

Grade 5

Introduction to Salvation History

Note to catechist: See Salvation History Overview in Introduction.

LESSON FOCUS

This lesson will introduce students to one another and to the theme of their book, *Credo, I Believe*. This year we will study the Creed, which includes the beliefs we have as Catholics. The Creed explains our belief in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Each Person of the Blessed Trinity has a role in our salvation. Through the mission of Jesus Christ (who redeemed us) and the mission of the Holy Spirit (who sanctifies us), we have hope that we will be led to the Father in heaven. God has a plan that each of us will be able to attain eternal life. God makes a covenant of love with Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, Moses, and David. This covenant is fulfilled through Jesus Christ, his Church, and the Sacraments.

AIMS

- Students will be introduced to one another and to the fifth grade Student Text, *Credo, I Believe*.
- Students will know that each Person of the Blessed Trinity has a role in our salvation.
- Students will know that through Jesus Christ and his Church, we have hope for eternal life.

Begin the Lesson

Preparation (5–10 minutes)

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

SCRIPTURE:

“Do not be afraid” (Luke 5:10).

Jesus tells Peter not to be afraid. Jesus is asking each of us to place our trust in him, and by doing so, not to be afraid.

SACRED ART: Student Text cover

The Miraculous Draught of Fishes, Raphael

Look at the picture on the cover of our book. Peter was astonished at the miracle Jesus performed of catching so many fish.

PRAYER WITH CHILDREN: Glory Be, Student Text, p. 137

Welcome (20–25 minutes)

- Optional ice breaker: Have students take a 3 × 5 card and write down the answers to the following questions (pose the questions one at a time to give the students a chance to write their answers). Make sure they do not share any information with each other.

1. Where were you born?
2. Name the people (and animals) in your family.
3. What is your favorite thing to do?

Then, collect the cards without having them share with each other. Go through the cards, one after the other, reading out the information and having them write down who they think is being described—it might be fun to throw in a card for yourself as well. Keep the cards to use in the future when choosing someone to read and as a way for you to know your students better.

(Optional: Have a small treat for the one who gets the most right.)

MATERIALS

- Bible
- White board and markers
- Grade 5 Student Text, *Credo, I Believe*

Optional:

- 3 × 5 index cards; small treat (see Welcome Activity)

WORDS TO KNOW

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

Apostles' Creed: a prayer which contains the chief truths of the Catholic Faith

- Welcome students to their fifth grade class. Explain that this year they are going to be focusing on the Apostles' Creed, which is the foundation of our beliefs as Catholic Christians. It is based on the Holy Trinity—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
- Direct students to look at the art *The Miraculous Drought of Fishes* (Luke 5:1–11) in Student Text, page 12, or the cover of their book.
 - This picture tells the story of when the Apostles had not caught any fish after fishing all night. They did not have faith until they saw Jesus perform miracles.
 - Jesus tells them to lower their nets again; they catch fish, *and then* they have faith and believe.
 - *The question is, do you believe?*

Proclamation (1 minute)

(Proclaim slowly, then repeat.)

The Creed explains our belief in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Each Person of the Blessed Trinity has a role in our salvation.

Lesson Explanation (25–35 minutes)

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

Focus 1: Through God the Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, we can achieve our ultimate goal in life, which is eternal happiness with God.

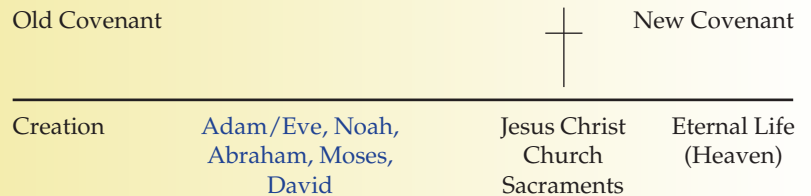
- Discuss students' goals in life:
 - *What sort of goals do you have in life?* (Answers will vary.)
 - *Who helps you achieve those goals?* (Parents, friends, coaches, etc.)
 - *What is our ultimate goal in life?* (Eternal happiness with God in heaven.)
 - *How do we achieve our goal of eternal life?* (Answers will vary. Lead students to understand that our ultimate goal in life is eternal life. We are dependent on each Person of the Blessed Trinity to become the people we are called to be; no matter how hard we might try to be good, we still need Jesus to get to heaven.)
- Each Person of the Blessed Trinity has a different role in our salvation.
 - *What is the role of God the Father?* (He is our Creator. He loves us unconditionally; his love sustains us.)
 - *What is the role of God the Son?* (He is our Redeemer. Through Jesus' death and Resurrection, each of us is able to receive eternal life. Through Christ our sins are forgiven.)

- ***What is the role of God the Holy Spirit?*** (He is our Sanctifier [to make us holy]. The Holy Spirit helps us to love God and to love each other as God loves so that we are able to share eternal life in heaven.)

Conclusion: Each Person of the Blessed Trinity has a role in helping us get to heaven.

Focus 2: God has a plan for each of us.

- Tell the story of God's saving plan. Keep it simple; draw a simple timeline as you go through the story.



- ***For what purpose did God create us?*** (God created us out of love so that we could be with him in heaven one day.)
- ***What happened as a result of Adam and Eve's disobedience to God?*** (The gates of heaven were closed; the loss of grace; death entered the world; they were cast out of paradise; etc.)
 - Because God is a loving and merciful God, he promised to save mankind by reopening the gates of heaven. He promised to send a Savior.
 - ***Who is our Savior?*** (Jesus Christ.)
- The Old Testament tells the story of God's saving plan before Jesus came.
 - ***God made many covenants with mankind; through whom did he make these promises?*** (Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David.)
 - ***Does God ever abandon those who love him?*** (No.)
 - God is always merciful despite the sins of mankind. God always keeps his promises. ***What do we call the promises God made to us?*** (Covenant.)
- The New Testament tells the story of how Jesus fulfills God's plan.
 - ***What did Jesus Christ have to do in order to redeem (forgive sins, open the gates of heaven) mankind?*** (Jesus had to obey the Father's will and offer his life as a sacrifice for all of mankind.)
 - Jesus opened the gates of heaven; mankind is redeemed. ***Does this mean that each of us will go to heaven?*** (No; each of us must be sanctified [be made holy] in order to meet God in heaven.)
 - Jesus knows that it is difficult for each of us to love as he loves; but he does not abandon us.

- *What/who does Jesus leave with us that will guide us to heaven? (The Church; the Sacraments; the Holy Spirit; Mary, the Mother of the Church; etc.)*
- Salvation is the act of being saved. Mankind needed to be saved from the consequences of Original Sin. Jesus opened the gates of Heaven, but each of us must still respond to the grace we receive from Jesus in order to attain eternal life.
- Allow students just to reflect on these questions, without answering:
 - *Do you ever think about your eternal goal ... your salvation ... being with God in heaven?*
 - *Have you ever realized how important Jesus' mission (Redeemer of mankind) in life is to your salvation?*
 - *Have you ever realized how important the Holy Spirit's mission (Sanctifier, the one who guides us to become holy) is in your life?*
 - *Have you ever realized how important the role of the Church is in your salvation?*
 - *Have you ever realized how important the grace you receive through the Sacraments is in your salvation?*
 - *Do you realize how important your faith is?*
 - *Do you realize how important it is to believe in God, to hope for eternal life, and to love as Jesus loves us?*
- This year we will be looking closely at all of these important aspects of our Faith—that is, what we believe as Catholics.

Conclusion: Our goal is to attain eternal life with God in heaven. God has a plan that each of us will be able to achieve that goal. Without Jesus Christ dying for our sins, none of us would be able to share in eternal life. Without grace received through the gift of the Church, the Sacraments, it would be impossible to get to heaven. But God has a plan; through the mission of Jesus Christ (who redeemed us) and the mission of the Holy Spirit (who sanctifies us), we have hope that we will be led to the Father in heaven.

Review Supplemental Lesson—Introduction to Salvation History

- Through God the Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, we can achieve our ultimate goal in life, which is eternal happiness with God.

Application (5–10 minutes)

Choose one or more of the following for discussion.

- **Allow students** just to answer the following questions silently to themselves as they reflect on the cover of their book, *Credo, I Believe*.
 - *Do you believe that God loves you unconditionally, no matter who you are or what you have done?*

- *Do you believe that Jesus Christ has died for your sins so that you may go to heaven?*
- *Do you believe that through the power of the Holy Spirit you are able to love as God loves?*
- *Do you believe that through the Sacraments you receive the grace necessary to become who God is calling you to be?*
- *Do you believe that the Church is a gift from God, to lead us to heaven?*
- *Do you believe that Mary, the Mother of Jesus, will lead us to heaven?*
- *Do you believe that through the Sacrament of Penance (confession) your sins will be forgiven?*
- *Do you believe that Jesus Christ is truly present in the Eucharist, his Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity?*
- *Do you believe that the Holy Mass is a remembrance of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ?*
- *Do you believe that the angels and saints in heaven are present at Mass?*
- *Do you believe in eternal life with God in heaven?*
- As Catholics we do believe these things, yet we must continue to grow in a faith that does not falter. Sometimes it is not easy to believe truths that go against what our friends or the culture says, even when we know that Jesus is the truth.
- This year we will go through each of our beliefs as Catholics, one by one.
- **Pray** together Mark 9:24: “[Jesus,] I believe; help my unbelief!”

Celebration (5–10 minutes)

- **Pray:** Jesus, thank you for the gift of our faith. Thank you for giving us the truth so that we may believe and have hope in eternal life. Thank you for responding in love, so that we too can love. Thank you for inviting us to receive you in the Eucharist. Amen.
- **Tell** students that Jesus invites us all to heaven. Read Revelation 3:20: “Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any one hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.”

