offer his best to God; out of envy he kills his brother.

Student Text, p. 22

The Tower of Babel, Jan Brueghel

The descendants of Shem grew very proud, so they built a tower to glorify themselves instead of God.

PRAYER WITH CHILDREN: Glory Be, Student Text, p. 161

AIMS

- Students will learn that we are to offer sacrifices to God. These sacrifices should be made in a spirit of love, trust, faith, hope, humility, and joy.
- Students will learn that we are to offer sacrifices to God in order to recognize His gifts and blessings. Our works should always be pleasing to God.
- Students will learn that life is sacred and that murder is wrong.
- Students will learn that God's mercy is for all people.
- Students will learn that God has a plan and will always take care of those who are faithful to him.

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH REFERENCES

- Definition of Sin: 1849–51, 1871
- Envy: 2538–40
- Killing in the Old Testament: 2261, 2268
- Mercy and Sin: 1846–48
- Respect for Human Life: 2259–83, 2319–25
- Sacrifice: 2099–100, 2569
- Noah: 56–58
- Pride: 1866, 2094, 2540
- Tower of Babel: 57

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- Cain and Abel: Genesis 4:1–16, 25–26
- Noah: Genesis 6:5–9
- Tower of Babel: Genesis 11:1–9

MATERIALS

- White board and markers
- A set of dominoes or a deck of cards or pick-up sticks
- A large floor puzzle or some type of simple model with pieces
- Preprinted cards with the baptismal vows for each student

Review Lesson 1, Chapter 1 (3 minutes)

- God created man in his image and likeness to love him, but man sinned and separated himself from God.
- God did not abandon man, but promised to send a Redeemer who would open the gates of heaven.

Proclamation (1 minute)

(Proclaim slowly, then repeat.)

God has a great love for his people, and even though he is just and punishes sinners, his mercy is very great. God works many wonders and gives us the rainbow as a sign of hope for eternal life.

Lesson Explanation (35–45 minutes)

Explain focus points in your own words or use the discussion points and questions.

Focus 1: Adam and Eve continued to have a relationship with God. The first two children of Adam and Eve were Cain and Abel, who knew that offering God a sacrifice from their work was proper. This was an acknowledgment that all good things are provided by God.

- The first children of Adam and Eve were **Cain and Abel**. Before we look at what happened in this tragic story, it is important that we understand why it happened.
 - When Adam and Eve lived in the garden, they were filled with the life of grace; God's life in them caused them to love as he loved.
 - When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, they lost the life of grace and were expelled from the garden.
 - No longer filled with God's grace, Adam and Eve and their children acted in very sinful ways.
 - Even though Adam and Eve were without God's grace in their souls, God never abandoned them.

Cain and Abel:

- Both Cain and Abel offered sacrifices to God. Cain was a farmer and Abel was a shepherd. Cain brought some produce for sacrifice and Abel brought the best of his flock, a sacrifice of his finest lambs. God was not happy with Cain's offering because it was not the very best of his labor. Offering the best that we have matters to God because by doing so we are showing our love for God and our trust in him. God made it known to Cain that he was not pleased.
- In our day we should still bring to God the first fruits of our labor. Since you are young, this would be done through your parents for the whole family.

WORDS TO KNOW

Cain: Adam and Eve's first son. Cain murdered his brother Abel.

Abel: Adam and Eve's second son. He was murdered by his brother Cain.

sacrifice: giving up completely to God something that is dear to us

Seth: Adam and Eve's third son, born after Abel's death

Noah: the Old Testament father whom God saved in the ark when he sent the great flood to wash the earth clean. His sons were Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

Shem: one of the three sons of Noah. The chosen people were descendants of Shem. Jesus was a descendant of Shem.

Japheth: one of the three sons of Noah

Ham: one of the three sons of Noah. The Promised Land was named after his son, Canaan.

ark: the boat built by Noah before the flood

covenant: a contract or agreement made between two persons. In the Old Testament, the important covenant was the agreement made between God and the people of Israel. But now, we have a New Covenant that will last forever. It was made between us and God by Jesus. God promises to free us from our sins and bring us to heaven. In return, we promise to give up our sins, be baptized, and follow Jesus and the Church.

Canaan: the son of Ham. His descendants went to live in the Promised Land and named it after him. God took the land away from the Canaanites and gave it to the people of Israel.

Tower of Babel: a big tower built by proud people who thought that they could do things by themselves without God's help. God confused their language, and so they had to abandon their tower.

- *Have you ever put your own money in the offering at church? Have you ever volunteered at an event? (Answers will vary.)*
- *What is our attitude supposed to be when we make an offering to God? (We should make sacrifices to God with the spirit of love, trust, faith, hope, humility, and joy.)*
- A **sacrifice** is when we give something back to God. Your parents give back some of what has been given to them; it may be their time, their money, or their talents. However, even at a young age we can make all kinds of small sacrifices to God.
 - *Have you ever sacrificed something just for God to show your love for him? (Answers will vary. Lent is a good example; encourage students to talk about making sacrifices to God at other times.)*
- Cain turned from God, and he became very jealous that Abel was able to give up his best. Cain's jealousy caused him to murder Abel. This would be the very first murder among men. We may not be murderers, but if we turn away from God we are all capable of committing serious sin. There are seven sins that lead to all other sins. They are called the seven capital sins. They are pride, covetousness, envy, anger, gluttony, lust, and sloth (see sidebar for definitions).
 - *Which of these seven do you think ruled Cain? (Envy and anger. See sidebar for definitions.)*
 - Now we can see how the sin of envy and anger lead Cain to murder his own brother.
 - God even warned Cain about his anger. **Read Genesis 4:6–7:** "Why are you angry, and why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is lurking at the door; its desire is for you, but you must master it."
 - God's words to Cain can be very helpful to us. When we recognize the feelings of any one of the seven deadly sins, we should ask for God's help to overcome them.
 - *How can we overcome these sins? (Answers will vary.)*
 - First, we acknowledge these feelings and bring them into the light. Going to Confession would be the next step; by doing so we will receive the grace and strength not to commit this sin again. And we can always call on the saints to intercede for us.
- Murder is the taking of life. This is a particularly serious sin because God is the author of all life from conception to natural death.
 - We cannot act "as God" and determine whether or not a life should exist or when life should end, whether it is our own or another's.
 - A murder not only takes away someone's life but takes away a child of someone, a parent of someone, or a friend of someone. The taking of someone's life affects everyone around him.

Sacrifices in Thanksgiving

Following are some suggestions for sacrifices we can make in thanksgiving to God or to recognize God's gifts and blessings to us:

- Giving something up (e.g., watching television)
- Helping others (e.g., assisting an elderly neighbor)
- Giving money to the poor (e.g., almsgiving)
- Fasting and abstinence (e.g., eating less, or giving up something like meat)
- Praying

Seven Capital Sins

- pride (love of self)
- covetousness (inordinate desire for what we don't have)
- envy (unhappiness of another's good fortune)
- anger (when uncontrolled it hardens into resentment or hate)
- gluttony (overindulgence in food or drink)
- lust (sensuous appetite or desire)
- sloth (lack of spiritual or physical effort)

FOCUS | OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Activity Book, p. 5
- List the seven capital sins on the board and discuss them. Have the students give an example of each. Then list the opposing virtues. (Opposing virtues: Pride–Humility; Envy–Kindness; Coveting–Generosity; Anger–Patience; Sloth–Diligence; Gluttony–Temperance; Lust–Chastity)

Conclusion: Without the life of grace, Adam and Eve and their children continued to turn away from God. Sin became evident from the earliest of times.

Focus 2: Sin is a turning away from God. Just as Adam and Eve hid from God after disobeying him, Cain pretended that he didn't know what happened to Abel. God knew what had happened, and because God is a just God, he punished Cain. Even then God didn't stop loving him but showed mercy.

- God told Cain that his brother's blood was crying out to him from the ground. All of our actions have consequences. The consequence of Cain's murder of his brother was a punishment from God. **Read Genesis 4:11–12:** "And now you are cursed from the ground. . . . When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength; you shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth." The punishment fit the crime. Cain would not be able to go back to his livelihood, and he would not be welcome among people.
- *Do you think Cain was sorry for what he had done? (Answers will vary. He did not show repentance or sorrow for what he had done, only fear for his punishment.)*
- *Do you think God was just in his decision to let Cain go? (Answers will vary. God is the perfect balance of justice and mercy. He is the ultimate judge because he knows what our motivations are.)*
- God never stopped loving Cain, and he showed mercy to Cain. He marked Cain, telling people that he was not to be killed.
- *Do you think you could show this kind of mercy to someone who has committed such a horrible crime? (Answers will vary.)*
- Each of us is made in God's image, meaning we are called to love as God loves, and to show mercy as God shows his mercy on us. God wills that we reconcile with each other and himself. We can begin our reconciling with God and others through the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance).

After Cain and Abel were gone, God blessed Adam and Eve with another son named **Seth**. This was a sign of hope for the whole human race, for from the line of Seth the Savior Jesus would come. No matter how bad things get, there is always hope in God. Hope is trusting in the goodness of God and his promises.

Conclusion: God's dealings with Cain is one of the first glimpses we have of God's mercy after his promise to send a Savior (see Genesis 3:15). While Cain committed one of the worst sins, the killing of his own brother, God did not take Cain's life. Here we see both justice and mercy at work. God does not give up on his people.

The Sacrament of Penance and Holy Communion

When we are in the state of mortal sin, it is very important that we receive the Sacrament of Penance before Holy Communion. To receive Holy Communion in the state of mortal sin would be a great sin, a sacrilege.

- You may use the quotation from Matthew 5:23–24 to emphasize this.
- The Sacrament of Penance restores us to unity with the Mystical Body of Christ; it is important that we share this.

FOCUS 2 OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Activity Book, pp. 6–8
- Do the activity with dominoes or cards. (See sidebar.)

Dominoes Activity

Set up a line of dominoes to demonstrate how one thing affects another, and that there are consequences for our actions. (You can use other examples, such as a house of cards or pick-up sticks.) Have students give examples of this with regard to morality.

Baptism and the Flood

There are parallels between Noah's ark and the Church, and there are parallels between the flood and the Sacrament of Baptism:

FLOOD

- Water
- Sin/evil washed away
- New life came forth
- Resulted in covenant

BAPTISM

- Water
- Sin washed away
- New life in Christ
- Results in covenant

Focus 3: In the story of Noah the whole human race had become sinful. God used this opportunity to establish a covenant with Noah. He would make a promise to never again destroy the earth with a flood, and they were to multiply and fill the earth.

- After the sin of Abel's murder, sin increased rampantly throughout the earth. God decided to destroy all of the evil in the world through a flood. There was a man named **Noah**, a descendant of Seth, who still had faith in God. Because of Noah's love for God, God saved Noah and his family. God told Noah to build an **ark**. Noah obeyed God and built an ark so his family could be saved. Through Noah and his family, God restored hope in the world.
 - *God was very practical about this. How did he make sure that each animal would be reproduced after the flood? (He told them to collect a male and female of each kind.)*
- In the history of salvation, the flood is a type of Baptism. The flood washed away all that was evil on the earth. After the flood, creation was renewed. In Baptism, all our sins are washed away, and after Baptism we become a new creation in Christ. (See sidebar.)
 - *Have you attended a Baptism recently? Can you remember what the main action of the priest or deacon is? (The presiding clergy pours water over the head of the person being baptized. Sometimes the person goes completely under the water.)*
- Noah and his family were saved by God. God had Noah build an ark to save Noah and his family. The ark contained everything they needed to be saved. The ark is a type of the Church.
- Through the Church we are able to receive the graces we need for our salvation. We receive these graces through the Sacraments. Through the grace of God, we are able to keep ourselves apart from evil in the world.
 - *Where is the sign of our Baptism in our church? (The baptismal font and the holy water fonts.)*
 - *How do we remind ourselves of our Baptism every time we enter church? (We bless ourselves with holy water.)*
- After the flood God made a New Covenant with Noah and his whole family. Through Baptism we enter a New Covenant with God. A **covenant** is an oath that makes us family with God. So when we are baptized, we become a child of God.
 - *What was the sign of this New Covenant between God and Noah? (The rainbow was the sign.)*
 - *What was the first thing that Noah did when he got off the ark? (He built an altar and offered prayers and sacrifices to God in thanksgiving.)*
 - *What should we do to show God that we are thankful to be part of his family? (Pray, worship by going to Mass, and offer sacrifices for God.)*

FOCUS 3 OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Activity Book, pp. 9–12
- Lead the students in thanking God for their own Baptism, and together renew their baptismal vows.

Noah's Ark as a Prefiguration of the Church

In *The City of God*, Saint Augustine explains how Noah's ark prefigures the Church. The ark represents the pilgrim Church on earth, and just as Noah's family was saved from the flood by the ark, we are saved by the wood of Jesus' Cross. Saint Augustine saw that the door of the ark signified the wound made in Christ's side by the spear, out of which flowed the Sacraments of Baptism and the Eucharist. Just as Noah and his family entered the ark through the door, we enter the Church through her Sacraments. He also relates the three levels of the ark to the three theological virtues of faith, hope, and love. Within the ark were all the animals, clean and unclean. The animals represent all the nations of the world, which are saved in the Church. Just as clean and unclean animals were found in the ark, the Church is made up of saints and sinners, and it is by the grace of God that we can enter the Church and be saved. (See Saint Augustine, *The City of God*, XV.25.)

FOCUS 4 OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

- Give the students a building project, such as building a model or assembling a puzzle. Give each of the students a different piece and tell them to assemble it. They are not allowed to use words, and they have to work together by each contributing their own piece.

Conclusion: God uses covenants with his people as a way of keeping them in right relationship. When they fall out of right relationship with God, they fall into sin. This pattern of sin followed by God's mercy continues throughout the Scriptures. After Noah's sons repopulated the world, they once again forgot the God who saved them.

Focus 4: The story of the Tower of Babel gives us another example of what happens when men want to be God. God must deal with sin once again. Because he is the merciful Heavenly Father, he finds a way to prevent mankind from committing any more foolishness.

- Noah had three sons: **Shem, Japheth, and Ham**. They moved to all parts of the world and had very large families. Each family had their own lands and their own languages. (See Genesis 10:5, 20, 31.)
 - Some descendants of Shem migrated from the east to the land of Shinar. These people grew very proud of all their abilities.
 - They forgot that their talents had really come from God. They came together and decided to build a city and a tower that would reach up to God, but their intention was "to make a name for themselves."
 - They arrogantly endeavored to build something without God and in so doing would celebrate pure human achievement.
 - *What are the disadvantages of starting a project without praying about it to God? (God can help us or guide us to do the project in his way; God can keep us from being prideful, etc.)*
- God wants us to depend on him and to realize that all of our talents really come from him; otherwise, we become prideful. God recognized the sin of pride in his people building the **Tower of Babel**.
 - God acts out of mercy. In order to get the people to realize how much they really needed him, he decided to confuse their language so that they could no longer communicate with one another. Without communication, they were unable to work together and their ambitions were frustrated.
 - *Can you think of a New Testament story that has different human languages being understood? We celebrate this soon after the Ascension. (Pentecost.)*

Conclusion: Out of God's mercy and wisdom he confuses the languages of the people. By confusing languages God points out the impact that the sin of pride has on his people. Through the humility of those at Pentecost, they are blessed with the ability to understand one another.

At Pentecost God reversed the effect of Babel.

Tower of Babel

- Pride
- Sin
- Confusion
- Turn away from God's gifts

Pentecost

- Humility
- Grace
- Understanding
- Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Murder Is Wrong at All Stages of Life

You may discuss how murder is wrong at all stages of life. (Note: if you choose to talk about life issues, you will want to inform parents beforehand.) If parental permissions are obtained, you may discuss abortion as killing an unborn baby. Euthanasia is killing an elderly, sick, or disabled person. Both of these are wrong. God is the author of all life, and we must respect life from conception to natural death. We cannot act "as God" and determine when life should end. We may not decide to end our own lives (suicide) or the lives of others (murder).

Saint John the Baptist

Saint John the Baptist was the first to call Israel to repentance through the waters of Baptism. John anticipated the coming of the Savior, saying: "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit" (Mark 1:7–8).

Review Lesson 2, Chapters 2 and 3 (3 minutes)

- As children of God we are expected to offer proper sacrifices to God with love, faith, hope, and humility.
- Life is sacred and belongs to God. Serious sin can be the end result of our turning away from God through one of the seven capital sins.
- If we live in covenant with God, we will always have a way back to his mercy.

Application (10–20 minutes)

Choose one or more of the following for discussion.

- **Name a time you were prideful; name a time you were humble. Have you ever been praised because you were acting in a humble way?** (Answers will vary. Be sure that students understand that if their motivation was to be praised, then that would not have been humility.)
- **Name a time you made a poor choice. What should you have done to make a better choice?** (Pray to God, talk to parents, receive the Sacraments, etc.)
- **What are some sad things we have in the world today because of Original Sin?** (Poverty, sickness, death, etc.)

Celebration (5 minutes)

Choose one or more of the following.

- Concluding prayer: Thank God for his many gifts. Pray the Our Father and ask the students to add their own petitions (Student Text, p. 161).
- Read about the life of Saint John the Baptist. (See sidebar.)

Take Home

- Memorize 1 Corinthians 13:4: "Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful."
- Offer up a sacrifice to God by eating simple, meatless meals on Friday.
- Student reading for next lesson: Student Text: Chapter 4, pp. 24–27
- Optional: Activity Book: Chapter 2, pp. 5–8; Chapter 3, pp. 9–12
- Optional: Family Guide: G 4–2, pp. 200–1; G 4–3, pp. 202–3

The World's First Murder

“And the LORD said, ‘What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood is crying to me from the ground.’”

Genesis 4:10

Adam and Eve’s Children

After a while, Eve gave birth to a child. They named him **Cain**. Then a brother named **Abel** was born. Later, as time went by, Eve would have many more children. These children would have children of their own. Soon there would be many people living on earth.

When Cain and Abel were still young men, Cain became a farmer and Abel became a shepherd. Their father, Adam, must have taught them all about God and how to honor and praise him. They both prepared offerings from their labors to give back to God as a **sacrifice**. In this way, they could thank God and show him that they knew that all their blessings had come from him.

Cain brought some crops from his fields and placed them on the stone altar which he had built. On his altar, Abel placed the finest lambs from his flock. Both offerings were set on fire, burned up, and, in this way, sacrificed to God.

The Crime

God was pleased with Abel’s sacrifice because he offered his best, which showed that he had faith in his heart. God was not pleased,

however, with Cain’s sacrifice because he had held back his best from God. Cain then became jealous of his brother and hated him so much that he decided to get rid of Abel.

God saw what Cain planned to do and said, “Why are you angry and why do you look so sad? If you do well and try to please me, I will



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“By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he received approval as righteous, God bearing witness by accepting his gifts. . . .”

Hebrews 11:4

accept your sacrifice. Be careful, sin is waiting at your door. You must overcome it.”

But the angry man would not listen. “Let us go out into my fields,” he said to his brother. Abel loved his brother very much and he probably did not suspect him. As soon as they were far away from everyone, Cain killed Abel. He left him there, dead and alone.

The Punishment

Of course, God had seen the terrible thing that Cain had done to his brother. “Where is Abel, your brother?” he asked him.

“I do not know,” said Cain. “Am I my brother’s keeper?”

“What have you done?” asked God. “Your brother’s blood is crying out to me from the ground. Therefore, you will receive your punishment from the ground. From now on, when you try to raise crops, you shall get nothing. And you shall be a wanderer over the whole earth.”

Cain pleaded with God, “My punishment is too much to bear. You are driving me away from my farm and I must hide from you. I will be a fugitive on the earth and whoever sees me will kill me!”

God had pity on Cain. “If anyone kills you, I will punish him,” he said. And to make sure that no one would harm Cain, God put a mark on him so that people would know to leave him alone. And then Cain went to live in the land of Nod, which was east of Eden. This was the first time God showed that murder was a sin and would be punished.

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Another Child

After Cain had gone, Adam and Eve had another son, whom they named **Seth**. “God has given me another child to replace Abel, who was killed by Cain,” Eve said.

Eventually, both Seth and Cain married and had children of their own. It was from Seth’s descendants that Jesus came. Jesus was the one promised by God to Adam and Eve who would conquer the power of evil.

“If you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.”

Matthew 5:23–24

Words to Know:

Cain Abel sacrifice Seth

Q. 13 Is murder wrong in God’s eyes?

Yes, murder is very wrong in God’s eyes, and it is forbidden by the Fifth Commandment (CCC 2268).

Q. 14 Why was Abel’s sacrifice acceptable, while Cain’s was not?

Abel’s sacrifice was offered with faith and love, and so his sacrifice was pleasing to God, while Cain’s sacrifice was not (Heb 11:4).

Q. 15 Did God stop loving Cain because of his sin?

No, God did not stop loving Cain because of his sin. God marked Cain to protect him and sent him away to do penance (CCC 1856, 1430, Gen 4:11–16).



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Name:

The World’s First Murder

Quiz 2

Word Bank

Fifth	sin	Cain	keeper
jealous	lambs	sacrifice	punished

Fill in the blanks with the correct words from the Word Bank.

- Murder is wrong in God’s eyes, and it is forbidden by the **Fifth** Commandment.
- Cain** was Adam and Eve’s first son. He murdered his brother, Abel.
- Cain and Abel offered **sacrifice**, which is giving God something that is precious to us.
- God was more pleased with Abel’s sacrifice of his finest **lambs** than he was with Cain’s sacrifice of some crops from his field because Abel offered his very best.
- Cain was **jealous** of Abel and hated him.
- God warned Cain that he must overcome **sin**, but he refused and killed Abel.
- God asked Cain if he knew where Abel was and Cain replied, “I do not know; am I my brother’s **keeper**?”
- God **punished** Cain for killing Abel. Cain had to leave his family. He was not able to be a successful farmer. He had to wander through the desert.

Name: _____

Abel's Sacrifice



God was pleased with Abel's sacrifice because he offered his best, which showed that he had love in his heart. God was not pleased, however, with Cain's sacrifice because he had held back his best from God.

1. What did Abel sacrifice?

Abel sacrificed the finest lambs from his flock.

2. What did Cain sacrifice?

Cain sacrificed some crops from his fields.

3. Why was God pleased with Abel's sacrifice and not Cain's?

Abel's sacrifice was offered with faith and love, so his sacrifice was pleasing to God. Cain held back his best from God, so his sacrifice was not pleasing to God.

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Name: _____

Cain Kills Abel

"Let us go out into the fields," he said to his brother. Abel loved his brother very much and he did not suspect him. As soon as they were far away from everyone, Cain killed Abel. He left him there dead and alone.



Answer the following questions using complete sentences.

1. Cain thought no one else had seen his actions, but someone did know. Who else had seen what he did?

God.

2. What did God say to Cain about the murder?

God told Cain that he heard Abel's blood crying out to him. Then God told Cain that Cain couldn't raise crops anymore. He would have to wander over the whole earth.

3. Was Cain sorry for his crime? Did Cain accept his punishment?

No, he pleaded with God and told him that his punishment was too hard.

4. How did God make sure that no one would harm Cain?

He put a mark on Cain to make sure no one would harm him.

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Name: _____

Punishment for Sin



Answer the following questions using complete sentences.

1. How is Cain like Adam and Eve?

Answers may vary.

2. What punishments were Adam, Eve, and Cain given?

Answers may vary.

3. Why was the land cursed?

Because of sin.

4. Did God still love the sinners?

Yes.

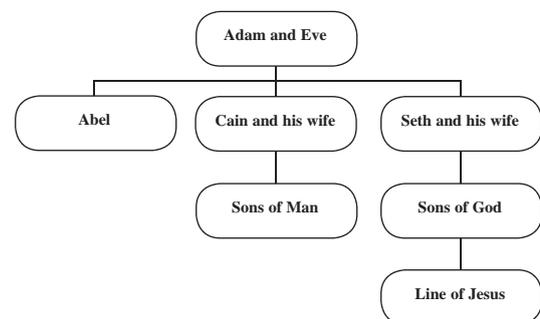
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Name: _____

Family Tree

Draw a tree around this Family Tree.



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Turning Away from God

“For behold, I will bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life from under heaven; everything that is on the earth shall die. But I will establish my covenant with you; and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons’ wives with you.”

Genesis 6:17–18

The Flood

Many years went by after Seth, Cain, and the other children of Adam and Eve had settled in several parts of the world. Gradually, even the descendants of Seth began to forget about God and to think only about the pleasures of this



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life. They started to do bad things to get what they wanted. God saw that they were constantly thinking and planning evil things, and he was sorry that he had made them. Patiently, he waited, giving them many chances to change their ways and to turn to him again. But their crimes only grew worse.

Noah, who was one of the descendants of Seth, was a good man who pleased God. God decided that he would destroy the wicked people and begin again with Noah and his family.

So one day God called, “Noah, the earth is filled with violence. I am going to wash it clean with a flood. Make yourself a boat out of wood and cover it inside and out with pitch to make it watertight. When it is finished you, your wife, your sons, and their wives are to go inside. Take on board a male and female of every kind of animal. You may take seven pairs of the animals that you are used to eating. Finally, fill the hold of the ship with other food for yourselves and for the animals.”

“By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, took heed and constructed an ark for the saving of his household; by this he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness which comes by faith.”
Hebrews 11:7



Noah and his sons—**Shem**, **Japheth**, and **Ham**—set to work to build the **ark**, which is another name for the boat. At last, everything was ready. All the animals were herded inside, two of every kind of creeping thing and of every kind of bird. After all the animals were in, Noah and his family entered the ark and closed the door.

Soon a heavy rain began to pour from the skies and continued for forty days and forty nights. As the waters rose above the highest mountains, the ark was gently lifted up and carried along on the enormous sea that God had made with the rain. But inside, the family was safe and dry.

A New Beginning

The ark floated on for more than a month and Noah’s family inside probably began to grow restless and to long for firm ground. Eventually, God sent a strong wind to blow over the earth

and push back the waters. Finally, the ark came to rest on the top of a mountain known as Ararat; just the tip of the mountain was above water. But Noah could not tell just how far the water had gone down. So he took one of the doves from the ark and let her fly off to look for land. But the dove found no place to settle and returned to Noah. He waited seven days and then again sent forth the dove and it returned before evening. This time it carried in its beak a freshly plucked branch from an olive tree. Then Noah knew that



the waters were nearly gone from the earth. He waited another seven days and once more sent out the dove. It did not return to them but settled down in the newly dried land. That was the sign Noah had been waiting for. He threw open the big door that had been bolted for so long and looked out. The ground was dry!

God called to him, “Come forth out of the ark. And let the animals go so that they can have young and once again there will be many of them on earth.”

So at long last, everyone came out of the ark. The very first thing that Noah did was build an altar to offer the best of his animals to God in thanksgiving for having brought them safely to land again. God was very pleased with Noah’s sacrifice and said to himself, “I

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will never again destroy every living creature on the earth.”

God said to Noah and his sons, “Have many children and fill the earth. I am making a covenant with you and your descendants. Never again will a flood come to destroy the entire earth. As a sign of this **covenant**, I have put a rainbow in the sky. Whenever a rainbow appears, I will remember my promise that never again will I allow a flood to destroy the earth.”

So Noah and his sons and their wives settled on the land and began to work the earth which had been covered by water for so long. They dug it up and planted seeds. Noah’s three sons eventually moved to various parts of the world and had large families. Of the three, Shem was the most blessed by God. Jesus, the Savior of the world promised to Adam and Eve, came

from Shem’s family. And Japheth was also blessed. But Ham wasn’t a good man. His son, **Canaan**, settled in a beautiful and fertile land, which was named after him, but his descendants grew so wicked that God took the land of Canaan away from them and gave it to the descendants of Shem.

The Tower of Babel

Some of the descendants of Shem migrated from the east to the land of Shinar. These people grew very proud of all their abilities. They forgot that these talents had really come from God. Once more God was disappointed in men. After they had built a fine city for themselves, they remarked, “Look how wonderful we are. We did this all by ourselves. We can do any-

thing we want. Next we’ll build a tower with its top in the heavens. Then we’ll really make a name for ourselves!”

So they set to work on their tower using bricks made of clay and held together with tar. Higher and higher up went the tower.

But God wasn’t pleased with their proud hearts. More and more they would think it was all their own doing and forget how much they needed God’s help. So God confused their language so that they could not understand one another. They had to give up building the tower because they could no longer work together.

There was such a babble of shouting and confusion as each person tried to make himself understood that their tower came to be known as the **Tower of Babel**. Eventually the people living in the city drifted away to different parts of the earth, leaving their tower unfinished.

In this way God showed men that it is a grave sin to turn away from him.

Words to Know:

Noah Shem Japheth Ham
ark covenant Canaan
Tower of Babel

Q. 16 Why did God send the flood?

God sent the flood to wash away evil from the earth and save the human race (CCC 56, 71).

Q. 17 How do we know from the story of Noah that the human family is very important to God?

We know that the human family is very important to God because God saved Noah, his wife, his three sons, and their wives on the ark during the great flood (CCC 56, 58, 2203, Gen 6:18).

Q. 18 Did God want division among the nations?

No, division among the nations was the result of the sin of pride committed at Babel (CCC 57).

“When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom.”

Proverbs 11:2

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Name: _____

Turning Away from God

Quiz 3

Word Bank

month	dove	evil	ark
animals	Canaan	need	covenant

Fill in the blanks with the correct words from the Word Bank.

- Noah trusted in God and obeyed. He built an **ark** as God told him.
- God sent rain for forty days to wash away **evil** from the earth.
- On the boat were Noah and his three sons, their wives, and **animals** of every kind.
- The ark floated for more than a **month** and at last settled on a mountain called Ararat.
- When the **dove** that Noah sent did not return, Noah knew the waters were gone.
- God made a **covenant**, or agreement, with Noah that never again would a flood destroy the earth.
- The descendants of Ham's son, Canaan, grew wicked so God gave the beautiful land of **Canaan** to the descendants of Shem.
- Because the people thought they did not **need** God's help, God confused their language so they could not finish the Tower of Babel.

Name: _____

Noah's Ark

Use your student text to find the words to fill in the blanks.

Many years went by after **Seth**, **Cain** and the other children of **Adam** and **Eve** had settled in several parts of the world. Gradually even the **descendants** of **Seth** began to forget about **God** and to think only about the pleasures of life. They started to do **bad** things to get what they wanted. God saw that they were constantly **thinking** and **planning** **evil** things, and he was **sorry** that he had made them. **Patiently**, he waited, giving them many **chances** to **change** their ways and to **turn** to him again. But, their crimes only grew **worse**.

Noah, who was one of the descendants of **Seth**, was a good **man** who pleased **God**. God decided that he would **destroy** the wicked people and begin again with Noah and his family.

So one day God called, "**Noah**, the earth is filled with **violence**. I am going to **wash** it clean with a **flood**. Make yourself a **boat** out of wood and cover it inside and out with **pitch** to make it watertight. When it is finished, you, your **wife**, your **sons**, and their **wives** are to go inside. Take on board a **male** and a **female** of every kind of **animal**. You may take **seven** pairs of the animals that you are used to eating. Finally, fill the hold of the ship with other **food** for yourselves and for the **animals**."

Noah and his sons, **Shem**, **Japheth**, and **Ham** set to work to build the **ark**, which is another name for the boat. At last, everything was ready. All the **animals** were herded inside, two of every kind of **creeping** thing and every kind of **bird**. After all the animals were in, Noah and his family entered the ark and closed the **door**. Then it began to rain.

Name: _____

Noah Builds an Ark



The Lord told Noah to build an ark. Noah lived in the middle of dry land! His neighbors probably thought he was crazy and probably laughed at him. How do you think Noah felt and how could he stay faithful to God's orders?

Write what Noah might have thought or prayed.

Name: _____

Come Forth Out of the Ark

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

- When Noah and his family left the ark, what did they do?

They built an altar and offered the best of the animals to God.

- Was God pleased with their sacrifice?

Yes.

- What did God command Noah and his family to do?

He commanded them to have many children and fill the earth.

- What is the sign of God's agreement never to destroy the earth by a flood again?

A rainbow.

- What happened to Noah's children Shem, Japheth, and Ham?

They moved to different parts of the world and had large families.

- What happened at Shinar?

The people built the tower of Babel.

Name: _____

Turning Away from God

Fill in the blanks in questions 1–5 to complete the word train below.

Hint: The last letter of each word is the first letter in the word that follows it.
Use your student text if you need help.

1. r a i n b o w

2. w a t e r

3. r a i n

4. N o a h

5. H a m

1. God put a rainbow in the sky as a sign of his promise never again to send a great flood to destroy the earth.

2. When the dove came back with an olive branch in its beak, Noah knew that the water was nearly gone from the earth.

3. God made it rain for forty days and forty nights.

4. God told Noah to build an ark.

5. Noah's son, Ham, had a son named Canaan.

Lesson 3

Chapter 4—God Prepares a People for the Savior

Correlated Materials

Student Text: Chapter 4, pp. 24–27
Activity Book: Chapter 4, pp. 13–16
Family Guide: G 4–4, pp. 204–5

CHAPTER FOCUS

The next major figure (or “patriarch”) in salvation history is Abraham. God made a covenant with Abraham, swearing to give him descendants and the land of Canaan. In turn, Abraham swore to worship God and to do what God asked of him. During the many years of waiting for the promised child and the Promised Land, Abraham trusted that God would honor his covenant. He continued to trust God when God tested him, asking Abraham to sacrifice his son, Isaac, who prefigures Christ. At the last minute, God spared Isaac.

AIMS

- Students will learn that in Baptism we enter into a personal covenant with God, and we are called to continue always to deepen our relationship with God through prayer and learning to trust him.
- Students will learn that the virtues of faith, hope, and love are gifts given to us at Baptism.

Begin the Lesson

Preparation (5–10 minutes)

Use one or more of the following resources for prayer and student preparation for the lesson.

SCRIPTURE: Student Text, p. 24

“By myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only-begotten son, I will indeed bless you, and I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore. And your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your descendants shall all the nations of the earth bless themselves, because you have obeyed my voice” (Genesis 22:16–18).

God blesses Abraham for his faith. He will make him the father of a great nation.

SACRED ART: Student Text, p. 25

Sacrifice of Isaac, Byzantine Mosaic

This mosaic shows God’s love and mercy. In an act of love and obedience Abraham is ready to offer a sacrifice to God. Through the angel, God’s mercy pours over Abraham for his obedience and faith in God. God replaces Abraham’s sacrifice of his son with a ram in the thicket.

PRAYER WITH CHILDREN: Glory Be, Student Text, p. 161

Review Lesson 2, Chapters 2 and 3 (3 minutes)

- As children of God we are expected to offer proper sacrifices to God with love, faith, hope, and humility.
- Life is sacred and belongs to God. Serious sin can be the end result of our turning away from God through one of the seven capital sins.
- If we live in covenant with God, we will always have a way back to his mercy.

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH REFERENCES

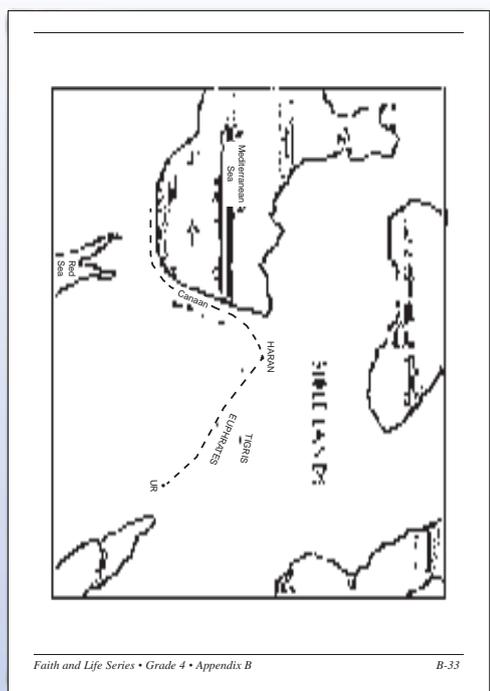
- Abraham and the Prayer of Faith: 2570–72, 2592
- Call of Abraham: 59–61, 72, 144–46, 165, 762, 1080, 2676
- Fulfillment of Promises: 422, 1725, 2619

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- Abraham and Sarah: Genesis 12–15, 22
- Hebrews 11:8–12

MATERIALS

- A map of the Holy Land including Mesopotamia. A topographical map would be best.
- White board and markers



Proclamation (1 minute)

(Proclaim slowly, then repeat.)

God shows his faithfulness by always taking care of his people according to his promises. God tests us so that we can show our love for him.

Lesson Explanation (40–50 minutes)

Explain focus points in your own words or use the discussion points and questions.

Focus 1: Abram, a descendant of Noah's son Shem, was called by God to journey to a new land, a Promised Land. Abram got up and left his homeland in the first of many acts of faith that he would do for God. He was also promised that he would become a great nation and would be a blessing to all the families of the earth.

- God wants to form a people through whom the Messiah will come. He chooses Abraham to be the father of this great nation.
- Abram's journey began in Ur, which is located between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. (See dotted lines on attached map, Appendix B-33.)
 - He traveled along what's known as the fertile crescent. It is an area that is very green and lush due to the abundant water source.
 - Already they were blessed by God. He led them into the land of Canaan next to the Mediterranean Sea.
 - (Locate this route on a map of Bible lands. See Appendix.) Even with God's help the journey was full of challenges.
 - *Imagine what it would be like to venture into a territory totally unknown to you. (There were no maps or guides. You didn't know what was around the next bend. How far does this desert go? What kind of people live here? Are they friendly?)*
- Abram was a wealthy man. He had many relatives, herds, and servants. He traveled with his wife, Sarai, and his nephew, Lot, into this unknown territory.
 - *What do you think Abraham's wife, Sarai, had to say when they left their homeland for an unknown land? (Answers will vary.)*
 - *What do you think she thought of the promises God made to Abram, especially the one that said they would be the parents of a great nation? (Sarai must have wondered how Abraham would be the father of a great nation since they were old and they had no children.) (Review the list of promises; see sidebar on p. 25.)*
- Noah had three sons. Shem was the most blessed by God. Jesus, the Savior of the world, came through Shem's family.

WORDS TO KNOW

Abraham: the man who is remembered for his great faith in God. God made an agreement of covenant with Abraham: God would give him many descendants and take care of Abraham and his descendants if they believed and obeyed him. And Abraham always did this. His son was Isaac.

Sarah: the wife of Abraham

Isaac: the only son of Abraham and Sarah. To test Abraham, God ordered that he kill Isaac. Abraham was ready to obey at once, but God stopped him. Isaac became the father of Jacob and Esau.

God's Promises to Abraham and Sarah

God made many promises to Abraham and Sarah:

- Promised Land: God promised Abraham, a landless wanderer from Ur, a homeland for all the ages.
- Descendants as numerous as the stars: God promised these two elderly people that they would have as many descendants as the stars or as grains of sand on the beach.
- A great name and blessing: God promised that their name would be blessed—God made Abraham our father in faith.

Melchizedek

Melchizedek was a priest of God Most High. The priesthood of Melchizedek is spoken about in the Bible (see Genesis 14:18–20); read Psalm 110:4 and Hebrews 5:5–9. Jesus himself is appointed high priest “in the order of Melchizedek.”

- Abram, being a descendent of Shem, must have learned the proper way to honor God.
 - *What do you think would have been one of the first things Abram would have done when he entered the Promised Land? (He built an altar on a mountaintop to call on the Name of the Lord.)*
 - There were Canaanite tribes living in the Promised Land. There was also famine and hardship. Abram continued to call on the name of the Lord.
 - *Where have we seen altars being built before? (We saw Cain and Abel build altars, as well as Noah.)*
 - *What do you think kept Abram going? (Abram was blessed with great faith in God. He had been called by Almighty God. His faith is legendary and has been a powerful witness down through the ages.)*
 - **Read** Hebrews 11:8: “By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place which he was to receive as an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was to go.”
 - Abram’s nephew, Lot, was taken prisoner in Sodom. Abram had to rescue Lot and defeat an enemy army, which he did with his many servants and relatives. The kings of the surrounding tribes wanted to thank him. This is when he encountered the king of Salem, Melchizedek. (Sidenote: Salem would one day become Jerusalem.)
 - Melchizedek was a priest of the Most High God. He offered bread and wine as a gift and blessed Abraham.
 - *What do we partake of at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass? (Bread and wine that becomes the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.)*

Conclusion: Abram had great faith and he responded to God’s call. God promised to give Abram land, many descendants, and a great name.

FOCUS | OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Activity Book, p. 13
- Spend some time on biblical geography. *What was so special about the Promised Land? (It was located at the crossroads of Africa, Asia, and Europe. It had access to sea routes by way of the Mediterranean Sea. It had an inland freshwater source, the Jordan River. However, it was also very dry and rocky.)*

Baptismal Promises

- Do you renounce Satan? **I do.**
- And all his works? **I do.**
- And all his empty show? **I do.**
- Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth? **I do.**
- Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered death, and was buried, rose again from the dead and is seated at the right hand of the Father? **I do.**
- Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting? **I do.**

Focus 2: After Abram responded to the call, God proceeded from a promise to a covenant. This would lay out the continuing requirements on Abram's part to receive the promises. Sarai would also have to respond to the covenant promises. God renamed Abram **Abraham** and Sarai **Sarah**.

- God was pleased with Abraham's faith, and he made a covenant with him.
- A covenant is an oath or sacred agreement that makes you family. It is comprised of four parts: (1) a sacrifice, (2) a condition, (3) a sign, and (4) a promise.
- **Discuss** God's covenant with Abraham:
 - **Sacrifice:** Abraham would show his love by sacrificing his only son.
 - **Condition:** Abraham and Sarah were called to worship only the one true God, and their descendants would be "set apart" as followers of God.
 - **Sign:** As a sign of entering into the covenant, he changed their names: Abram to Abraham and Sarai to Sarah.
 - **Promise:** God promised Abraham land, a great name/ blessing, and many descendants.

Our Covenant with God

- We entered a covenant with God when we were baptized. For many of us, our parents did this for us when we were babies, but we have the rest of our lives to renew this covenant ourselves.
 - In fact, every year at Easter we renew our baptismal vows.
 - We also do this at any Baptism we attend. (See sidebar.)
 - ***Do you know the date of your own Baptism? Who are your godparents? (Tell students that, when they go home, they should ask their parents for the date and ask who from their family attended.)***
- In our covenant of Baptism the promise is eternal life, the conditions are the Ten Commandments, the Sacrifice is Jesus Christ, and the signs are the seven Sacraments.
 - ***Which of the seven Sacraments have you fulfilled? (Typically the answer would be Baptism, First Confession, First Holy Communion, and for some, Confirmation.)***
 - ***What else do you need to do to fulfill the covenant with God? (To love God and follow the Ten Commandments.)***
- God gives us three special gifts at Baptism to help us keep our commitment to the covenant.
 - ***Do you know the three gifts (theological virtues) you received at Baptism? (Faith, hope, and love.)***
 - ***What do these three theological virtues help us do? (Faith to believe in God, love to love as God loves, and hope to hope for eternal life.)***

Conclusion: God established a covenant with Abraham that was built on Abraham's faith. Both God and Abraham made a commitment to fulfill the covenant. Because we were baptized,

FOCUS 2 OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Activity Book, p. 14
- Lead the students in thanking God for their own Baptism and together renew their baptismal vows. (See sidebar.)

FOCUS 3 OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Activity Book, p. 15
- Have the students dramatize the story of Abraham and Isaac. Don't forget the ram caught in the bush.

we too have entered a covenant with God. God loves us and blesses us, and we respond to his love with faith and obedience.

Focus 3: God had promised Abraham and Sarah a son to be born, even in their old age. When Isaac was finally born, God tested Abraham. The outcome teaches us a lot about what it means to have faith in God.

- **Read** the story of Abraham and Isaac in the Student Text on pages 26–27 (Sections “One Final Test” and “A Happy Ending”).
 - *How do you think Abraham must have felt as he climbed that mountain with Isaac, having him carry the wood for his own offering?* (Answers may vary.)
 - *Why did God ask him to sacrifice Isaac?* (God was testing Abraham's faith.)
 - *Why does God test us?* (Answers may vary.)
 - God gives us free will to choose to love him or not. He tests us to see what our answer will be. It is easy to say or think we trust in God, but when it comes down to it, God needs to see us act in faith. God will always bless us when we show our faith and trust in him.
 - *When God tested Abraham, was God pleased?* (Yes.) Abraham trusted that God would take care of him, so he obeyed even though it was difficult.
- **Read Genesis 22:8:** “Abraham said, ‘God will provide himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.’”
 - *What did Abraham mean when he said “God will provide himself the lamb”?* (Answers may vary.) Abraham knew and trusted deep in his heart that God would provide the sacrifice.

Conclusion: In a covenant both sides keep their commitments. God is always committed to his people. Abraham's test showed that he was completely committed to God.

Focus 4: Abraham passed the test of faith and God blesses him. Abraham demonstrated tremendous faith. Isaac prefigures Jesus.

- Abraham would not have been able to pass the test without faith. In fact, he is known as our Father in Faith.
- Faith is one of the virtues that we can only get from God. It is a supernatural virtue that enables us to believe.
 - **Read Hebrews 11:1:** “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”
 - *How did Abraham act on this faith?* (He was obedient and trusted that God would provide.)
 - *What did Abraham hope for?* (That God would provide a sacrifice so that Isaac could live.)
 - *How did Abraham act in love?* (He loved God enough to sacrifice his only son, Isaac.)

Isaac and Jesus

ISAAC

- Offered as a sacrifice to God
- Offered on Mount Moriah
- Covenant was made

JESUS

- Offered as a sacrifice to God the Father
- Calvary is on Mount Moriah
- New and everlasting covenant was made

FOCUS 4 OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

- Activity Book, p. 16

- **Read John 1:29:** “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” There are parallels between Isaac and Jesus. (See sidebar.)

Conclusion: God is preparing a people for himself. He provides for us in every way, and in return he requires faith and obedience from us. Our God is a God of love and great mercy.

Review Lesson 3, Chapter 4 (3 minutes)

- Abraham was a man of great faith who trusted God and learned to do as God asked, even when it was hard.
- God always remained faithful, honoring his promises to Abraham by blessing him with many descendants and giving them the Promised Land.

Application (10–20 minutes)

Choose one or more of the following for discussion.

- *Is it hard or easy for you to have faith in a God you can't see? Why? (Answers may vary.)*
- *What good things has God given you that help you to love and trust him?*
- Even though God honored his promise to Abraham in a time and way different from what Abraham expected, in the end God was faithful and his plan perfect. *What does this tell you about trusting God when things happen that you don't like or understand? (Answers may vary.)*
- *Name a time you trusted in God when it was difficult. Name a time you should have trusted in God, but did not. (Answers may vary.)*

Celebration (5 minutes)

Choose one or more of the following.

- Concluding prayer: Thank God for his covenant with us. Pray the Act of Faith, Student Text, p. 161.
- Lead the students in singing “Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken” in the *Adoremus Hymnal*, #563.

Take Home

- Student reading for next lesson: Student Text: Chapter 5, pp. 28–31; Chapter 6, pp. 32–35
- Optional: Activity Book: Chapter 4, pp. 13–16
- Optional: Family Guide: G 4–4, pp. 204–5
- Memorize Hebrews 11:1: “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”
- Learn the Act of Faith, Student Text, p. 161. Tell your child he can pray it before or after Communion, during his morning prayers, or anytime he's tempted to doubt God.

God Prepares a People For the Savior

“By myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only-begotten son, I will indeed bless you, and I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore. And your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your descendants shall all the nations of the earth bless themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.”

Genesis 22:16–18

Abram

Among the descendants of Shem was a man named Abram. God had something special in mind for Abram. One day God called to him, “Abram, leave your country, your house, and all your relatives, and come away to a land that I will show you and I will make you a great nation. I will bless you and make your name great.”

To leave his home, to leave his relatives and friends, to wander the earth until God would tell him to stop? How could God make a great nation out of someone who roamed the desert with no real home? But Abram had always loved God, and he believed that God was telling him the truth.

And so Abram, his wife, Sarai, and his nephew Lot packed up their tents and gathered together their herds of cattle. Along with a few relatives and some servants, they set forth on their pilgrimage to a strange land. Although the

family suffered in strange lands from famine and other hardships, Abram remained obedient to the Lord. He even built an altar on a mountaintop to call on the name of the Lord.

During that time, Abram waited patiently for God to show him where to stop. He trusted the Lord.

One day they arrived in a beautiful land—green hills covered with wildflowers. There were trees heavy with ripe olives. Bordering the land was a sparkling blue-green sea—the sea which today is known as the Mediterranean. The land itself was called Canaan. Abram and his family settled on this land.

(Lot had settled in the Jordan plain, in the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. Later on the people in these two cities were so wicked and depraved that God rained brimstone and fire on them. The cities were utterly destroyed. But Lot, a just man, was saved.)

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One day God said to Abram, “Lift up your eyes and look north, south, east, and west. Everything that you see I will give to you and your descendants forever. They will be as many as the grains of sand on the earth.”

As time went on Abram did many good things which pleased God very much. Once, Abram’s nephew, Lot, was taken prisoner when Sodom, the city he lived in, was attacked by invading armies. Abram got together all his servants and shepherds. They defeated the enemy and caused them to run away. He rescued his kinsman and allies. Although the kings of those neighboring cities wanted to reward Abram, he refused, for he knew that his reward would come from God. But one of the kings, Melchizedek, king of Salem, brought bread and wine as a gift. He was also a priest of God and he blessed Abram. And Abram had a vision in which God spoke to him and said: “Fear not, Abram, I am your shield. Your reward shall be very great.”

Then the sorrow that had been weighing upon Abram’s soul burst out at last. God had promised him and Sarai many descendants but they were both old and childless. “O Lord God!” he cried out. “What could you give me? Of what use is all I possess? You haven’t given me any children. In fact, when I die, everything will go to my chief servant, Eleazer.”

Then God answered, “Your own son shall be your heir and not Eleazer. Look up to the heavens and count all the stars if you can. Your descendants will be as many as the stars!” Although he was a very old man, had no children, and Sarai was beyond childbearing age, Abram believed God.

The Covenant

One day, God appeared to Abram and said, “I am God Almighty. Walk before me and be blameless and I will make my covenant between me and you and your descendants

25

forever. I will give your descendants this land of Canaan and I will be their God.” Abram fell on his face in fear and wonder. And God said, “You shall be the father of many nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but you shall be called **Abraham**, which means ‘father of many people.’” God gave Sarai a new name, too. Her name would be **Sarah**, which means “princess.”

Every covenant or contract has several parts. For his part, God would watch over Abraham’s descendants in a special way and give them the land of Canaan. For their part, these special people chosen by God would keep themselves apart from others and do special things as a sign that they were dedicated to God. In this way, God was preparing them for the birth of Jesus, who would come from this people.

One Final Test

Just as God had promised, Abraham and Sarah *did* have a son and they named him **Isaac**. They were delighted with their child who was born to them in their old age. But God wanted to test Abraham’s faith. One day he said, “Abraham, take your only son Isaac, whom you love, up to the mountains and sacrifice him to me as a burnt offering.”

What was this? Abraham’s own dear son, Isaac, for whom he had waited so long, to be put on an altar, killed, and offered to God! God was taking back the wonderful gift that he had given.

But Abraham didn’t complain, and he wasn’t angry with God. He believed that God would work things out for the best. Hadn’t God promised that Isaac would be his heir? God could do anything and he wasn’t cruel and heartless—Abraham knew that. Abraham had to believe and obey.

A Happy Ending

Abraham rose early the next morning and loaded his donkey with firewood, food, and water. Two of his servants stood ready to accompany him. “Come, Isaac,” he said to his son. “We are going to the mountains in Moriah.”

They walked for three days, but finally Abraham saw the mountain. “Stay here with the donkey,” he said to his servants. “The boy and I will climb this mountain and worship God.”

So they went up together. Isaac looked at his father in wonder. “Father,” he asked, “we have fire and wood, but where is the lamb for the sacrifice?”

“God himself will provide the lamb for the sacrifice, my son,” Abraham replied.

When they reached the top, Abraham set about building an altar. He piled up the wood and then tied Isaac’s hands and feet and placed him on the altar. And then Abraham picked up the knife to slay his son. Suddenly an angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” and he answered, “Here

Be pleased to look upon these offerings with a serene and kindly countenance, and to accept them, as once you were pleased to accept the gifts of your servant Abel the just, the sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith, and the offering of your high priest Melchizedek, a holy sacrifice, a spotless victim.

First Eucharistic Prayer of the Mass

26

Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, “And to offsprings,” referring to many; but referring to one, “And to your offspring,” which is Christ.

Galatians 3:16

I am.” The angel said, “Do not touch the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you love and fear God because you were willing to give up your only son.”

Abraham untied Isaac. At that moment, he saw a wild ram caught by its horns in a bush. They took the ram and offered it as a sacrifice in the place of Isaac. Abraham had believed God and God *had* provided for him.

All through his life Abraham trusted the Lord, in spite of the fact that many times it

seemed impossible to trust and believe. All the odds seemed against him. God tested the faith of Abraham because he wanted to make him the father of a holy people. God rewarded his humble submission and obedience. That is why even to this day we call Abraham, “our father in faith.”

Words to Know:

Abraham Sarah Isaac

Q. 19 *Why is Abraham called our father in faith?*
Abraham is called our father in faith because God made him the father of a holy people (CCC 59 [Gen 22:12], CCC 144–47).

Q. 20 *Why did God test Abraham?*
God tested Abraham to allow him to choose to be faithful to God (Gen 22:12).

Q. 21 *How did God bless Abraham for passing his test?*
God blessed Abraham for passing his test by giving him many descendants, who would also share in Abraham’s blessing. God would also bless Abraham’s descendants by giving them the land of their enemies (CCC 60, Gen 22:15–18).

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Name: _____

God Prepares a People for the Savior

Quiz 4

Word Bank

father	mountain	covenant	destroyed	loved
sacrifice	land	Isaac	Canaan	

Fill in the blanks with the correct words from the Word Bank.

1. God asked Abram, one of the descendants of Shem, to leave his country and come away to a land that God would show him.
2. Abram, Sarai (Abram's wife), and Lot (Abram's nephew) left their country. They trusted God to show them the way and settled in the land of Canaan.
3. Lot chose the area of Sodom and Gomorrah, which was later destroyed because of the wickedness of the people. Lot was saved because he was a just man.
4. God told Abram that he would make a covenant between himself and Abram and his descendants. He would give them the land of Canaan, and he would be their God.
5. God told Abram that he would be called Abraham, which means "father of many people." As God promised, Abraham and Sarah had a son named Isaac in their old age.
6. When Isaac was a young boy, God told Abraham to offer his son in sacrifice. Abraham obeyed and prepared to sacrifice his son on a mountain of Moriah.
7. An angel called from heaven and told him not to touch the boy, for now God knew that Abraham loved and feared God because he was willing to give up his son.
8. Abraham untied Isaac, and God sent a ram for him to offer in sacrifice.
9. God made Abraham the father of a holy people. We call him "our father in faith."

Name: _____

Unit 1 Test

Chapters 1-4

Word Bank

Redeemer	Isaac	soul	Sarah
Devils	Heaven	Abraham	ark
Adam and Eve	Sacrifice	covenant	Canaan
angel	Noah	Cain and Abel	

Fill in the blanks with the correct words from the Word Bank.

1. An angel is a pure spirit created by God.
2. The soul is the spiritual and immortal part of man.
3. Adam and Eve were the first man and woman created by God.
4. Devils are angels who refused to serve God and do his will.
5. Redeemer is a title for Jesus since he redeemed (freed) us from sin.
6. Heaven is eternal life and happiness with God.
7. Cain and Abel were Adam and Eve's sons.
8. Sacrifice is the offering up to God of something that is precious or valuable to us.
9. Noah was the man God saved in the ark when he sent the great flood to wash the earth clean. His sons were Shem, Ham, and Japheth.
10. The ark was the boat built by Noah before the flood.
11. A covenant is a contract or agreement made between two persons.
12. Canaan is the land God gave to Abraham and his descendants.

Name: _____

Unit 1 Test (continued)

13. Abraham is the man who is remembered for his great faith in God. God made a covenant with him and gave him many descendants.
14. Sarah was the wife of Abraham.
15. Isaac was the only son of Abraham and Sarah.

Name: _____

Abram

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. From whose descendants did Abram come?
Abram came from Shem's descendants.
2. What did God call Abram to do?
God called Abram to leave his home and go to a new land.
3. What was God asking of Abram?
God asked Abram to leave behind his home, friends, and relatives and wander the earth until God told him to stop.
4. What did Abram, Sarai, and Lot do?
They packed up their tents, gathered their cattle and set out.
5. Was Abram obedient to God? In what ways?
Yes. Answers may vary
6. Where did Abram, Sarai, and Lot settle? Was it beautiful?
They settled in Canaan. It was beautiful.
7. What did God promise Abram?
God promised Abram that he would have lots of descendants and that they would own the land of Canaan forever.

Name: _____

God's Gift: Free Will

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. What did God tell Abram that he would make with him and his descendants?
He told Abram he would make a covenant.
2. What was the condition of this covenant?
Abram was to walk before God and be blameless.
3. What was the promise of this covenant?
God promised to give the land of Canaan to Abram's descendants and be their God.
4. Why did God change Abram's name? What did he change it to?
Answers will vary. Abraham.
5. Why did God change Sarai's name? What did he change it to?
Answers will vary. Sarah.
6. What is a covenant?
A covenant is a contract.
7. What would God do as his part of the covenant?
God would watch over Abraham's descendants and give them the land of Canaan.
8. What would Abraham and his descendants do as their part of the covenant?
They would keep themselves apart from other peoples and do special things as a sign that they were dedicated to God.
9. For what was God preparing them?
God was preparing them for the birth of Jesus, who would come from heaven.
10. God fulfilled his promise to Abram and Sarai and gave Abraham and Sarah a son. What is his name?
Isaac.

Name: _____

A Test for Abraham

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

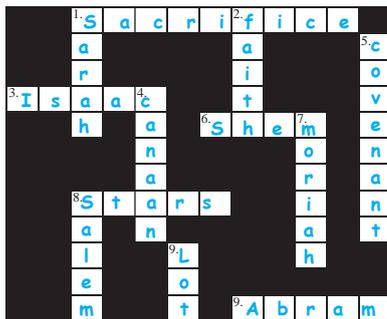
1. What did God ask Abraham to do as a test?
God asked Abraham to sacrifice his son.
2. What did Abraham do as a response?
Abraham believed in God and obeyed him.
3. When Isaac asked where the lamb for the sacrifice was, what was Abraham's reply?
Abraham said that God would provide the lamb.
4. What stopped Abraham from sacrificing Isaac?
An angel of the Lord.
5. What did Abraham sacrifice instead?
A ram.



Name: _____

God Prepares His People for the Savior

Use your student text to solve this crossword puzzle.



Across

1. What God told Abraham to do with Isaac.
3. Abraham and Sarah's only son.
6. Abraham was a descendant of _____.
8. God told Abraham his descendants would be as many as the _____ in the sky.
9. Abraham's name before God changed it.

Down

1. Abraham's wife's new name.
2. We call Abraham our father in _____.
4. The name of the land that God promised to the descendants of Abraham.
5. God said "Walk before me and be blameless and I will make my _____ between me and you and your descendants forever."
7. God sent Abraham to the mountains in _____ to sacrifice his son.
8. Melchizedek was King of _____.
9. The name of Abraham's nephew.

Lesson 4

Chapter 5—The People of Israel Chapter 6—Joseph Goes to Egypt

Correlated Materials

Student Text: Chapter 5, pp. 28–31;
Chapter 6, pp. 32–35
Activity Book: Chapter 5, pp. 17–20;
Chapter 6, pp. 21–22
Family Guide: G 4–5, pp. 206–7;
G 4–6, pp. 208–9

CHAPTER FOCUS

Abraham's son, Isaac, and his grandson Jacob were the next two patriarchs in salvation history. Jacob was the younger son, but partly because his elder twin, Esau, cared so little for his birthright—being the heir through which God would honor his promises to Abraham—and partly because Jacob was a trickster, Jacob became the heir of the promise. Eventually God changed Jacob's name to Israel, and his twelve sons grew into a nation—the nation of Israel.

The story of the patriarchs continues with Joseph, Israel's son. Of Israel's twelve sons, his two by Rachel—Joseph and Benjamin—were very dear to him, and Joseph was his favorite above all. Because of that, his brothers grew jealous and sold him into slavery in Egypt. God, however, looked with favor on Joseph and gave him the prophetic gift of interpreting dreams. That gift helped Joseph to rise from a lowly slave to the governor of Egypt. Second only to Pharaoh in power, Joseph, through his wisdom, saved Egypt during a famine.

Begin the Lesson

Preparation (5–10 minutes)

Use one or more of the following resources for prayer and student preparation for the lesson.

SCRIPTURE: Student Textbook, p. 28

“And God said to him, ‘Your name is Jacob; no longer shall your name be called Jacob, but Israel shall be your name.’ So his name was called Israel. And God said to him, ‘I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall come from you, and kings shall spring from you. The land which I gave to Abraham and Isaac I will give to you, and I will give the land to your descendants after you’” (Genesis 35:10–12).

God continues to bless his people, now through Jacob: land, descendants, and a great blessing.

Student Textbook, p. 33

“The LORD was with Joseph, and he became a successful man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian” (Genesis 39:2).

Joseph loved God, and the Lord was with him. God's love was the key to Joseph's blessings.

SACRED ART: Student Text, p. 29

Isaac Blessing Jacob, Gerbrand van den Eeckhout

Esau sold his birthright to his brother Jacob. Jacob goes to his father, Isaac, for the blessing.

PRAYER WITH CHILDREN: Our Father, Student Text, p. 161

Review Lesson 3, Chapter 4 (3 minutes)

- Abraham was a man of great faith who trusted God and learned to do as God asked, even when it was hard.
- God always remained faithful, honoring his promises to Abraham by blessing him with many descendants and giving them the Promised Land.

AIMS

- Students will learn that God is sovereign and we are called to do his will.
- Students will learn that God blesses his children with the inheritance of eternal life through the gift of grace.
- Students will learn that we must recognize the dignity of every person.
- Students will learn that God can bring good out of suffering.
- Students will learn that prayer is lifting our hearts and minds to God.

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH REFERENCES

- Blessing: 1669, 1078–84, 1082–83, 2090
- God Forms His People, Israel: 62–64, 72, 218, 2077
- Jacob and the Prayer of Faith: 2573, 2592
- Revelations of God’s Plan of Salvation: 51–55; 69–70
- Envy: 2538–40

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- God Forms His People, Israel: Genesis 24; 25:19–34; 27–32
- The Story of Joseph: Genesis 37, 39–41

MATERIALS

- White board and markers

Proclamation (1 minute)

(Proclaim slowly, then repeat.)

God is sovereign over everything. He even brings good out of evil. He began to form a people for himself through Jacob. God works providentially in the lives of his people and continues to fulfill his plan even through sin and suffering.

Lesson Explanation (40–50 minutes)

Explain focus points in your own words or use the discussion points and questions. The next two lessons will include a lot of text reading for chapters 5, 6, and 7 (about Jacob and Joseph). Consider either oral or silent reading of each section in class, as well as having students read the material before class.

Focus 1: Jacob and Esau, twin sons of Isaac, were in line to receive the inheritance.

Since Esau was the firstborn, the birthright would naturally go to him. However, Jacob was the one who valued the birthright and so would trick his brother out of it and out of the final blessing of Isaac as well.

- Abraham’s son was Isaac; Isaac’s son was Jacob. They are the three patriarchs of the Israelite people. Today we will look at part of the family story to see how God works in our lives.
 - Abraham was the father of many descendants, yet a nation had not yet been formed. The nation Israel would be named through **Jacob**, Isaac’s son. (This nation of people would also be called the Hebrew people.)
 - Isaac married Rebekah and they had twin sons, Esau and Jacob. Jacob tricked **Esau** into giving up his birthright for a bowl of stew.
 - This birthright was very important because God’s chosen people were being formed into the nation of Israel.
 - *Why should Esau have received the birthright? (He was the oldest.)*
- **Read** “The Blessing,” Student Text, pp. 29–30. Summary: Jacob tricked his father (Isaac) into thinking that Jacob is Esau. Jacob received the blessing. It was through Abraham’s descendant Jacob that God’s people were formed into a nation.
 - *In the story of Jacob and Esau, which one of the brothers showed that he was responsible and which one showed that he was irresponsible? (Jacob was responsible because he recognized the value of the birthright, and Esau was irresponsible because he carelessly sold it to Jacob for a bowl of stew.)*
 - Jacob, with the help of his mother, also tricked Isaac into giving him his final blessing.
 - *Why did Isaac not recognize Jacob? (He didn’t recognize him because Jacob wore Esau’s clothes, had fur tied to his arms and neck, prepared the same meal as Esau, and smelled like Esau. Isaac was going blind, so he relied on his sense of touch, taste, and smell.)*

WORDS TO KNOW

Rebekah: the wife of Isaac. They had twin sons: Jacob and Esau.

Jacob: the son of Isaac and Rebekah and the twin brother of Esau. (See Israel.)

Esau: the son of Isaac and Rebekah and the twin brother of Jacob. He sold his birthright to Jacob for a bowl of stew.

Leah: the eldest daughter of Laban, who tricked his nephew Jacob into marrying her. One of their children was Judah, who was the ancestor of Jesus.

Rachel: the second wife of Jacob. Jacob had to work a total of fourteen years to marry her, but he loved her very much. Their children were Joseph and Benjamin.

Judah: the fourth son of Jacob and Leah. His name was given to one of the twelve tribes. Jesse and his son, King David, were his descendants. Also, Jesus was a descendant of Judah. Judah is also the name given to one of the two kingdoms formed after Solomon's death.

Israel: the new name God gave to Jacob. The Jewish people were named after him. They were called the people or the nation of Israel.

people of Israel: (See Israel.)

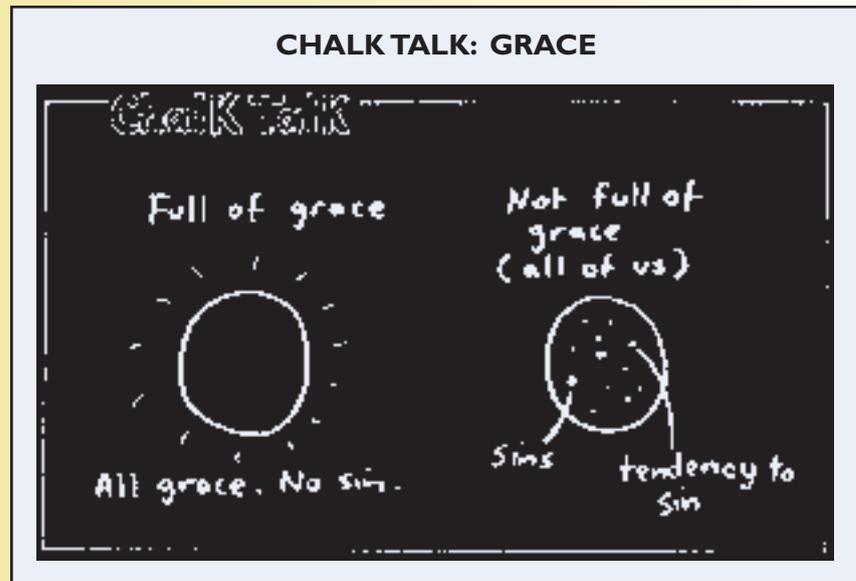
Hebrews: another name for the people of Israel

Jews: those people who follow the traditions of the Old Testament and are waiting for the Messiah

Joseph: Jacob's favorite of his twelve sons. His envious brothers sold him as a slave to some merchants bound for Egypt. He became a great lord and in the end brought his brothers and his father to live in Egypt. Through him, the chosen people were saved from famine and came to live in Egypt.

Pharaoh: a ruler of ancient Egypt

- *What is the blessing that we all hope for? (Lead students to understand that we all hope for the blessing of eternal life.)*
 - Through Christ, we receive grace. The gift of grace helps us against sin and it gives us hope for eternal life. "For by grace you have been saved through faith" (Ephesians 2:8).



Conclusion: Blessings come to those who value them most. Even in the family of Isaac, one of the patriarchs, family rivalries determine the unfolding of salvation history.

FOCUS | OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Activity Book, p. 18
- Have the students act out the scene between Jacob, Esau, Isaac, and Rebekah.

Focus 2: Jacob traveled to his uncle Laban's home, where he met his match in trickery. Jacob thought he had met the woman he would marry, but Laban tricked him into marrying both of his daughters and working for him for fourteen years as well. There is a sense of justice in this story.

- Jacob paid a price for tricking Esau. He had to flee from Esau for his life. **Rebekah** sent Jacob to her brother Laban. There he would find a wife and stay until Esau had time to cool down.
- Laban had two daughters, **Leah** and **Rachel**. Jacob wanted to marry Rachel but was tricked into marrying the oldest daughter, Leah, first.
 - *How does this situation resemble the conditions of Jacob's own birth? (Jacob was the second born but ended up with the privilege of the firstborn.)*
- Jacob was finally allowed to marry Rachel. After Jacob married Rachel, she was first found to be barren. She later had two sons, Joseph and Benjamin.

God Changes Our Names

We know that God changes people's names in the Bible. In the Old Testament, he changed Sarai to Sarah, Abram to Abraham, and Jacob to Israel. In the New Testament, Jesus changed the name of Simon to Peter (Matthew 16:16). Saint Peter became the first Pope. Now when a man becomes Pope, he chooses a new name. Pope Benedict XVI, for instance, was named Joseph Ratzinger until he became Pope in 2005.

People who enter religious communities often change their names, and we take new names at Confirmation, too. A new name symbolizes the new life we begin when we accept God's will for us.

How Could One of the Patriarchs Have More than One Wife?

Jacob (Israel) had twelve sons who would become the twelve tribes of Israel. Jacob had children by two wives and a couple of servants. This was at a time early in the development of God's relationship with his people. They did not yet know the wisdom of one man and one woman in God's plan. They would learn much from being in covenant with the God of the universe as time unfolds. Jacob and Leah had six sons. Judah was one of these sons. **Judah** would be the one to carry the line of Jesus. Jacob had four sons from his servants. Jacob had two sons from Rachel: Benjamin and Joseph.

Abraham and Sarah

Isaac and Rebekah

Esau and Jacob

Leah: Reuben, Simeon,
Levi, Judah, Issachar,
Zebulun

Servants: Dan, Naphtali,
Gad, Asher

Rachel: Joseph, Benjamin

- *Can you think of a reason why these two sons were Jacob's favorites? (They were his favorites because he loved Rachel more than Leah.)*
- "Trickery" is another name for deception. Deception goes against God's law, but God had not given the Ten Commandments yet.
 - God was revealing his ways to his people by experience.
 - Jacob experienced what it was like to be deceived from Laban.
 - When he returned to the Promised Land with his new family, Esau met him with forgiveness. God was revealing his great mercy once again.
 - *Can you think of a time that someone tricked you, maybe a brother or sister? How did you feel? (Answers will vary.) How long did it take for you to forgive them? (Answers will vary.)*
- Once Jacob returned to the land of Canaan, God appeared to him and made good on his promise, the covenant promised to Abraham. He told Jacob that he would now give him the land and also a new name, **Israel**. From that time on Jacob would be called Israel, and the twelve tribes that came from his twelve sons would also be known as the nation or people of Israel.
- *Can you think of other stories from the Bible where God changed someone's name? (See the answers in the sidebar box "God Changes Our Names.")*

Conclusion: The great story of God and his people sometimes takes an interesting twist. Here we have an example of how God works with Jacob in a way that allowed him his freedom to make choices—to live the consequences of his choices but finally to come back into right relationship with God and family.

FOCUS 2 OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

- Draw a family tree on the board, beginning with Abraham and going through the twelve sons of Jacob. (See sidebar.)

Focus 3: When Israel was old and his sons were grown, there arose some conflict in the family. The older brothers let their jealousy of Joseph lead them to almost killing him. Instead they sold him into slavery.

- **Read** "The Brothers' Hatred" in Student Text, pp. 33–34.
 - Jacob particularly loved **Joseph** of all of his twelve sons. Joseph received a coat of fine cloth from his father; this made the other sons very envious. Because of their envy, they sold Joseph into slavery.
 - As we have seen in the story of Cain and Abel, jealousy and revenge can lead to very serious sin such as murder. The brothers stopped short of murder, thanks to two of them.

Mortal Sin and Venial Sin

Discuss the difference between mortal and venial sin. In order for a sin to be mortal, it must be a serious matter, we must know that it is serious, and we must freely consent to it. Venial sin is of a less serious matter, or is committed without full knowledge of its seriousness, or without full consent.

- **Which two brothers changed the course of the event and saved Joseph's life?** (Reuben suggested they throw him in the cistern, hoping to go back and get him out. Judah suggested they sell him as a slave to a passing caravan.)
- **What had Joseph done to deserve this treatment?** (Nothing; he was innocent.) **Why were the brothers jealous of Joseph? What gifts had God given him?** (They were jealous of Israel's love for this son. They were jealous of his special gift of interpreting dreams and took offense at what those dreams said about them.)
- Joseph suffered a lot at the hands of his brothers.
- **List Joseph's sufferings on the board as suggested by the students.** (He was thrown into a well, sold to traders, sold into slavery, charged with a crime he did not commit, thrown into prison, and forgotten in prison.)
- Sometimes when we see suffering we think there is no hope. But if we look closer, we see that God is with us, as he was with Joseph.
- **How was God taking care of the suffering Joseph?** (His brothers did not kill him. He was sold to a wealthy man and worked for wages. He was free of guilt.)
- Bad thoughts lead to bad actions. When we know we are doing something wrong but we do it anyway out of hatred or jealousy, this could be a mortal sin. What three conditions are necessary for a mortal sin? (See sidebar.)
- **Read "God Protects His Child,"** Student Text, p. 34
 - Because Joseph stayed close to the Lord, God provides a way for Joseph to be elevated to the governor of Egypt. Joseph interprets the **Pharaoh's** dream about a great famine that was coming.
 - When Joseph is thrown into jail for a crime he didn't commit, he shows not only his abilities to be trusted over other people but also his special gift of interpreting dreams. God would use this difficult experience to place Joseph exactly where God wanted him.
 - **How do you think Joseph felt when he had all these bad things happening to him?** (He was probably confused. He hadn't done anything wrong. He probably thought everyone had abandoned him, including God. Joseph continues to love God, and he is blessed for this.)
 - God only allows suffering if something good were to come of it. In Genesis 50:20, Joseph says to his brothers, "As for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today."
 - **What good came from Joseph's suffering?** (God used Joseph in prison to interpret dreams so that the people could survive the famine; Joseph reconciled with his brothers and they learned about God's faithfulness and providence.)
 - **Can you name a time that good came from suffering in your life or someone else's life?** (Answers will vary.)
 - Our model of suffering is Jesus. He suffered for our sins obediently, even unto death on the Cross. In doing so, he

Joseph the Dreamer and Jesus the Christ

JOSEPH

- Beloved son
- Family will bow down
- Brothers betrayed
- Sold for twenty pieces
- Went to Egypt
- Prophesied truth
- Served God faithfully
- Gave food to hungry
- Saved his family
- Brought to choice land

JESUS

- Beloved Son
- God's family will worship
- Apostle betrayed
- Sold for thirty pieces
- Went to Egypt
- Prophesied/taught truth
- Served God faithfully
- Multiplied food/bread from heaven
- Saved God's family
- Opened gates of heaven

Social Justice Documents in the Church

- *Redemptor Hominis*: Pope John Paul II, 1979
- *Humanae Vitae*: Pope Paul VI, 1968
- *Populorum Progressio*: Pope Paul VI, 1967
- *Nostra Aetate*: Pope Paul VI, 1965
- *Sertum Laetitia*: Pope Pius XII, 1939
- *Divini Redemptoris*: Pope Pius XI, 1937
- *Quadragesimo Anno*: Pope Pius XI, 1931

merited the forgiveness of our sins and the opening of the gates of heaven.

- *Should we join our suffering to Jesus on the Cross? (Yes.)*
- *What benefit will this have? (Jesus will ease our pain, take the blows, and listen to our hurts. We will grow closer to Jesus if we allow him to work through us.)*
- **Discuss** how Joseph and Jesus were similar. (See sidebar.)

Conclusion: It is clearly seen in this story that even brothers of the chosen people of God can do terrible things to one another. It can also be seen that if one keeps hope and does what is right, God can use us even in the worst of circumstances.

FOCUS 3 OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Activity Book, pp. 21–22
- As Catholics we have a responsibility to the welfare of those suffering and those in need. Have the class do a project to benefit a group of people.

Review Lesson 4, Chapters 5 and 6 (3 minutes)

- Envy and sibling rivalry repeats itself in these stories of Jacob and Joseph.
- God blesses Joseph, who loves God.
- We should love the members of our family by reconciling with them when there has been a break of trust.

Application (10–20 minutes)

Choose one or more of the following for discussion.

- *Have you ever been envious or sad because someone had something that you didn't? What are some reasons you shouldn't envy others? What good gifts has God given you? (Answers will vary.)*
- Joseph's brothers were very mean to him and did not love him as God wanted them to. **How does God ask you to treat your brothers, sisters, and friends?** (Answers will vary.)
- God doesn't speak to most of us in dreams, but he still speaks to us through the Bible and his Church and through the movements of our hearts. **What are some of the things he has said to you?** (Answers will vary.)

Celebration (5–10 minutes)

Choose one or more of the following.

- **Blessing:** Have a priest come in and bless the students. If you have holy medals or cards for the children, have him bless them.

- Concluding prayer: Thank God for his many blessings. Pray the Our Father and ask the students to add their own petitions (Student Text, p. 161).

Take Home

- Memorize Galatians 5:26: “Let us have no self-conceit, no provoking of one another, no envy of one another.”
- Student reading for next lesson: Student Text, Chapter 6, pp. 34–35 (begin with “The Great Famine”); Chapter 7, pp. 36–39
- Optional: Activity Book: Chapter 5, pp. 17–20; Chapter 6, pp. 21–22
- Optional: Family Guide: G 4–5, pp. 206–7; G 4–6, pp. 208–9
- Add the twelve sons of Israel to the salvation history family tree. (See 1 Chronicles 1–2.)
- Teach your child the importance of stewardship by asking him to set aside part of his allowance every week to give to your parish or to another Catholic organization, such as a crisis pregnancy center, missionary organization, or food pantry.

CHAPTER 5

The People of Israel

“And God said to him, ‘Your name is Jacob; no longer shall your name be called Jacob, but Israel shall be your name.’ So his name was called Israel. And God said to him, ‘I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall come from you, and kings shall spring from you. The land which I gave to Abraham and Isaac I will give to you, and I will give the land to your descendants after you.’”

Genesis 35:10–12

The Birthright

When Isaac became a man, Abraham sent a servant back to the country of his birth to find a wife for Isaac among his relatives. Abraham didn’t want him to marry a Canaanite woman. One day the servant returned with a lovely young woman named **Rebekah**. Isaac married Rebekah and loved her very much.

For a long time, Isaac asked God for children. God finally granted his prayer: Rebekah gave birth to twins, whom she named **Jacob** and **Esau**.

As the boys grew up, Esau turned out to be a rough mountain man. He was strong and loved to hunt with his bow and arrow and slingshot. Esau was Isaac’s favorite. Jacob, on the other hand, was his mother’s favorite.

Because Esau was the first of the twins to be born, he was considered the eldest son. Usually the eldest son had a right to be head of the family after the father died. This right was called a “birthright.” However, the Lord had

told Rebekah, while the twins were still in her womb, that the elder was to serve the younger.

Once, when Jacob was cooking some potage, a kind of vegetable stew, by his tent, Esau, who had been out hunting all day, came home very hungry. How good the stew smelled! “Give me some of your stew. I’m starving!” Esau demanded.

Jacob then said, “I will give you some on the condition that you give me your birthright in exchange.”

“What good is my birthright to me anyway when I’m about to starve to death?” said Esau.

“Swear first,” insisted Jacob. So Esau swore before God that he would give his place as eldest son to Jacob. Jacob gave him a large bowl of stew, some bread, and a cup of wine. Esau ate and drank, and went his way. By this, he showed how little he cared for his birthright.

The Blessing

When Isaac grew old and nearly blind, he called Esau one day and said to him, “My son, I’m very old and will probably die soon. Since you are my eldest son, I want to give you my blessing. But I’m too weak. Take your bow and arrow and hunt some game and make me some spicy meat, as you know I like, so that I may eat and have enough strength to bless you.”

So Esau went on his errand. As soon as he was out of sight, Rebekah, who had heard this, ran to find Jacob. She told him what Isaac had said to Esau and then said, “I have a plan for you to get the blessing instead of Esau. Kill two fat and tender kid goats, and I will cook them with spices he likes, so that when he has eaten, he may bless you before he dies.”

“But Esau is so rough and hairy and I am not. If my father touches me, he will find out that I am Jacob and then he will curse instead of bless me,” argued Jacob.

But Rebekah replied that he should do as she asked and she would take the responsibility.

As soon as the food was prepared, Rebekah gave Jacob Esau’s best clothes to put on. Then she took the skins of the two goats and sewed them on his hands and around his neck. And Jacob brought him the meat and bread. “Father,” he called.

“Who is it?” asked Isaac, who was nearly blind.

“I am Esau. Here is the food you asked for. Eat of it, and then you can bless me.”

“How did you find the game so quickly, my son?”

“God led me to it.”

“You sound so much like Jacob. Come closer to help me know if you are really Esau.” So Jacob went and sat down on the side of his father’s bed. Isaac clasped his hand. “The voice is indeed the voice of Jacob; but the hands are the hands of Esau. Are you really Esau?”



“I am.”

So Isaac ate the meat prepared by Rebekah and drank some wine. After this he said, “Come and kiss me, my son.” So Jacob kissed him. Isaac smelled Esau’s clothes, and then he gave Jacob his blessing.

“See, the smell of my son is as the smell of a field which the LORD has blessed!

May God give you of the dew of heaven, and of the fatness of the earth, and plenty of grain and wine.

Let peoples serve you, and nations bow down to you.

Be lord over your brothers, and may your mother’s sons bow down to you.

Cursed be every one who curses you, and blessed be every one who blesses you!”

Isaac’s blessing of Jacob, Genesis 27:27–29

Jacob was no sooner gone than Esau came in from his hunting. He prepared the food quickly and ran to his father's tent. "Arise, my father, and eat the meat, and then bless me," he said.

"Who is it?" asked Isaac, puzzled. "I am your firstborn son, Esau."

Isaac's voice was trembling and his hands were shaking. "Who just brought me some spicy meat? I ate it, and then I blessed him. My blessing can't be changed."

Esau cried out loudly and bitterly, "Father, bless me too!"

"Your brother, Jacob, must have tricked me and he has taken away your blessing." So he gave Esau a lesser blessing.

Esau remembered how Jacob had also gotten his birthright. "This is the second time that he has tricked me!" he cried. "First my birthright and now my blessing!" He was so angry that he decided to kill Jacob, but Rebekah found out and sent Jacob to live with her brother, Laban, in far away Haran.

Wives for Jacob

Jacob's uncle Laban had two daughters, **Leah** and **Rachel**. Jacob fell in love with Rachel, the younger one, and asked for permission to marry her. Laban answered that if Jacob worked for him for seven years, then he could marry Rachel as a reward.

Jacob gladly agreed—nothing would be too difficult in order to win the beautiful Rachel. Finally the seven years were over and the day of the wedding came. The bride had a veil over her face. But once they were married, Jacob received a big surprise. Laban had tricked him—Jacob had married Leah instead! Laban told him that it was the custom to give the older daughter in marriage first. But he said to Jacob, "If you serve me for another seven years, you can marry Rachel as well." So Jacob married

Rachel and worked for Laban for seven more years.

Leah knew that Jacob loved Rachel more than her. But God loved Leah and consoled her. He sent her many children but he sent none to Rachel. One of Leah's sons was named **Judah**. It was from him that Jesus, the Savior of the world, would be descended.

Rachel was very envious of Leah because she had so many children. However, after many years, God sent her a child, whom she named Joseph. Later she had another child, whom she called Benjamin.

A New Name

One day, God told Jacob that it was time for him to take his family and move back to Canaan. And so the family journeyed back to the Promised Land.

Esau was a rough and quick-tempered man. He did things too quickly, without thinking about the consequences, but he had a generous and forgiving heart. He had long since forgiven Jacob and now he was so happy to see his brother return home that he cried with joy.

Once Jacob was settled again in Canaan, God appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty. You shall no longer be called Jacob but **Israel**. This land which I gave to Abraham and Isaac I will give to you and your descendants after you."

And so Jacob was called Israel. His twelve sons had many children and they became a great nation. They were often called the chil-

For there the LORD has commanded the blessing, life for evermore.

Psalm 133:3

dren or the **people of Israel**. Sometimes, they were also called **Hebrews** from Eber, who was a descendant of Shem and a forefather of Abraham. Later, they were called **Jews**, from the name of Judah, who was one of the sons of Jacob and Leah. This is the name by which we know the people of Israel today.

Words to Know:

Rebekah Jacob Esau
Leah Rachel Judah
Israel people of Israel
Hebrews Jews

Q. 22 Why did Rebekah want Jacob to receive Isaac's blessing instead of Esau?

Rebekah wanted Jacob to receive Isaac's blessing instead of Esau because she favored Jacob and because God had told her, "the elder shall serve the younger" (Gen 25:23).

Q. 23 How did God show Jacob that it was wrong to trick people?

God showed Jacob that it was wrong to trick people by letting Laban trick Jacob into marrying Leah instead of Rachel, the one whom Jacob really loved (Gen 29:25).

Q. 24 From where did the name of Israel come?

The name Israel was given by God to Jacob, when Jacob returned to Canaan. This name was passed on to his descendants (Gen 35:10–12).

Name: _____

The People of Israel

Quiz 5

Word Bank

Jacob	Rebekah	Joseph	Leah	Rachel
Isaac	Laban	Esau	Judah	Israel

Fill in the blanks with the correct words from the Word Bank.

- Rebekah** was the wife of Isaac.
- Esau** was the older son of Isaac and Rebekah. He sold his birthright to his younger brother for a bowl of stew.
- Jacob** received his father's special blessing.
- Isaac** was tricked into giving his blessing to his younger son, Jacob.
- Laban** was the uncle that Jacob went to live with because of Esau's anger.
- Rachel** was the daughter of Laban that Jacob wanted to marry.
- Leah** was the daughter of Laban that Jacob was tricked into marrying first.
- Joseph** was one of the sons of Jacob and Rachel.
- Judah** was one of the sons of Jacob and Leah. It was from him that Jesus would be descended.
- Israel** was the name God gave to Jacob. His descendants became known as the people of Israel.

Name: _____

Isaac Marries Rebekah

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

- How did Abraham find a wife for his son Isaac?

Abraham sent his servant back to the country of his birth to find a wife for Isaac.

- Why did Abraham send his servant to the country of his birth to find a wife?

He didn't want Isaac to marry a Canaanite.

- Did God grant children to Isaac?

Yes.

- How many children did Rebekah have?

She had two children, Jacob and Esau.

- Describe Esau.

Esau was a rough mountain man, who was strong and hairy.

Name: _____

The Birthright

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. Who was the eldest son of Isaac?
Esau.
2. What privilege did the eldest son usually have after the father died?
He got to be head of the family.
3. What is this called?
A birthright.
4. What had the Lord told Rebekah about this?
He told her that Esau would serve Jacob.
5. Did Esau keep his birthright?
No.
6. For what did he sell his birthright?
He sold it for a bowl of stew, some bread, and a cup of wine.
7. Who now had the birthright?
Jacob.
8. How did this fulfill what the Lord had told Rebekah?
Because Jacob had the birthright, he would be the head of the whole family, including Esau, when Isaac died.
9. Esau swore before God. Is this serious? Must Esau keep this oath?
Yes.
10. When Esau sold his birthright, what did this show?
It showed how little he cared for his birthright.

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Name: _____

Isaac Blesses Jacob



In your own words, describe how Jacob tricked Isaac into giving his blessing.

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Name: _____

Trickery!

Things to think about.

Jacob had tricked Esau for his birthright and his father Isaac for Esau's blessing! Jacob was dishonest, but God knew how to bring good out of evil. Through all this trickery, the word of the Lord to Rebekah had been fulfilled.

Esau, however, became very angry with Jacob and wanted to kill him. Rebekah loved her son Jacob and sent him to live with his uncle Laban. Laban had two daughters and Jacob fell in love with Rachel. He arranged to marry her in exchange for seven years of work.

Laban wanted his other daughter Leah to be married first because she was older, so Laban tricked Jacob into marrying Leah. Jacob then married Rachel, but he had to work another seven years.

Jacob had many children. In fact, he had twelve boys. These twelve boys would become the twelve tribes of Israel, for Jacob's name was changed to Israel. The twelve sons' names were: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah (Jesus would come from Judah's line), Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, and Benjamin.

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CHAPTER 6

Joseph Goes to Egypt

“The LORD was with Joseph, and he became a successful man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.”

Genesis 39:2

The Brothers' Hatred

Eventually Israel (Jacob) grew to be an old man. He was very proud of all twelve of his sons but he particularly loved **Joseph**. He made him a beautiful, long robe out of fine cloth. When the brothers saw that Israel favored Joseph, they were full of envy. They began to hate him and could not even say a kind word to him.

What made it worse was that Joseph started having unusual dreams. One morning, he said, “I dreamed we were harvesting wheat. As we made bundles out of the wheat, my bundle stood up and your bundles all gathered around mine and bowed down to it.”

His brothers answered, “Do you think we’re ever going to bow down to you?”

And then Joseph had another dream where even his father thought he had gone too far. “The sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me.”

His father scolded him, “What do you mean? Shall I, your mother, and your eleven brothers bow down before you?” And the brothers hated him all the more, but Israel thought these things over and wondered. Perhaps God was speaking to Joseph.

Once, when the brothers were out in the fields with their sheep and were a long way from home, Israel grew anxious about them. “Joseph, go and see how your brothers are and then come and tell me.”

Joseph went on his way, wearing his bright coat. After three days’ journey, he finally saw them a long way off in their pasturing grounds. But the brothers had seen him too. “Here comes the little dreamer. Let’s kill him and throw his body into a well. We can tell our father that a wild animal ate him. That will put an end to his dreams,” they said.

The oldest brother, Reuben, wanted to save Joseph and came up with a plan. “Do not take his life or shed his blood, but throw him into this dry well,” he said. (He planned to return later and pull Joseph out.) And so the brothers rushed at Joseph and tore off his fine coat and then they threw him in the well.

Afterward, as they were eating their bread, they looked up and saw a caravan of merchants on their way to Egypt, their camels loaded with gum, balm, and myrrh. That gave Judah an idea. “Instead of leaving Joseph in the well to die, let us sell him as a slave to those merchants. After

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all, he is our brother and so we shouldn’t kill him,” he said.

So they struck a bargain with the traders and sold him for twenty pieces of silver. Then, when Joseph was on his way to Egypt, the brothers returned to their father with Joseph’s coat, which they had dipped in the blood of a goat. They told Israel that Joseph had been killed by a wild animal. Poor Israel nearly died with sorrow, for he had loved Joseph so very much.

God Protects His Child

Meanwhile, God was taking care of Joseph. Upon arriving in Egypt, the merchants sold him to a rich man. And Joseph was put in charge of running the man’s house. He did it so well that he was given a lot of money and many privileges. Unfortunately, he was accused of a crime he didn’t commit and was thrown in prison. But God was with Joseph, even in prison, and he was soon put in charge of the other prisoners.

One day, the supreme ruler of Egypt, who was called the **Pharaoh**, was displeased with two of his servants, his baker and his butler. He had them thrown into jail. That night they both had unusual dreams. With God’s help, Joseph told them what their dreams meant. He said that the butler would work for the Pharaoh again and that the baker would be hanged. And things happened just as he had predicted. The butler, who got out of prison, forgot all about Joseph for two years.

The Great Famine

Then one night Pharaoh had a bad dream. The next morning he called together all his magicians and wise men, but none knew what the dream meant. All of a sudden, the butler remembered Joseph and told Pharaoh about his and the baker’s dreams in prison. Joseph was sent for. “Tell me your dream, Pharaoh, and God will reveal what it means,” he said.

“In my dream,” began Pharaoh, “I was standing on the bank of the Nile River when seven beautiful, fat cows came down to the edge to feed and drink. Just then, seven thin, ugly cows came up behind the fat cows and ate them up, but after they had eaten, they were just as thin as before!”

“God is letting you know what is about to happen,” said Joseph. “The seven fat and healthy cows mean that for seven years there will be good crops and plenty of food in Egypt. But the seven thin cows stand for seven years of famine to follow when the rains won’t come and the crops won’t grow. What you should do is save up some of the food from the good days so that there will be enough food for everyone once the famine begins.”

Pharaoh was so impressed with Joseph and his advice that he put him in charge of this project. He made Joseph governor of Egypt, almost as powerful as himself. He gave him gold, fine clothes, and his second best chariot. He also ordered the whole kingdom to bow down to Joseph when he went by.

Joseph set to work during the seven years of plenty to store up enough for the next seven years. Finally, the seven good years came to an end. The Nile River dried up and was little more than a trickle; crops stopped growing. Everywhere people were starting to get very hungry. But Joseph was ready: he opened up the storehouses and began to sell grain and other food to the Egyptians.

Through these events and the ones in the next chapter, we see how God can always bring good out of evil. He always has loving plans for the salvation of his people. Through the sufferings of Joseph, the Jewish people will be protected from famine and will be saved.

Words to Know:

Joseph Pharaoh

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Q. 25 How did God communicate with Joseph?

God communicated with Joseph through his dreams (Gen 37:5–11).

Q. 26 Why did God allow Joseph to be sold into slavery in Egypt?

God allowed Joseph to be sold into slavery in Egypt to save his people from the great famine (Gen 45:5–11).

“So it was not you who sent me here, but God; and he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.”

Genesis 45:8

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Name:

Joseph Goes to Egypt

Quiz 6

Word Bank

governor	famine	prison	kill	good
Israel	Joseph	animal	silver	dreams

Fill in the blanks with the correct words from the Word Bank.

- The name that God gave to Jacob was **Israel**.
- Israel had twelve sons. He had a special love for his son **Joseph**.
- As Joseph’s brothers saw him coming through the fields wearing the beautiful long robe his father had made for him, they plotted to **kill** Joseph.
- When they saw a caravan of merchants on their way to Egypt, the brothers sold Joseph as a slave for twenty pieces of **silver**.
- The brothers went back home and told their father, Israel, that Joseph had been killed by a wild **animal**. Israel was filled with sorrow because he loved Joseph.
- When Joseph arrived in Egypt, he was sold to a rich man who put him in charge of his house. Later he was falsely accused of a crime and put in **prison**.
- Pharaoh learned that Joseph could interpret **dreams**. Pharaoh asked Joseph to explain a dream in which seven thin cows ate seven fat cows and still remained thin.
- Joseph told Pharaoh that God was warning him that there would be seven years of good crops and food in Egypt and then seven years of **famine**.
- Pharaoh believed Joseph and made him **governor** of Egypt in order to save food for the famine.
- Through the sufferings of Joseph, God protected his people from famine. God can always bring **good** out of evil.

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Name: _____

Joseph

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. Why were Joseph's brothers envious of him?
Because Jacob favored him.
2. What did Joseph dream the first time?
The brothers were gathering wheat. When they tied their wheat into bundles, the brothers' bundles bowed to Joseph's.
3. What did Joseph dream the second time?
The sun, the moon, and eleven stars bowed down to him.
4. Why did Israel send Joseph out to his brothers?
His brothers were far from home with the sheep and Jacob was worried about them.
5. What did his brothers plan to do to him?
They planned to kill him and throw his body into a well.
6. What did Reuben tell them to do? Why?
He told them not to kill him, just throw him into the well. He said this because he planned to return later and pull him out.

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Name: _____

Joseph Sold into Slavery



Answer the following questions using complete sentences.

1. What did Joseph's brothers do to get rid of him?
They sold him as a slave to a caravan of merchants.
2. Why didn't they kill him?
Reuben said that they shouldn't kill him because he was their brother.
3. What did they do to his coat?
They dipped it in goat's blood.
4. Whom did they sell Joseph to?
A caravan of traders on their way to Egypt.
5. Where did Joseph end up?
Egypt.
6. What was Joseph's assignment when he arrived in Egypt?
He was put in charge of running the house of a rich man.

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