

The Life of Grace

Parish Catechist Manual

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Parish Catechist Manual

Faith and Life Series
Third Edition

BOOK SEVEN

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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" (GDC 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. *GDC 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 from the “Scope and Sequence” page on www.faithandlifeseries.com.

Parish Catechist Manual Curriculum: A 22–25 week outline of the Parish Curriculum can be found in this manual (see p. xiii) and also is available from the “Scope and Sequence” page 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 various styles 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 the “Resources” page on www.faithandlifeseries.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 7 OVERVIEW

Grade 7 Text Overview

The seventh grade text, *The Life of Grace*, builds on the doctrine already taught in earlier grades with an emphasis on revelation, grace, and the moral life. Seventh graders, facing the onset of puberty, can be idealistic and open to the gift of grace. At this age they are able to reason and abstract more than in the earlier grades, so *The Life of Grace* delves into the importance of reason in their lives as Catholics. In addition, students at this age begin to experiment with independence. It is vitally important at this stage of development that students be taught that the virtues and the Sacraments are practical ways to receive and grow in grace, which will help them live the moral life to which Christ calls them.

Grade 7 Scope and Sequence

THEME: Beginning with an understanding of God’s loving gift of the revelation of himself through creation, the prophets, the Incarnation, and the Church, grace is understood as central to our relationship with God. It unites us with him allows us to share in his eternal life. The lessons place special emphasis on the role of grace in developing the virtues, and especially on the transmission of grace through the seven Sacraments.

Weeks 1–6

- **Part I: God Reveals Himself**
- Chapters 1–6: The revelation of God through creation, the prophets, and to the Chosen People.

Weeks 7–9

- **Part II: God Becomes Man**
- Chapters 7–12: Jesus, true God and true man; priest and sacrifice for the Church.

Weeks 10–22

- **Part III: God Shares His Life**
- Chapters 13–31: The operation of grace in our lives in developing the virtues and in being transmitted through each Sacrament.

AIM: To help seventh-grade students treasure the Sacraments as indispensable elements of a full Christian life of love and truth. To deepen an understanding of grace, how it is given, and its relation to practicing the virtues. To appreciate the gifts of faith and reason.

Grade 7 Lesson Outline—The Life of Grace

Faith and Life Series Parish Catechist Manual 22–25 Week Curriculum*		
LESSON #	CHAPTER	TOPIC
	S	INTRODUCTION
1	1	Faith and Revelation
2	2	Salvation History, Scripture, Tradition
3	3	Creation/Man/Angels/The Fall
4	4	Abraham/Isaac/Jacob/Joseph
5	5	Moses/Passover/Ten Commandments/Joshua/Judges/Kings
6	6	Prophets/Elijah/Elisha/Isaiah/John the Baptist
7	7–8	Jesus—True God, True Man/Jesus—Priest/Prophet/King
8	9–10	Sacrifice/Grace/Redemption
9	11–12	Catholic Church/Papacy and Apostles/Pentecost/Holy Spirit
10	13, 16	Grace & Sacraments
11	14–15	Theological Virtues/Cardinal Virtues
12	17–18	Baptism/The Rite of Baptism
13	19	The Sacrament of Confirmation
14	20	The Gifts of the Holy Spirit
15	21	Eucharist
16	22–23	The Mass/Holy Communion
17	24–25	Sin/Conscience/Mercy
18	26–27	Sacrament of Penance and Anointing of the Sick
19	28	Holy Orders
20	29	Matrimony
21	30	Sacramentals and Piety
22	31	Blessed Virgin Mary
	S	Advent/Christmas
	S	Lent/Easter
		S=SUPPLEMENTAL LESSON
<small>*25 Week Curriculum includes 3 Supplemental Lessons: 1 Introduction Grade Level Overview of Salvation History and 2 Liturgical Year Lessons</small>		
<small>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.</small>		

GRADE 7 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, and 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, and 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.

From the Ten Commandments that God gave us through Moses, to the Beatitudes given by Jesus, we see a loving God who offers us the means to form our consciences according to His will and to grow closer to Him through the Church. God freely offers us the gift of grace necessary to live according to His laws and to prepare ourselves for our judgment, at the end of our lives and at the end of time. Through Mass and the Sacraments, we are brought into communion with God and with all the holy men and women who have lived and died before us. In this way, we see the Church on earth helping to prepare us for the unending joy and perfect happiness of Heaven, where we hope to live forever with God and all the angels and saints for all eternity.

RESOURCES

Faith and Life website (www.faithandlifeseries.com): The following resources are available for each grade level: scope and sequence, curriculum outlines, samples, updates, equipping parents as primary educators using the Family Guide, webinars, and other resources. To download online resources (parish lesson plans, PowerPoint presentations, video clips, and activities) developed by the Diocese of Lincoln, go to the "Resources" page on www.faithandlifeseries.com. These resources are provided for every chapter of grades 1–8.

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

- *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." See the "Webinar" page on www.faithandlifeseries.com.

- *Faith and Life* Training Seminar DVD. See “Training Seminar Video” page on www.faithandliferies.com.
 - 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:** Go to the “Faith and Life Online” page on www.faithandliferies.com for information on an interactive web-based edition of the Faith and Life Series powered through My Catholic Faith Delivered. Faith and Life Online is an excellent resource to implement the Flipped Classroom approach.
 - **Education in Virtue:** Go to the “Education in Virtue” page on www.ipreligiously.com for information on teaching and nurturing virtue in the classroom or at home.
 - **Music:** See specific music recommendations in each lesson. The website www.ignatius.com/promotions/adoremus-hymnal/downloadable-mp3s.htm provides links to downloadable MP3s of the music found in the *Adoremus Hymnal*.
 - **Bibles:** Go to www.ipreligiously.com for the 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

Overview of Parish Catechist Manual Supplemental Lessons

Three Supplemental Lessons

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

- Supplement #1—Overview of Salvation History (includes an introduction and welcome)
- Supplement #2—Liturgical Year: Advent/Christmas
- Supplement #3—Liturgical Year: Lent/Easter

Aims of Faith and Life Supplemental Lessons

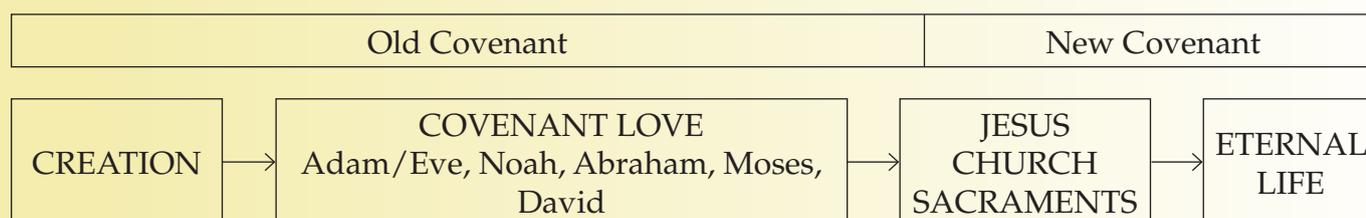
The story of salvation history provides the pedagogical structure of the *Faith and Life* series. Doctrinal, liturgical, spiritual, and moral elements of the Faith flow from this structure. Therefore, the objective of these supplements is to provide students with a bird’s-eye view of God’s saving plan.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



Scripture References	Catechism References
<p>Salvation History Creation: Genesis 1:1–2—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: 1168–73 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

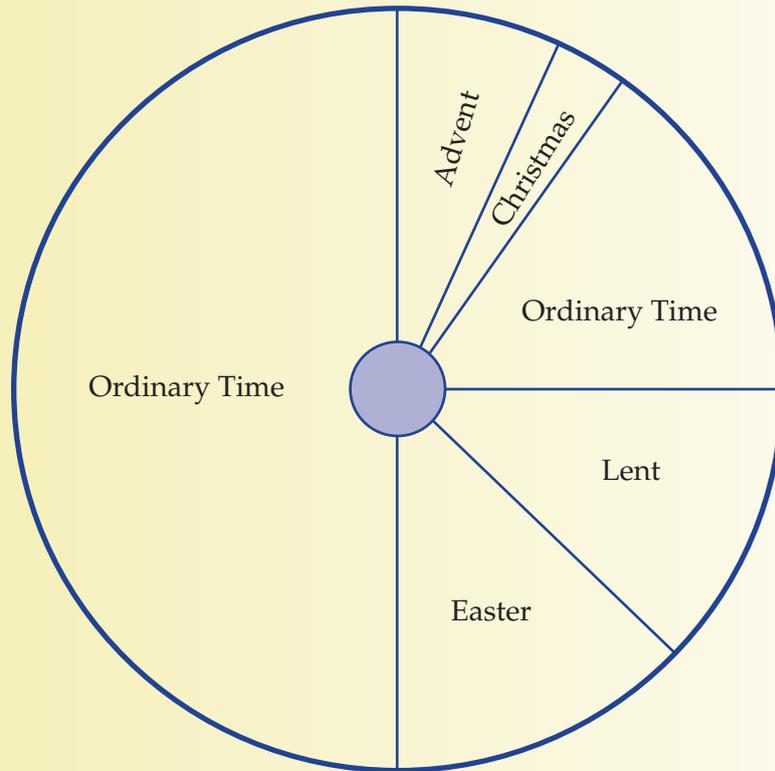
The Church celebrates the history of our salvation through the liturgical calendar. This celebration begins with the season of Advent and culminates in the Easter season with the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. The last Sunday in the liturgical calendar is the Feast of Christ the King. The liturgical calendar 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 the 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 7

Introduction to Salvation History

Correlated Chapters

This lesson is an overview of salvation history which is presented in chapters 3–8, Student Text, pp. 24–54.

LESSON FOCUS

This lesson will introduce students to one another and to the theme of their book, *The Life of Grace*. The story of salvation history points to Jesus Christ; through his life, death, and Resurrection he provides the necessary graces we need for eternal life. Grace is a free gift from God that enables us to become saints. The seven Sacraments are the means through which we receive sanctifying grace.

AIMS

- Students will be introduced to one another and to the Grade 7 book, *The Life of Grace*.
- Students will review salvation history.
- Students will see that through the life of grace we are able to become saints.
- Students will learn that grace is a gift from God, provided through the Sacraments.

Begin the Lesson

Welcome (20–25 minutes)

- **Optional ice breaker:** Before you begin your lesson, ask the students to count off by threes. Then have all the “ones” sit in one corner, the “twos” in another, the “threes” in a third corner. Give each group a single piece of paper. Give them five minutes to write a list of all the things they have in common. Tell them that sitting here in this classroom cannot be one of them 😊!

After the five minutes are up, ask each group to share their list. You can give prizes to the group with the most interesting list, the most unusual list, the longest list, or the funniest list, as well as whatever else strikes your fancy. The idea is that they will see connections with each other and with themselves within the group. Keep in mind that with seventh graders, it is important that they can find these similarities.

- **Overview:** Welcome students to their seventh grade class. Invite students to open their books to the table of contents and examine the three parts of the year.

Part I—Based on the listing of chapters in the section entitled “God Reveals Himself,” how do you think God reveals himself to us? (Through Creation, through God’s plan of salvation, through saving events in Scripture, through the prophets.)

Part II—Based on the listing of chapters in the second section, entitled “God Becomes Man,” what do you think is the significance of God becoming man? (Jesus is our Savior; he fulfills his mission by becoming man; he is the source of all grace. Jesus founded the Church.)

- Have students look up the meaning of “grace” in the glossary: the free gift that God gives us by which he helps us to reach heaven.
- *If God has a free gift of grace for each of us, does this mean that he has a plan for each of us to get to heaven? (Yes.)*

Part III—Based on the listing of chapters in the third section, entitled “God Shares His Life,” what do you think is the main way that God shares his life with us so that we can get to heaven? (Grace received through the Sacraments.)

MATERIALS

- Chalkboard/dry erase board
- Bibles
- Copies of timeline on p. A-46

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.

- Summarize: This year we will study the whole of God's plan for each of us to get to heaven. The second half of the year will be solely focused on the Sacraments. We can never underestimate the great gift of our sacramental life in the Church.

Preparation (5–10 minutes)

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

SCRIPTURE:

"Sing to the LORD, all the earth! Tell of his salvation from day to day" (1 Chronicles 16:23).

We should sing and rejoice every day for the gift of Jesus Christ, who through his death and Resurrection gave us new life!

"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8).

We are saved by grace (will merit eternal life) through faith. We cannot get to heaven on our own merits without the grace of God.

SACRED ART: Student Text, p. 88

Altar of the Seven Sacraments, Rogier van der Weyden

We receive grace through the Sacraments. Christ stands crucified at the center of this triptych. The Cross raised above the other Sacraments illumines the understanding that all sacramental graces flow from the redemptive sacrifice of Christ's death on the Cross. The Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Penance are to the left of the redemptive sacrifice. The Eucharist, the source and summit of the Faith, is in the center. Holy Orders, Anointing of the Sick, and Matrimony are to the right of the redemptive sacrifice of Christ.

PRAYER WITH CHILDREN: Glory Be, Student Text, p. 175

Proclamation

(Proclaim slowly, then repeat.)

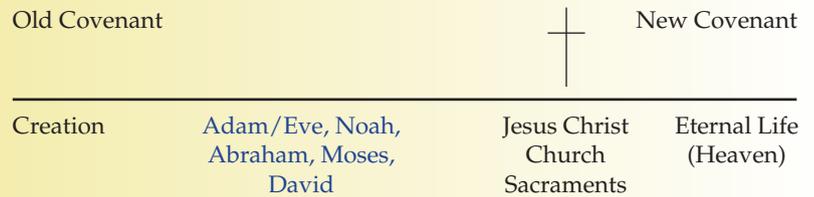
We were created out of love in order that we would be one with God in heaven, our eternal home. The story of **salvation history** is a love story between God and his people. Through the Sacraments we receive grace (God's life in us) that will help us to heaven.

Lesson Explanation (20–25 minutes)

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

Focus I: God has a plan for each of us so that we may attain eternal life.

- Tell the story of God’s saving plan. Keep it simple; draw the simple timeline below.



- God created us out of love so that we can share eternal happiness in heaven. We were created to be one with God in heaven.
- The first man and woman, Adam and Eve, disobeyed God so the gates of heaven were closed.
- The Old Testament tells the story of God’s saving plan before Jesus came. This plan is his story of covenant love. A covenant is a binding oath between two people. God promised to send a Savior, and we promise to love him in return.
 - Through Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, Moses, and David, God promised to save mankind.
 - God never abandons his people. God is always merciful despite the sins of mankind.
 - God always keeps his promises (covenant).
- The New Testament tells the story of how Jesus fulfills God’s plan.
 - Jesus Christ redeems mankind through his life, death, and Resurrection.
- God gave mankind the gift of the Church to help us get to heaven.
 - Jesus Christ founded the Church and is the head of the Church.
 - Jesus completes his mission of saving mankind through the Church. The Church is sustained and guided through the power of the Holy Spirit. The Church’s mission is to evangelize and bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to all.
 - Through the Sacraments, Jesus gives us grace to become holy so that we can become more closely united to him and to each other.

Conclusion: God has a plan for each of us to be with him in heaven. He gave us the gift of himself, received through the Sacraments, to help us to heaven.

Through the gift of the Church we can receive the Sacraments that give us the necessary graces to attain eternal life.

FOCUS I OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

- Have students draw a timeline, or make copies of the timeline in the Appendix (p. A-46); they can explain God’s plan in their own words. Use this timeline throughout the year.

Review Introductory Supplemental Lesson (3 minutes)

- Salvation history is the story of God’s love for mankind, man’s response to God, and God’s loving mercy.
- Through the Sacraments we can receive God’s life in us (grace).
- The Church is a gift from God, through which we are able to receive the graces necessary for eternal life.

Application (10–20 minutes)

Choose one or more of the following for discussion.

- **Think of situations in your life that give you happiness.** (Answers will vary.)
 - *Do these things or events give you lasting happiness that does not go away?* (No.)
 - *Can you imagine having eternal happiness, where it never ends?* (Answers will vary.)
 - (Have students write prayers asking God to lead them to eternal life with God, where happiness will never end.)
- **Discuss** situations where grace received in the Sacraments could help us on our faith journey.
 - A person steals a video game from a store. (*Confession will give him the peace of forgiveness and the grace not to sin again.*)
 - Someone wakes up in a bad mood and stays that way all day. (*The Eucharist can provide peace and help him to take his mind off of himself and put it on Christ, who will give him peace.*)
 - Someone is very lonely and has never known who Jesus Christ is and has never been part of a faith. (*Through Baptism he will become a part of the Church, his sins will be forgiven, and he will have an eternal purpose in life.*)
 - (Encourage students to come up with other examples where grace provides the strength and nourishment to help us become good and holy.)

Celebration (5–10 minutes)

Choose one or more of the following.

- Pray in thanksgiving that Jesus has opened the gates of heaven and we are all invited to enter. Jesus invites us all to heaven: “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” (Revelation 3:20).

Take Home

- Student reading for next lesson: Student Text, Chapter 1, pp. 13–17

CHAPTER 3

Creation

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1:1

God shares with us his beauty, his power, and his glory in the wonderful world which he created. The Holy Bible begins with the book of Genesis, in which we find the story of the world's Creation. In order better to appreciate the almighty power of God we must know that to **create** means to make something out of *nothing*. The entire universe came into existence simply because God wanted it to exist! He did not use any materials to create the world as we must when we make something. Rather he had only to think of the universe and give the command and it was created! This is why the book of Genesis tells us that God had only to say, "Let there be light," and there was light (Gen 1:3).



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The inspired story of Creation was originally part of the oral tradition (religious stories) of the Jewish people. They passed this story on to each generation in order to teach and remind the people that:

1. *There is only one God and he is the Creator of all that exists*—the pagans of ten believed that each of their gods created different things in the world.
2. *God created the world in an orderly way and as a way of sharing his love with man*—many pagans believed that the world was the result of a war between their gods or that it happened by accident.
3. *Everything created by God is good*—the pagans believed many created things to be the work of an evil god who liked to make mankind suffer.

The Creation of Mankind

The book of Genesis also tells us about the creation of the first man and the first woman, the parents of the entire human race:

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. . . ." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he cre-

ated them. And God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food" (Gen 1:26-29).

This account tells us that God had a greater plan for man than he had for the rest of the world of nature; he gave man authority over the beasts and plants of the earth, which were created for man's proper use (such as food, clothing, or enjoyment of nature). The second chapter of Genesis gives us another account of Creation.

Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." . . . So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh; and the rib which the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man (Gen 2:18, 21-22).

The parents of the human race were called Adam and Eve, because Adam means "man," and Eve means "mother of the living."

The Human Person

In Genesis we see that after God made the human body, he "breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being" (Gen 2:7). This tells us that we are each composed of both a physical **body** and a spiritual **soul**. The body is made of matter (as are all things that can be touched, seen, etc.) and so



this makes us like the beasts and other physical creatures. But the soul is *spiritual*; that is, like God it is invisible but real. This is why Scripture tells us that we are made in God's image and likeness; for we share with him in the world of the spirit and, unlike the other physical creatures, we will live *forever* since we have souls that are **immortal**.

The soul has two spiritual powers that make us very much like our Creator: the intellect and the will. By the power of the intellect we are able to think, reason, and know right from wrong. The will allows us to choose freely what we shall do or say or think; it gives us the ability to love or to hate, to do good or to sin. We all know that no other earthly creature can do these things.

Both the body and the soul are important to man, otherwise God would not have created them. Even though the soul is immortal and has great powers, without the body we would not be true and complete human beings. God commands that we respect and take care of both of these gifts which he has given us. God made all human beings persons. In that sense, "all men are created equal." That does not mean that everyone is exactly the same or that

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everyone is equally good, intelligent, or strong. It means that human beings all have the same basic dignity and rights from God. It also means that we should respect the rights of others, as we expect others to respect our rights.

God Gave Man Special Gifts

When God created Adam and Eve he gave them more than their natural bodies and souls; he gave them special gifts. These gifts were not part of man's nature, but enabled him to do things beyond his ordinary abilities. They had complete harmony and peace in their lives; they never argued or acted selfishly toward each other. Also, God kept them free from suffering, sickness, and death. But most of all he gave them a share in his own divine life with the gift of **sanctifying grace**. This grace made them more than his creatures: it allowed them to know and love him in a special way and enabled them to live with him forever! These gifts would be theirs and would be passed on to all of their descendants. In this way, human beings were destined to share in God's glory, and, through man, the whole material creation would share God's glory. All that was required of the man and the woman was that they love and serve him all their lives.

The Creation of the Angels

Before we look at the events that led to man's loss of these gifts, we must know that God also created, from nothing, pure spirits whom we call angels. They are intelligent persons like us but they do not have physical bodies as we do, they are spiritual beings without bodies. Angels possess greater intelligence and power than human beings, but they too were created to worship and serve God.

God put the angels to a test to give them a chance to love him freely and obey his com-

mands. Some of them, led by Lucifer, refused to serve the Lord; they rebelled against him and went to **hell**, where those who do not want to be with him go. These angels were good when they were created by God, but they became evil by their own free choice. We call these disobedient spirits **fallen angels** or **demons**. They are still led by Lucifer, who is also known as Satan or the devil. They try to turn all creation away from God, for they do not want God's creatures to serve him.

The spirits who loved God and obeyed his commands are called **faithful** or **good angels**; they were led by Michael the Archangel. These angels assist us in living holy Christian lives so that we will serve God on earth and come to live with him in heaven when we die. God has assigned a good angel to each one of us; this angel is called our **guardian angel** and his mission is to help us on our way to heaven.

The Fall of Man

Like the angels, God tested our first parents to give them the choice to love and serve him freely. He gave Adam and Eve a beautiful garden in which to live, the Garden of Eden (also called paradise), and he told them that they could eat any fruit in that garden except the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The devil saw this as an opportunity to lead Adam and Eve away from God. He entered the garden and tempted our first parents to sin. He said that if they ate the fruit of the forbidden tree they would become just like their Creator!

Poor Adam and Eve! They believed the lies of Satan and ate the forbidden fruit. At that moment they knew that they had sinned, and they were filled with shame. They tried to hide from God, which is, of course, an impossible thing to do.

The Lord called to them and told Adam and Eve that they must now be banished from the Garden of Eden and be subject to suffering,

sickness, and death. Much worse, they would no longer live in the state of sanctifying grace which had made them close friends of God, heirs to the happiness of **heaven**. Now they could not pass on God's special gifts. In fact, now they passed on to their descendants a human nature that was weakened because of their sin.

We call this sin of Adam **Original Sin** because it was the first sin ever to be committed by man and because it is passed on from Adam, the origin of the human race. The terrible results of this sin (separation from God, sickness, death, slavery to sin and the devil) are called the **effects** of Original Sin. Except for Jesus and Mary, all human beings since the time of Adam and Eve have been conceived with Original Sin and its effects on their souls.

We must not think that God was unfair in taking away these gifts; they were gifts freely given and not deserved. In his love he clearly told Adam and Eve what the result of their disobedience would be when he said:

You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge

of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die (Gen 2:16-17).

God's Promise of a Redeemer

Even though they had sinned against him, God continued to love Adam and Eve. He wanted them, and all the human race who would descend from them, to live in his friendship. So he promised to send us a **Redeemer**, someone who would be able to reconcile us to God and restore to our souls the life of sanctifying grace. God told the devil that this Redeemer would come from a woman, saying:

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 (Gen 3:15).

Words to Know:

create body soul immortal
sanctifying grace good angels
fallen angels heaven hell
Original Sin Redeemer

Q. 24 Why is God called "Creator of heaven and earth?"

God is called "Creator of heaven and earth" because he made heaven and earth out of nothing (CCC 279, 296).

Q. 25 Is the world entirely the work of God?

Yes, the world is entirely the work of God (CCC 296, 299).

Q. 26 Did God create only the material things that are in the world?

No, God not only created the material things that are in the world, but he also created the spiritual things, such as the angels and the soul of each human being (CCC 327-28, 355).

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- Q. 27** *What are the pure spirits?*
The pure spirits are intelligent beings who do not have bodies (CCC 328–30, 391–93).
- Q. 28** *What are the angels?*
The angels are pure spirits, invisible servants of God, and some are our guardians (CCC 329, 336).
- Q. 29** *Do we have duties toward the angels?*
We have the duty of reverence and respect toward the angels (CCC 335).
- Q. 30** *What are the demons?*
The demons are fallen angels who rebelled against God in pride and were cast into hell because of their rejection of God. They tempt man to do evil (CCC 391–94, 414).
- Q. 31** *What is man?*
Man is a created reasoning being composed of body and soul (CCC 355).
- Q. 32** *What is the soul?*
The soul is the spiritual part of man, by which he lives, understands, and is free. The soul makes man able to know, love, and serve God (CCC 363).
- Q. 33** *What is the body?*
The body is the material part of man (CCC 364).
- Q. 34** *Does man's soul die with his body?*
No, man's soul does not die with his body; it lives forever because it is a spiritual reality (CCC 1703).
- Q. 35** *Why must we take care of our soul?*
We must take the greatest care of our soul because it is immortal (CCC 366–67).

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- Q. 36** *Does man have free will?*
Yes, man has free will because he can choose to do something or not do something, or to do one thing rather than another (CCC 1731).
- Q. 37** *Who were the first human beings?*
The first human beings and our first parents were Adam and Eve (CCC 375).
- Q. 38** *Was man created weak and sinful as we are now?*
No, man was not created weak and sinful as we are now, but in a state of original holiness and justice (CCC 374).
- Q. 39** *What destiny did God ordain for man?*
The destiny that God ordained for man was happiness in union with God forever. Because this destiny is entirely above and beyond the capacity of human nature, man also received from God a supernatural power called grace (CCC 27, 1998).
- Q. 40** *What gift did God give man in order to help him achieve his destiny?*
God gave man the supernatural gift of grace in order to help him achieve his destiny (CCC 2021).
- Q. 41** *In addition to grace, what else did God give to man?*
In addition to grace, God gave man the gift of freedom from all the weaknesses and sufferings of life, including death, provided that he not sin (CCC 376).
- Q. 42** *Why does man not have these gifts from God today?*
Man does not have these gifts from God today because Adam, who was the father of mankind, sinned (CCC 399, 402).

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- Q. 43** *What was Adam's sin?*
Adam's sin was a grave sin of pride and disobedience (CCC 397–98).
- Q. 44** *What damage did the sin of Adam cause?*
The sin of Adam lost grace and every other supernatural gift for man. Adam and all men were made subject to sin, to the demons, to death, to ignorance, to evil inclinations and every other sort of suffering, and finally to exclusion from heaven (CCC 403, 405).
- Q. 45** *What is the sin called to which Adam subjected the rest of mankind by his fault?*
The sin to which Adam subjected all mankind by his fault is called Original Sin (CCC 404).
- Q. 46** *In what does Original Sin consist?*
Original Sin consists in the loss of original holiness and justice, which would have been passed on to us but was lost by Adam for all mankind (CCC 400).
- Q. 47** *Did God abandon man after his sin?*
No, God did not abandon man after his sin. Because God loved man, he promised to send a Savior who would redeem man, restore the life of grace to his soul, and make it possible for him to go to heaven (CCC 410).

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CHAPTER 4

God's Plan of Salvation

Sing to the LORD, all the earth! Tell of his salvation from day to day.

1 Chronicles 16:23

All of the events in human history by which God prepared the world for the coming of Jesus Christ and the events by which Jesus accomplishes this plan for the redemption, or salvation, of the human race is called **salvation history**. Jesus was to restore the grace that had been lost through Original Sin.

God began to form for himself a people, the chosen people, to whom he would reveal himself and his plan of salvation. From among this sacred community he would choose the woman who would be the Mother of the Redeemer of the whole world.

God Calls Abraham

God chose a man named Abram, who lived in the land of Mesopotamia almost four thousand years ago. He made a **covenant** (agreement or promise) with him, promising to make Abram the father of many descendants, who would become a great nation. God also told him that this nation would live in a wonderful place called the **Promised Land**:

And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will

bless those who bless you, and him who curses you I will curse; and by you all the families of the earth shall bless themselves (Gen 12:2–3).

Abram agreed to the covenant, and to show his new mission in life, God gave him the new name of Abraham, which means “father of many people.” When he agreed to this covenant, Abraham showed great faith in God because he and his wife were very old and yet they believed that the Lord would give them many descendants. They trusted God so much that they were willing to leave family and home in order to set out for the Promised Land. The early Christians recognized the great faith that Abraham had in God; it is mentioned in the letter to the Hebrews:

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 (Heb 11:8).

Even today in the liturgy of the Catholic Church we honor this holy man as, “Abraham, our father in faith” (Eucharistic Prayer I).

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Isaac Continues the Covenant

After God's promise of descendants, Abraham had a son named Isaac. Needless to say, the boy was loved dearly by his elderly parents. One day God wanted to test Abraham's faith. He commanded this father to sacrifice his beloved only son as an act of worship: "Take your son, your only begotten son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering upon one of the mountains of which I shall tell you" (Gen 22:2).

Knowing that man must love and serve God more than his family, Abraham took Isaac up a mountain and prepared to sacrifice him as God had commanded. Just as Abraham was about to sacrifice Isaac, an angel stopped Abraham and revealed to him that it was a test. Now Abraham had shown that he truly loved God more than anyone else, and God rewarded this love by promising to continue his covenant through Isaac. After his father's death Isaac became the second **patriarch**, or leader, of God's chosen people.

The sacrifice of his only son that Abraham was willing to make was a **prefiguration** of God's love for mankind. A prefiguration is some person or event that happens before another event to which it is similar in some way. In this case, the prefiguration was of the



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sacrifice that God the Father was to make in allowing Jesus, his only Son, to be sacrificed on the Cross for our sins.

The Covenant Continues with Jacob

Isaac married a woman named Rebekah, and they had twin boys, Esau and Jacob. God chose Jacob as the one with whom he would keep the covenant he had made with Abraham, saying:

"I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your descendants . . . and by you and your descendants shall all the families of the earth bless themselves. Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done that of which I have spoken to you." (Gen 28:13–15).

Soon after this event God gave Jacob a new name, **Israel**, which means "the man who strives with God." This new name is very important because God's people used it as the name for their community: the Israelites. Jacob had twelve sons who became the fathers of the twelve tribes, or families, that made up the chosen people. Thus Jacob became the third patriarch of God's people.

The Story of Joseph

Among the many sons of Jacob, there was one who was especially dear to him—Joseph. The other sons were envious of this, and they grew angry with their brother. They began to plan among themselves how they could get rid of Joseph once and for all. One day, when they were out in the fields watching their sheep, they sold poor Joseph to a band of slave

traders who were on their way to Egypt. Then they convinced Jacob that Joseph had been killed by a wild beast. Jacob was heartbroken. If only he knew that they had sold their brother for twenty pieces of silver!

In this, Joseph reminds us of Jesus who was sold by one of his friends for thirty pieces of silver. Joseph also prefigures Jesus because he was to become a kind of savior in Egypt for his brothers. This is how it happened.

When he arrived in Egypt, Joseph was bought by an important ruling family. Soon he became a trusted servant of the Pharaoh (the Egyptian king) because he was handsome and very intelligent and was given important positions in the royal court—he even became second in command in all of Egypt. In the meantime, the land of the chosen people was in a time of famine so the sons of Jacob traveled to Egypt in search of food. Imagine their surprise to find Joseph in command! Instead of having them killed or thrown into prison because of what they had done to him, Joseph embraced each one and gave them all the food they needed. He invited his family to move to Egypt, which they did. Joseph gave them some of the best land in Egypt and loved them with all of his heart.

In this Joseph again prefigures Jesus. Joseph forgave those who had wronged him and gave them everything they needed for a happy life. This reminds us of Christ, who forgives all of our sins and gives us every grace and blessing we need to live good Christian lives while we journey to heaven, our true home.

For four hundred years the Israelites lived in the land of Egypt. While Joseph was alive they were treated with honor and respect. Years later, however, the rulers were no longer happy to have them. One particular Pharaoh made the Israelites the slaves of the Egyptian people. The descendants of Jacob were forced to do heavy manual labor from sunrise to sunset; they were used as "beasts of burden" to build many of the pyramids in Egypt. God's people soon began to think that the Lord had abandoned them; they wondered if he had taken back the wonderful covenant of blessing that he had made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. It was at this difficult point in their history that God sent a very special man to his people.

Words to Know:

salvation history covenant
patriarch prefiguration
Promised Land Israel



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Q. 48 What is salvation history?

Salvation history is the story of God's saving plan, fulfilled in Jesus Christ, to reunite man with him and share in his glory forever (CCC 430–31).

Q. 49 From whom would be born the Redeemer of the world?

The Redeemer of the world would be born from among God's chosen people, of a woman named Mary, who was of the house of David (CCC 488).

Q. 50 Why is Abraham our father in faith?

Abraham is our father in faith because he believed God's promise to make him the father of a holy people from whom our Savior was born (CCC 59–60).

Q. 51 What is a covenant?

A covenant is a promise or an oath that binds two people (or groups of people) together. God's covenant with the Israelites bound them to his laws so that they could know and serve him faithfully (CCC 62).

Q. 52 Who were the Israelites?

The Israelites were God's chosen people of the Old Testament. They were the first to hear the Word of God. God prepared them for the coming of the Savior, who would redeem the whole world (CCC 64).

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CHAPTER 5

The Holy Prophet Moses

When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here am I."

Exodus 3:4

Before the coming of Jesus, the Redeemer, the most important person among God's chosen people was Moses, the first of God's prophets. He was their first leader, and he helped to make the Israelites a united people.

Moses was born in Egypt to a poor Israelite woman. At the time of his birth the Pharaoh had made a law that required the death of every newborn Israelite boy. He did this because the Jewish people were becoming a very large group, and if their numbers continued to increase they would not as easily be kept in slavery. Hoping to save the life of her son, Moses' mother hid him in a basket by the Nile River.

One day, the Pharaoh's daughter found little Moses, and she adopted him as her own son. He grew up in the royal palace and was treated as one of the family. Moses knew that he was really an Israelite by birth, and he would visit the Jewish slaves often. During one of these visits he saw an Egyptian hit one of the slaves; this filled him with so much anger that he killed the Egyptian! Realizing that he was in great trouble for having killed the Egyptian, Moses fled Egypt and went to the land of Midian. There he became a herdsman, married a woman named Zipporah, and raised a family.

God Calls Moses

The time soon arrived when God, because of the covenant he had made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, answered the prayers of his enslaved people. He appeared to Moses in a burning bush and told him to return to Egypt in order to deliver the Jews from their slavery. The Lord said to Moses:

"I have seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters; I know their sufferings. . . . Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring forth my people, the sons of Israel, out of Egypt. . . . But I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought forth the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God upon this mountain" (Ex 3:7–12).

At this time God also revealed his name to Moses. He called himself **Yahweh** (Ex 3:14) which translated means, "I AM." This tells us that God is the source of all that exists; it is he alone who has the power to do all things. It all so reminds us that God is *eternal*; that is, his

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existence had no beginning and will have no end.

Moses Returns to the Land of Egypt

Obedying the will of God, Moses traveled to Egypt where he was accepted by the Israelites as a prophet sent from the Lord. God chose his brother, Aaron, to be his companion in God's service and they both went to Pharaoh with this message: "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Let my people go'" (Ex 5:1).

But the Pharaoh would not think of it! Instead he increased the labor of the Jews and treated them even more harshly. In order to punish his stubbornness God sent ten plagues upon the land: water turned into blood; frogs overran the countryside; gnats were like a thick dust; flies swarmed; animals died; boils and

sores afflicted men and animals; hailstorms descended upon the land; locusts destroyed their crops; and for three days all of Egypt was plunged into darkness. Even after all of these terrible signs, Pharaoh refused to obey the will of God in letting the Jewish people go!

The Passover of the Lord

Before sending the tenth and final plague (which was to be the death of every firstborn son and animal), God told Moses to have each Israelite family hold a special religious meal which would be a sign that they were members of his sacred people. Every family was to kill a lamb and eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. They were to eat this holy meal standing, ready to leave on a journey. Before finishing this ceremony, they were to sprinkle the lamb's blood on their wooden doorposts, for this would be a signal that the home was to be spared from the tenth plague. When the angel of death went throughout the land carrying out this plague, he would *pass over* the homes sprinkled with blood. Thus the meal became known as the **Passover**. Even today, Jewish families gather together to celebrate the feast of the Passover; it is always celebrated near our Christian feast of Easter.

The Passover meal was a special preparation of God's people for Christ's saving death and for the Mass, which is the sacred sacrifice-meal of the new chosen people, the Church. Let us pause to compare these important events.

The Israelites gathered together for the Passover by the command of God; we Catholics come together every Sunday for Mass as Christ commands us. During their ceremony the Israelites sacrificed an animal known as the Paschal lamb; we offer the Father the Eucharistic sacrifice of Jesus, who is the "Lamb of God" (Jn 1:36). At the Passover meal the Israelites ate the sacrificed lamb; at every Eucharist we

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are invited to partake of the Body and Blood of Jesus in Holy Communion. The Israelites sprinkled the blood of the sacrificed lamb upon the wood of their doorposts so that death would not come to them that night; at every Holy Mass the Precious Blood of Jesus is *sacramentally* shed for our sins so that we might be saved from eternal death (hell). Finally, because of the Passover ceremony and the tenth plague, the Israelites were freed from their slavery; because of Christ's sacrifice we are freed from slavery to sin and the devil.

The Jewish Passover ceremony prefigured how Christ would save us from our sins. The Passion, death, and Resurrection of Christ are thus the fulfillment of the Passover and hence called the **Paschal Mystery** (Passover) of the Lord Jesus. This Paschal Mystery is perpetuated throughout time in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Saint Paul, in his first letter to the Corinthians, uses this same comparison saying: "For Christ, our Paschal Lamb, has been sacrificed. Let us, therefore, celebrate the festival . . . with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth" (1 Cor 5:7-8).

The Exodus from Egypt

Afraid of the power of the Israelites' God, Pharaoh let the Jews leave Egypt. We call this journey from Egypt to the Promised Land the **Exodus**. Soon after they had left the Pharaoh's city, the Egyptian ruler changed his mind and sent some of his troops to bring the Israelites back. At first God's people were terrified at seeing the soldiers coming toward them, but Moses told them to trust in the Lord. As the Israelites approached the Red Sea, God intervened to save them: the mighty waters parted and there was a clear path for them to travel through! The soldiers came galloping after the Israelites, but they were too late: as soon as the last of God's people reached the other side of

the sea, the waves came crashing down upon the Egyptians. You can imagine the great joy and confidence in God that filled the hearts of his people!

Even with this great sign of God's protection, the people soon grew weary of traveling in the desert where food and water were scarce. They complained to Moses: "Would that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt . . . for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger" (Ex 16:3).

God heard their cries and in reply, God sent nourishment to his people in miraculous ways: he gave them a special bread called manna and water gushed forth from a rock! This bread, wondrously sent from God, prefigures the Holy Eucharist, which is the heavenly Bread of Life.

God Gives Moses the Ten Commandments

After about three months of wandering in the desert the Israelites found themselves at Mount Sinai. Moses climbed up this mountain in order to pray. At this time God appeared to him and gave him the Ten Commandments, also called the **Law**. Moses proclaimed the Ten Commandments to the people and they all answered: "All the words which the LORD has spoken we will do" (Ex 24:3). The Lord then called Moses to go back up the mountain to receive the Law written on the stone tablets. In the meantime the people grew weary again and complained about their situation. Many of them actually turned their backs on God saying to Aaron: "Up, make us gods, who shall go before us" (Ex 32:1).

They melted down all their gold jewelry and formed an **idol**, or image of a false god, in the shape of a calf. They worshipped this image, committing the sin known as *idolatry*. When Moses came down from Sinai he grew furious

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at this sin of the people. How dare they turn their backs on the one true God, the God who had made a covenant with their ancestors and who had so miraculously freed them from slavery! Moses destroyed the idol and those who had worshipped it were punished. The Israelites told God and Moses that they were sorry for having doubted. They promised to do whatever was asked of them in order to remain God's chosen people. Moses returned to Sinai in order to seek God's forgiveness.

God Renews the Covenant with His People

God told Moses to give this message to the people:

"Behold, I make a covenant. Before all your people I will do marvels, such as have not been wrought in all the earth or in any nation. . . . Observe what I command you this day" (Ex 34:10-11).

Obedying the commandments of the Law became the people's way of showing their loyalty to God. In order to show and preserve their deep respect for the commandments, God told them how to build a special container, called the **Ark of the Covenant**, in which the tablets of the Law were kept. They carried this with them as they journeyed to the Promised Land.

God Commands Sacrifices

As another part of the renewed covenant, God commanded that the priests of Israel offer animal sacrifices to him in worship. A **sacrifice** is the act of offering to God something that is precious to us. These gifts were to be offered on an **altar** that was **consecrated**, set apart solely for this purpose. Each time a sacrifice was offered the people would be reminded of the covenant and of their duty to obey the Law. During each sacrifice the priests

would beg God to forgive the sins of all the people.

For the next few centuries of salvation history (until the perfect sacrificial death of Jesus on the Cross), these sacrifices were offered to God by the Jewish people. Thus sacrificial worship became an important religious event in the lives of the People of God.

The Israelites Enter the Promised Land

After forty years of traveling through the desert the people finally arrived in the Promised Land. However, Moses was forbidden by the Lord to enter this land because he had once doubted God's power. Even though he was a holy man and a prophet, he had to endure this punishment because he had disobeyed God's command. This shows that even one sin is "one too many" in God's eyes. Moses died just as the people were nearing the land. After burying him the Israelites entered into the land promised them from of old: the land God said he would give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Joshua and the Judges of Israel

Joshua was Moses' successor as prophet of God and leader of the people. He was also a great warrior who led the Jews in battle against the foreigners who had taken over their land while they had been enslaved in Egypt. The book of Joshua in the Old Testament tells us about this brave man and the way he served God. Before his death, Joshua gathered the Israelites together and renewed the covenant with the Lord.

After Joshua's death there was a new kind of leadership for Israel: the judges. These were not men who presided over courts of law as our judges do; they were military heroes who won great victories for God's people. The era of the judges lasted only as long as Israel needed military men to reconquer their land. Once

the community was firmly established as a nation, the work of the judges ended, and yet another new form of leadership arose: the kings.

The Rule of the Kings

At this time in salvation history there lived a holy prophet named Samuel. Since the Israelites wanted a king like all the other nations, God told Samuel to **anoint** certain men as the kings of God's people. He chose a man named Saul to be the very first king of Israel. Samuel anointed Saul king by pouring oil over his head as a sign that he had been chosen by God. Saul proved to be an unworthy king and he soon died.

His successor was David, a shepherd boy who won a mighty battle with the Philistine soldier Goliath. David became the greatest king Israel ever had; he was a strong warrior and a good government leader. Even though he committed some terrible sins he was truly sorry for them, and God forgave him. He loved God and wrote some beautiful prayers and hymns to him. We call these **Psalms**, and even today they are used in worship. It was King David who made *Jerusalem* the capital of the Jewish nation and the center of their worship. God loved David and made a special promise to him: one of his descendants would reign as king for-

ever! This was a prophecy about Jesus, who would be a descendant of David and the true King of the Jews.

After David's death, his son Solomon became king. He was a very wise ruler who made the kingdom a good place in which to live. His words of advice were written down and can be found in some of the wisdom books of the Old Testament. Solomon had a magnificent temple built in Jerusalem; it was beautifully decorated inside with gold, fine cloth, and ornate furnishings.

Soon after Solomon's death, however, the kingdom experienced many difficulties. The Jews who lived in the northern part fought with those of the south; they eventually divided the cherished Promised Land into two separate nations. The northern kingdom was called Israel, while the southern kingdom was named Judah. It was the kingdom of Judah that remained faithful to God and to King David's policies. And it was from the people of this nation that Jesus Christ would come to us.

Words to Know:

Yahweh Passover Paschal Mystery
Exodus Law idol
Ark of the Covenant sacrifice altar
consecrated anoint Psalms

The Ten Commandments of God

1. I, the Lord, am your God. You shall not have other gods besides me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day.
4. Honor your father and mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

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Q. 53 Who was Moses?

Moses was a great prophet in the Old Testament, through whom God established his covenant with the Israelites and gave them the Ten Commandments (CCC 62).

Q. 54 What was the Passover?

The Passover was the great event of the liberation of Israel from slavery in Egypt (CCC 1334).

Q. 55 What are the Ten Commandments?

The Ten Commandments are the moral laws that God gave to Moses on Mount Sinai and which Jesus Christ fulfilled in the New Testament (CCC 2056).



God's Special Spokesmen— The Prophets

For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."

Matthew 3:3

In our study of salvation history we have seen that men called **prophets** have played an important role in the dealings which God had with the Jews. Many people misunderstand what a prophet is. Most think that it means a person who foretells future events in strange and mysterious ways. While it is true that part of a prophet's mission may be to tell us about future events, this is not the main purpose of these holy men. A prophet is someone chosen by God to speak a message from God to the people. Usually this message is about their present concerns, something that they need to hear for their spiritual well-being. The prophet speaks these words with the authority, or permission and power, of the Lord.

Jews for the coming of the **Messiah**, a name which means "the Anointed One." In Greek the word for "Anointed One" is *Christos*, from which we get "Christ." As we learned in the previous chapter, "anointed" means someone chosen by God for a special role; in this case, the Anointed One is the Redeemer whom God promised to send to the human race, Jesus Christ.

The prophets encouraged the people to trust in God, not in the powerful nations of the earth, for peace and protection. They warned them that God would punish them if they did not live as his holy people, observing the commandments of the Law.

The Mission of the Prophets in Israel

God sent many such men to his people. They were sent to remind the Jews about the covenant by which they were bound to God. The prophets told the people to be faithful to the Law and to refuse to worship false gods as their pagan neighbors did. By doing these things the prophets were really preparing the

The Prophets Proclaimed God's Message in Many Ways

The prophets delivered the Lord's messages in many ways. They spoke the words, put them into poetry, and sometimes even acted them out in little skits! They were so devoted to God and to their mission that they used any method they could to get the people to hear God's Word and obey it.



The Different Kinds of Prophets

The spokesmen of God whom we know most about are those whose **prophecies** (messages from God) and lives are recorded in the Old Testament. They are divided into two groups: the major and the minor prophets.

The major prophets are those who wrote a lot; their names are Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel. The minor prophets, whose writings are not as abundant, are Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi.

The Prophets Elijah and Elisha

There are two very great prophets who are not included in the above lists because they did not leave us any of their writings. But their lives are recorded in the Bible and they are very important in salvation history. Their

names are Elijah and Elisha. Elijah, who is one of the greatest prophets, was very devoted to God. He is most famous for a contest he held with some pagan priests on Mount Carmel. He wanted to prove to the people that the God of the Israelites was the one true God, so he told the pagan priests to set up altars of sacrifice and ask their gods to set these altars on fire. Of course no matter how long they prayed nothing happened. However, when Elijah set up his altar, he flooded it with water and asked God to set it on fire. Behold! A blaze came down from heaven and consumed the animal that was on the altar! Elijah's holiness drew many men to him; they wanted to serve God too.

The most important of Elijah's followers was Elisha. He lived with the holy prophet Elijah and saw him taken up into heaven in a fiery chariot (2 Kings 2:11). Elisha continued serving God with the same love and devotion that

had filled the heart of his master, Elijah. He worked many miracles, one of which was multiplying bread for the hungry, just as our Lord did centuries later.

Elijah and Elisha are especially important to the Catholic Church because one of its greatest religious orders, the Carmelites, owes its existence to the disciples of these prophets. The priests, brothers, nuns, and lay people who belong to the Carmelite Order dedicate their lives to offering prayers and sacrifices to God for the needs of his people, just as the holy prophets had done centuries ago.

The Prophet Isaiah

A most important prophet for Christians is Isaiah, who lived eight hundred years before the birth of Christ. More than the others, Isaiah spoke about the coming Messiah. Here are some of his prophecies about the Redeemer:

The Messiah's virgin Mother: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel!" (Is 7:14).

The Messiah will be a great light: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined" (Is 9:2).

The Messiah will be a great ruler: "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called 'Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.' Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end" (Is 9:6-7).

The Messiah will suffer: "Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he

was bruised for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that made us whole, and with his stripes we are healed" (Is 53:4-5).

The Messiah shines in glory upon the people: "Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. . . . And nations shall walk by your light, and kings in the brightness of your rising" (Is 60:1, 3).

We use these and other prophecies about the Messiah from Isaiah in our Advent and Christmas liturgies in the Catholic Church.

Saint John the Baptist, Herald of the Messiah

The last of the Old Testament prophets and the only one who is present in the New Testament is Saint John the Baptist. He was a "bridge" between these two parts of salvation history, and it was his privileged mission to prepare the Jews for the public ministry of our Lord.

John was born only six months before Jesus, and he was our Lord's cousin (his mother was Mary's relative). His parents, Zechariah and Elizabeth, were elderly and had no children. They wanted a baby so badly! One day, when Zechariah was in the temple worshipping God, an angel appeared to him with this happy message:

"Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer is heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth; for he will be great before the Lord (Lk 1:13-15).

At John's birth the Holy Spirit inspired his father with wonderful words about the little

boy. He revealed to Zechariah that John was to be the **forerunner** and **herald** of the Messiah. A forerunner is someone who goes before another person to prepare the people for his coming; a herald is someone who announces the coming of a royal person. The Holy Spirit gave Zechariah these words about John:

And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins (Lk 1:76–77).

When John grew up he began his mission in the area around the Jordan River, not far from the city of Jerusalem. He would tell the people to **repent** (to give up their sinful desires and actions). John is called the “Baptist” (or the Baptizer) because he would pour water upon those people who wanted to give up sin, as a sign of their desire to repent. He would often say to the crowds that came to him: “I baptize

you with water; but he who is mightier than I is coming . . . he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire” (Lk 3:16).

John was speaking of Jesus, who was soon to make his appearance among the people. Like all of the other prophets sent by God, John was a victim of persecution. King Herod, who was living a sinful and impure life, did not like to hear John say that his actions were wrong. He had the Baptist thrown into prison and later sentenced him to be beheaded.

John was not afraid to die, for he had finished the work that was his to do. He had faithfully prepared the people for Jesus’ preaching, and he was ready to meet death with a loyal heart. Saint John the Baptist is one of the most important saints of the Church, and, after our Lord and our Lady, he receives the most honor in the Church’s prayers and liturgy.

Words to Know:

prophets Messiah prophecies
forerunner herald repent

Q. 56 *Who were the prophets?*

The prophets were God’s servants who prepared his people for the coming of the Messiah by calling for repentance from sin and faithfulness to God (CCC 64).

Q. 57 *What does “Messiah” mean?*

The word “Messiah” is the Hebrew word for “Anointed One” and refers to the one who is anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Savior of God’s people (CCC 436).

Q. 58 *Who was the last and greatest of all the prophets?*

Saint John the Baptist was the last and greatest of the prophets because he prepared the way of the Lord Jesus (CCC 523).

PART TWO

God
Becomes Man



CHAPTER 7

Our Lord and Savior
Jesus Christ

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only-begotten Son from the Father.

John 1:14

You will remember that God promised Adam and Eve that he would send a Redeemer, someone who would make up for Original Sin and the separation it caused between man and the Creator. We have seen how God began his plan for our salvation by choosing a community of people, the Jews or Israelites, to whom he gradually revealed his plan. He sent prophets to these people to prepare them for the coming of the Messiah, the “Anointed One” of God.

The various prophets had told the Jewish people that the Messiah would indeed come to them, but they never said exactly *who* he would be. Most of the people expected a great and powerful military leader who would free them from political oppression. That this Savior would be God himself, come down to liberate them from their spiritual slavery to sin and the devil, was not what they expected.

But the prophets did give the people some clues about the Messiah, ways to recognize him once he came. They said that he would be a member of the tribe of Judah (Gen 49:8–10); he would be born of a virgin (Is 7:14) in the

town of Bethlehem (Micah 5:2–4). A great star would shine in the sky to announce the Messiah’s birth (Num 24:17), and he would live for a time in Egypt (Hos 11:1). This Redeemer would preach God’s Good News to the poor and the lowly (Is 61:1–3), but he would be rejected by the people who would cause him much suffering (Is 53:1–12).

You probably recognize the life of the Lord Jesus in the above prophecies; many of the Jews did, and they accepted him as the Messiah sent from God. But many others did not.

The Incarnation of Our Lord

From among all the women of the chosen people, God selected one through whom he would fulfill his promise of salvation: the Virgin Mary of Nazareth. God had prepared her to cooperate with his plan of salvation. Mary was free from Original Sin from the moment of her conception. This is called the Immaculate Conception. One day, he sent the angel Gabriel to her, saying:

Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you! . . . Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father [ancestor] David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his Kingdom there will be no end (Lk 1:28, 30–33).

Now Mary, as the Church has always taught, was a virgin, as her response to this angelic messenger reveals: “How can this be, since I have no husband?” (Lk 1:34).

The angel told her that God, in his almighty power, would work this great wonder within her. By the power of the Holy Spirit the child would be conceived in her womb. Joseph, to whom she was betrothed, would *seem* to be the baby’s father but he was actually the Lord’s foster father and protector. Mary, ready to do whatever God asked of her, replied to the angel: “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word” (Lk 1:38).

With these words Mary showed how dedicated she was to God’s plan for her life and for our salvation. She called herself the “handmaid” of the Lord, which is another way of saying that she was God’s servant or slave, ever ready to do whatever he asked of her.

As soon as Mary expressed her consent to God’s will, Jesus was conceived in her womb; this is the *Virginal Conception*. Nine months later he was born in the little town of Bethlehem, and his *nativity* (birth) was announced by the appearance of the miraculous star, just as had been foretold. We call the event by which the Son of God took on our human nature the **Incarnation**.

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The Divinity of Jesus

The Second Person of the Blessed Trinity came down from heaven in order to share our human life. Even more, he freely chose to be born in poverty and to live a poor life, so that we could learn that wealth and worldly pleasures do not give us true happiness. He became man so that we, by being freed from sin and reunited with God by Baptism, could become like him, the children of the Father. Saint Irenaeus, a holy bishop of the second century, once said: “The Word of God, Jesus Christ, on account of his great love for mankind, became what we are in order to make us what he is himself.”

For thirty years Jesus lived a normal human life with Mary and Joseph, working as a carpenter in the village of Nazareth. He did this in order to teach us that even such ordinary things as work and family life are very important to God. This first part of Christ’s life is called his “hidden life,” because during this time the people did not know *who* he really was and because we do not know very much about it.

When our Lord was about thirty years old he began what is known as his “public life,” that is, the three years he spent preaching, teaching, and working miracles. These **miracles** were signs and proofs of his divinity; they showed that he was truly the Son of God. A miracle is some event or happening that is beyond the powers of man or of nature. It can only be worked by God, who is the Lord and Master of all creation.

The public life of Jesus began with his baptism in the Jordan River by Saint John the Baptist. At this time, the **evangelists** (writers of the Gospels) tell us that the Holy Spirit came down upon Jesus and the Father’s voice was heard to say: “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased” (Mt 3:17).

This was the first time that Jesus of Nazareth was publicly revealed as the Son of God.

(Of course, Mary and Joseph already knew who he was.) It was also the first time that the mystery of the Blessed Trinity was revealed. During his ministry our Lord spoke of himself as the Son of God, saying: “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am” (Jn 8:58). (Remember that “I AM” is the name God revealed to Moses in the burning bush.)

So we see from all of these events recorded for us in the Gospels that Jesus Christ is *both* God and man at the same time! This is a great mystery of faith that we believe because God has revealed it. We call this mystery the **hypostatic union**. This phrase comes from a Greek word which tells us that our Lord is the Son of God and the son of Mary, fully God with all of the divine powers, and fully man like us in everything except sin.

The Humanity of Jesus

Jesus had everything that makes someone a human being: a physical body with all of its various functions, and an immortal soul with its powers of intellect and will. As a man he had to grow daily in acquiring human knowledge, and he experienced the joys and sorrows of life just as we do. The Gospels remind us that he felt hunger and thirst (Lk 4:2); he loved children (Mk 10:13–16); he knew sorrow and cried over the death of a friend (Jn 11:32–36); he experienced loneliness (Mt 26:37–46); he enjoyed friendship (Lk 19:1–10); felt joy and gladness (Lk 10:21); he went through suffering and death (the accounts of the Passion in all four Gospels).

We noted that Jesus was like us in all things except sin (Heb 4:15). This is because, as the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, he is all-holy. But this does not mean that Jesus was free from temptations to sin; the Gospels make it very clear that he was tempted (Mt 4:1; Mk 1:13; Lk 4:2–13). Since he was a human

being like us, this means that we too can live free from sin, with the help of his grace which is always available to us through the Sacraments. Jesus has made it possible for us to live a sinless life by being united to him.

Errors about the Incarnation

Throughout the history of Christianity **heresies**, or errors, about the mystery of the Incarnation have been taught by various mistaken followers of the Lord. Heresies are very dangerous to the faith because they corrupt or destroy man’s understanding of the truth which leads to salvation.

The first heresy to attack the truths taught by the Church happened in the days of the Apostles of the Lord; it was called **Docetism**. It corrupted the truth that Jesus is human. This heresy said that Christ only *seemed* to be a man. Some people believed this because they believed that salvation consists in freedom from matter; so according to their way of thinking, God would not take on a real human body! The Magisterium of the Church condemned these teachings of the Docetists as heresy, and Saint John wrote his Gospel partly to show that the Docetists were wrong. But this heresy lives on in our own day among those who think that the human body is sinful and not something which God created as good. It also affects those Christians who see Christ only as the Son of God, and not as a true, full human being.

Another terrible heresy sprang up among Christians in the beginning of the fourth century. It was started by a priest who denied the truth about Christ’s divinity. The priest’s name was Arius, and so his false teaching was called **Arianism**. Arians believed that our Lord was the Messiah sent from God, that he was the greatest of teachers and holiest of men, but they did not believe that he was of the same substance as the Father. They believed he was

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created. An unfortunate thing about this heresy is that it attracted thousands of Christians, including many bishops! We can learn from this that even priests and bishops can be led astray from the Gospel if they do not remain united to the Pope, for at that time the Holy Father and a few faithful bishops were the only ones teaching the truth about Jesus’ divinity. As you can well imagine, things got so out of hand that the first **ecumenical council** (meeting of all the bishops of the Church in union with the Pope) was held in order to condemn this false teaching officially. It is called the Council of Nicaea (A.D. 325), and from this and another later meeting (A.D. 381) we received the **Nicene Creed**, which we recite every Sunday at Holy Mass.

Unfortunately, Arianism can still be found today among those who call Christ a “great man” and “moral leader” but who refuse to acknowledge his full divinity. These people place Jesus on the same level as the founders of other religions (such as Buddha or Muhammad), and consider Christianity to be simply one religion among all the others. They fail to see that God has become man for them, for all of us, so that we can truly live with him on this earth and forever in heaven.

Words to Know:

nativity Incarnation miracles evangelists hypostatic union heresies Docetism Arianism ecumenical council Nicene Creed

- Q. 59** *What was the Annunciation?*
The Annunciation was the holy event of the angel Gabriel announcing to Mary that she was to be the Mother of the Messiah, Jesus, the Son of God (CCC 494).
- Q. 60** *Who is Jesus Christ?*
Jesus Christ, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, is the Son of God made man in the Incarnation (CCC 461).
- Q. 61** *How was the Son of God made man?*
The Son of God was made man by the power of the Holy Spirit in the pure womb of the Virgin Mary (CCC 497).
- Q. 62** *From whom was Jesus Christ born?*
Jesus Christ was born of Mary, ever virgin, who is therefore the Mother of God (CCC 495).
- Q. 63** *Who is the father of Jesus Christ?*
God the Father is the father of Jesus Christ (CCC 496, 502).

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God the Father is the father of Jesus Christ (CCC 496, 502).

Q. 64 Who was Saint Joseph?

Saint Joseph was the foster father and guardian of Jesus, and the spouse of Mary (CCC 497).

Q. 65 Did the Son of God cease to be God when he was made man?

When the Son of God was made man he did not cease to be God, but while remaining true God, he became true man (CCC 469, 479).

Q. 66 Are there two natures in Jesus Christ?

Yes, in Jesus Christ there are two natures: divine and human (CCC 470, 481).

Q. 67 With the two natures in Jesus Christ are there also two persons?

With the two natures in Jesus Christ there are not two persons, but only one, the Divine Person of the Son of God, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity (CCC 468, 481).

Q. 68 Did Jesus Christ always exist?

Jesus Christ has always existed as God; he began to exist as man from the moment of the Incarnation (CCC 479).

Q. 69 Where was Jesus Christ born?

Jesus Christ was born in a stable at Bethlehem (CCC 525).



CHAPTER 8

The Saving Mission of Jesus

But when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

Galatians 4:4-5



The Father sent his only Son into our world for the salvation of the human race. Saint John the Apostle proclaimed this saving mission of Jesus and reminds us that it was the Father's will, his plan, for his Son:

For God so loved the world that he gave his only 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 (Jn 3:16-17).

Jesus and the Father

Jesus always had his mind set on the Father, whom he loved with all his heart. He showed this deep love by faithfully doing the **will of God**, even if this meant suffering and hardship as in his Agony in the Garden and his death upon the Cross.

Our Lord often spoke of his oneness with the Father. One day, after having multiplied bread for the hungry, Jesus said: "For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me" (Jn 6:38).

At many other times during his life Christ revealed the intimate relationship which he enjoyed with his Father:

The Father loves the Son, and has given all things into his hand (Jn 3:35).

For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life, that I may take it again (Jn 10:17).

I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father (Jn 14:31).

I am not alone, for the Father is with me (Jn 16:32).

We see from these words that Jesus did everything out of love for God and in obedience to his will. Nothing which the Father asked of him was too much or too difficult, for Jesus' love knew no limits.

Prophet, Priest, and King

The Father sent Jesus to be his greatest prophet, the teacher of God's truth. He was also sent to be our priest, who offered himself in sacrifice to the Father, and our King, who came to start the Kingdom of God upon earth. We call these three roles of Christ his **triple office** or three-fold office.

Jesus Our Teacher

Jesus the prophet, or teacher, helps us to reach heaven by telling us how to live lives that are pleasing in God's sight. Only in Jesus' teachings do we find the way that leads to heaven. Jesus said of himself: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me" (Jn 14:6).

By his words and example Jesus told us about the Father's great love for us; he revealed that the Father had sent him as our Savior, the One who would take away our sins. We call this the **Good News** of our salvation.

Jesus shared his role as teacher with his followers. He teaches us today through the Magisterium (teaching office) of the Catholic Church. This duty to share the Faith with others is also a very important part of every Christian's life. By Baptism and Confirmation we are called to spread the Faith to others by our words, good example, and apostolic office.

Jesus Our Priest

Jesus is our one true priest whose sacrifice on the Cross won for us the gift of *sanctifying grace*, which, as we learned in our study of man's creation, is the life of God in our souls. In order to make this life of grace available to all men of every time and place, Jesus gave us the Sacraments and told his Apostles to bring these holy gifts to all the world. This is the role of the ministerial priesthood.

Every Christian shares in the common priesthood of Jesus through the anointing received at Baptism and Confirmation. This means that we are set apart from other men and women as the true worshippers of God. **Worship** is the prayer and adoration which we offer to God, especially through the Mass and Sacraments. We can also worship God privately in many ways, for example, by making acts of *faith, hope, and love*.

Jesus Our King

Even before his birth the Messiah was called the great king or ruler of God's people. The angel Gabriel had revealed to Mary: "The Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there will be no end" (Lk 1:32-33).

Some Jews thought that the Messiah would be the ruler of an earthly kingdom, but Jesus corrected this mistaken view, saying: "My kingdom is not of this world; if my kingship were of

this world, my servants would fight, that I might not be handed over to the Jews; but my kingship is not from the world" (Jn 18:36).

Our Lord meant that his Kingdom is spiritual. Everyone who lives in the state of sanctifying grace belongs to the Kingdom of Christ, which is the Church. Having the privilege of being members of the **Kingdom of God** (also called the Kingdom of Heaven or the Reign of God) is our greatest blessing. We live in it on earth by faithful membership in the Church, and we will live in it in heaven for ever. It is so wonderful that Jesus told a **parable**, or story, in which his Kingdom is compared to a treasure and to a pearl (Mt 13:44–46). He said that the person who discovers this trea-

sure will see its value and give up anything that stands in the way of obtaining it.

The "thing" that usually stands in our way of having the treasure of God's Kingdom is sin. For this reason Jesus gave us the Sacraments of Baptism and Penance; through these sacred ceremonies we are freed from sin and made holy members of his Kingdom. According to the parable, if we really value the Kingdom we will give up sin so that this pearl and treasure will be ours forever.

Words to Know:

will of God triple office Good News
worship Kingdom of God parable

Q. 70 *What is the triple office of Jesus?*

The triple office of Jesus is that of prophet, priest, and king (CCC 436).



Lesson 1

Chapter I—Knowing God through Creation

Correlated Materials

Student Text: Chapter 1, pp. 13–17
Activity Book: Chapter 1, pp. 1–4
Family Guide: G 7–1, pp. 134–35

LESSON FOCUS

Man knows God by both reason and faith. Reason tells us that he exists, that he has created a well-ordered world, and that he is powerful, beautiful, and knowable (to an extent) through his creation. Faith helps us believe what God has revealed about himself in Scripture and through the Incarnation, when God became man. We know he is a Blessed Trinity, all loving, all knowing, and present everywhere. Reason also helps us understand the things about God that we know by faith, while faith helps order our reason rightly.

AIMS

- Students will learn that they were created out of love and are called to be in relationship with God through coming to know him in his revelation.
- Students will learn that faith and reason do not contradict one another.
- Students will learn that faith is supernatural, but not unreasonable, and that faith is the gift God gives so that we can believe in him.

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

“Let the earth bless the Lord; let it sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever” (Daniel 3:52).

In the Bible, there are two forms of blessing, which are intertwined. There is, first of all, the blessing that comes down from God: the Lord blesses his people (cf. Numbers 6:24–27). It is an effective blessing, source of fruitfulness, happiness, and prosperity. Then there is the blessing that earth lifts toward heaven. The human person who receives so many blessings from divine generosity blesses God, praising, thanking, and exalting him: “Bless the LORD, O my soul!” (Psalm 103:1 and 104:1). It is important that God’s creations give him thanks, praise, and glory for what he has done.

SACRED ART: Student Text, p. 14

“Earth and Moon,” photograph

This photograph of the earth from the moon reminds us of the magnificence of God’s creation and man’s ability to use reason and science. We have faith that God created the earth. This vantage point of God’s creation brings to mind that reason and faith work together and cannot contradict one another.

PRAYER WITH CHILDREN: Act of Faith, Student Text, p. 175

Proclamation (1 minute)

(Proclaim slowly, then repeat.)

Faith, which is reasonable, is a gift from God by which we believe in him. Man is created in God’s image, and God has revealed himself out of love for man.

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH REFERENCES

- Faith: 28, 44–45, 155, 178, 223
- Faith and Reason: 27–28
- Man as Body and Soul: 355, 362–68, 382, 711, 1703
- Revelation: 150–56, 2810–12
- Blessed Trinity: 234, 258, 291–92, 316, and 320

MATERIALS

- Bible
- Chalkboard or dry erase board
- Student notebooks and pencils; students are encouraged to take notes.
- Resource tab on www.faithandlifeseries.com

Saint Thomas Aquinas' Proofs for the Existence of God

First Mover: Anything moved is moved by another. There cannot be an infinite series of movers. So there must be a first mover.

First Cause: Anything caused is caused by another. There cannot be an infinite series of causes. So there must be a first cause.

Necessary Being: Contingent beings require an already contingent being to bring them into existence. So there is a necessary being upon which other beings depend for their existence.

Greatest Being: Whatever is great to any degree gets its greatness from that which is the greatest. So there is a greatest being, which is the source of all greatness.

Intelligent Designer: Whatever acts for an end must be directed by an intelligent being. So the world must have an intelligent designer who directs all things in it.

Lesson Explanation (40–50 minutes)

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

Focus 1: Knowing God. Faith is a gift from God that allows us to believe in him and all that he has revealed. We can know God exists through reason.

- **How do you know that God exists?** (*Answers will vary.*)
 - We can know of God's existence through reason; for example, we can see his magnificence in creation (a human person, mountains, ocean, beauty in a flower, etc.) and then reason with our minds that there is a God who created the world.
- Saint Thomas Aquinas has five "proofs" that show the existence of God through reason alone. (See sidebar.)
 - **Have students give examples of the first two or more.** See PowerPoint, dominoes video, and activity on resource tab for five proofs (go to www.faithandlifeseries.com; click on Resources, then on Quick Links: Diocese of Lincoln Parish Resources for F&L to navigate to the Grade 7 tab).
- **Can you name a time that you came to know God through reason?** (*Answers will vary.*)
- Besides reason, God also gives us the supernatural (above the power of man or nature) **gift of faith**. Faith is one of the three supernatural virtues we receive from God.
 - **What are the three theological virtues?** (*Faith, hope, and love.*)
 - **When do we receive these gifts?** (*At Baptism.*)
 - Faith gives us the ability to *believe* in God and to believe the mysteries of the Faith. We can reason and understand much of what we learn about God, but God gives us faith so that we can believe.
 - **Can you give an example of something that you believe by faith?** (*God's existence, trust in God, Holy Trinity, etc.*)

The Role of Science

Science is a way of explaining natural laws. When science or a scientific theory reveals and expresses something true, it corresponds with God's truths. Sometimes a theory, such as the theory of evolution, may seem to contradict the Faith. If a theory, however, truly explains nature, it will not contradict the Faith. Faith and science ultimately cannot contradict one another. Instead, they necessarily work together, since God is the author of all nature and laws. Thus, it may be possible to accept parts of the theory of evolution, so long as we understand that God is our Creator, there is an order to creation, man is the highest level of natural creation, and man's soul is created only by God.

WORDS TO KNOW

revelation: what God has told us about himself and about his purpose for us

gift of faith: the free gift that God gives us so that we might believe in Jesus and his gospel. Without this gift we would never be able to know what is necessary for salvation.

mystery: a truth that our limited human minds will never be able to understand fully. This definition is in religious vocabulary. Some mysteries of our faith are the Blessed Trinity, the Incarnation, the Resurrection, and the Holy Eucharist.

Catholic Faith: the religion that began with Christ and the twelve Apostles almost two thousand years ago. It is the one true Faith for it comes to us from God himself, who became man and taught us the true way of worshipping and believing.

human reason: the power which human beings have by which we are able to think and grow in our understanding of the truth. Human reason can help us understand many things about God, but it can't tell us everything there is to know about him.

Blessed Trinity: there are three Persons in one God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

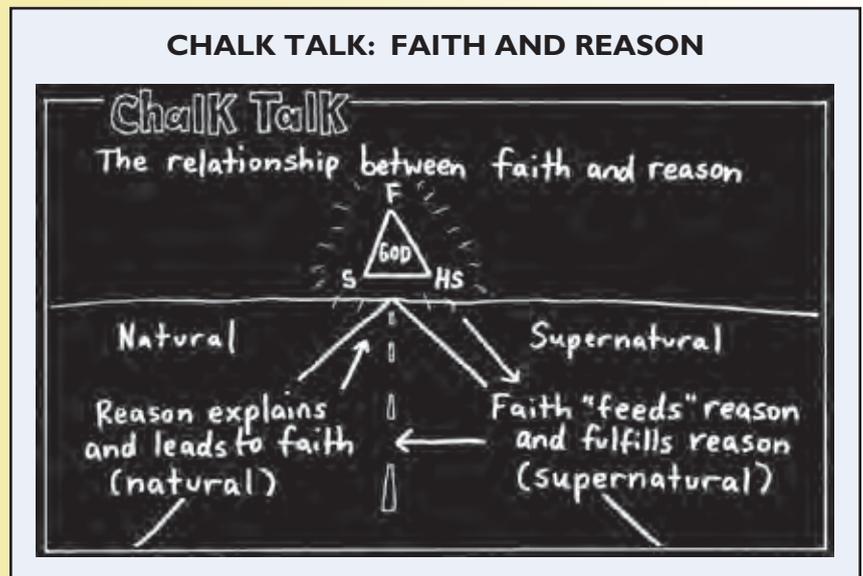
"Faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth."

—Pope John Paul II, *Fides et Ratio*

FOCUS | OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Have the students write about their first understanding of the existence of God and his role in their lives in a journal.
- *When you look at the world that God made, what does it tell you about him?* (Answers will vary.)

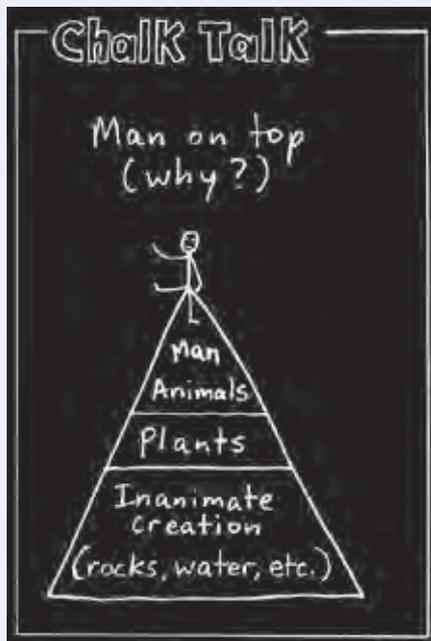
- Faith also gives us the ability to respond to God's love for us. We act in faith.
- *Can you give an example of something you have done as a response of faith?* (Pray, thank God, go to Mass, trust in God, etc.)
- Faith and reason are not the same thing, although they always complement each other. (See sidebar on the role of science.)
 - **Draw Chalk Talk:** Faith and Reason to explain:



- Faith "feeds" or fulfills reason.
- Only through faith can **human reason** be fulfilled by reaching its highest act—knowing God.
- God created everything and everyone out of love. He wants us to know him and to respond to his love.
 - *Do you know anyone who does not believe in God? Why do you think he does not believe in God?* (Answers will vary.)
 - Some who do not believe in God have not received the gift of faith or their faith has been weakened. Some who have never learned about God may reason his existence.
 - *What should we do if our or others' faith has been weakened?* (Pray for them, tell them about God, etc.)
- *How can we grow in faith?* (Answers will vary.)
 - One way we can nurture the gift of faith given to us is through prayer. Grace received in the Sacraments can also help us to grow in our faith.
 - Sometimes the culture or people will bombard us with ideas that may weaken our faith in God.
 - *Has your faith ever been weakened?* (Answers will vary.)

Conclusion: Man can know of God's existence by reason. Through faith we can believe in God and respond to his love for us.

CHALK TALK: HIERARCHY OF CREATION



Focus 2: Man—Made in God’s Image. Man is composed of a body and a soul. Man is created in God’s image. All men are equal in dignity.

- **Draw** the Chalk Talk: Hierarchy of Creation toward the left side of the board to leave room to add the second half of the Chalk Talk below (p. 5). *Why is man at the top level of the material world? (Answers may vary; explanation below.)*
 - Man has a rational soul; therefore, he can think, love, and make choices. He is different from animals, plants, and inanimate objects.
- We are physical creatures.
 - *What does this mean? (We have bodies.)*
 - *How do our bodies benefit us? (Because of our bodies, we have the senses. We can move around and relocate. We can grow, reproduce, etc.)*
 - We are also spiritual creatures who have a rational soul. Human souls have two special powers: intellect and free will.
- **Write** “intellect” and “free will” on the board.
 - **Intellect** is the power to understand and is a function of the rational soul. Because we have a rational soul, we can think (e.g., do math), and we can reason. Therefore, we can understand (ourselves, others, situations), and we can guide emotions and have relationships.
 - **Free will** is also a function of a rational soul. Free will is the ability to choose. God gave us the gift of free will so that we can choose between good and evil.
 - *Can you give an example of when you have made a choice between good and evil? (Answers will vary.)*
 - *If God forced us to love him, do you think it would be real love? (No.)*
 - *What do you think life would be like if we did not have the ability to make choices? (Answers will vary.)*
 - God created us with a body and soul so that we can be in a relationship with him.
- **Complete** the Chalk Talk: Man = Body and Soul by adding the Spiritual World side (see next page).
- Man is unique in that he shares in both the material and spiritual world. Notice that while man is the highest of the material world (because he has a rational soul), he is the lowest of the spiritual world.
- Angels are intelligent persons like us, but they do not have physical bodies.
 - *Who do you think possesses greater intelligence and power, angels or human beings? (Angels.)*
 - God is pure spirit. Angels and men were created to love and serve God.

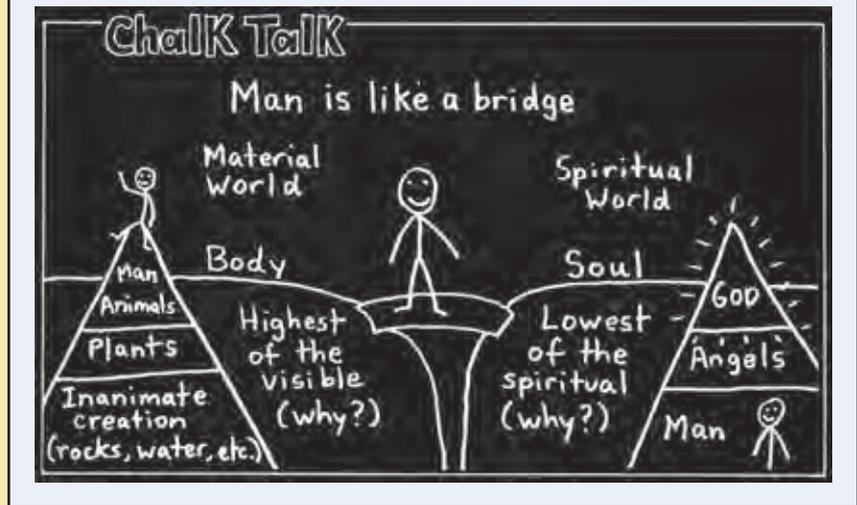
Human Beings: Body and Soul

The human person has one nature; this nature is a union of body and soul. Without a soul the physical body is not truly a human person. We can see this in the case of death. For all the physical changes that occur at death, there is a deeper and more significant change that occurs: the soul is separated from the body and continues to exist without its immediate union to the body. It is important to realize that while the human soul has the ability to subsist apart from the body, its natural way of existing is to be united with a physical body. We are each only one person, with body and soul naturally united in that one person. At the end of time, our bodies and souls will be reunited.

FOCUS 2 OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

- Have the students plan a project (pro-life for the unborn or for the aged) to show how every human being shares in equal dignity.

CHALK TALK: MAN = BODY AND SOUL



- All men are created in the image of God; this gives each human being equal dignity (honor and value).
 - Even though we were all created with equal dignity, this does *not* mean that we all have the same talents, strengths, intellect, etc. It *does* mean that we all have the same dignity and rights from God, no matter our race, religion, class, health, age, size, etc.
 - *What are some examples of how all human beings do not have the same talents?* (Answers will vary, such as some are tall, short; some are good athletes; some are average athletes; some are gifted artists; some cannot draw well.)
- Because we are made in the image and likeness of God, we share in the same human dignity. Because we are also spiritual beings with a soul, each of us shares in God's own nature. All human beings are equal in human dignity. We are comprised of body and soul. (See sidebar.)
 - *Does this mean that every human being, including the unborn or those who are suffering, have a right to life?* (Yes.)
 - *How much would our world change if everyone's God-given dignity always and everywhere was recognized and honored?* (Answers will vary.)

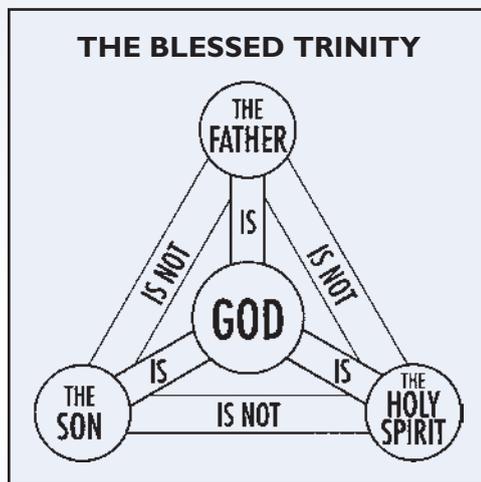
Conclusion: Human souls have two special powers: intellect and free will. Man is the highest in the material world but lowest in the spiritual world. All men are created with equal dignity.

Focus 3: The Blessed Trinity. The Blessed Trinity is the central truth of the Faith. It expresses our belief in one God in three Divine Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

- *Have you ever wondered why God created man?* (Answers will vary; see below.)
 - God, who is love, created us out of love to be in relationship with him. He wants us to know him and love him. This is why he gave us a rational soul, so that we could

Deposit of Faith

The deposit of Faith is a great treasure of truths. The content of Faith, known as our **Catholic Faith**, is different from the word “faith” (theological virtue giving us the ability to believe and to trust in God) that we discussed earlier. The Catholic Faith (spelled with a capital “F”) refers to the body of truths we believe as Catholics. The gift of faith (small “f”) is a supernatural gift we receive at Baptism that helps us to believe the truths given to us by God and to respond to God’s love.



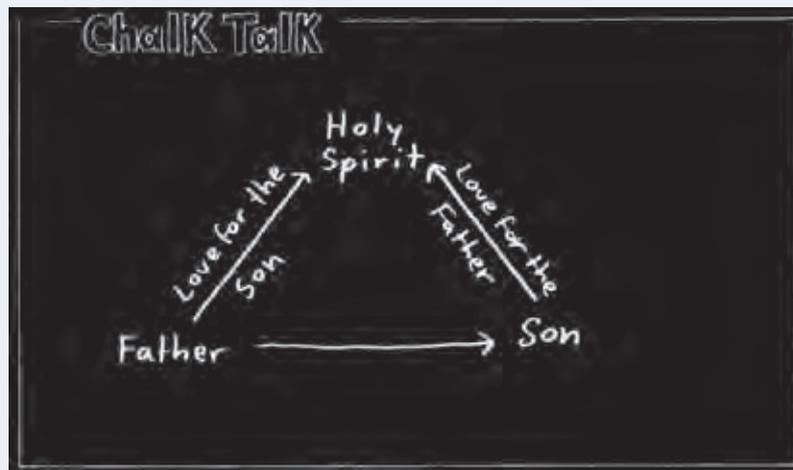
“The Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit intimate a divine unity of one and the same substance in an indivisible equality; and therefore they are not three Gods, but one God: although the Father hath begotten the Son, and so he who is the Father is not the Son; and the Son is begotten by the Father, and so he who is the Son is not the Father; and the Holy Spirit is neither the Father nor the Son, but only the Spirit of the Father and of the Son, himself also co-equal with the Father and the Son.... This is also my faith, since it is the Catholic faith.”

—Saint Augustine, *On the Trinity*

love, as he loves. We were created by God to be in relationship with him.

- *How do we know these things?* (Answers will vary, but it is through divine revelation.)
- **Divine revelation** is what God has told us about himself and his purpose for us through Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition. Revelation perfects our knowledge of God.
 - **Note:** Revelation will be covered in full in the next chapter.
- The greatest **mystery** of our Faith is the **Blessed Trinity**. We believe in one God in three Divine Persons: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This has been revealed to us through divine revelation.
 - The word “Trinity” does not exist in the Bible, although the Bible reveals that there is one God in three Persons. This is a foundational teaching of our Catholic Faith that is part of the deposit of Faith (see sidebar). Yet, this teaching is a mystery, and we need the gift of faith to believe and understand it as we are able.
 - **Give** each of the following facts about the Blessed Trinity. The Blessed Trinity diagram in the sidebar can be drawn on the board to explain.
 1. God is one. We believe in one God, a unity of Persons.
 2. God is three Divine Persons. The First Person is the Father, the Second Person is the Son (who became man in the Divine Person of Jesus Christ), and the Third Person is the Holy Spirit.
 3. The three Persons are equal and possess all of God’s attributes equally. They are one in being.
 4. All three Persons are co-eternal. (They all have no beginning and no end. They are ever present. No one Person existed before another.)
 5. All three Persons are distinct. The Father is not the Son or the Holy Spirit. The Son is not the Father or the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is not the Father or the Son.
 6. We assign different works to each Person (the Father is the Creator, the Son is the Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit is the Sanctifier), but all three Persons take part in each work.
 - One of the deepest understandings of the Blessed Trinity is that it is an eternal relationship of love. **Draw Chalk Talk** (see Chalk Talk: The Holy Spirit, the Love between the Father and the Son on the next page).
 - The Blessed Trinity is a relationship of Persons. The relationship between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit is a relationship of love.
 - God the Father never ceases to pour out his love. Jesus responds to this love through total self-giving love by being our Savior. The Holy Spirit is the fruit of the love between the Father and Son.
 - The Son, Jesus Christ, responds to the love of the Father through a perfect act of obedience, a perfect act of self-giving love.

CHALK TALK: THE HOLY SPIRIT, THE LOVE BETWEEN THE FATHER AND THE SON



FOCUS 3 OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

- Have students draw the sidebar diagram about the Blessed Trinity and explain it to one another.

- *What is Jesus' perfect act of obedience which shows us the meaning of perfect self-giving love? (His death on the Cross.)*
- Each of us is called to share in the inner life of the Blessed Trinity. We do this by responding to God's love for us.
- *How does God want us to respond to his love? (Answers will vary.)*
- We are called to respond to God's love
 - By worshipping him—to love God above all else.
 - By loving one another through acts of self-giving—to love our neighbor.

Conclusion: The Blessed Trinity is the central teaching of our Faith. The Blessed Trinity is a relationship of Persons.

Review Lesson I, Chapter I (3 minutes)

- We can know God exists through reason. Faith helps us to believe and understand the truths of our Faith. Faith and reason work together.
- Man is created in God's image. This gives us great dignity.
- The Blessed Trinity is the central truth of the Faith. It expresses our belief in one God in three Divine Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Application (10–20 minutes)

Choose one or more of the following for discussion.

- *When you look at the world that God made, what does it tell you about him? (Answers will vary.)* Students may write a poem/song about God and how creation reflects his attributes.

- *What is something that you know by faith to be true, and that your reason helps you understand? (Answers will vary.)*
- *How can you use your reason to understand your faith better? (Answers will vary.)*

Celebration (5–10 minutes)

Choose one or more of the following.

- Song: “All the World Is God’s Own Field,” *Adoremus Hymnal*, #570. Go to www.ignatius.com/promotions/adoremus-hymnal/downloadable-mp3s.htm.
- Concluding Prayer: Thank God for the wonderful gift of faith. Pray the Act of Faith, Student Text, p. 175.
- Petitions: Students will offer prayers of thanksgiving.

Take Home

- Student reading for next lesson: Student Text, Chapter 2, pp. 18–23
- Optional: Family Guide: G 7–1, pp. 134–35
- Optional: Activity Book: Chapter 1, pp. 1–4

CHAPTER 1

Knowing God Through Creation

Let the earth bless the Lord; let it sing praise to him and highly exalt him for ever.

Daniel 3:52

No person should ever be ignorant of God’s existence. By using the reasoning powers of our minds we can come to know that there is a God, who created the wonderful world in which we live. This is true even for those who do not have the **gift of faith**. The great Apostle Saint Paul reminded the Christians of Rome about this truth:

Ever since the creation of the world his [God’s] invisible nature, namely, his eternal power and deity, has been clearly perceived in the things that have been made (Rom 1:20).

Everywhere in the universe we find *order* and *design*. Order and design are sure signs that creation has a Creator. To explain order and design as the results of “chance” is really quite foolish. For example, consider an ordinary wrist watch. Do you believe that it just happened to come into existence? Is it possible that the metal out of which it is made happened to form itself into the shape of a watch? Even more astonishing, could the numbers on its face “just happen” to arrange themselves in the proper order and with just the right amount of

space so as to keep perfect time? Of course not! Then consider the many wondrous things in the universe, a billion times more complex than a watch: the solar system, an insect, the individuality of each human body. Do you think that these things just happened without anyone commanding and directing their creation?

Along with knowing that God exists, we are able to learn a little about him through the study of creation. By seeing the great power of the ocean with its waves and tides, we learn that its Maker must be great and powerful as well. The beautiful aromas and colors of spring flowers tell us that their Creator must be pleasing and beautiful too. All of God’s creatures tell us something about him; they all reflect a bit of his greatness, beauty, and power.

Learning about Ourselves through Reason

Just as we can come to know about God by the use of our reason, so we are able to learn about ourselves by examining our own selves, our desires, and our actions. One of the first

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things we notice is that we have a body much like some animals. We have legs in order to walk and eyes with which to see. This reminds us that we are a part of God’s *physical creation*.

When we consider the differences between the animals and us, however, we see that human beings are different from the animals in two important ways. Human beings are intelligent and free. With our minds we understand things, and with our free will we choose our actions in ways that animals cannot. Our power to understand and to choose shows that we have a spiritual part that animals lack. This part is man’s spiritual soul. Thus, human beings have physical bodies, like the animals, but they also have spiritual and rational souls, which animals do not have.

Our rational nature makes us like God himself. This is why the Bible says that human beings were made “in the image of God” (Gen 1:27). Like God, we can know and understand. Like God, we can freely choose. Like God, we are persons.

God created many different kinds of creatures and made them dependent on one another in many ways. He intended man to use his reason and freedom to care for the material world around him. God also gave the material creation to man for the good of the human race. The minerals, plants, and animals of our world God gave us to appreciate and use properly. That includes making sure everyone has his rightful share of what he needs to live and that everyone respects what belongs to others.

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Human Reason and the Gift of Faith

As wonderful as the human mind is, it can tell us only so much when it comes to God and the purpose of human life. We need God's help when it comes to the great mysteries of our Faith. We need God himself to reveal things to us. **Revelation** is what God has told us about himself and about his purpose for us. Another name for God's revelation is the Word of God.

Revelation is a gift from God. In order for us to accept it as true, God gives us another gift, the **gift of faith**. Faith makes it possible for us to believe what God has revealed. By faith, we freely and firmly say yes to what God has told us. When we refer to "the Faith," we mean the **Catholic Faith**, the body of truths that we believe as Catholics. We can say yes to those truths because God has revealed them, and he has given us the gift of faith to believe them.

Revelation Perfects Our Knowledge of God

As we have seen, **human reason** can tell us certain things about God—for example, that he exists. At the same time, God has revealed certain things about himself and he gives us faith to enable us to believe what he has revealed. Yet even when we believe, we do not stop using our minds. Reason can help us understand what we believe and why we believe that God has revealed it, even if reason cannot completely understand everything that God has revealed. Sometimes reason can even show us that we should believe—that it is the reasonable thing to do. For instance, when we look at the great miracles of Jesus, reason tells us that we should believe what Jesus said. Only someone sent from God could do the things Jesus did—turning water into wine, healing blind people, and rising from the dead.

We have talked about things we can know

about God from reason and things we can know about God only through revelation. But the things we can know about God by reason he has also chosen to reveal. Why? He did this to make sure that even if someone does not come to know such truths on his own, he can still come to them through revelation and faith. Thus, we can see that faith and reason go together and can help each other.

The Bible teaches us many things about God. For example, it tells us that he is everywhere. As a pure spirit, he is not limited by a physical body to any one time and place. The Psalmist asks God:

Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me (Ps 139:7–10).

The Bible also says that God knows everyone and everything. He knows all that ever was, all that is, and all that ever will be:

He searches out the abyss, and the hearts of men, and considers their crafty devices. For the Most High knows all that may be known, and he looks into the signs of the age. He declares what has been and what is to be, and he reveals the tracks of hidden things. No thought escapes him, and not one word is hidden from him (Sir 42:18–20).

Some of what the Bible tells us about God we can also know by human reason. Other things we can know only through revelation and faith.

Jesus revealed the greatest truth about God: that there are three Persons in the one God. We call this the mystery of the **Blessed**

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Trinity. Jesus revealed the inner life of the one God, something no human being could come to know unless God revealed it, and it is something we must believe by faith. In the Blessed Trinity, there is God the Father (the First Person of the Blessed Trinity), God the Son (the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, who became man as Jesus Christ), and God the Holy Spirit (the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity). Each Person is distinct and not the others, yet there is only one God. The Blessed Trinity is a great **mystery** of faith—something beyond reason but not contrary to it.

Scripture also teaches that God is love (1 Jn 4:8). As an expression of his love, God chose to create our universe from nothing, and he made man only a little less than the angels, giving us the wonderful gift of reason. Out of this same love God revealed himself to us and gave us the gift of faith so that we can know him more deeply and believe what he has told us.

Words to Know:
revelation gift of faith mystery
Catholic Faith human reason
Blessed Trinity

Q. 1 *Using reason, can man know with certainty that there is a God?*

Yes, using reason man can know with certainty that there is a God, on the basis of his works (CCC 50).

Q. 2 *Can man understand God's plan through reason alone?*

No, man cannot understand God's plan through reason alone. Man must also rely upon faith and God's revelation (CCC 50).

Q. 3 *How has man come to know God as the Blessed Trinity?*

Man has come to know God as the Blessed Trinity through the revelation of Jesus Christ, the Son of God made man (CCC 240, 243).

Q. 4 *What is the Blessed Trinity?*

The Blessed Trinity is the mystery of the one true God in three Divine Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (CCC 234).

Q. 5 *Who is the First Person of the Blessed Trinity?*

God the Father is the First Person of the Blessed Trinity (CCC 198, 238).

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Q. 6 *Who is the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity?*

God the Son is the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. The Son became man in the Divine Person of Jesus Christ (CCC 240, 423).

Q. 7 *Who is the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity?*

God the Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity (CCC 245, 685).

Q. 8 *Is each of the three Divine Persons of the Blessed Trinity God?*

Yes, each of the three Divine Persons of the Blessed Trinity is God. They have the same nature and substance (what something is), and they are one God (CCC 253–55).

Q. 9 *Is any one Person of the Blessed Trinity greater than the others?*

No, the Persons of the Blessed Trinity are each infinitely great. They are each eternal. No one Person of the Blessed Trinity is greater than the others (CCC 202, 256).

Q. 10 *What is faith?*

Faith is the gift of God whereby man assents to and believes in God and the truths he has revealed (CCC 153, 155).

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Name: _____

Knowing God through Creation

Quiz 1

Part I: Yes or No.

1. **Yes** Can we know of the existence of God through our reason?
2. **No** Can we know everything about God through our reason alone?
3. **Yes** Does God want us to know him?
4. **Yes** Does God reveal himself to us?

Part II: Short answer.

1. Give an example of something that can be known through reason.
Answers may vary.
2. Give an example of something that can be known only through revelation.
Answers may vary but should include things about God that we can know only through revelation, such as the Blessed Trinity.
3. What are some of the attributes of God found in the Bible?
God is everywhere. God is pure spirit. God knows everything.
4. Who are the three Divine Persons of the Blessed Trinity?
God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit
5. Define the gift of faith.
The gift of faith is the supernatural power that we receive from God which helps us to believe in all that he has revealed through the Bible, Jesus, and the Church.
6. Explain how human beings are the image of God.
Human beings are different from the other animals. Humans have intelligence, understanding and free will. They have a spiritual and immortal soul.

Name: _____

Knowing God through Creation

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

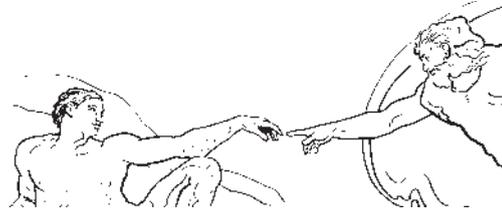
- Can we know that God exists by reason alone?
Yes.
- How can we know that God exists by looking at creation?
From order and design
We see order and design in nature. Things do not become ordered by chance. For example, a watch must be designed and the numbers must be put in order by a watchmaker in order to work properly. Creation must have been ordered and designed by someone.

From nature's perfections
Nature's perfections can tell us about God. He must be powerful like the ocean and beautiful as other things in nature.
- What can we know about God from reason alone?
Answers will vary: his existence, greatness, beauty, power, other attributes.
- From reason alone, can we know God as the triune God of Christianity?
No

Name: _____

Knowing Ourselves through Reason

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.



- How can we learn about ourselves through reason?
We can learn about ourselves through reason by examining ourselves, our desires, and our actions.
- How are we like animals?
We are like animals in that we have bodies.
- How are we greater than animals?
We are greater than animals because we are intelligent and free.
- What does our body enable us to do?
Answers will vary: walk, see, etc.
- What does our soul enable us to do?
Our soul enables us to understand and choose.

Name: _____

Our Need for Revelation

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

- What is faith?
Faith is the gift of God whereby man assents to and believes in God and the truths he has revealed.
- How can we come to know more about the mysteries of God?
We can know more about the mysteries of God by believing what he has revealed.
- How does revelation perfect our knowledge of God?
Revelation perfects our knowledge of God by revealing things about him that we cannot know by reason alone.
- How do faith and reason work together?
Faith allows reason to believe things God has revealed; reason can help us to understand what we believe and why we believe it.
- How does God reveal himself to us?
Answers will vary: Scripture, Sacred Tradition, Jesus
- What have we learned about God from revelation?
Answers will vary, but should include the Blessed Trinity.



Name: _____

Faith and Reason

Circle the best answer.

- We can know that God exists:
 - by reason alone
 - by faith alone
 - by both faith and reason
 - none of the above
- We can know about God through reason:
 - by reflecting upon the order of the universe
 - by reflecting upon the design of creation
 - by seeing the perfections in creatures
 - all of the above
- We can know about ourselves through reason:
 - that we are made of a body and a soul
 - that we are above the animals
 - that we are free and intelligent
 - all of the above
- We can have faith:
 - but it will be contrary to reason
 - in the truths revealed by God and passed on through the Catholic Church
 - because we created it in our hearts
 - because our parents make us
- What is a gift from God?
 - faith
 - revelation
 - creation
 - all of the above
- Revelation includes:
 - the Bible
 - the truths passed on through the Church
 - Jesus Christ and his teachings
 - all of the above



Lesson 2

Chapter 2—Divine Revelation

Correlated Materials

Student Text: Chapter 2, pp. 18–23
Activity Book: Chapter 2, pp. 5–8
Family Guide: G 7–2, pp. 136–37

LESSON FOCUS

God slowly revealed himself to men through the long centuries of human history, beginning with Adam and Eve, then continuing through the Jewish people. His fullest revelation of himself came through the Person of Jesus Christ and what he revealed to his Apostles. Public revelation came to an end with the death of the last Apostle, John. It consists of Sacred Scripture (the Bible) and Sacred Tradition (God’s Word handed on by Jesus to his Apostles and their successors). The Pope and the bishops are the guardians of both.

AIMS

- Students will learn that God reveals himself through Sacred Scripture.
- Students will learn that Scripture is the living Word of God.
- Students will learn the importance of Tradition and the Magisterium in coming to know the Word of God.
- Students will know the ways they can come to know and love God in Scripture and Tradition.

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. 18

“For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus which are in Judea; for you suffered the same things from your countrymen as they did from the Jews, who killed both the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out, and displease God and oppose all men” (1 Thessalonians 2:14–15).

In verse 13, Saint Paul says that the Word of God is at work in believers. Here in verses 14 and 15, he is pointing out that the Word of God is at work in them. They are undergoing suffering and persecutions because of opposition to the Word of God. God’s Word should continue to be at work in us. We too will undergo suffering and persecution for what we believe.

SACRED ART: Student Text, p. 19

South transept rose and lancets at the cathedral in Chartres, France

Chartres Cathedral is a medieval Catholic cathedral located in Chartres, France. The south transept rose symbolizes Christ Triumphant. The center lancet (a type of window) shows the Virgin Mary carrying the infant Jesus. On either side, we see the four great prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel) carrying the four evangelists (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) on their shoulders. This reminds us that the New Testament builds upon the Old Testament.

PRAYER WITH CHILDREN: Our Father, Student Text, p. 175

Review Lesson 1, Chapter 1 (3 minutes)

- We can know God exists through reason. Faith helps us to believe and understand the truths of our Faith. Faith and reason work together.
- Man is created in God’s image. This gives us great dignity.

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH REFERENCES

- History of Divine Revelation: 51–67, 68–73
- Magisterium: 86, 888–92
- Tradition and Scripture: 80–83, 96–97
- Word of God: 103–55, 135–36, 304, 688, 702
- Salvation History: 78, 80–85, 95

MATERIALS

- Bible
- Chalkboard or dry erase board
- Student notebooks and pencils; students are encouraged to take notes.

WORDS TO KNOW

Old Testament: the first section of the Holy Bible. It is made up of forty-six books which tell us about the history and religious beliefs of the Jewish people. The main theme is the coming of the Messiah.

New Testament: the second section of the Holy Bible. It is made up of twenty-seven books. It is the most important part of the Scriptures because it tells us about the life, teachings, death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Tradition: the teachings of Christ that were preached by the Apostles and handed down from century to century

Gospels: the four accounts or records we have about the life, death, and Resurrection of Jesus. They tell us what Christ did and said while he lived on earth.

Holy Bible: the collection of books which the Church teaches to be inspired by God. There are seventy-three books in the Holy Bible, which is divided into two sections: the Old Testament and the New Testament. The purpose of these writings is to teach us the

- The Blessed Trinity is the central truth of the Faith. It expresses our belief in one God in three Divine Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Proclamation (1 minute)

(Proclaim slowly, then repeat.)

The account of salvation history is found in **Scripture**, which is inspired by God and free from error. **Tradition** guides us in living Christ's teachings. The **Magisterium** is the teaching authority of the Church, which is infallible in matters of faith and morals.

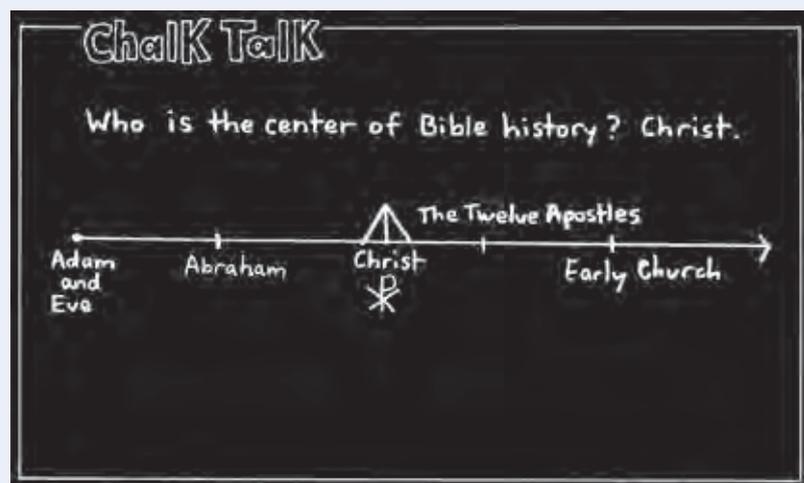
Lesson Explanation (40–50 minutes)

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

Focus 1: Salvation History. Salvation history is the account of God's saving actions since Creation. The **Old Testament** teaches how God prepared his people for their Savior, Jesus Christ, and the **New Testament** records the life and teachings of Jesus.

- **Draw** a blank timeline from the Chalk Talk on the board with an arrow to the right.
 - *Where are we going in this life?* (Write in "heaven" at the end of the timeline.)
 - *What is our ultimate goal?* (Write in "eternal life" under heaven.)
 - **OPTIONAL:** Use the Chalk Talk timeline or the timeline at the end of this manual (also found online for printing purposes). Begin with a blank timeline and fill it in as you go. Timelines should be used for this class and all classes that discuss salvation history.

CHALK TALK: SALVATION HISTORY TIMELINE



truth about God and salvation. The Bible is also called *Sacred Scripture*.

inspiration: the special help which God gave to the men who wrote the books of the Bible. Inspiration means that these men were guided by the Holy Spirit so that they wrote down *only* those truths that God wanted them to write. This is why we call the Bible the *inspired* Word of God.

Creed: “Creed” comes from the Latin word *credo*, “I believe.” It is a statement of our beliefs as Christians (such as the Apostles’ Creed or the Nicene Creed).

divine revelation: the truths that God has made known to us. It is a free gift from God to us. It began with Adam and Eve; it came to an end with the death of St. John the Evangelist; it is fully revealed in Jesus Christ.

infallibility: the pope and the bishops are guided by the Holy Spirit, who protects them from teaching any error in matters of faith and morals

Magisterium: the teaching office or authority in the Church. The Magisterium is exercised by the Pope and the bishops united with him.

FOCUS | OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

- Have the students make timelines of salvation history using events from their own lives that will help them to get to heaven (e.g., their parents’ wedding, their birth, First Communion, etc.).

- God exists outside of time. With God, there is no time. Time began with Creation.
 - Using this timeline, we can follow God’s revelation from Creation to eternal life.
 - **Add** to the Chalk Talk timeline: “Creation/Adam and Eve” at beginning and “eternal life” at end of timeline (if you have not already done so).
 - God reveals himself to us gradually. He tells us a story about who he is, his creation, who we are, and our relationship with him. We call this story salvation history. We are part of salvation history.
 - **God, who exists outside of time, entered into time; when did he do this?** (*When he became man.*)
 - **Add** to the Chalk Talk timeline: “Jesus Christ” to the center of the timeline. Tell students that everything in salvation history points to Jesus Christ.
- **How many of you read the Bible?** (*Answers will vary.*)
- **What are the two sections of the Bible?** (*The Old Testament and the New Testament.*)
 - The Old Testament tells about God’s covenant with mankind. This covenant or promise from God is fulfilled in Jesus Christ.
 - **What does God promise?** (*After the Fall of Adam and Eve, God promises to redeem mankind and to reopen the gates of heaven through Jesus Christ.*)
 - **What would life be like if we did not have a redeemer?** (*We would have no hope for heaven.*)
 - The New Testament tells how Jesus fulfills the Old Covenant promises with a New Covenant, Jesus Christ.
 - **How did Jesus fulfill the promises of the Old Covenant?** (*Through his death and Resurrection.*)
- God has revealed himself to us in the Bible. **Through whom in Scripture does God reveal himself?** (*Jesus Christ.*)

Conclusion: The Old Testament teaches how God prepared his people for their Savior, Jesus Christ. The New Testament records the life and teachings of Jesus and shows us how he fulfilled Old Covenant promises. Salvation history is the summary of God’s saving actions since Creation.

Focus 2: Revelation. God has revealed himself out of love for man and protects this revelation through the Magisterium. Revelation is handed on in Scripture and Tradition.

- We have already learned that we can know of God through reason and faith.
- There are other things about God that God himself has revealed to us. We call this divine revelation.
 - **Divine revelation** is what God has told us or revealed to us about himself or his purpose for us. God most fully reveals himself through Jesus Christ.

FOCUS 2 OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

- *Pretend you are talking to a nonbeliever; what proofs of God's existence can you share? (Answers will vary but may include Saint Thomas Aquinas' proofs discussed in Lesson 1.)*

- "Revelation" means to "reveal" or to "remove the veil." It is God's way of communicating himself and his truths to us.
- There are two modes of transmission of divine revelation. **Write** bold words on board.
 - **Sacred Scripture:** God reveals himself through his written Word. The written Word of God is the Bible.
 - **Sacred Tradition:** This is God's Word handed down orally. The Word of God, taught in fullness by the Apostles and by the doctrine, life, and worship of the Church, is called Sacred Tradition.
- *Do you think that Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition contain all of God's revelation throughout history? (Yes.)*
 - *To whom has God entrusted divine revelation? (The Church.)*
 - *All that God has revealed to us about himself and his plan for mankind can be seen as a treasure. How important do you think it is that these truths are protected? (Very important.)*
- *What do you think would happen if the truths of our Faith could be changed or adapted to certain cultures or times? (The truth would be lost.)*
 - *What do we call the teaching authority of the Church that protects and teaches us about the truth of Jesus Christ? (The Magisterium.)*
 - The Magisterium consists of the Pope and the bishops in union with him. The role of the Magisterium is to pass on the fullness of truth and to safeguard it from error. The Church is guided by the Holy Spirit.

Conclusion: Revelation is handed on through Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition. Revelation is safeguarded by the Magisterium.

Focus 3: Holy Bible. Sacred Scripture is the inspired Word of God. The Old Testament books consist of the historical books, wisdom books, and prophetic books. The New Testament includes the Gospels, Acts of the Apostles, letters of Saint Paul, letters to all Christians, and the Book of Revelation.

- **Have students** open their Bibles and leaf through the pages.
 - *Why should we treat our Bibles with great reverence? (It is the living Word of God.)*
- **Have the students** find the **Gospels**. *What are the Gospels? (The Gospels are the four accounts of Christ's life and message of salvation.)*
 - *Who wrote the four Gospels? (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.)*
- There are seventy-three books in the **Holy Bible**.
 - The Old Testament is made up of the historical books, the wisdom books, and the prophetic books.

Deuterocanonical Books of the Bible

The Septuagint is the most ancient translation of the Old Testament. It is a Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures and it includes the deuterocanonical books. Jesus quoted from the Septuagint. There was a division among Jewish scholars between the Septuagint and the Palestinian translation which does not include the deuterocanonical books. Since the Reformation in 1600s, Protestant churches have followed the Palestinian tradition. The Catholic Church has determined that the deuterocanonical books have the same authority as the rest of the Bible. In A.D. 382, Saint Jerome translated the Bible into Latin from the Greek and Hebrew. This translation also included the deuterocanonical books.

Saint Jerome

Saint Jerome is one of the greatest Fathers of the Church. He spent his first years as a Christian living in eastern deserts as a hermit. He was a master of Latin, Greek, and Hebrew. Around A.D. 380, he traveled to Rome and began to work for the Pope. His work was to translate the Bible from Greek and Hebrew into Latin, which was the common language of that time. His translation, known as the Vulgate, is still the standard Latin version of the Bible. He also used his knowledge of Scripture to argue for the perpetual virginity of Mary and other Catholic doctrines that were being denied by heretics at that time.

FOCUS 3 OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

- Activity Book, pp. 5–6

- *Can you name a favorite book of the Old Testament? Why is it one of your favorites? (Answers will vary.)*
- The New Testament is made up of the Gospels, the Acts of the Apostles, Saint Paul's letters, letters to all Christians, and the Book of Revelation.
- *Do you have a favorite verse from the New Testament? Why? (Answers will vary.)*
- The Catholic Church defined which books would comprise Sacred Scripture by the early 400s.
 - The Catholic Bible contains the deuterocanonical (meaning "second canon") books: Tobit, Judith, 1 and 2 Maccabees, Wisdom, Sirach, and Baruch. Protestant Bibles (published after the 1500s) do not have these books.
- **If time allows, have the students** find these books in the Bible. (See sidebar for more information about the deuterocanonical books. See also sidebar on Saint Jerome.)
- **Why is the Bible the most important book you will ever read?** (Answers will vary. Include the following in discussion:
 - *The Bible is the living Word of God that reveals who God is and his purpose for us.*
 - *Through Scripture we come to know and love God and ourselves.*
 - *The Bible tells the story of God's love and mercy for his people.*
 - *The Bible is a guide for us to know how to love and how to attain eternal life.*

Conclusion: Sacred Scripture is the inspired Word of God, recorded in seventy-three books. The Old Testament books consist of the historical books, wisdom books, and prophetic books. The New Testament books include the Gospels, Acts of the Apostles, letters to Saint Paul, letters to all Christians, and the Book of Revelation.

Scripture Interpretation

Scripture can be interpreted literally and spiritually. The literal sense requires one to understand a passage as it is written, taking into account its historical setting. We read textbooks and instruction manuals in the literal sense. The spiritual sense requires us to seek the deeper significance of the text. There are three spiritual senses: allegorical—the passage as it relates to Jesus; moral—the passage as it relates to each of us; and anagogical—the passage as it relates to the eternal. For example, Jesus said he could rebuild the temple in three days. The literal sense of the temple is the building in Jerusalem where the Jews worshipped God. It was destroyed in A.D. 70. The allegorical sense tells us that Christ is the Temple destroyed and rebuilt in the three days before the Resurrection. The moral sense reminds us that we are temples of the Holy Spirit. The anagogical sense reminds us that heaven is the Eternal Temple where Jesus reigns. (See CCC 115–19.)

Focus 4: Inspiration. Scripture is inspired by God and is inerrant (free from error).

- **What do we mean when we say the Bible is the Word of God? (God is the author of the Bible.)**
 - **Did God type his Word and send it through email to the Apostles so they could circulate it? (No.)**
 - **So, how could it be that God is the author of the Bible? (Answers may vary.)**
 - God **inspired** men to write his Word—and only his Word. They did not add or subtract from his Word. They were free to use their own style: letters, poetry, historical documents, recorded conversations.
 - **How does it help you to know that everything in the Bible is inspired by God? (We can trust that the Bible is truth and that men did not just make it up.)**
- The Bible also has various perspectives of the same events, such as those found in the Gospels. For example (if time permits, you may want to read these from the Bible):
 - In the Gospels of Mathew, Mark, and Luke, and in First Corinthians (Matthew 26:17–29; Mark 14:12–25; Luke 22:7–23; 1 Corinthians 11:23–26), the Last Supper account includes Jesus’ Consecration of the bread and wine; these accounts include the words used at the Mass today: “Take, eat; this is my body” (Matthew 26:26), and “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many” (Mark 14:24).
 - In the Gospel of John (John 13:1–20), he describes the washing of the feet that took place at the Last Supper.
 - **Because these accounts of the Last Supper are different, does this mean that Jesus did not consecrate the bread and wine to become his Body and Blood? (No.)**
 - John’s Gospel was actually written after the other accounts. **Why do you think he may have included the washing of the feet instead? (John knew that these accounts were already in writing; he wanted to include another important teaching.)**
 - **What does the washing of the feet teach us about? (Humility and service.)**
- The important thing for us to understand is that many times different authors would give different perspectives. This does not mean that one is in error. There can be two different perspectives on what took place, but nothing in the Bible contradicts something else.
 - **Can you think of another event in the Bible that has two perspectives? (Answers will vary. Give the example of the two different accounts of the Creation story [see Genesis 1:1—2:24]. Through these two perspectives we learn different things about Creation; however, these perspectives do not contradict one another.)**

FOCUS 4 OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Activity Book, p. 7
- Journal: *What would you ask Jesus if he were in the room?* (Answers will vary.) Have students write the answer in a journal or sheet of paper. Discuss the students' answers.

- The New Testament was written by the Apostles and disciples who were part of the Church and who wrote it for the people in the Church.
 - *If this is so, who do you think should interpret the Bible?* (The Church.)
 - *Should anyone just interpret the Bible on his own?* (No. The Church has Bible scholars through the ages who have closely interpreted the meaning of Sacred Scripture, which gives us the truth of Jesus Christ. This meaning never changes. Truth cannot contradict itself.)
- Through God's revelation, we have all we need to know for our salvation. We can be assured that it is without error since the Bible is truly the Word of God. We can find the answers to life's questions in the Bible. (See sidebar on Scripture interpretation.)
 - *Does this make you want to read the Bible?* (Answers will vary.)

Conclusion: Sacred Scripture is without error. Scripture is the inspired Word of God. Scriptures are written for and interpreted by the Church.

Focus 5: Magisterium. The Magisterium is the teaching authority of the Church, which is infallible in matters of faith and morals.

- Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition are the two modes of transmission of God's revelation.
 - *Would you agree that the teachings of Christ (oral and written) are a treasure?* (Yes.)
 - *Why?* (Answers will vary.)
 - Jesus is God. He reveals who God is and what God's plan for us is. Without knowing God and his plan for us, we would be floundering, never knowing of God's love for us and never knowing what truth is.
 - The truth of Jesus Christ is a treasure that should be guarded.
- *Since Jesus entrusted the truth to the Church that he founded, who can you count on to teach us about the truth of Jesus Christ?* (The Church.)
 - *Can anyone who is a member of the Church interpret Scripture on his own or interpret the teachings of the Church to fit his own needs?* (No.)
 - Look at the culture around us. We see all kinds of opinions that people profess as truth.
 - *Can you count on the culture to teach you about the truth of Jesus Christ?* (No.)
- The Church has a teaching authority that preserves the teachings of Christ.
 - *What is the teaching authority of the Church called?* (The Magisterium.)

Infallibility

“Infallibility” comes from the Latin word *infallere*, which means “cannot err.” Infallibility is a special gift belonging to the Pope and the bishops. It enables them to teach without errors in matters of faith and morals. It is a protective power given by the Holy Spirit. This means that the Pope cannot make up new doctrines. It means that as he teaches and further defines the truths that God has revealed, the teaching will be protected from error. It does not mean that the Pope is sinless. Rather, it means that his teachings are protected from error, but only in matters of faith (what we need to know for salvation) and morals (how we need to live in order to attain salvation).

Ordinary: bishops in union with the Pope on matters of faith and morals, taught universally.

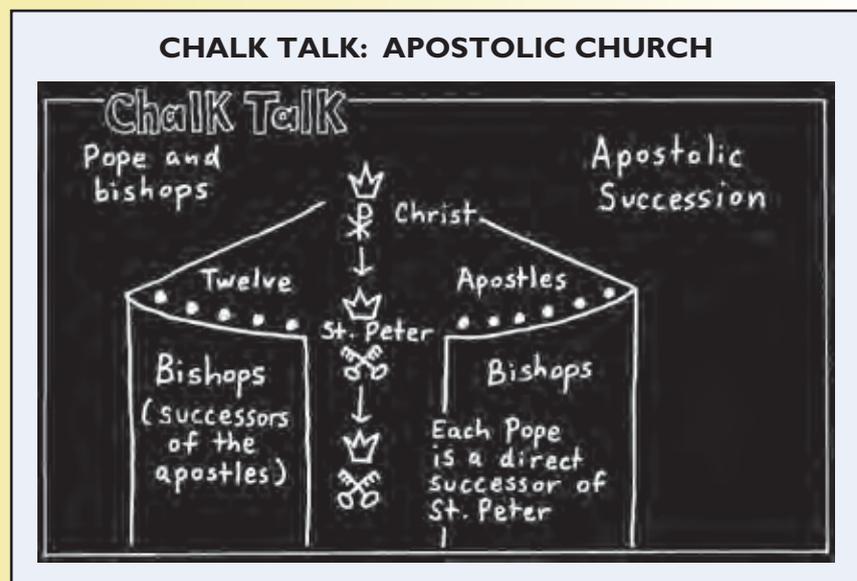
Extraordinary: an ecumenical council, which requires a universal invitation to the bishops, sufficient representation of the bishops, authorization by the Pope, and definitive teaching on matters of faith and morals that are binding for all Catholics.

The Pope by himself is infallible when definitively teaching *ex cathedra* (literally “from the chair”—meaning with the full authority of his office) on matters of faith and morals.

“Rome has spoken; the matter is settled.”

—Saint Augustine

- Magisterium comes from the Latin word “magister,” which means “teacher.” The **Magisterium** is the teaching office of the Church. The Church teaches the truths necessary for salvation: faith and morals. The Church guides us to heaven.
- **Why do you think that the Magisterium is so important?** (Answers may vary. Lead students to understand the following.)
 - Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition are treasures to us because through them we come to know Jesus Christ. These treasures must be protected so that the truth is never distorted.
- **Draw** the Apostolic Church Chalk Talk to help students answer the following questions:
 - **Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. To whom did he entrust his truth?** (Saint Peter and the Apostles; the Church.)
 - Follow the arrow from Jesus Christ to Saint Peter and to his successors. **What do we call the line of succession from Jesus to the Apostles to their successors?** (Apostolic succession.)
 - **Who is the Pope today? Who is your local bishop?** (Answers will vary.)
 - **Of whom is the Pope a successor?** (He is the successor of Saint Peter.)
 - **Of whom is your bishop a successor?** (He is the successor of the Apostles.)
- The truth of Jesus Christ is handed down through the ages. Because this truth is protected by the Holy Spirit, we say that the Pope is **infallible** in matters of faith and morals, meaning that he is guided and protected by the Holy Spirit from error in these matters.
 - **Since the truth cannot change and it is protected by the Holy Spirit, do you think that there is any time that the**



FOCUS 5 OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Activity Book, p. 8
- Have a priest or deacon come in and talk about their vocation.
- **Discuss** infallibility using the sidebar.

teachings of the Church pertaining to faith and morals can change? (No. Point out to students that the truth of Jesus Christ does not and cannot change depending on the time, culture, or circumstances.)

Conclusion: The Magisterium is the teaching authority of the Church. It includes the Pope and the bishops in union with him. The Magisterium is infallible in teaching matters of faith and morals. The Pope is the successor of Peter. The bishops are the successors of the Apostles. The Pope has the gift of infallibility, free from any error in teaching us about what we believe (faith) and how we must live (morals).

Review Lesson 2, Chapter 2 (3 minutes)

- Salvation history is the account of God’s saving actions since Creation.
- Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition are the two modes of transmission of revelation through which we come to know and love the living God.
- Scripture is inspired by God and is inerrant (free from error).
- The Magisterium is the teaching authority of the Church, which is infallible in matters of faith and morals.

Application (10–20 minutes)

Choose one or more of the following for discussion.

- Review that the most important books of the Bible are the Gospels because they recount the life and teaching of Christ. Have students look up their favorite Scripture passage from the Gospels.
- Have the students research two times that the Pope has taught *ex cathedra*: when he defined the doctrines of the Immaculate Conception and the bodily Assumption of Mary into heaven.
- *What have you learned from the Bible that helps you understand the world better? (Answers will vary.)*
- *What have you learned from the Bible that has helped you love God, yourself, and others better? (Answers will vary.)*

Celebration (5–10 minutes)

Choose one or more of the following.

- Song: “Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken,” *Adoremus Hymnal*, #563. Go to www.ignatius.com/promotions/adoremus-hymnal/downloadable-mp3s.htm.
- Concluding Prayer: Thank God for revealing himself to us in Scripture. Pray the Act of Love, Student Text, p. 176.
- Petitions: Students will offer prayers of blessings and adoration.

Take Home

- Student reading for next lesson: Student Text, Chapter 3, pp. 24–30.
- Optional: Family Guide: G 7–2, pp. 136–37
- Optional: Activity Book: Chapter 2, pp. 5–8

CHAPTER 2

Divine Revelation

For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God in Christ Jesus which are in Judea; for you suffered the same things from your own countrymen as they did from the Jews, who killed both the Lord Jesus and the prophets, and drove us out, and displease God and oppose all men.

1 Thessalonians 2:14–15

In the first chapter we learned that by using our reasoning powers we are able to know that God exists. We also saw that human reason alone cannot discover all that there is to know about our Creator. Out of his great love, God has revealed himself to us first through the Jewish people of the Old Testament, and later in the life of Jesus, which is handed on to us in the teachings of the Church. We call the truths that God has made known to us **divine revelation**.

History of Divine Revelation

God did not simply reveal himself to one person at one point of time; he made himself known bit by bit. The first people to know him were Adam and Eve. Later God formed a chosen people, called the Israelites, who later became the Jews, to be the special keepers of his revelation.

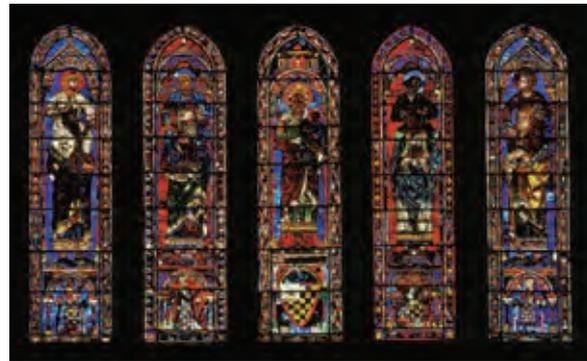
He began forming this community by choosing a man named Abraham, who lived almost four thousand years ago in the land of Mesopotamia. God made him the father, or founder, of the chosen people. These people

eventually wrote down the revelation they had received from God. They collected these writings into a book that we call the **Old Testament**.

Almost two thousand years after Abraham the time came for God to give us his greatest revelation, the gift of his only Son, Jesus Christ. Our Lord taught the people all about God and corrected some wrong ideas they had about him. In order to make sure that his teachings would be correctly understood and passed on to others, he founded the Church. Jesus made his twelve Apostles the official teachers in the Church and placed his revelation (gospel) in their safekeeping. After the Resurrection, the Apostles taught the gospel to others both by preaching and by writing (the New Testament). Some Christians today do not believe that Tradition and Scripture are both necessary for true believers to learn the whole truth about God. But the Second Vatican Council reminded us that:

Tradition and the Bible . . . join together and aim at the same goal. The Bible is the message of God put in writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Tradition

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delivers the word of God which was entrusted by Christ and the Holy Spirit to the apostles and their successors. . . . So both Tradition and the Bible are to be accepted in the same way (*Dei verbum*, no. 9).

Sacred Scripture (the Bible) and Sacred Tradition (the Word of God given by Jesus to the Apostles and through them to their successors) contain the truth revealed to us by God. It is very important to remember that divine revelation reached its greatest point with the life, death, and Resurrection of Christ. The Lord's teaching, faithfully preached by the Apostles, is summed up in a profession of faith that we call the Apostles' Creed. Saint Augustine taught that the **Creed** is the summary of our Faith and the key to correctly interpreting Sacred Scripture. This Creed is a statement of our basic beliefs as Catholic Christians; in it are found the main mysteries of our Faith. A *mystery* is a

truth that is above our power to understand fully, but which we believe because God has said that it is so.

When the last surviving Apostle died (Saint John, ca. 100) God's public revelation of himself to the world *came to an end*. All that God wanted man to know for salvation had been made known by Jesus and his twelve Apostles. As Vatican II stated, "There is to be no further public revelation until Christ comes again" (*Dei verbum*, no. 4).

The Holy Bible

The **Holy Bible**, also called Sacred Scripture, is the *inspired* Word of God; it is one of his greatest gifts to us. We usually think of the Bible as one book, but it is really a collection of seventy-three books, written by various men in different centuries. It is divided into two sections: the Old Testament and the New Testament.

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The Old Testament

The first section of the Bible, the Old Testament, was put together by the Jewish people. It consists of the first forty-six books of the Bible, which are chiefly concerned with preparing the world for the Messiah. There are three basic categories of Old Testament writings:

THE HISTORICAL BOOKS: These books contain the religious and historical traditions of the Jews. They include the *Pentateuch* (the first five books of the Bible, called the "Torah" or Law of Moses by the Jews).

THE WISDOM BOOKS: These books are a collection of prayers, wise sayings, and advice, often written in poetic forms.

THE PROPHETIC BOOKS: These books contain the words and messages of God's chosen spokesmen, the prophets. This category also includes the books of Lamentations and Baruch.

The New Testament

The second section of the Bible, the **New Testament**, is the most important part of the Scriptures because it contains the life and teachings of Jesus. It too has different kinds of writings:

THE GOSPELS: The **Gospels** are the four accounts of Christ's life and message of salvation, written by the Apostles Matthew and John, and the disciples Mark and Luke. They faithfully hand on to us what Jesus said and did when he lived on earth.

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES: This is a brief history of the early Church, primarily covering the ministry of Saint Peter and the missionary work of Saint Paul.

THE LETTERS OF SAINT PAUL: These are the teachings of Christ applied to particular needs of

the early Church and to the daily life of the Christians.

THE LETTERS TO ALL CHRISTIANS: These were written by various Apostles as catholic, or universal, teachings to all the believers.

THE BOOK OF REVELATION: Also called the Apocalypse, this book was written by the Apostle John shortly before his death. It was meant to be a source of encouragement to the persecuted Church, reminding the believers that Jesus is victorious over all his enemies.

The Old and New Testaments are united in God's plan of revelation. The Old Testament prepares us for the New, and the New is understood in light of the Old. "The New Testament lies hidden in the Old and the Old Testament is unveiled in the New" (CCC 129).

Authorship and Inspiration of the Bible

We call the Scriptures the *Word of God* because their primary author is God the Holy Spirit. He chose certain men to be the *human* authors; they put down, in their own language and style, only what the Spirit *inspired* them to write. **Inspiration** means that God moved these men to write about him and he guided their minds as to what to put down.

Because God is the primary author of these books, they are free from all error in teaching us about God and what is necessary for our salvation. This freedom from error is called "inerrancy." It is important to remember that the Bible is meant to teach us religious truths, not necessarily the laws of science. For example, the ancient writers thought that the earth was at the center of the universe and that the sun and stars revolved around the earth. This mistaken view of science, however, has no effect on the truths

which they wrote down about God and our relationship to him and to each other.

The Protector and Teacher Of Divine Revelation

Since God has given us his revelation through various people and in various forms, it makes sense that he would appoint someone to be the one true protector and teacher of these truths. After all, we are not dealing here with ordinary facts of life, but with the supernatural truths by which people are saved!

We saw earlier in this chapter that Jesus established his Church for this very purpose. He placed the Church in the hands of the Apostles and their successors, saying:

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, to the close of the age (Mt 28:18–20).

The successors of the Apostles today are the Pope (who takes Saint Peter's place of authority) and the Catholic bishops of the world. Their teaching authority is called the **Magisterium** or official teaching office of the Church. It belongs to them alone (or to the Pope himself) to judge what is true Christian teaching. The Magisterium guides the members of the Church of our Lord in what must be believed and done by his faithful followers. Like the Twelve, the Pope and the bishops in union with him are guided by the Holy Spirit, who protects them from teaching any error in matters of faith and morals. This special gift is called **infallibility**. With Jesus' authority and power, the Pope and the bishops in union with him proclaim his Good News of salvation. They show us how to live good Christian lives as we journey to heaven, our eternal home.

Words to Know:

New Testament Old Testament
Tradition Gospels Holy Bible
inspiration Creed divine revelation
infallibility Magisterium

Q. 11 What is revelation?

Revelation is God's communication to man in words and deeds, and most fully in the Person of Jesus Christ. Revelation is found in Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition (CCC 53, 65).

Q. 12 What is Sacred Scripture?

Sacred Scripture, also called the Bible, is the Word of God written by human authors under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (CCC 81).

Q. 13 What is Sacred Tradition?

Sacred Tradition is the entire Word of God entrusted by Jesus Christ to the Apostles, who in turn passed it on to their successors (CCC 81).

Q. 14 Who safeguards and interprets revelation?

The Magisterium, or the teaching Church, safeguards and interprets revelation. The Pope and the bishops in union with him make up the Magisterium (CCC 85, 95).

Q. 15 When did God's public revelation of himself end?

God's public revelation of himself ended with the New Covenant offered in Jesus Christ. There will be no further public revelation before the Second Coming of our Lord (CCC 66).

Q. 16 How is God the author of Sacred Scripture?

God, as the author of Sacred Scripture, inspired the writers by the work of the Holy Spirit to write all that he wanted written and no more (CCC 105–06).

Q. 17 What is the Old Testament?

The Old Testament is the collection of sacred books intended to prepare God's people for the coming of Jesus Christ (CCC 122).

Q. 18 What is the New Testament?

The New Testament is the collection of sacred books that records the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, the Church's beginnings, and the teachings of the Apostles (CCC 124, 126, 129).

Q. 19 Is Sacred Scripture free from error?

Yes, Sacred Scripture is free from error in teaching us about God and what is necessary for our salvation (CCC 107).

Q. 20 What is infallibility?

Infallibility, a gift of the Holy Spirit, protects the Church from teaching errors in matters of faith and morals (CCC 890–91).

Q. 21 What is the Apostles' Creed?

The Apostles' Creed is the summary and profession of faith in the chief mysteries and other truths revealed by God through Jesus Christ and handed down by the Apostles (CCC 187, 194).

Q. 22 What is a mystery?

A mystery is a truth beyond our reason, which is revealed by God (CCC 237).

Q. 23 What are the chief mysteries of faith that we profess in the Apostles' Creed?

The chief mysteries of faith that we profess in the Apostles' Creed are the Blessed Trinity and the Incarnation, Passion, death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ (CCC 189–90).

Name: _____

Divine Revelation

Quiz 2

Part I: Yes or No.

1. **Yes** Does God reveal himself to us through the Bible?
2. **No** Is the Bible the only way we know about God?
3. **Yes** Do we also need Tradition to know about God?
4. **No** Did men alone write the Bible?
5. **Yes** Is the Bible free from error regarding religious truth?
6. **Yes** Is the Church the one true teacher and protector of religious truth?

Part II: Answer in complete sentences.

1. What is the first section of the Bible, and what does it contain?
The first section of the Bible is the Old Testament. It contains forty-six books, put together by the Jewish people, that prepare for the Messiah. It includes historical, wisdom, and prophetic books.
2. What is the second section of the Bible, and what does it contain?
The New Testament is the second part of the Bible. It contains the life and teachings of Jesus, The Gospels, the Acts of the Apostles, the letters of Saint Paul, the letters to all Christians, and the book of Revelation.
3. How are the New Testament and the Old Testament related?
The Old and New Testaments both contain God's revelation. The Old Testament prepares us for the New Testament, and the New Testament makes it possible for us to understand the Old.
4. Who was the primary author of the Bible?
The primary author of the Bible was the Holy Spirit.

Name: _____

History and Divine Revelation

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. How did God reveal himself?
God revealed himself through the Jews of the Old Testament, and later in the life of Jesus, which is handed on to us in the teachings of the Church.
2. Who were the first keepers of revelation?
The first keepers of revelation were the Jewish people.
3. How was God's revelation to the Jews recorded?
God's revelation to the Jews was recorded in what we now call the Old Testament.
4. What is God's greatest revelation?
God's greatest revelation is his only Son, Jesus Christ.
5. What did Jesus do? How did he preserve and fulfill revelation?
Jesus taught the people about God and founded the Church.
6. Who is the "safe-keeper" of revelation today?
The Church is the safe-keeper of revelation today.
7. Of what does revelation consist?
Revelation consists of the truths that God has made known to us through Scripture and Tradition.



Name: _____

The Books of the Bible

Write out the names of the books of the Old Testament. Color the historical books in yellow, the Pentateuch in orange, the wisdom books in green, and the prophetic books in blue.

1. Genesis	17. Tobit	33. Hosea
2. Exodus	18. Judith	34. Joel
3. Leviticus	19. Esther	35. Amos
4. Numbers	20. Job	36. Obadiah
5. Deuteronomy	21. Psalms	37. Jonah
6. Joshua	22. Proverbs	38. Micah
7. Judges	23. Ecclesiastes	39. Nahum
8. Ruth	24. Song of Solomon	40. Habakkuk
9. 1 Samuel	25. Wisdom of Solomon	41. Zephaniah
10. 2 Samuel	26. Sirach	42. Haggai
11. 1 Kings	27. Isaiah	43. Zechariah
12. 2 Kings	28. Jeremiah	44. Malachi
13. 1 Chronicles	29. Lamentations	45. 1 Maccabees
14. 2 Chronicles	30. Baruch	46. 2 Maccabees
15. Ezra	31. Ezekiel	
16. Nehemiah	32. Daniel	

Write out the names of the books of the New Testament. Color the Gospels in purple, the Acts of the Apostles in red, the letters of Saint Paul in gold, the Christian letters in orange, and Revelation in brown.

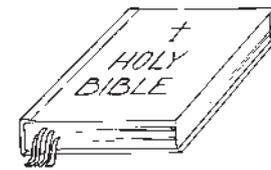
1. Matthew	10. Ephesians	19. Hebrews
2. Mark	11. Philippians	20. James
3. Luke	12. Colossians	21. 1 Peter
4. John	13. 1 Thessalonians	22. 2 Peter
5. Acts	14. 2 Thessalonians	23. 1 John
6. Romans	15. 1 Timothy	24. 2 John
7. 1 Corinthians	16. 2 Timothy	25. 3 John
8. 2 Corinthians	17. Titus	26. Jude
9. Galatians	18. Philemon	27. Revelation

Name: _____

The Bible

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. Who inspired the Bible?
The Bible was inspired by God.
2. Who wrote it on paper?
Men wrote it.
3. How does God's inspiration work? Did it take away the free will of the writers?
God moved the writers to write about him and guided their minds as to what to put down.
4. What aspects of the writing were not inspired?
The language and style of writing were not inspired by God.
5. How do we know that there are not any errors in the Bible with regard to the teaching needed for salvation?
We know this because the Bible was inspired by God.
6. Are faith and science contrary to one another?
No



Name: _____

The Magisterium

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.



1. Who is the protector and teacher of God's revelation?
The Church is the protector and teacher of God's revelation.
2. Who are the successors of Peter and the Apostles?
The Pope and the bishops in union with him are the successors of Peter and the Apostles.
3. What is their teaching authority called?
Their teaching authority is called the Magisterium.
4. Whom do they teach?
They teach Christ's faithful followers.
5. Who guides the teaching office in the Church?
The Holy Spirit guides the teaching office in the Church.
6. What special gift does the teaching office possess?
The teaching office possesses infallibility.
7. What teachings are protected from error?
Matters of faith and morals are protected from error.

8

Faith and Life Series • Grade 7 • Chapter 2 • Lesson 4

Lesson 3

Chapter 3—Creation

Correlated Materials

Student Text: Chapter 3, pp. 24–30
Activity Book: Chapter 3, pp. 9–12
Family Guide: G 7–3, pp. 138–39

LESSON FOCUS

God is the Creator of heaven and earth. He made all things in existence out of nothing. The high point of creation was the human person, who uniquely images God through the powers of the intellect and will. Although the first man and woman enjoyed perfect friendship with God and one another, they used their gift of free will to reject God's good plan and disobeyed him. For that sin—called Original Sin—they lost many of God's gifts, and all their descendants inherited the wounds of their sin.

AIMS

- Students will learn that God created them out of love and never abandons them, but saves them from sin.
- Students will learn that God created them to be one with him in heaven for all eternity.
- Students will learn that God has a plan to provide for the salvation of all mankind.

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

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth”
(Genesis 1:1).

There is one God and he created everything that exists out of nothing; he created the physical and the spiritual worlds. He created the world in an orderly way and as a way of sharing his love with man. Everything created by God is good. We are God's creatures who should be mindful of God's love and his creation.

SACRED ART: Student Text, p. 24

Creation of the Birds, Byzantine mosaic

On the fifth day God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the firmament of the heavens.” So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarm, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth” (Genesis 1:20–22).

In this Byzantine mosaic, we see the creation of the birds.

PRAYER WITH CHILDREN: Our Father, Student Text, p. 175

Review Lesson 2, Chapter 2 (3 minutes)

- Salvation history is the account of God's saving actions since Creation.
- Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition are the two modes of transmission of revelation through which we come to know and love the living God.
- Scripture is inspired by God and is inerrant (free from error).
- The Magisterium is the teaching authority of the Church, which is infallible in matters of faith and morals.

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH REFERENCES

- Angels: 311, 327–36, 350–52, 391–93
- Fall of Man: 55–58, 385–90, 399–409, 413, 418–19, 705
- Goodness and Order of Creation: 337–44, 353–54
- Man Created in the Image of God: 355–61, 380–81
- Original Sin: 388–90, 396–401, 415
- Promise of a Redeemer: 410–12, 420–21, 1609, 1870

MATERIALS

- Bible
- Chalkboard or dry erase board
- Student notebooks and pencils; students are encouraged to take notes.
- Optional: Go to the resource tab on www.faithandliferies.com, Grade 7, Chapter 3, video and PowerPoint.

WORDS TO KNOW

create: to create means to make something from nothing. When God created the universe, he made it from nothing. God is all powerful and the source of all that is.

body: the physical part of man that is given life by the soul. The body is created by God, and is a good and holy thing.

soul: the invisible or spiritual part of man. The soul is immortal and gives life to the human body. The soul will live on after death and will be reunited with the body at the resurrection of the dead.

immortal: to be free from death. The soul of every human being is free from death.

sanctifying grace: the life of God in our souls by which we are made the adopted children of the Father. We receive sanctifying grace at Baptism, and it is increased as we receive the other Sacraments.

Proclamation (1 minute)

(Proclaim slowly, then repeat.)

God creates out of love, and everything that he creates is good. God created and tested man. Man fell, but God promised to send a Savior.

Lesson Explanation (40–50 minutes)

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

Focus 1: Creation. God creates out of love, and everything that he creates is good.

- Go to the Resources tab at www.faithandliferies.com, then click on the Quick Links: Diocese of Lincoln Parish Resources for F&L, then Grade 7, Chapter 3: Creation. Show the video on Creation. If you do not have online access in the classroom, have students recall the wonders of creation (the heavens and the earth, mountains, seas, rivers, creeks, fields, forests, prairies, animals, and man, and so forth).
- In his infinite goodness and love, God shares with us his beauty, his power, and his glory in the wonderful world that he created.
 - *Why did God create the world? (Answers will vary. God created the world and us out of love. He wants each of us to be with him in heaven forever. He has a plan of love to help us to heaven.)*
 - *Was God lonely? (No.)*
 - *Did God need us? (No.)*
 - *Did God have to create the world the way it is? (No.)*
- God is all powerful, all good, all loving, all merciful, all present, matchless, and divine.
 - *How are these qualities reflected in the created world around us? (Through the trees, sky, oceans, mountains, human life, birds, and all of creation.)*
- God created out of nothing.
 - Creating is different than making. We make things from other things. We make a cake from ingredients; we make a chair out of wood; we make art out of supplies like paint and paper.
 - To *create* means “to make something from nothing.” Only God can create.

good angels: those angels who loved God and were ever ready to do his will. The good angels are led by Saint Michael the Archangel. They help us to know, love, and serve God so that we can go to live with him forever in heaven. Everyone has a guardian angel who is specially assigned to him during life.

fallen angels: those angels who refused to serve God and do his will. They were created good by the Lord but became evil by their own choice. Led by Lucifer (Satan), they tempt us to sin and try to lead us away from God.

heaven: the place and condition of perfect happiness with God forever. Heaven is for those who have died in God's love—that is, in the state of grace.

hell: the place and condition of never-ending separation from God. Hell is for those who have died in the state of serious sin.

Original Sin: the very first sin to be committed by man. It was committed by Adam and Eve. Because of this, mankind was separated from God. Jesus came to restore mankind to friendship with God.

Redeemer: A title given to Jesus because he redeemed (freed from slavery by buying freedom) us from sin.

FOCUS | OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

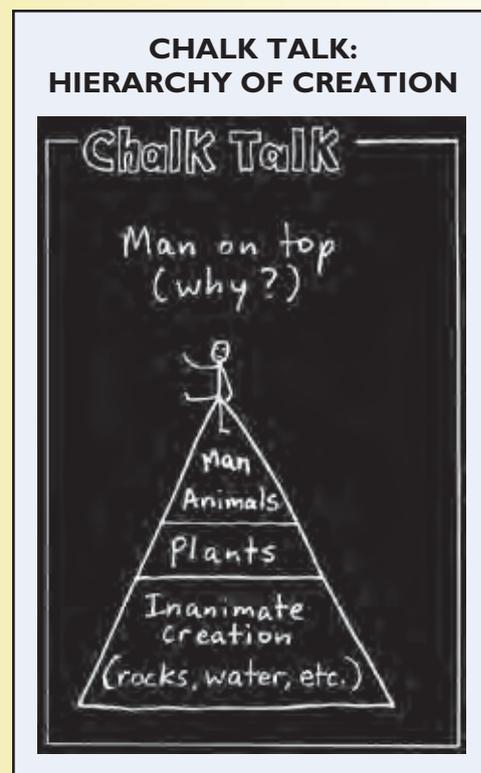
- Have the students make a list of things that animals can do. (*Answers will vary. Animals cannot reason as we do, make choices between good and evil, and love as God loves.*)
- Activity Book, p. 9

- The story of Creation conveys three important truths:
 1. God is the only God, who is the Creator of all things.
 2. God created in an orderly way in order to share his love and goodness with man.
 3. Everything that God created is good.
- Each day of Creation, God saw that it was good.
 - *What did he create when he saw that his Creation was "very good"? (He created man and woman.)*

Conclusion: There is only one God. God created from nothing and created out of love. All that God has created is good.

Focus 2: Man. Man is created with a human nature, with a body and soul. God gave him many gifts. The gift of grace is God's life in us.

- God created us out of love so that we could be one with him in **heaven**.
- He gave man a soul, and by doing so, he elevated man and created him in his image.
- **Using the Chalk Talk** on the Hierarchy of Creation, review with the students that man is elevated above all other earthly creatures because of these gifts.
 - *Why is man on top of the pyramid? (Man was created with a soul, giving him the ability to reason, to make choices, and to love as God loves.)*



- Man is a physical and spiritual being.
 - *What makes us physical? (Our bodies.)*
 - *What makes us spiritual? (Our souls.)*
 - The body and soul act together as one human nature.
 - The **body** is made up of matter and will die and corrupt (until it rises on the last day).
 - The **soul** is spiritual (invisible but real, like air, light, heat). The soul is **immortal** and will never die.
- The soul has two powers:
 - Intellect (the ability to think and reason)
 - Free will (the ability to choose)
- God created man in his image and likeness, giving us great dignity (honor and value).
 - *Is every human being equal in dignity? (Yes. Because we are all made in the image of God, each of us has equal dignity.)*
 - *Is every human being equal in looks, talents, advantages, etc.? (No.)*
 - *What gifts have you received from God? (Answers will vary.)*
- Adam and Eve received great gifts called **preternatural gifts** (exceptional gifts given to us that are beyond our human nature). They are
 - Immortality (freedom from death),
 - Infused knowledge of God and all that is necessary for life,
 - Integrity (harmonious relationship with oneself, among men, and with nature),
 - Impassibility (freedom from pain).
 - These gifts were lost after the Fall of Adam and Eve.
 - *Can you imagine what life would be like if you had these preternatural gifts? (Answers will vary.)*
- God also created us with the supernatural gift of grace (a share in God's life).
 - We also lost the gift of grace after the Fall of Adam and Eve. However, Jesus won back the gift of grace.
 - *When did you first receive sanctifying grace? (Baptism.)*
- In Paradise, it was grace that animated Adam and Eve to love as God loves. It is grace that animates us to love as God loves.
 - **Make an analogy** to show that grace gives us life.
 - *If a balloon is inflated, what keeps the balloon alive or afloat? (The air.)*
 - *In the same way, what animates us to choose good over evil? (Grace—God's life in us.)*
 - Adam and Eve received the gift of grace, but lost it through sin.
 - In a similar way, without grace we are helpless. We cannot get to heaven without God's life in us to animate us to do as we ought.

FOCUS 2 OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

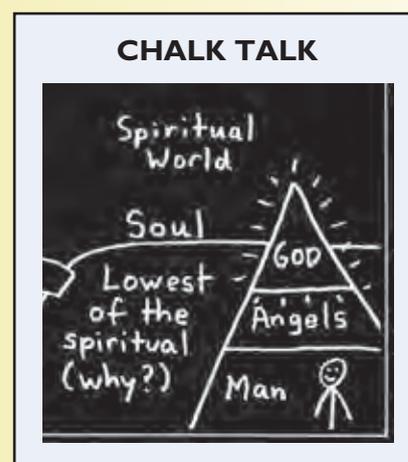
- Read Genesis 1:26—2:25. This passage includes the two accounts of the creation of man. Compare and contrast.
- Activity Book, p. 10

- **What happened when Adam and Eve lost the gift of grace?** (They were cast out of the garden, and they no longer lived in harmony. They faced ignorance, suffering, death, and inclination to sin [see CCC 418].)
- See Sacred Art on Student Text, p. 25: *God Reprimanding Adam and Eve*, Byzantine mosaic. When Adam and Eve lost the gift of grace, they no longer lived in harmony. They knew they were naked; they covered themselves with figs.
- Our whole purpose in life is to obtain grace, keep grace, grow in grace, and die with grace in our souls.
 - Only with grace can we live with God in the Kingdom of Heaven as his children. This is every man's gift and the plan for each life.
 - **How can we grow in grace?** (Through prayer, the Sacraments, reading the Bible, good works, etc.)
 - **What would life be like without the gift of grace?** (We would not be adopted children of God. We would not be able to partake in the divine nature and grow in holiness. There would be no hope for heaven.)
- When Adam disobeyed God and fell, we lost the gifts of grace. Jesus came to help us receive the gift of grace so that we could share in his life.

Conclusion: Man is created in the image and likeness of God. He received natural gifts (having a body and a rational soul), preternatural gifts (having all knowledge necessary, never getting sick or dying, living in harmony with creation), and the supernatural gifts of grace (God's life).

Focus 3: Angels. God created angels. When they were tested, some chose to rebel against God and are now called demons.

- God created angels. Angels are a part of the spiritual world. (See detail below from Chalk Talk: Man = Body and Soul from Lesson 1.)
 - **Why is man at the bottom of the spiritual world?** (Because angels have a greater intelligence, and they have more power.)



- *Were both angels and man created to worship and serve God? (Yes.)*
- 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**. These are the **fallen angels** or demons. This was the beginning of the battle of good and evil.
- **Read** the account of the fall of the angels from the Bible: Revelation 12:1–10.
 - *Who do you think the dragon symbolizes? (The dragon symbolizes Satan.)*
 - *Who does the woman symbolize? (The woman symbolizes Mary, the faithful of Israel, and the Church.)*
 - The dragon and his angels were defeated by Michael and his angels. This is an example of the battle of good versus evil.
- The battle of good versus evil continues today.
 - *Can you think of any examples of evil that apply today? (Answers will vary; those who degrade the dignity of the human being, oppose the right to life, and live in conflict with Christianity, etc.)*
- Faithful or good angels are spirits who love God and obey his commands. God has assigned a good angel to each one of us; this angel is called our guardian angel, who helps us get to heaven.
 - *Do we all have a guardian angel? (Yes.)*
 - *What do you think your guardian angel does for you? (Protects us, prays for us.)*

The Nine Choirs of Angels according to Saint Thomas Aquinas

- Seraphim: The choir of angels closest to God’s throne. They have the greatest intellect, love, and will and perceive God in the richest way possible for a created being. Their only task is to worship and adore God.
- Cherubim: This choir is noted for its perfect vision of God and the beauty of creation, as well as its willingness to share that vision with others.
- Thrones: The Thrones are the choir through which God accomplishes his judgments.
- Dominions: This choir directs the Virtues and Powers in their duty of governing and ordering the laws of creation.
- Virtues: Virtues give the power to accomplish the ordering of nature.
- Powers: Powers are responsible for directing the remaining choirs to carry out what has been commanded.
- Principalities: These angels lead the last two orders in the direct implementation of God’s will.
- Archangels: Carry out what needs to be done.
- Angels: God’s messengers and guardians to mankind.

FOCUS 3 OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Students can create images of the angels or depict the battle of the angels.
- Review the Saint Michael Prayer, Student Text, p. 179. Discuss the importance of this prayer.
- Discuss the nine choirs of angels (see sidebar).
- Discuss the three archangels (see sidebar).

Conclusion: God created the angels who are pure spirits. God tested the angels. Some chose to rebel against God and were cast to hell. Everyone has a guardian angel.

Focus 4: The Fall of Man. God tested Adam and Eve. Man fell, but God promised to send a Savior.

- God created us out of love; he did not abandon Adam and Eve after they disobeyed, and he does not abandon us. God's plan is for all of us to be with him for all of eternity; with our free will (a gift from God) each of us is able to make a choice to love God.
- **Read** the account of the Fall of man in Genesis 3:1–13.
 - *Did the man and woman know the rules of the garden?* (Yes.)
 - *Did the man and woman use free will?* (Yes.)
 - *What were the roles of the woman and man?* (The man was the leader, and the woman was the helper or partner.)
 - *How did the serpent get them to sin?* (The serpent got them to sin by manipulating the woman into thinking she would become like God if she ate the forbidden fruit.)
- **Read** Genesis 3:14–19 verse by verse. Answer as many of the following questions as time permits.
 - Verse 14: *In your own words, what is God saying to the serpent?* (He will be cursed and have to crawl on his belly below all creatures.)
 - Verse 15: *Between whom does God say he will put enmity (hostility)?* (Between you [Satan/serpent] and the woman [Eve and her offspring].)
 - Verse 15: *Who will crush the head of Satan?* (Jesus, the offspring of Eve, will crush the head of Satan.)
 - Verse 15: *Who will bruise Jesus' heel? How?* (Satan will cause pain and suffering but will only bruise us.)
 - *Who will be victorious, or in other words, would you rather have your head crushed or your heel bruised?* (Jesus, who will crush the head of Satan, is victorious through his death on the Cross.)
 - *How long will pain and suffering exist?* (Until the end of time when Christ returns.)
 - Verse 16: *What did God say would happen to the woman and her offspring?* (Pain in childbearing.)
 - Verses 17–19: *What did God say would happen to Adam?* (The ground would be cursed, and he would return to the ground.)
 - *How did God treat Adam and Eve? Was he just?* (God was very upset with Adam and Eve. He punished them by taking away the grace given them, but he showed them mercy. He promised to send them a Savior. God was just in his actions.)

Jesus: Redeemer, Atoner, and Savior

- **Redeemer:** To redeem means “to pay the price.” Man could not pay the price—he had nothing of great value. He could only offer animal sacrifices, imperfect prayers, and actions. A redeemer would have to be a perfect priest, with perfect love for God, offering a perfect victim. Only Jesus could do this.
- **Atoner:** Man could not make reparation or repayment for his sin—he could not put himself back into union with God, because he did not have a share in God’s life through grace. Jesus is one Divine Person with two natures. He is fully God and fully man. He won grace for man and opened the gates of heaven so that man could be saved.
- **Savior:** Man could not save himself from sin because of concupiscence, which is man’s inclination to sin.

FOCUS 4 OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

- Activity Book, p. 12

- **Original Sin** was the first sin committed by Adam, the head or origin of all humanity. Therefore, we all inherit Original Sin.
 - Because of Original Sin, each of us is separated from God. *What did each of us lose? (Grace.)*
 - *What are other effects of Original Sin besides a loss of grace and union with God? (Answers will vary; include the following in discussion.)*
 - *Death (sickness and corruption of the body)*
 - *Ignorance of things divine*
 - *Concupiscence (inclination to sin)*
 - *Disharmony in nature and among men*
 - Original Sin created a gap between God and man that man could not overcome alone. It was necessary for God to send a Redeemer to save us all from the effects of sin.
 - *Who did God send to help repair our relationship with God and to restore the life of grace in our souls? (Jesus Christ.) (See sidebar.)*

Conclusion: God tested Adam and Eve. Adam’s sin is called Original Sin because Adam is the father of mankind. All of mankind inherits the sin. With Original Sin, man lost his preternatural and supernatural gifts. The most serious loss was the loss of grace and union with God. God promised to send a Savior who would save us from sin.

Review Lesson 3, Chapter 3 (3 minutes)

- God creates out of love. He created man to be in communion with him now and forever.
- Man is created with a human nature (body and soul). God gave him many gifts.
- God created the angels. When they were tested, some chose to rebel against God and are now called demons.
- God tested Adam and Eve. Man fell, but God promised to send a Savior.

Application (10–20 minutes)

Choose one or more of the following for discussion.

- Discuss the importance of devoutly thanking God for our existence, for all creation, and for the many blessings we have. Challenge the students to recognize the grace and goodness of creation and to give thanks to God every day. Have the students write a prayer thanking God for their existence, creation, and all of their blessings.
- Discuss that grace is a precious gift that we must be especially careful to receive and to use. How can we receive and use grace? How can we receive it and not use it?

The Archangels

There are lots of different traditions regarding the names and numbers of the archangels. Scripture tells us about three:

- Michael: Michael is the prince of the heavenly hosts. He led the battle against Satan and cast him out of heaven. (See Jude 9; Revelation 12:7–10.)
- Gabriel: Gabriel appeared to Zechariah and Mary to prepare them for the births of John the Baptist and Jesus. (See Luke 1:5–38.)
- Raphael: Raphael was a healer, guardian, and messenger of God to Tobit and his family. (See Tobit 5:1–6; 6:9–17; 8:1–3; 11:1–14; 12:1–21.)

- Look up and discuss Scripture verse about Saint Michael the Archangel. Discuss the importance of the Prayer to Saint Michael on Student Text, p. 179.

Celebration (5–10 minutes)

Choose one or more of the following.

- Song: “When Morning Fills the Skies,” *Adoremus Hymnal*, #614. Go to www.ignatius.com/promotions/adoremus-hymnal/downloadable-mp3s.htm.
- Concluding Prayer: Thank God for creating and redeeming us. Pray the Prayer to My Guardian Angel, Student Text, p. 179.
- Petitions: Students will offer prayers of praise and thanksgiving.

Take Home

- Student reading for next lesson: Student Text, Chapter 4, pp. 31–34
- Optional: Family Guide: G 7–3, pp. 138–39
- Optional: Activity Book: Chapter 3, pp. 9–12

CHAPTER 3

Creation

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1:1

God shares with us his beauty, his power, and his glory in the wonderful world which he created. The Holy Bible begins with the book of Genesis, in which we find the story of the world’s Creation. In order better to appreciate the almighty power of God we must know that to **create** means to make something out of *nothing*. The entire universe came into existence simply because God wanted it to exist! He did not use any materials to create the world as we must when we make something. Rather he had only to think of the universe and give the command and it was created! This is why the book of Genesis tells us that God had only to say, “Let there be light,” and there was light (Gen 1:3).



The inspired story of Creation was originally part of the oral tradition (religious stories) of the Jewish people. They passed this story on to each generation in order to teach and remind the people that:

1. *There is only one God and he is the Creator of all that exists*—the pagans of ten believed that each of their gods created different things in the world.
2. *God created the world in an orderly way and as a way of sharing his love with man*—many pagans believed that the world was the result of a war between their gods or that it happened by accident.
3. *Everything created by God is good*—the pagans believed many created things to be the work of an evil god who liked to make mankind suffer.

The Creation of Mankind

The book of Genesis also tells us about the creation of the first man and the first woman, the parents of the entire human race:

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. . . .” So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he cre-

ated them. And God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food” (Gen 1:26–29).

This account tells us that God had a greater plan for man than he had for the rest of the world of nature; he gave man authority over the beasts and plants of the earth, which were created for man’s proper use (such as food, clothing, or enjoyment of nature). The second chapter of Genesis gives us another account of Creation.

Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” . . . So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh; and the rib which the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man (Gen 2:18, 21–22).

The parents of the human race were called Adam and Eve, because Adam means “man,” and Eve means “mother of the living.”

The Human Person

In Genesis we see that after God made the human body, he “breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being” (Gen 2:7). This tells us that we are each composed of both a physical **body** and a spiritual **soul**. The body is made of matter (as are all things that can be touched, seen, etc.) and so



this makes us like the beasts and other physical creatures. But the soul is *spiritual*; that is, like God it is invisible but real. This is why Scripture tells us that we are made in God’s image and likeness; for we share with him in the world of the spirit and, unlike the other physical creatures, we will live *forever* since we have souls that are **immortal**.

The soul has two spiritual powers that make us very much like our Creator: the intellect and the will. By the power of the intellect we are able to think, reason, and know right from wrong. The will allows us to choose freely what we shall do or say or think; it gives us the ability to love or to hate, to do good or to sin. We all know that no other earthly creature can do these things.

Both the body and the soul are important to man, otherwise God would not have created them. Even though the soul is immortal and has great powers, without the body we would not be true and complete human beings. God commands that we respect and take care of both of these gifts which he has given us. God made all human beings persons. In that sense, “all men are created equal.” That does not mean that everyone is exactly the same or that

everyone is equally good, intelligent, or strong. It means that human beings all have the same basic dignity and rights from God. It also means that we should respect the rights of others, as we expect others to respect our rights.

God Gave Man Special Gifts

When God created Adam and Eve he gave them more than their natural bodies and souls; he gave them special gifts. These gifts were not part of man's nature, but enabled him to do things beyond his ordinary abilities. They had complete harmony and peace in their lives; they never argued or acted selfishly toward each other. Also, God kept them free from suffering, sickness, and death. But most of all he gave them a share in his own divine life with the gift of **sanctifying grace**. This grace made them more than his creatures: it allowed them to know and love him in a special way and enabled them to live with him forever! These gifts would be theirs and would be passed on to all of their descendants. In this way, human beings were destined to share in God's glory, and, through man, the whole material creation would share God's glory. All that was required of the man and the woman was that they love and serve him all their lives.

The Creation of the Angels

Before we look at the events that led to man's loss of these gifts, we must know that God also created, from nothing, pure spirits whom we call angels. They are intelligent persons like us but they do not have physical bodies as we do, they are spiritual beings without bodies. Angels possess greater intelligence and power than human beings, but they too were created to worship and serve God.

God put the angels to a test to give them a chance to love him freely and obey his com-

mands. Some of them, led by Lucifer, refused to serve the Lord; they rebelled against him and went to **hell**, where those who do not want to be with him go. These angels were good when they were created by God, but they became evil by their own free choice. We call these disobedient spirits **fallen angels** or **demons**. They are still led by Lucifer, who is also known as Satan or the devil. They try to turn all creation away from God, for they do not want God's creatures to serve him.

The spirits who loved God and obeyed his commands are called **faithful** or **good angels**; they were led by Michael the Archangel. These angels assist us in living holy Christian lives so that we will serve God on earth and come to live with him in heaven when we die. God has assigned a good angel to each one of us; this angel is called our **guardian angel** and his mission is to help us on our way to heaven.

The Fall of Man

Like the angels, God tested our first parents to give them the choice to love and serve him freely. He gave Adam and Eve a beautiful garden in which to live, the Garden of Eden (also called paradise), and he told them that they could eat any fruit in that garden except the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The devil saw this as an opportunity to lead Adam and Eve away from God. He entered the garden and tempted our first parents to sin. He said that if they ate the fruit of the forbidden tree they would become just like their Creator!

Poor Adam and Eve! They believed the lies of Satan and ate the forbidden fruit. At that moment they knew that they had sinned, and they were filled with shame. They tried to hide from God, which is, of course, an impossible thing to do.

The Lord called to them and told Adam and Eve that they must now be banished from the Garden of Eden and be subject to suffering,

sickness, and death. Much worse, they would no longer live in the state of sanctifying grace which had made them close friends of God, heirs to the happiness of **heaven**. Now they could not pass on God's special gifts. In fact, now they passed on to their descendants a human nature that was weakened because of their sin.

We call this sin of Adam **Original Sin** because it was the first sin ever to be committed by man and because it is passed on from Adam, the origin of the human race. The terrible results of this sin (separation from God, sickness, death, slavery to sin and the devil) are called the **effects** of Original Sin. Except for Jesus and Mary, all human beings since the time of Adam and Eve have been conceived with Original Sin and its effects on their souls.

We must not think that God was unfair in taking away these gifts; they were gifts freely given and not deserved. In his love he clearly told Adam and Eve what the result of their disobedience would be when he said:

You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge

of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die (Gen 2:16–17).

God's Promise of a Redeemer

Even though they had sinned against him, God continued to love Adam and Eve. He wanted them, and all the human race who would descend from them, to live in his friendship. So he promised to send us a **Redeemer**, someone who would be able to reconcile us to God and restore to our souls the life of sanctifying grace. God told the devil that this Redeemer would come from a woman, saying:

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 (Gen 3:15).

Words to Know:

create body soul immortal
sanctifying grace good angels
fallen angels heaven hell
Original Sin Redeemer

Q. 24 Why is God called "Creator of heaven and earth?"

God is called "Creator of heaven and earth" because he made heaven and earth out of nothing (CCC 279, 296).

Q. 25 Is the world entirely the work of God?

Yes, the world is entirely the work of God (CCC 296, 299).

Q. 26 Did God create only the material things that are in the world?

No, God not only created the material things that are in the world, but he also created the spiritual things, such as the angels and the soul of each human being (CCC 327–28, 355).

Q. 27 What are the pure spirits?

The pure spirits are intelligent beings who do not have bodies (CCC 328–30, 391–93).

Q. 28 What are the angels?

The angels are pure spirits, invisible servants of God, and some are our guardians (CCC 329, 336).

Q. 29 Do we have duties toward the angels?

We have the duty of reverence and respect toward the angels (CCC 335).

Q. 30 What are the demons?

The demons are fallen angels who rebelled against God in pride and were cast into hell because of their rejection of God. They tempt man to do evil (CCC 391–94, 414).

Q. 31 What is man?

Man is a created reasoning being composed of body and soul (CCC 355).

Q. 32 What is the soul?

The soul is the spiritual part of man, by which he lives, understands, and is free. The soul makes man able to know, love, and serve God (CCC 363).

Q. 33 What is the body?

The body is the material part of man (CCC 364).

Q. 34 Does man's soul die with his body?

No, man's soul does not die with his body; it lives forever because it is a spiritual reality (CCC 1703).

Q. 35 Why must we take care of our soul?

We must take the greatest care of our soul because it is immortal (CCC 366–67).

Q. 36 Does man have free will?

Yes, man has free will because he can choose to do some thing or not do some thing, or to do one thing rather than another (CCC 1731).

Q. 37 Who were the first human beings?

The first human beings and our first parents were Adam and Eve (CCC 375).

Q. 38 Was man created weak and sinful as we are now?

No, man was not created weak and sinful as we are now, but in a state of original holiness and justice (CCC 374).

Q. 39 What destiny did God ordain for man?

The destiny that God ordained for man was happiness in union with God forever. Because this destiny is entirely above and beyond the capacity of human nature, man also received from God a supernatural power called grace (CCC 27, 1998).

Q. 40 What gift did God give man in order to help him achieve his destiny?

God gave man the supernatural gift of grace in order to help him achieve his destiny (CCC 2021).

Q. 41 In addition to grace, what else did God give to man?

In addition to grace, God gave man the gift of freedom from all the weaknesses and sufferings of life, including death, provided that he not sin (CCC 376).

Q. 42 Why does man not have these gifts from God today?

Man does not have these gifts from God today because Adam, who was the father of mankind, sinned (CCC 399, 402).

Name: _____

Angels

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. What are angels?

Angels are pure spirits, invisible servants of God, and our guardians.

2. Why did God test the angels?

God tested the angels to give them a chance to love and obey him freely.

3. Did they all pass the test?

No

4. What is hell?

Hell is the place and condition of never-ending separation from God for those who choose not to be with him.

5. What do we call the evil angels?

We call the evil angels demons.

6. What do the evil angels do?

Demons try to turn all creation away from God.

7. Who leads the faithful angels?

Saint Michael the Archangel leads the faithful angels.

8. What is a guardian angel? Do you have one?

A guardian angel is an angel God assigns to each one of us to help us on our way to heaven. Every person has a guardian angel.



Name: _____

The Fall and the Promise

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. How did God test Adam and Eve? Did they pass the test?

God tested Adam and Eve by telling them not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. They failed the test.

2. What did God do to punish Adam and Eve?

God banished Adam and Eve from the garden, allowed them to be subject to suffering, sickness, and death, and removed sanctifying grace.

3. What is sanctifying grace? Why was it so bad that Adam and Eve lost this grace?

Sanctifying grace is the life of God in our souls. After Adam and Eve lost this grace, they were unable to live with God forever, and they could not pass this grace to their descendants.

4. Who suffers from Original Sin?

Every human being from the time of Adam, except Jesus and Mary, has been conceived with Original Sin.

5. What are the effects of Original Sin?

Separation from God, sickness, death, and slavery to sin and the devil are the effects of Original Sin.

6. Did God stop loving Adam and Eve when they sinned?

No

7. What did God promise Adam and Eve?

God promised to send a Redeemer who would reconcile us to God.



Lesson 4

Chapter 4—God’s Plan of Salvation

Correlated Materials

Student Text: Chapter 4, pp. 31–34
Activity Book: Chapter 4, pp. 13–16
Family Guide: G 7–4, pp. 140–41

LESSON FOCUS

The story of how God prepared mankind for the coming of Jesus and how Jesus redeemed man and restored friendship with God is called salvation history. Salvation history is told by the Bible. It is history from God’s perspective, and its primary author is the Holy Spirit.

AIMS

- Students will learn that they are called to enter a covenant relationship of love, trust, and sacrifice with God.
- Students will recognize God’s providence in the lives of the patriarchs and in their own lives.

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH REFERENCES

- Call of Abraham: 59–61, 72, 767
- God’s Promise to Abraham: 705–6, 762
- Jacob and the Combat of Faith: 2573, 2592
- Prefiguration of Christ in the Old Testament: 128–30, 140
- Revelation of God’s Plan of Salvation: 51–53, 69–70

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. 31

“Sing to the LORD, all the earth! Tell of his salvation from day to day” (1 Chronicles 16:23).

We are called to sing to the Lord, to invoke him, to thank him, and to praise him. Why? Because of his steadfast love for us throughout all of salvation history. God never forgets us; he has sent his only Son so that we may live forever with him in eternal life.

SACRED ART: Student Text, p. 32

Stories of Joseph: His Sale by His Brothers, Raphael

Joseph was the favorite son of Jacob. Because of this, Joseph’s brothers were very jealous and wanted to throw him into a cistern; however, instead they sold him to slave traders. Later, through God’s providence he became second in command in all of Egypt. Even though Joseph’s treatment by his brothers and others was unjust, his faithfulness was rewarded because he loved God. Through this story, we can see that God always provides for those who love him. God can always take an evil situation and turn it into good.

PRAYER WITH CHILDREN: Our Father, Student Text, p. 175

Review Lesson 3, Chapter 3 (3 minutes)

- God creates out of love. He created man to be in communion with him now and forever.
- Man is created with a human nature (body and soul). God gave him many gifts.
- God created the angels. When they were tested, some chose to rebel against God and are now called demons.
- God tested Adam and Eve. Man fell, but God promised to send a Savior.

MATERIALS

- Bible
- Chalkboard or dry erase board
- Student notebooks and pencils; students are encouraged to take notes.
- Optional: poster board or butcher block paper

WORDS TO KNOW

salvation history: all of the events in history by which God prepared the world for the coming of Jesus Christ

covenant: in the Old Testament, a covenant is made between God and the people of Israel. God promises to protect the people, and they promise to be loyal to God. In the New Testament, the new and everlasting covenant was made between God and men by Jesus. God promises to free us from sin and bring us to heaven, and we in turn agree to give up our sins and follow the teachings of Christ.

patriarch: a leader of the Jewish people in the Old Testament. There are three Old Testament patriarchs: Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

prefiguration: a person or event that took place before Jesus was born, but which foretold some event in Jesus' life.

Promised Land: the special land, also known as Palestine or the Holy Land, which God promised to give to his people in the Old Testament.

Israel: the first name given by God to Jacob, the son of Isaac. It later became a name for God's people in the Old Testament. Today, it is the name of the Jewish nation-state in the Middle East.

Proclamation (1 minute)

(Proclaim slowly, then repeat.)

God established a covenant with Abraham and his descendants, promising to bless him and all peoples through him.

Lesson Explanation (40–50 minutes)

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

Focus 1: Abraham. God established a covenant with Abraham, promising him land, descendants, and blessings. Abraham in return agreed to be obedient and to trust God.

- **Use timeline** to provide an overview of salvation history (see timeline in Appendix or in Introductory Lesson, p. xxi).
 - **Define salvation history:** all of the events in history by which God prepared the world for the coming of Jesus Christ and the salvation of souls.
 - **Draw timeline;** add each with the following short explanations:
 - **Creation:** Out of love God created the world and mankind. He created Adam and Eve to live with him in Paradise forever.
 - **Covenant:** A covenant is an oath that binds two people together.
 - **Why did God make a covenant with man?** *(God made a covenant of love because he loves his people and he wants them to share in eternal life. Because we lost eternal life through the sin of Adam and Eve, God made an oath to send a Redeemer. See Genesis 3:15.)*
 - God makes a **covenant of love**. He promises to take care of his people, but he also expects us to love him in return. Through the Old Testament Covenants, God prepares his people for a Savior.
 - **Old Testament Covenant:** In the Old Testament, a covenant is made between God and the people of Israel. God promises to protect the people, and they promise to be loyal to God. **Name the five Old Testament Covenants.** *(Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David.)*
 - **What did God promise in each of these covenants?** *If students do not remember, explain the following:*
 - Adam and Eve: God promises to send a Savior.
 - Noah: God promises never again to destroy the earth through a flood. Sign: rainbow.

- Abraham: God promises Abraham three things in his covenant:
 - Numerous descendants to become a great nation
 - The **Promised Land**, in which to live
 - Great blessings to be given to all people through his descendants
- Moses: God gives us the Ten Commandments. Israel becomes a nation of priests.
- David: God promises an everlasting kingdom through the line of David.
- **New Testament Covenant:** In the New Testament, a new and everlasting covenant was made between God and men through Jesus. God promises to free us from sin and bring us to heaven, and we in turn agree to give up our sins and follow the teachings of Christ.
- Through our Baptism each of us has entered into a covenant with God. God created us, and he loves us; each of us is called to respond in faith to God's love; when we do respond, God blesses us even more.
 - *How do we respond in faith to God's covenant of love for each of us? (Answers will vary. Encourage students to give examples of how they can respond through prayer, study of God's Word, worship, study of our Catholic Faith, love of God and neighbor, and service to God.)*
- God forms a people, through whom the Messiah will come. (Use the timeline to demonstrate.)
 - Abraham was the first **patriarch** of God's chosen people, the Israelites (also called the Hebrew people). Abraham's son is Isaac; Isaac's son is Jacob.
 - **Who are the three patriarchs of the Nation of Israel?** (Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.)
 - **What is so important about the Israelite people?** (They were God's chosen people, through whom the Messiah would come to save mankind.)
 - **Read Genesis 12:1–9.** Reference the map of the path that Abraham and his family followed. (See Appendix map, Grade 3 B-13, available online.) Note that the name "Abram," not "Abraham," is used in these verses.
 - Explain that later in Genesis God made his covenant with Abraham, telling him, "No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations" (Genesis 17:5). (See the sidebar regarding God's promises to Abraham fulfilled in Christ.)
 - **Define virtue.** (A good habit that helps us to do good and avoid evil.)
 - **What virtues did Abraham exhibit in this reading?** (Faith, trust, obedience.)
 - **Has God ever asked you to have faith, to trust, or to obey him?** (Answers will vary.)

FOCUS | OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Make a family tree of the patriarchs, and display it in the classroom. (See sidebar.)
- Divide students into groups and have them read different parts of the story of Abraham’s life. Students may dramatize these passages.
 - Call to Abraham: Genesis 12
 - Separation of Abraham and Lot: Genesis 13 and 14
 - Promise of children: Genesis 15 and 18
 - Isaac is born: Genesis 21
- Activity Book, p. 13

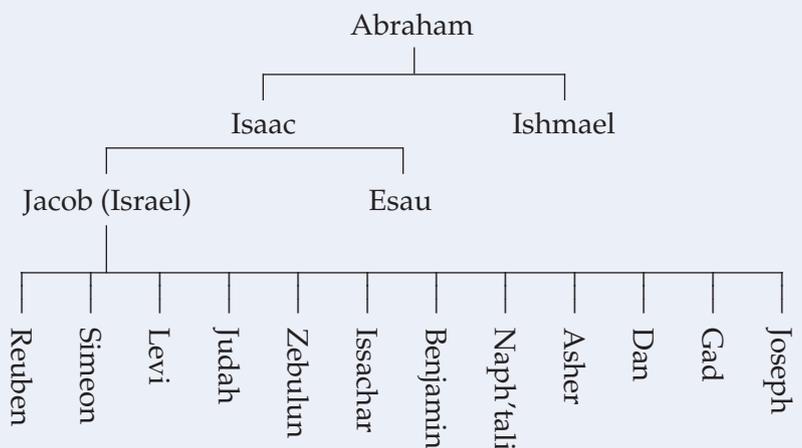
- *How can we strengthen these virtues (faith, trust, obedience) in ourselves? (Pray for God’s help, practice, make small acts of faith and trust, etc.)*
- **Read** Genesis 13:14–15. *From these verses, how do we see God keeping his promise to Abram? (He is giving him the land he promised to him.)*
- **Read** Genesis 17:1–8. *From these verses, how do we see God keeping his promise to Abraham? (He promises Abraham land, descendants, blessings.)*
 - *What sign does God give to Abram? (He changes his name to Abraham.)*
- **Read** Genesis 21:1–7. *How do we see that God has kept his promise? (Isaac is born.)*

Conclusion: God established a covenant with Abraham, promising him land, descendants, and blessings. Abraham agreed to be obedient and to trust in God.

God’s Promises to Abraham Fulfilled in Christ

Promise	Abraham	Jesus
Descendants as a Great Nation (or Kingdom)	Genesis 12:1–3	Luke 4:43; John 18:36
Promised Land	Genesis 15:7–21	John 14:2
Blessing of Eternal Life	Genesis 22	John 3:16; 6:54, 68

Family Tree of the Patriarchs



Focus 2: Isaac. God called Abraham to sacrifice his beloved son, Isaac. The sacrifice of Isaac prefigures the sacrifice of Christ on the Cross. (See sidebar for more information about scriptural prefigurements.)

- **What does it mean to make a sacrifice?** (Answers will vary; lead students to understand that to sacrifice is to give something up for another.)
 - We all make sacrifices for our own good; for example, we may give up our time for practice for a sport, etc. **Have you ever made a sacrifice for someone else?** (Giving up a toy or game for a sibling, giving up my seat, giving up something for Lent, etc.)
 - We can also make sacrifices to God or offer something up to God.
 - **Write** “sacrifice” on the board. Tell students that “sacrifice” comes from two Latin words: *sacrum* and *facere*, meaning “holy” and “to make.” A sacrifice is made holy by offering it to God. A sacrifice must be something good—something we love (e.g., it is not a sacrifice to give up broccoli if you do not like it).
- In the Old Testament, people would give their best animals to God.
 - **Why do you think that offering up your best animal would be considered a sacrifice?** (Because they made their living from livestock, this was a valuable thing to give up.)
 - **What would be the purpose of offering a sacrifice to God?** (To show our love, as an offering to God.)
- **What kinds of sacrifices can you offer to God out of love?** (Answers will vary.)
 - **Read** the story of Abraham going to sacrifice Isaac (Genesis 22:1–8). **How did Abraham show his faith and trust in God?** (Abraham trusted that God would provide another sacrifice.)
 - **Read** Genesis 22:9–14. **How did God show his love and mercy for Abraham?** (He had the angel hold back his arm, not to sacrifice Isaac; he provided another sacrifice.)
 - **Read** Genesis 22:15–18. **How did God bless Abraham for his obedience and faith?** (He will bless his descendants and make them a great nation.)
 - **What does this teach us about obeying God, having faith in God, and trusting God?** (That if we obey and have faith and trust in God, he will bless us.)
 - **Has God ever tested you? How has God blessed you?** (Answers will vary.)
 - Isaac prefigured Jesus. A **prefigurement** is a person or event that comes before another person or event, to which it is similar in some way.

An Example of Scriptural Prefiguration

In *The City of God*, Saint Augustine explains how Noah's Ark prefigures the Church. He begins by saying that 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 also 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. Saint Augustine says that it was by the command of God that these animals entered the Ark. 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.

—cf. *The City of God*, XV, 25–27

FOCUS 2 OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Have the students choose one of the following people and write an account of the events of the sacrifice of Isaac from his perspective: Abraham, Isaac, the angel, Sarah, the servant, God.
- Activity Book, p. 14

- Discuss how Isaac prefigured Jesus Christ. Point out some of these similarities in Jesus and Isaac:
 1. Only begotten son is sacrificed.
 2. The son carried the wood for the sacrifice.
 3. The son is the lamb of the sacrifice.
 4. The son rose from the sacrifice.
 5. Through sacrifice, the blessing of eternal life is shared.
 6. Location of the sacrifice is the same (Mount Moriah—note that Calvary is on the plains of Moriah).

Conclusion: God called Abraham to sacrifice his beloved son, Isaac. Isaac prefigures the sacrifice of Christ on the Cross.

Focus 3: Jacob. Jacob obtained his brother's birthright and blessing. Jacob was given a new name, **Israel**.

- **Tell** the story of Jacob:
 - Isaac married a woman named Rebekah, and they had twin boys, Esau and Jacob. Esau was the firstborn, so he had the birthright (special privileges).
 - But Esau sold his birthright to Jacob because he was hungry after working in the field, and Jacob would not give him any food until Esau sold him the birthright. (See Genesis 25:27–34.)
 - It was wrong to sell his birthright because he gave up something of great value for something of less worth—a simple meal.
- God chose Jacob as the one with whom he would keep the covenant he had made with Abraham. (See Genesis 28:13–15.)
 - Soon after this event, God gave Jacob a new name, "Israel," which means "the man who strives with God." This new name is very important because God's people used it as the name for their community: the Israelites. Jacob had twelve sons who became the fathers of the twelve tribes, or families, that made up the chosen people. Thus, Jacob became the third patriarch of God's people.
 - "Providence" refers to God's loving care for his people and his ways of providing for them. **How did we see God's providence in the life of Jacob?** (Even though Jacob cheated Esau out of his inheritance, God provided him with a great inheritance. Jacob received the blessing of Isaac's inheritance.)
 - **How do we see God's providence in our own life? How has God blessed us and provided for us?** (Answers will vary.)

Conclusion: Jacob obtained his brother's birthright and blessing. Jacob was given a new name, Israel.

FOCUS 3 OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Have students make banners of the tribes of Israel using poster board or butcher block paper. (See p. 39.)
- Activity Book, p. 15
- Read and discuss one or more of the following accounts of Jacob's life:
 - **Promise by God that Jacob would rule** (Genesis 25:20–26): God had a plan for Jacob even before he was born. God said Jacob and his descendants would be a stronger nation than his older brother's.
 - **Blessing** (Genesis 27:1–46): Isaac could only give one blessing because the blessing was intended for the firstborn.
 - **Jacob's ladder** (Genesis 28:10–22): Angels were ascending and descending from heaven, showing us their role as messengers from God.
 - **Marriage of Jacob** (Genesis 29:1–30): Jacob wanted to marry Rachel, and he served her father, Laban, for seven years to do so. Laban tricked Jacob into marrying the elder daughter, Leah, because it was customary for the older daughter to marry first. Jacob worked for Laban for another seven years so he could marry Rachel.
 - **Jacob's wealth** (Genesis 30:25–43): When Laban tried to cheat Jacob out of his inheritance, God provided the means for Jacob to still receive a great inheritance.
 - **Jacob's return** (Genesis 32:1–21 and 33:1–20): Jacob returned to his brother's land, bringing gifts of reconciliation. Esau also wanted to offer gifts of peace. This allowed Jacob to return to the land and for God to continue to fulfill his promise.
 - **Jacob wrestles with an angel** (Genesis 32:22–32): The angel told him that they wrestled because Jacob had striven with God and man, and prevailed. He received a blessing, and his name was changed to Israel.
 - **Jacob's descendants** (Genesis 35:22–26): Jacob's sons become the heads of the tribes of Israel.

Focus 4: Joseph. Joseph was sold into slavery in Egypt, but he became the second-most powerful man there and was able to save his family from a famine.

- **Use the following** bullet points to summarize the events of Joseph's life from the Bible: Genesis 37:1–36; 39:1–23; 40:1–23; 41:1–57; 42:1–38.
 - Joseph was the favorite son of Jacob. He was an interpreter of dreams. Jacob's brothers were very jealous of Joseph. The brothers sold Joseph into slavery in Egypt. They convinced Jacob that Joseph was killed by a wild beast.

FOCUS 4 OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Dramatize any of the events of the patriarchs (see sidebar).
- Activity Book, p. 16

- Joseph loved God, and therefore God blessed Joseph in many ways. In Egypt, Joseph became a trusted servant of the Pharaoh, eventually becoming second in command.
- In the meantime, famine hits Egypt and Palestine. The brothers traveled to Egypt in search of food. When they arrived, they found Joseph in command, but at first they did not recognize Joseph. Later, Joseph tells them that he is their brother, and he welcomes them and loves them with all his heart. Jacob (Israel) and all his sons settle in Egypt.
- Joseph loved God with all of his heart. God blessed him in return.
- **How did God provide for Joseph?** (He saved Joseph from dying in the well; he was sold into slavery instead. Through this Joseph was led to Egypt, where God provided Joseph with a position of authority as a commander. Even though Joseph was rejected by his own family, God took care of Joseph by providing him with food, shelter, and opportunities.)
- **How did God care for the family of Israel?** (God cared for the family of Israel by providing food for them during the famine and reuniting them with Joseph. This is providential because Jacob's twelve sons eventually become the twelve tribes of Israel.)
- **Read** Genesis 50:20–21, where Joseph is speaking 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. So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones.’ Thus, he reassured them and comforted them.”
 - God can bring good things out of bad situations. **How did he do this for Joseph?** (Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery. This seems unthinkable to us. God gave Joseph great power, but with that he gave him something bigger: the ability to forgive his brothers.)
 - **Has God ever brought good things out of a bad situation for you?** (Answers will vary.)
- **Discuss** some ways that Joseph prefigured Jesus.
 - Rejected by his own people
 - Sold for pieces of silver
 - Life of service
 - Innocent, though found guilty
 - Saved people; gave what was needed for a happy life
 - Forgave others

Conclusion: Joseph was the beloved son of Jacob (Israel). Joseph was an interpreter of dreams. By God's providence he was sold into slavery and was elevated to the second-highest position in Egypt. Joseph was able to save his family from a famine. Joseph prefigures Jesus.

Timeline of the Patriarchs

Abraham arrives in Palestine	Genesis 12
Separation of Abraham and Lot	Genesis 13
Abraham defeats the four kings and encounters Melchizedek	Genesis 14
Birth of Ishmael	Genesis 16
Destruction of Sodom and Lot's escape	Genesis 19
Birth of Isaac	Genesis 21
Sacrifice of Isaac	Genesis 22
Isaac marries Rebekah	Genesis 24
Birth of Jacob and Esau; Esau sells his birthright	Genesis 25
Jacob obtains Isaac's blessing	Genesis 27
Jacob's Ladder	Genesis 28
Jacob marries Leah and Rachel	Genesis 29
Birth of Jacob's sons	Genesis 30
Jacob is renamed Israel	Genesis 32
Joseph is sold into slavery	Genesis 37
Joseph is arrested	Genesis 39
Joseph interprets dreams	Genesis 40–41
Joseph becomes governor of Egypt; Famine hits Egypt and Palestine	Genesis 41
Joseph's brothers arrive in Egypt	Genesis 42
Benjamin arrives in Egypt	Genesis 43
Benjamin is accused of theft	Genesis 44
Joseph reveals himself to his brothers	Genesis 45
Israel and all his sons settle in Egypt	Genesis 46

Review Lesson 4, Chapter 4 (3 minutes)

- Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are the patriarchs of Israel.
- God established a covenant with Abraham, promising him land, descendants, and blessings.
- God called Abraham to sacrifice his beloved son, Isaac.
- Jacob obtained his brother's birthright and blessing.
- Joseph was sold into slavery in Egypt, but he became the second-most powerful man there and was able to save his family from a famine.

Application (10–20 minutes)

Choose one or more of the following for discussion.

- It's very difficult to forgive others who have hurt us. Joseph was sold into slavery, but with the grace of God he was able to forgive his brothers. *Are some things easier to forgive than others? If so, what actions are easier to forgive? What actions are harder to forgive? (Answers will vary.)*
- Discuss how Abraham is like Mary, the Mother of Jesus, in her obedience to God. See Galatians 3:7–8.
- *What is your favorite story about the patriarchs? Why? (Answers will vary.)*
- *How can knowing salvation history help you love God and others better? (Answers will vary; we can see that God has a plan for all of salvation history; his love and mercy never ends; he always provides for those who love him.)*

Celebration (5–10 minutes)

Choose one or more of the following.

- Song: "All Creatures of Our God and King," *Adoremus Hymnal*, #600. Go to www.ignatius.com/promotions/adoremus-hymnal/downloadable-mp3s.htm.
- Concluding Prayer: Thank God for establishing a covenant with man through Abraham. Pray the Act of Faith, Student Text, p. 175.
- Petitions: Students will offer prayers of petition for others.

Take Home

- Student reading for next lesson: Student Text, Chapter 5, pp. 35–40
- Optional: Family Guide: G 7–4, pp. 140–41
- Optional: Activity Book: Chapter 4, pp. 13–16

God's Plan of Salvation

Sing to the LORD, all the earth! Tell of his salvation from day to day.

1 Chronicles 16:23

All of the events in human history by which God prepared the world for the coming of Jesus Christ and the events by which Jesus accomplishes this plan for the redemption, or salvation, of the human race is called **salvation history**. Jesus was to restore the grace that had been lost through Original Sin.

God began to form for himself a people, the chosen people, to whom he would reveal himself and his plan of salvation. From among this sacred community he would choose the woman who would be the Mother of the Redeemer of the whole world.

God Calls Abraham

God chose a man named Abram, who lived in the land of Mesopotamia almost four thousand years ago. He made a **covenant** (agreement or promise) with him, promising to make Abram the father of many descendants, who would become a great nation. God also told him that this nation would live in a wonderful place called the **Promised Land**:

And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will

bless those who bless you, and him who curses you I will curse; and by you all the families of the earth shall bless themselves (Gen 12:2-3).

Abram agreed to the covenant, and to show his new mission in life, God gave him the new name of Abraham, which means "father of many people." When he agreed to this covenant, Abraham showed great faith in God because he and his wife were very old and yet they believed that the Lord would give them many descendants. They trusted God so much that they were willing to leave family and home in order to set out for the Promised Land. The early Christians recognized the great faith that Abraham had in God; it is mentioned in the letter to the Hebrews:

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 (Heb 11:8).

Even today in the liturgy of the Catholic Church we honor this holy man as, "Abraham, our father in faith" (Eucharistic Prayer I).

Isaac Continues the Covenant

After God's promise of descendants, Abraham had a son named Isaac. Needless to say, the boy was loved dearly by his elderly parents. One day God wanted to test Abraham's faith. He commanded this father to sacrifice his beloved only son as an act of worship: "Take your son, your only begotten son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering upon one of the mountains of which I shall tell you" (Gen 22:2).

Knowing that man must love and serve God more than his family, Abraham took Isaac up a mountain and prepared to sacrifice him as God had commanded. Just as Abraham was about to sacrifice Isaac, an angel stopped Abraham and revealed to him that it was a test. Now Abraham had shown that he truly loved God more than anyone else, and God rewarded this love by promising to continue his covenant through Isaac. After his father's death Isaac became the second **patriarch**, or leader, of God's chosen people.

The sacrifice of his only son that Abraham was willing to make was a **prefiguration** of God's love for mankind. A prefiguration is some person or event that happens before another event to which it is similar in some way. In this case, the prefiguration was of the



sacrifice that God the Father was to make in allowing Jesus, his only Son, to be sacrificed on the Cross for our sins.

The Covenant Continues with Jacob

Isaac married a woman named Rebekah, and they had twin boys, Esau and Jacob. God chose Jacob as the one with whom he would keep the covenant he had made with Abraham, saying:

"I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your descendants . . . and by you and your descendants shall all the families of the earth bless themselves. Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done that of which I have spoken to you." (Gen 28:13-15).

Soon after this event God gave Jacob a new name, **Israel**, which means "the man who strives with God." This new name is very important because God's people used it as the name for their community: the Israelites. Jacob had twelve sons who became the fathers of the twelve tribes, or families, that made up the chosen people. Thus Jacob became the third patriarch of God's people.

The Story of Joseph

Among the many sons of Jacob, there was one who was especially dear to him—Joseph. The other sons were envious at this, and they grew angry with their brother. They began to plan among themselves how they could get rid of Joseph once and for all. One day, when they were out in the fields watching their sheep, they sold poor Joseph to a band of slave

traders who were on their way to Egypt. Then they convinced Jacob that Joseph had been killed by a wild beast. Jacob was heartbroken. If only he knew that they had sold their brother for twenty pieces of silver!

In this, Joseph reminds us of Jesus who was sold by one of his friends for thirty pieces of silver. Joseph also prefigures Jesus because he was to become a kind of savior in Egypt for his brothers. This is how it happened.

When he arrived in Egypt, Joseph was bought by an important ruling family. Soon he became a trusted servant of the Pharaoh (the Egyptian king) because he was handsome and very intelligent and was given important positions in the royal court—he even became second in command in all of Egypt. In the meantime, the land of the chosen people was in a time of famine so the sons of Jacob traveled to Egypt in search of food. Imagine their surprise to find Joseph in command! Instead of having them killed or thrown into prison because of what they had done to him, Joseph embraced each one and gave them all the food they needed. He invited his family to move to Egypt, which they did. Joseph gave them some of the best land in Egypt and loved them with all of his heart.

In this Joseph again prefigures Jesus. Joseph forgave those who had wronged him and gave them everything they needed for a happy life. This reminds us of Christ, who forgives all of our sins and gives us every grace and blessing we need to live good Christian lives while we journey to heaven, our true home.

For four hundred years the Israelites lived in the land of Egypt. While Joseph was alive they were treated with honor and respect. Years later, however, the rulers were no longer happy to have them. One particular Pharaoh made the Israelites the slaves of the Egyptian people. The descendants of Jacob were forced to do heavy manual labor from sunrise to sunset; they were used as "beasts of burden" to build many of the pyramids in Egypt. God's people soon began to think that the Lord had abandoned them; they wondered if he had taken back the wonderful covenant of blessing that he had made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. It was at this difficult point in their history that God sent a very special man to his people.

Words to Know:

salvation history covenant
patriarch prefiguration
Promised Land Israel



Q. 48 What is salvation history?

Salvation history is the story of God's saving plan, fulfilled in Jesus Christ, to reunite man with him and share in his glory forever (CCC 430-31).

Q. 49 From whom would be born the Redeemer of the world?

The Redeemer of the world would be born from among God's chosen people, of a woman named Mary, who was of the house of David (CCC 488).

Q. 50 Why is Abraham our father in faith?

Abraham is our father in faith because he believed God's promise to make him the father of a holy people from whom our Savior was born (CCC 59-60).

Q. 51 What is a covenant?

A covenant is a promise or an oath that binds two people (or groups of people) together. God's covenant with the Israelites bound them to his laws so that they could know and serve him faithfully (CCC 62).

Q. 52 Who were the Israelites?

The Israelites were God's chosen people of the Old Testament. They were the first to hear the Word of God. God prepared them for the coming of the Savior, who would redeem the whole world (CCC 64).

Name: _____

God's Plan of Salvation

Quiz 4

Part I: Define the following terms.

Salvation History: The events in human history that have been especially connected with the salvation of mankind.

Covenant: An agreement or contract. In the Old Testament, an agreement made between God and the people of Israel.

Patriarch: A title given to the founding fathers of the Jewish people in the Old Testament.

Prefigurement: A person, place, or thing that comes before another person, place, or thing and that is similar to it and foretells it.

Promised Land: In the Old Testament, the special land, also known as Palestine or the Holy Land, which God promised to give to his people.

Part II: Answer in complete sentences.

1. What did God promise Abraham in his covenant?
God promised Abraham many descendants who would become a great nation and live in the Promised Land.
2. How did Isaac prefigure Jesus?
The near sacrifice of Isaac, Abraham's son, prefigures the sacrifice of Jesus, the only son of the Father, on the Cross.
3. What new name did God give to Jacob? Why is this name important?
God named Jacob "Israel." This name is important because it became the name for God's chosen people.
4. How did Joseph save his brothers? How did Joseph prefigure Jesus when he did this?
Joseph saved his brothers by providing food for them when they came to Egypt. Joseph prefigures Jesus because he forgave his brothers, just as Jesus forgives our sins. Joseph provided for his family's needs, just as Jesus gives us all the graces and blessing that we need.

A-4

Faith and Life Series • Grade 7 • Appendix A

Name: _____

Unit 1 Test

Chapters 1-4

Part I: Short answer.

1. What is the supernatural power that we receive from God that helps us to believe all that he has revealed? faith
2. With what two things can we know that God exists? reason and revelation
3. What two things contain the revelation of God? Scripture and Tradition
4. What is the one true teacher and protector of God's revelation? the Church
5. What is the official teaching office or authority of the Church? the Magisterium
6. Who is given the special gift of infallibility to protect him from error in teaching matters of faith and morals? the Pope and the bishops in union with him

Part II: Match the book of the Bible with its description. Write the correct number in the blank. Then write an O if the book is in the Old Testament and an N if the book is in the New Testament.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <u>1/O</u> Pentateuch | 1. also called the Torah |
| 2. <u>6/N</u> Letters of Saint Paul | 2. collection of prayers and wise sayings |
| 3. <u>5/N</u> Acts of the Apostles | 3. messages of God's prophets |
| 4. <u>3/O</u> Prophetic Books | 4. accounts of Christ's life and message |
| 5. <u>4/N</u> Gospels | 5. brief history of the early Church |
| 6. <u>2/O</u> Wisdom Books | 6. teachings of Christ applied to the needs of the early Church by the great Apostle Paul |
| 7. <u>8/N</u> Book of Revelation | 7. teachings for the whole Church written by various Apostles |
| 8. <u>7/N</u> Letters to all Christians | 8. reminds the persecuted Church that Jesus is victorious over his enemies |

Faith and Life Series • Grade 7 • Appendix A

A-5

Name: _____

Unit 1 Test (continued)

Part III: Answer in complete sentences.

1. What does it mean to say that God inspired the Scriptures? Who is the primary author of the Scriptures?
Inspiration means that God moved the human authors of Scripture to write about him and guided their minds as to what they should write. The Holy Spirit is the primary author of the Scriptures.
2. What do we know about God from the story of Creation in the Bible?
We know that there is only one God. God created everything. Everything God made is good. God has a special plan for mankind.
3. What two things make up a human being?
A human being is made up of a physical body and a spiritual soul.
4. What are the effects of Original Sin upon us?
The effects of Original Sin upon us are separation from God, loss of grace, weakness for sin, sickness and death.
5. Did God abandon man when he sinned? What did God promise to do for us?
God did not abandon man when he sinned. God promised to send a Redeemer.
6. What did God promise Abraham in his covenant with him?
God promised Abraham many descendants who would become a great nation and live in the Promised Land.
7. How does Isaac prefigure Jesus?
The near sacrifice of Isaac, Abraham's son, prefigures the sacrifice of Jesus, the only son of the Father, on the Cross.
8. How does Joseph prefigure Jesus?
Joseph was sold by his brothers into slavery; Jesus was betrayed by his friend for money. Joseph forgave and saved his brothers from famine. Jesus forgives us and saves us from sin and death.

A-6

Faith and Life Series • Grade 7 • Appendix A

Name: _____

God Calls Abraham

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. Where was Abraham from?
Abraham was from Mesopotamia.
2. When did Abraham live?
Abraham lived four thousand years ago.
3. What is a covenant?
A covenant is an agreement or promise.
4. What did God promise Abraham?
God promised to make Abraham the father of many descendants who would become a great nation.
5. Why did Abraham especially need to trust that God would fulfill this promise?
Abraham had to trust that God would fulfill this promise because he and his wife were very old and had no children.
6. Where did God lead Abraham?
God led Abraham to the Promised Land.
7. Was God's blessing extended to Abraham's descendants?
Yes.
8. Do we still honor Abraham? Why?
Yes, we honor Abraham because he is our father in faith.



Faith and Life Series • Grade 7 • Chapter 4 • Lesson 1

13

Name: _____

The Covenant Continues with Isaac

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.



1. Who is Isaac?
Isaac is Abraham's son.
2. How did God test Abraham?
God tested Abraham by asking him to sacrifice Isaac.
3. Why did Abraham agree with God's request?
Abraham agreed with God's request because he knew that man must love and serve God more than his family.
4. What happened in the land of Moriah? Did Abraham pass the test?
In Moriah, an angel stopped Abraham before he killed his son. Abraham passed the test.
5. What is a patriarch?
A patriarch is one of the founding fathers, or leaders, of the Jewish people.
6. What was Isaac chosen to do after the death of Abraham?
After Abraham's death, Isaac was chosen to become the second patriarch.

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Faith and Life Series • Grade 7 • Chapter 4 • Lesson 2

Name: _____

The Covenant Continues with Jacob

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. Who is Jacob?
Jacob is Isaac's son with whom God chose to carry on his covenant.
2. When did God change Jacob's name?
God changed Jacob's name after God had promised to continue the covenant with him.
3. What does Jacob's new name mean?
Jacob's new name means "the man who strives with God."



4. Why is Jacob's new name so important?
His name is important because God's people used it as the name for their community: the Israelites.
5. How many sons did Jacob have?
Jacob had twelve sons.
6. Who did his sons become?
His sons became the fathers of the twelve tribes of Israel.

Faith and Life Series • Grade 7 • Chapter 4 • Lesson 3

15

Name: _____

God's Providence and Joseph

Write a short essay about God's providence in bringing Israel's family to Egypt.



16

Faith and Life Series • Grade 7 • Chapter 4 • Lesson 4

Lesson 5

Chapter 5—The Holy Prophet Moses

Correlated Materials

Student Text: Chapter 5, pp. 35–40
Activity Book: Chapter 5, pp. 17–20
Family Guide: G 7–5, pp. 142–43

LESSON FOCUS

Salvation history continues with Moses, who led God’s people out of slavery in Egypt and toward the Promised Land. Through Moses, God gave the Israelites the Ten Commandments. When Moses died, Joshua led the Israelites into the Promised Land. For many years, Israel was ruled by representatives of God called judges, and then God gave them a king. The first king of Israel was Saul; the second was David.

AIMS

- Students will learn to grow in trusting God in all things.
- The students will know the Ten Commandments.
- The students will know some of the Old Testament prefigurements of Christ, and will learn to recognize God’s providential plan in their own lives.

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. 35

“When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, ‘Moses, Moses!’ And he said, ‘Here am I’” (Exodus 3:4).

Moses answers God by saying, “Here am I.” We too need to be open to answering God’s call. Just like Moses, we need to be obedient and respectful of God and his plan for us.

SACRED ART: Student Text, p. 36

“Moses,” statue

Moses was a great prophet in the Old Testament, through whom God established his covenant with the Israelites and gave them the Ten Commandments.

PRAYER WITH CHILDREN: Our Father, Student Text, p. 175

Review Lesson 4, Chapter 4 (3 minutes)

- Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are the patriarchs of Israel.
- God established a covenant with Abraham, promising him land, descendants, and blessings.
- God called Abraham to sacrifice his beloved son, Isaac.
- Jacob obtained his brother’s birthright and blessing.
- Joseph was sold into slavery in Egypt, but he became the second-most powerful man there and was able to save his family from a famine.

Proclamation (1 minute)

(Proclaim slowly, then repeat.)

God always provides for his people. He protects them and gives them leaders and laws for their own benefit.

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH REFERENCES:

- God Forms His People, Israel: 62–64, 72, 218
- Moses and the Prayer of the Mediator: 2574–77, 2593
- Paschal Mystery of Christ: 571, 1067
- Passover in Relation to the Holy Eucharist: 1334, 1362–65
- Ten Commandments in Sacred Scripture: 2056–63, 2077

MATERIALS

- Bible
- Chalkboard or dry erase board
- Student notebooks and pencils; students are encouraged to take notes.
- Optional: Items needed for a Seder meal celebration. See Appendix, pp. B–2 through B–6.
- Handout of timeline.

WORDS TO KNOW

Yahweh: the name of God which he revealed to Moses. It means “I AM.” This reminds us that God is the source of all life and of every living thing.

Passover: the ancient Jewish ceremonial supper which recalls the Exodus from Egypt. Passover commemorates the deliverance of the Jewish people from death by blood of the lamb that was sprinkled over their doors in Egypt.

Paschal Mystery: refers to the suffering, death, and Resurrection of Jesus by which we are saved from our sins. The Last Supper was a Passover (Paschal lamb) meal Jesus celebrated with his Apostles.

Exodus: the name given to the journey of the Jews from Egypt to the Promised Land. It is also the name of the second book of the Old Testament.

Lesson Explanation (40–50 minutes)

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

Focus 1: Moses. Moses was born a Hebrew slave. He was rescued from the Nile by Pharaoh’s daughter and was raised in Pharaoh’s palace. God called Moses to deliver his people from slavery.

- **Use** the timeline in the Appendix to put Moses into context within the narrative of salvation history with a brief review. Encourage students to tell the story:
 - Creation, Fall of **Adam and Eve**, promise of Savior.
 - Wickedness increases; God floods the earth; **Noah** loves God and he builds an Ark to save his family (and the human race) from the flood.
 - **Abraham**, Isaac, and Jacob are the three patriarchs of the Israelite people.
 - Jacob has twelve sons (twelve tribes of Israel). The Israelites are in Egypt for four hundred years as slaves.
 - Before the coming of Jesus, the Redeemer, the most important person among God’s chosen people was Moses, the first of God’s prophets. He was their first leader, and he helped to make the Israelites a united people.
- **Summarize or read** the early life of Moses. See sidebar or Scripture: Moses being drawn from the Nile (Exodus 2:1–10); Moses fleeing Egypt to Midian (Exodus 2:11–25).

Moses

Moses was born in Egypt to a poor Israelite woman. At the time of Moses’ birth, the Pharaoh had made a law that required the death of every newborn Israelite boy. He did this because the Jewish people were becoming a very large group, and if their numbers continued to increase, they would not as easily be kept in slavery. Hoping to save the life of her son, Moses’ mother hid him in a basket by the Nile River. One day, the Pharaoh’s daughter found little Moses, and she adopted him as her own son. He grew up in the royal palace and was treated as one of the family. Moses knew that he was really an Israelite by birth, and he would visit the Jewish slaves often. During one of these visits he saw an Egyptian hit one of the slaves; this filled him with so much anger that he killed the Egyptian! Realizing that he was in great trouble for having killed the Egyptian, Moses fled Egypt and went to the land of Midian. There he became a herdsman, married a woman named Zipporah, and raised a family.

Law: another name for the Ten Commandments of God. In Christian vocabulary, it also includes the New Testament commandments of Christ.

idol: any creature (created thing) that we honor and worship as a god. Idols can be people (such as sports heroes or movie stars) or things (such as money or fashionable clothing). Something becomes an idol when we desire it and honor it more than God. Idols are also called false *gods* in the Bible (such as in the First Commandment).

Ark of the Covenant: the special chest in which Jews placed the tablets of the Ten Commandments

sacrifice: the act of offering to God something that is dear to us

altar: a table which has been specially dedicated to God for the offering of sacrifices. Holy Mass is usually offered on an altar.

consecrated: someone or something that is specially blessed and set aside for God. Every Christian is consecrated by Baptism.

anoint: the act of pouring oil on someone or something in a religious ceremony. In Christianity, it is a sign of being specially chosen by God to share in Jesus' triple office of priest, prophet, and king.

psalms: prayer-poems and hymns inspired by God and found in the Old Testament. Many were written by King David of Jerusalem. The Church uses the psalms every day in the Mass.

Moses in Midian

The time soon arrived when God, because of the covenant he had made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, answered the prayers of his enslaved people. He appeared to Moses in a burning bush and told him to return to Egypt in order to deliver the Jews from their slavery. The Lord said to Moses: "I have seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters; I know their sufferings. . . . Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring forth my people, the sons of Israel, out of Egypt. . . . But I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought forth the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God upon this mountain" (Exodus 3:7, 10, 12). At this time, God also revealed his name to Moses. He called himself **Yahweh** (Exodus 3:14), which translated means "I AM." This tells us that God is the source of all that exists; it is he alone who has the power to do all things. It also reminds us that God is eternal; that is, his existence had no beginning and will have no end.

- God addressed Moses from the burning bush. **Read** Exodus 3:1–22 or see sidebar.
 - *How did God get Moses' attention? (He appeared to him in a burning bush.)*
 - *Has anything ever happened in your life that caused you to pay more attention to God? (Answers will vary.)*
 - God asked Moses to remove his shoes because he was on holy ground. Moses did this to show respect and adoration for God. *What do you do to worship and adore the Lord? (Answers will vary.)*
 - Because God had entered into a covenant with his people, he answered the prayers of the enslaved Hebrews. *What did God want Moses to do? (To lead his people out of Egypt.)*
 - *Is God calling you to do anything in your life right now? (Answers will vary)*

Conclusion: Moses was born a Hebrew slave. He was rescued from the Nile by Pharaoh's daughter and raised in Pharaoh's palace. God called Moses to deliver his people from slavery.

FOCUS | OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Just as God prepared Moses to fulfill his purpose, he also prepares us. It's not always easy to figure out God's plan for us. *How can we learn God's plan for us and be able to follow it? (Answers will vary. Some examples include having a relationship with God, prayer, reading Scripture.)*
- Activity Book, p. 17

Focus 2: Mighty Signs. God sent ten plagues upon the Egyptians to teach them that he is the one, true God. Through the Passover **sacrifice** and meal, the Israelites are spared from the angel of death. The Passover prefigures Christ's sacrifice.

- God had a lot of work planned for Moses. What a challenge to return to a land where he was wanted for murder!
 - Moses had to go to the house of Pharaoh, where he had been raised, to demand the release of his people from slavery. He alone had been given the task to lead the Hebrews to freedom, trusting in God.
 - The Pharaoh and the Egyptians worshipped many gods, and they did not believe in the one, true God. **What did God do in order to show that he was the one true God?** (Sent ten plagues.)
 - **What other reason did God have to send the ten plagues?** (God bestowed the ten plagues because the Pharaoh would not let the Israelites go, and he did not obey God's message. These plagues, especially the tenth plague, would get the Pharaoh's attention.)
 - **Which of the ten plagues can you remember?** (Water turned into blood; frogs; gnats; flies; death of livestock; sores and boils; hailstorms; locusts; darkness; death of firstborn.)
 - **Has anything ever happened in your life that got your attention, where you actually turned closer to God?** (Answers will vary, remind students that God always acts out of love.)
- The word "**passover**" comes from the Hebrew word *pascha*, which means "crossing over."
 - **Can you recall what happened the night of the first Passover?** (Answers will vary.)
 - **What did God require the people to do in order to save their firstborn?**
 - *Sacrifice an unblemished lamb.*
 - *Take the blood of the lamb and place it over the doorpost with a hyssop branch.*
 - *Have a feast; eat the lamb.*
- **Compare** the first Passover sacrifice with Jesus' sacrifice as the Lamb of God—the **Paschal Mystery**. (See sidebar.)
- Use Appendix B-35 for details to compare the first Passover with the Last Supper.

Conclusion: God sent ten plagues upon the Egyptians to teach them that he is the true God. The Passover sacrifice and meal protected the Israelites from the angel of death and prepared them for their **Exodus** (exit) from slavery. The Passover prefigures Christ's sacrifice.

FOCUS 2 OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Have a Seder meal celebration. See Appendix, pp. B-2 through B-6. This can also be done during Lent. See supplemental lesson.
- Activity Book, p. 18

Passover Parallels with the Paschal Mystery

- John 1:29 • John the Baptist calls Jesus the Lamb of God.
- Mark 14:22–25 • Jesus' Last Supper was a Passover meal, and Jesus referred to his Blood as "my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many." This relates to Exodus 24:8: "Behold the blood of the covenant which the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words." As he said this, Moses threw the blood of the sacrificed animals on the people (see Matthew 27:25).
- John 19:13–14 • Pilate condemns Jesus on "the day of preparation . . . about the sixth hour." The sixth hour of the day of preparation is when the Passover lambs were sacrificed.
- John 19:28–30 • The soldiers give Jesus vinegar to drink, which is soaked in a sponge that is placed on the end of a hyssop stick. According to Exodus 12:22, the Israelites were to use a hyssop stick to mark their doors with the blood of the Passover lamb.
- John 19:33 • The soldiers did not break any of Jesus' bones. According to Exodus 12:46, the Israelites were not to break any bone of the Passover lamb.

Focus 3: Covenant. God established a covenant with his people and gave them his **Law**, the Ten Commandments. The Ten Commandments are binding for all people.

- Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt through the Red Sea. They wandered through the wilderness for about three months while God provided food for them. The people, however, complained against God and Moses.
 - *Why? (The people were hungry, tired, and losing their faith.)*
 - *How are the Hebrews' complaints like our complaints? (Answers will vary.)*
- God gave the Decalogue (Ten Commandments) to the Hebrews. The Ten Commandments are still binding for all the people today.
 - **Review** the Ten Commandments in Student Text, p. 39.
 - A covenant was established at Mount Sinai. In Exodus 24:8 we read, "Moses took the blood and threw it upon the people, and said, 'Behold the blood of the covenant which the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words.'" God was making a covenant or a sacred bond with his people. God promised to be their God.
 - *What does God expect from his people on Mount Sinai? (That they will follow God's laws, the Ten Commandments.)*
- As baptized Christians, we too have entered a covenant with God. He is our Lord and Savior who is merciful and loving.
 - *What does God want in return from us? (Answers will vary; see below.)*
 - God wants us to love him in return. If we love God, we will then want to follow his commandments. God calls us to know him, to love him. To love someone, we must also trust him.

Moses Prefigures Jesus

MOSES	JESUS
Saved the Israelites	Savior of all mankind
Shepherd	The Good Shepherd
Hebrews were slaves to the Egyptians	We are slaves to sin
Led God's people to freedom through the waters of the Red Sea	Sets us free from sin by the waters of Baptism
Gave the people God's Law on Mount Sinai	Fulfilled the Law, especially with the Sermon on the Mount
Led God's people to the Promised Land	Brings us to the true promised land: heaven

Ark of the Covenant

The Ten Commandments were placed in the **Ark of the Covenant**, which symbolizes God's presence among his people. The Ark of the Covenant was a special chest in which the Israelites placed the tablets of the Ten Commandments. The Ark, which bore God's presence in the Ten Commandments, prefigures Mary. The Holy Spirit overshadows both the Ark and Mary. The Ark of the Old Covenant was the dwelling place of God, and Mary became the new dwelling place of God.

- *Do you always trust that God will be with you and take care of you? (Answers will vary.)*
- Just as with Moses and the Israelites, God will test us to see if we really do trust him.
 - *Name a time that you placed your trust in God. (Answers will vary. Remind students that sometimes we need to wait for God to answer our prayers; when our prayers are according to God's will, he always answers in one way or another.)*
 - Moses delivers the people from the bond of slavery in Egypt. He prefigures Jesus, who delivers all of mankind from the bond of slavery to sin. (Using the sidebar, explain how Moses prefigures Jesus.)

Conclusion: God established a covenant with his people and gave them his Law (the Ten Commandments) on Mount Sinai. The Ten Commandments were placed in the Ark of the Covenant, which means God's presence. The Ark of the Covenant prefigures Mary. (See the sidebar for more information on the Ark of the Covenant.)

FOCUS 3 OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Have the students review an Examination of Conscience, Student Text, pp. 181–83.
- Break the students into small groups and have them discuss the following:
 - *How do the Ten Commandments play a part in your moral decision making? Give an example. (Answers will vary.)*
 - *What are some other gods you have been tempted to worship in your life? How do you honor your parents now? How do you think you will honor them as an adult? (Answers will vary.)*
- Read Student Text, p. 37, "God Gives Moses the Ten Commandments," and do Activity Book, p. 19.

Focus 4: Promised Land. The Israelites were led into the Promised Land by Joshua. God gave the Israelites what they asked for, a king. Saul was **anointed** as the first king by the prophet Samuel. David was the second king. David prefigures Jesus.

- *Why do you think that the Israelites wandered in the wilderness for forty years? (Answers will vary; explanation below.)*
 - The Israelites complained and did not trust in the Lord to bring them into the Promised Land. All those who had witnessed God's great works and still doubted were punished.
 - Moses was not able to enter the Promised Land because he once doubted God. We all have to make an account of all our thoughts, words, deeds, and omissions (all of our sins) to God.

Holy Oils

Oil is a symbol of beauty, strength, nourishment, and consecration (being set apart for God). Holy oils are usually blessed by the bishop at the Chrism Mass on Holy Thursday.

- **Oil of Catechumens:** usually olive oil; used at Baptism and poured with chrism into the baptismal waters when they are blessed at the Easter Vigil
- **Sacred Chrism:** usually olive oil mixed with balm; used for Baptism, Confirmation, ordinations of priests and bishops, and for the dedication of churches and **altars**
- **Oil of the Sick:** usually olive oil; used for the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick

FOCUS 4 OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- David composed many **psalms** to praise God, to thank him, to ask for help, and to soothe wearied souls. Read a Psalm from the Old Testament. Have the students write a psalm of their own.
- Read “The Rule of the Kings” in Student Text, p. 39, and do Activity Book, p. 20.

- *Do you ever find yourself struggling to trust God or doubting his goodness? How can remembering the history of God and the Israelites help you through that struggle? (Answers will vary; remind students that we are like the Israelites in many ways.)*
- Joshua was Moses’ successor. He was a great warrior who led the Jews in battle and brought them back to the Promised Land. He assembled the Israelites and renewed the covenant with God.
 - **Use timeline** at the end of this manual. Show five Old Testament Covenants; add “United Kingdom (Saul, David, Solomon).”
 - The Israelite people wanted a king. They did not realize that God was already their king. God gives the people what they wanted. Moses was the first great prophet. Another holy prophet was Samuel. Samuel anointed Saul as the first king of Israel. (See sidebar on holy oils.)
- **Use the timeline** to discuss.
 - *Who were the three Kings of the United Kingdom of Israel? (Saul, David, and Solomon were three Kings of the United Kingdom of Israel; each of them reigned for forty years.)*
 - David was the greatest king Israel ever had. He was a strong warrior and a good government leader. God loved David very much, and God made a covenant with David.
 - He promised him that one day one of his descendants would reign as King forever.
 - This prophecy was about Jesus. King David prefigures Jesus in many ways: both David and Jesus are shepherds, both are kings, and both lead the People of God.
 - Soon after Solomon’s death, however, the kingdom experienced many difficulties. The Israelites who lived in the northern area fought with those of the south; they eventually divided the cherished Promised Land into two separate nations.
 - The northern kingdom was called Israel.
 - The southern kingdom was named Judah. It was the kingdom of Judah (Southern Kingdom) that remained faithful to God and to King David’s policies. And it was from the people of this nation that Jesus Christ would come to us.
 - *God is the King of our lives. Have you ever placed other gods before the one true God? Examples of this would be anything that we trust in to make us happy, before God. (Answers will vary.)*

Conclusion: The Israelites were led into the Promised Land (which prefigures heaven) by Joshua, Moses’ successor. God established judges to be the leaders of his people. The Israelites asked for a king. Saul was anointed as the first king by the prophet Samuel. David was the second king. David prefigures Jesus. David’s son Solomon built the temple for God in Jerusalem.

Review Lesson 5, Chapter 5 (3 minutes)

- God called Moses to deliver his people from slavery. Moses prefigures Jesus, who delivers us from our slavery to sin.
- God established a covenant with his people and gave them his Law.
- The Israelites were led into the Promised Land by Joshua.
- God gave the Israelites what they asked for, a king. God made a covenant with David.

Application (10–20 minutes)

Choose one or more of the following for discussion.

- If we are to live out the Paschal Mystery through our own lives, then we must die to our own wants and needs. **What will you do to live out the Paschal Mystery? Today, can you think about what you can do for someone in your life?** (Answers will vary.)
- Discuss God's providence; ask students to write about how God has provided for them.
- The Israelites sacrificed a lamb so that their firstborn children would not die. **What are some things you can sacrifice in order to receive God's blessing in your life?** (Answers will vary.)
- King David wrote psalms to God. Read one of the psalms. **What does this teach us about a good leader's love for God?** (Answers will vary—for example, leaders will be able to do all things with God, who strengthens him.)

Celebration (5–10 minutes)

Choose one or more of the following.

- Song: "Faith of Our Fathers," *Adoremus Hymnal*, #603. Go to www.ignatius.com/promotions/adoremus-hymnal/downloadable-mp3s.htm.
- Concluding Prayer: Thank God for his great provision. Pray the Glory Be, Student Text, p. 175.
- Petitions: Students will offer prayers of petition for others.

Take Home

- Student reading for next lesson: Student Text, Chapter 6, pp. 41–44
- Optional: Family Guide: G 7–5, pp. 142–43
- Optional: Activity Book: Chapter 5, pp. 17–20

The Holy Prophet Moses

When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here am I.”

Exodus 3:4

Before the coming of Jesus, the Redeemer, the most important person among God’s chosen people was Moses, the first of God’s prophets. He was their first leader, and he helped to make the Israelites a united people.

Moses was born in Egypt to a poor Israelite woman. At the time of his birth the Pharaoh had made a law that required the death of every newborn Israelite boy. He did this because the Jewish people were becoming a very large group, and if their numbers continued to increase they would not as easily be kept in slavery. Hoping to save the life of her son, Moses’ mother hid him in a basket by the Nile River.

One day, the Pharaoh’s daughter found little Moses, and she adopted him as her own son. He grew up in the royal palace and was treated as one of the family. Moses knew that he was really an Israelite by birth, and he would visit the Jewish slaves often. During one of these visits he saw an Egyptian hit one of the slaves; this filled him with so much anger that he killed the Egyptian! Realizing that he was in great trouble for having killed the Egyptian, Moses fled Egypt and went to the land of Midian. There he became a herdsman, married a woman named Zipporah, and raised a family.

God Calls Moses

The time soon arrived when God, because of the covenant he had made with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, answered the prayers of his enslaved people. He appeared to Moses in a burning bush and told him to return to Egypt in order to deliver the Jews from their slavery. The Lord said to Moses:

“I have seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters; I know their sufferings. . . . Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring forth my people, the sons of Israel, out of Egypt. . . . But I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought forth the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God upon this mountain” (Ex 3:7–12).

At this time God also revealed his name to Moses. He called himself **Yahweh** (Ex 3:14) which translated means, “I AM.” This tells us that God is the source of all that exists; it is he alone who has the power to do all things. It all so reminds us that God is *eternal*; that is, his

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existence had no beginning and will have no end.

Moses Returns to the Land of Egypt

Obedying the will of God, Moses traveled to Egypt where he was accepted by the Israelites as a prophet sent from the Lord. God chose his brother, Aaron, to be his companion in God’s service and they both went to Pharaoh with this message: “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, ‘Let my people go’” (Ex 5:1).

But the Pharaoh would not think of it! Instead he increased the labor of the Jews and treated them even more harshly. In order to punish his stubbornness God sent ten plagues upon the land: water turned into blood; frogs overran the countryside; gnats were like a thick dust; flies swarmed; animals died; boils and

sores afflicted men and animals; hailstorms descended upon the land; locusts destroyed their crops; and for three days all of Egypt was plunged into darkness. Even after all of these terrible signs, Pharaoh refused to obey the will of God in letting the Jewish people go!

The Passover of the Lord

Before sending the tenth and final plague (which was to be the death of every firstborn son and animal), God told Moses to have each Israelite family hold a special religious meal which would be a sign that they were members of his sacred people. Every family was to kill a lamb and eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. They were to eat this holy meal standing, ready to leave on a journey. Before finishing this ceremony, they were to sprinkle the lamb’s blood on their wooden doorposts, for this would be a signal that the home was to be spared from the tenth plague. When the angel of death went throughout the land carrying out this plague, he would *pass over* the homes sprinkled with blood. Thus the meal became known as the **Passover**. Even today, Jewish families gather together to celebrate the feast of the Passover; it is always celebrated near our Christian feast of Easter.

The Passover meal was a special preparation of God’s people for Christ’s saving death and for the Mass, which is the sacred sacrifice-meal of the new chosen people, the Church. Let us pause to compare these important events.

The Israelites gathered together for the Passover by the command of God; we Catholics come together every Sunday for Mass as Christ commands us. During their ceremony the Israelites sacrificed an animal known as the Paschal lamb; we offer the Father the Eucharistic sacrifice of Jesus, who is the “Lamb of God” (Jn 1:36). At the Passover meal the Israelites ate the sacrificed lamb; at every Eucharist we

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are invited to partake of the Body and Blood of Jesus in Holy Communion. The Israelites sprinkled the blood of the sacrificed lamb upon the wood of their doorposts so that death would not come to them that night; at every Holy Mass the Precious Blood of Jesus is *sacramentally* shed for our sins so that we might be saved from eternal death (hell). Finally, because of the Passover ceremony and the tenth plague, the Israelites were freed from their slavery; because of Christ’s sacrifice we are freed from slavery to sin and the devil.

The Jewish Passover ceremony prefigured how Christ would save us from our sins. The Passion, death, and Resurrection of Christ are thus the fulfillment of the Passover and hence called the **Paschal Mystery** (Passover) of the Lord Jesus. This Paschal Mystery is perpetuated throughout time in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Saint Paul, in his first letter to the Corinthians, uses this same comparison saying: “For Christ, our Paschal Lamb, has been sacrificed. Let us, therefore, celebrate the festival . . . with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth” (1 Cor 5:7–8).

The Exodus from Egypt

Afraid of the power of the Israelites’ God, Pharaoh let the Jews leave Egypt. We call this journey from Egypt to the Promised Land the **Exodus**. Soon after they had left the Pharaoh’s city, the Egyptian ruler changed his mind and sent some of his troops to bring the Israelites back. At first God’s people were terrified at seeing the soldiers coming toward them, but Moses told them to trust in the Lord. As the Israelites approached the Red Sea, God intervened to save them: the mighty waters parted and there was a clear path for them to travel through! The soldiers came galloping after the Israelites, but they were too late: as soon as the last of God’s people reached the other side of

the sea, the waves came crashing down upon the Egyptians. You can imagine the great joy and confidence in God that filled the hearts of his people!

Even with this great sign of God’s protection, the people soon grew weary of traveling in the desert where food and water were scarce. They complained to Moses: “Would that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt . . . for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger” (Ex 16:3).

God heard their cries and in reply, God sent nourishment to his people in miraculous ways: he gave them a special bread called manna and water gushed forth from a rock! This bread, wondrously sent from God, prefigures the Holy Eucharist, which is the heavenly Bread of Life.

God Gives Moses the Ten Commandments

After about three months of wandering in the desert the Israelites found themselves at Mount Sinai. Moses climbed up this mountain in order to pray. At this time God appeared to him and gave him the Ten Commandments, also called the **Law**. Moses proclaimed the Ten Commandments to the people and they all answered: “All the words which the LORD has spoken we will do” (Ex 24:3). The Lord then called Moses to go back up the mountain to receive the Law written on the stone tablets. In the meantime the people grew weary again and complained about their situation. Many of them actually turned their backs on God saying to Aaron: “Up, make us gods, who shall go before us” (Ex 32:1).

They melted down all their gold jewelry and formed an **idol**, or image of a false god, in the shape of a calf. They worshipped this image, committing the sin known as *idolatry*. When Moses came down from Sinai he grew furious

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at this sin of the people. How dare they turn their backs on the one true God, the God who had made a covenant with their ancestors and who had so miraculously freed them from slavery! Moses destroyed the idol and those who had worshipped it were punished. The Israelites told God and Moses that they were sorry for having doubted. They promised to do whatever was asked of them in order to remain God’s chosen people. Moses returned to Sinai in order to seek God’s forgiveness.

God Renews the Covenant with His People

God told Moses to give this message to the people:

“Behold, I make a covenant. Before all your people I will do marvels, such as have not been wrought in all the earth or in any nation. . . . Observe what I command you this day” (Ex 34:10–11).

Obedying the commandments of the Law became the people’s way of showing their loyalty to God. In order to show and preserve their deep respect for the commandments, God told them how to build a special container, called the **Ark of the Covenant**, in which the tablets of the Law were kept. They carried this with them as they journeyed to the Promised Land.

God Commands Sacrifices

As another part of the renewed covenant, God commanded that the priests of Israel offer animal sacrifices to him in worship. A **sacrifice** is the act of offering to God something that is precious to us. These gifts were to be offered on an **altar** that was **consecrated**, set apart solely for this purpose. Each time a sacrifice was offered the people would be reminded of the covenant and of their duty to obey the Law. During each sacrifice the priests

would beg God to forgive the sins of all the people.

For the next few centuries of salvation history (until the perfect sacrificial death of Jesus on the Cross), these sacrifices were offered to God by the Jewish people. Thus sacrificial worship became an important religious event in the lives of the People of God.

The Israelites Enter the Promised Land

After forty years of traveling through the desert the people finally arrived in the Promised Land. However, Moses was forbidden by the Lord to enter this land because he had once doubted God’s power. Even though he was a holy man and a prophet, he had to endure this punishment because he had disobeyed God’s command. This shows that even one sin is “one too many” in God’s eyes. Moses died just as the people were nearing the land. After burying him the Israelites entered into the land promised them from of old: the land God said he would give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Joshua and the Judges of Israel

Joshua was Moses’ successor as prophet of God and leader of the people. He was also a great warrior who led the Jews in battle against the foreigners who had taken over their land while they had been enslaved in Egypt. The book of Joshua in the Old Testament tells us about this brave man and the way he served God. Before his death, Joshua gathered the Israelites together and renewed the covenant with the Lord.

After Joshua’s death there was a new kind of leadership for Israel: the judges. These were not men who presided over courts of law as our judges do; they were military heroes who won great victories for God’s people. The era of the judges lasted only as long as Israel needed military men to reconquer their land. Once

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the community was firmly established as a nation, the work of the judges ended, and yet another new form of leadership arose: the kings.

The Rule of the Kings

At this time in salvation history there lived a holy prophet named Samuel. Since the Israelites wanted a king like all the other nations, God told Samuel to **anoint** certain men as the kings of God's people. He chose a man named Saul to be the very first king of Israel. Samuel anointed Saul king by pouring oil over his head as a sign that he had been chosen by God. Saul proved to be an unworthy king and he soon died.

His successor was David, a shepherd boy who won a mighty battle with the Philistine soldier Goliath. David became the greatest king Israel ever had; he was a strong warrior and a good government leader. Even though he committed some terrible sins he was truly sorry for them, and God forgave him. He loved God and wrote some beautiful prayers and hymns to him. We call these **Psalms**, and even today they are used in worship. It was King David who made *Jerusalem* the capital of the Jewish nation and the center of their worship. God loved David and made a special promise to him: one of his descendants would reign as king for-

ever! This was a prophecy about Jesus, who would be a descendant of David and the true King of the Jews.

After David's death, his son Solomon became king. He was a very wise ruler who made the kingdom a good place in which to live. His words of advice were written down and can be found in some of the wisdom books of the Old Testament. Solomon had a magnificent temple built in Jerusalem; it was beautifully decorated inside with gold, fine cloth, and ornate furnishings.

Soon after Solomon's death, however, the kingdom experienced many difficulties. The Jews who lived in the northern part fought with those of the south; they eventually divided the cherished Promised Land into two separate nations. The northern kingdom was called Israel, while the southern kingdom was named Judah. It was the kingdom of Judah that remained faithful to God and to King David's policies. And it was from the people of this nation that Jesus Christ would come to us.

Words to Know:

- Yahweh Passover Paschal Mystery
- Exodus Law idol
- Ark of the Covenant sacrifice altar
- consecrated anoint Psalms

The Ten Commandments of God

1. I, the Lord, am your God. You shall not have other gods besides me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day.
4. Honor your father and mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

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Q. 53 Who was Moses?

Moses was a great prophet in the Old Testament, through whom God established his covenant with the Israelites and gave them the Ten Commandments (CCC 62).

Q. 54 What was the Passover?

The Passover was the great event of the liberation of Israel from slavery in Egypt (CCC 1334).

Q. 55 What are the Ten Commandments?

The Ten Commandments are the moral laws that God gave to Moses on Mount Sinai and which Jesus Christ fulfilled in the New Testament (CCC 2056).



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Name: _____

The Holy Prophet Moses

Quiz 5

Part I: Short answer.

1. What is the name of God that he revealed to Moses, and what does it mean?
Yahweh, which means I AM
2. What is the journey of the Jews from slavery in Egypt to life in the Promised Land called? The second book of the Old Testament is named for this.
the Exodus
3. When God renewed his covenant through Moses, what two things did he require of his people?
that they obey the Ten Commandments (or the Law) and that they worship him with animal sacrifices
4. What is an offering to God of something that is precious to us? a sacrifice
5. Consecrated means to be what? set apart for God
6. What did God's people want to rule over them so that they could be like other nations?
a king
7. What is the act of pouring oil on something or someone as a sign that the thing or person is chosen by God? anointing

Part II: Fill in the blanks showing how the Passover prefigured the Eucharist.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>Passover</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The paschal lamb was sacrificed. 2. <u>The Israelites ate the paschal lamb.</u> 3. <u>The Israelites sprinkled the blood of the sacrificed lamb on their doorposts.</u> 4. The Israelites were saved from slavery to the Egyptians. | <p>Eucharist</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Jesus, the Lamb of God, is offered to the Father.</u> 2. We are invited to receive Jesus' Body and Blood in Holy Communion. 3. Jesus' Blood is sacramentally shed to save us from hell. 4. <u>We are freed from slavery to sin and death.</u> |
|--|--|

Name: _____

The Holy Prophet Moses

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.



1. How did Moses survive the killing of the Jewish newborn boys?
Moses' mother put him in a basket by the Nile.
2. Who raised Moses?
Pharaoh's daughter raised him.
3. Why did Moses have to leave Egypt?
Moses had to leave Egypt because he killed an Egyptian.
4. Where did Moses go and what did he do after he left Egypt?
After leaving Egypt, Moses went to the land of Midian where he became a herdsman, married, and raised a family.
5. What mission did God have for Moses?
Moses' mission was to free God's people from slavery to the Egyptians.
6. Why did God want his people delivered from slavery?
God had seen their sufferings and heard their cries for freedom.
7. What is God's name? What does it tell us about him?
God's name is Yahweh, or I AM. It tells us that he is the source of all that exists.



Name: _____

The Plagues

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.



1. List the ten plagues in order.
1. Water turned into blood



2. Frogs



3. Gnats



4. Flies



5. Death of livestock



6. Sores and boils



7. Hailstorms



8. Locusts



9. Darkness



10. Death of firstborn
2. Compare the Passover to the Paschal Mystery of Jesus.
Answers will vary.

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Name: _____

The Covenant at Mount Sinai

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.



1. Why did Moses climb up Mount Sinai?

Moses climbed Mount Sinai to pray and to receive God's Law.

2. How did the people offend God?

The people offended God by melting down their gold and making a golden calf, an idol, to worship.

3. How did God renew his covenant with them?

The people who had worshipped the idol were punished and the remaining ones asked for God's forgiveness. God forgave them and renewed the covenant with them.

4. How did they keep the Ten Commandments safe?

They built a special container, the Ark of the Covenant, in which the tablets of the Law were kept.

5. Why did God want sacrifices? Explain these sacrifices.

The sacrifices reminded God's people of their covenant and of their duty to obey the Law. Sacrifices were offered by a priest who would ask for God's forgiveness as he made the sacrifice.

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Name: _____

The Promised Land

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. Did Moses enter the Promised Land? Why or why not?

Moses did not enter the Promised Land because he had once doubted God's power and disobeyed God's command.

2. Who was Moses' successor?

Joshua was Moses' successor.

3. Who were the judges?

The judges were military heroes who won great victories for God's people.

4. Who was Samuel?

Samuel was a holy prophet who anointed Israel's first kings.

5. Who was the first king? Was he a good king?

Saul was the first king. He was not a good king.

6. Who was the next king?

The next king was David, the greatest king Israel ever had.

7. What did God promise David?

God promised David that one of his descendants would reign as king forever.

8. What two things was King Solomon known for? What happened to the kingdom after his death?

King Solomon was known for his great wisdom and for building the temple. After his death, the kingdom was divided into two separate nations.

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