

Key Lesson Points

FOR CATECHISTS

Catechists: To prepare yourself for this lesson, refer to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC), on God's stages of revelation. Find the partial text below and complete text in paragraphs 54-65 of the CCC.

In the beginning God makes himself known

God, who creates and conserves all things by his Word, provides men with constant evidence of himself in created realities. He invited them to intimate communion with himself. This revelation was not broken off by our first parents' sin.

The Covenant with Noah

After the unity of the human race was shattered by sin God at once sought to save humanity part by part. The covenant with Noah after the flood gives expression to the principle of the divine economy toward the "nations", in other words, towards men grouped "in their lands, each with [its] own language, by their families, in their nations".

God chooses Abraham

The people descended from Abraham would be the trustee of the promise made to the patriarchs, the chosen people, called to prepare for that day when God would gather all his children into the unity of the Church. They would be the root onto which the Gentiles would be grafted, once they came to believe.

God forms his people Israel

After the patriarchs, God formed Israel as his people by freeing them from slavery in Egypt. He established with them the covenant of Mount Sinai and, through Moses, gave them his law so that they would recognize him and serve him as the one living and true God, the provident Father and just judge, and so that they would look for the promised Savior.

God has said everything in his Word

"In many and various ways God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son." Christ, the Son of God made man, is the Father's one, perfect and unsurpassable Word. In him he has said everything; there will be no other word than this one.

LESSON SUMMARY:

Since the beginning of time, God has had a plan for all of creation, and this plan is still unfolding! This plan of our "salvation history" is the most important story ever told, and we can learn about it, from its very beginning, in the Holy Bible.

By virtue of our baptism, we are a part of God's family and that means our lives are a part of the salvation story too. Salvation history focuses on God's love as He carries out his plan for saving us through a series of covenants, or a type of promise that is entered into. Many of us are familiar with some of these covenants God made, like those with Noah and Moses, which prepared the way for the ultimate covenant Jesus made with us by His death on the cross. As we live, love and pray like Jesus, our story is part of the big story of Jesus continuing to offer salvation to the world.

It is important to remember that the Bible is not just a story, but is God's living Word. The humans who physically wrote the Bible were inspired by the Holy Spirit, which makes the Bible completely full of truth. It is alive, relevant for our lives today, and shows us how to follow Jesus. We encounter the Lord through the holy Scriptures and our souls are nourished by His words. Because we are a part of God's story, it is important to become familiar with that story and grow closer to God through the Scriptures. We need the Word of God in our life.

In this lesson, students get the opportunity to learn that they and their family are a part of God's story of salvation, that He has a plan for each and every one of our lives, and that the Bible contains some of the earliest parts of the story of salvation history. These ideas are taught through exploring some of the most familiar stories in the Bible together and providing tips for reading, experiencing, and reflecting on God's word in the Holy Bible. It's awesome to think that we are a part of this big plan, the story of the entire world and all of history. And we learn about the story of our salvation in the Bible, which can feed us daily with God's loving words, spoken right to our hearts. What a beautiful gift to have!

LESSON FOCUS:

God's story of our salvation is found in the Bible. By virtue of our Baptism, we are a part of that story. The Bible is God's true and living Word, which is alive and relevant for our lives today.

LESSON GOALS:

In this lesson, your students will learn about the major stages in the story of salvation history to better understand how God has been working to bring His children back to Himself, and how His loving plan for salvation is still unfolding before us today.

They will also learn that the Holy Bible is God's Word to us and will be given tools to read and experience these messages from Him.

The Bible: Our Family's Story

Catechist Lesson Plan—Lesson 4, *Foundations*
Grades K-6

1 WELCOME

- Welcome students as they arrive.
- Give each a name tag.
- Introduce yourself.

2 PRAYER

Gather the students into a circle near your prayer center.

Father in heaven, we thank You for the gift of Faith. Bless each student and our time together. Open our hearts and minds as we learn about God's plan for each of us. Help us to continue to seek Your guidance every day. Amen.

3 ATTENDANCE

Take attendance once students have all arrived.

4 WHAT WILL WE SEE ON SUNDAY?

Encourage your students to engage with the Mass by helping them look forward to what they will see when they come to church next Sunday.



Throughout the course of a typical *Family Formation* program year you will pass through all the major seasons of the liturgical year. Consider the current or upcoming season and point out any feast days or holy days of obligation and what they mean.

- What is the current church season? With what color will the church be decorated?
- What color will your priest be wearing? If provided, use your liturgical calendar or dress your priest paper doll for the season and display him on your classroom prayer table.
- From which book will the Gospel be read? (Matthew, Mark, Luke or John) If students are bringing a Bible to your class, you could help them to bookmark next Sunday's readings.

Consider what will be happening at your parish:

- Mention your priest (and deacons) by name. Will they be at the entry greeting people as they leave? If so, encourage your students to say hello.
- Can families bring up the gifts? How can they sign up to do so?
- Will there be any familiar songs you can point out?
- Will there be hospitality or any other family-friendly event after Mass?

5 LESSON

GOD'S PLAN FOR US

Did you know that since the beginning of time, God has had a plan for all of creation? Throughout history, and even right this moment—here and now—God is lovingly unfolding His plan. Did you know that you are a part of God's plan? This plan is called salvation history. The word "salvation" means being saved from our sins. The story begins with our very first parents, Adam and Eve, and continues throughout human history all the way to right here in [mention your place and year]. Salvation history is the story about God and about us. It is the most important story ever told! We can read the story of salvation history in the Holy Bible.

The Holy Bible is God's Word to us! It is not like any other book. When we read the Bible, we are not just reading about things that happened a long time ago; we are hearing God's Word for our lives today.

The Bible contains many different stories. Stories of adventure and romance, of fierce battles, brave warriors, daring princesses, cunning spies, great miracles, and stories of amazing love. Even though the story contains many different parts, there is one great story that runs through them all. It is like a beautiful golden thread that is woven through all of these different stories.

SIN:
Choosing to do something you know is wrong.

UNFOLDING HIS PLAN



PREPARATION:

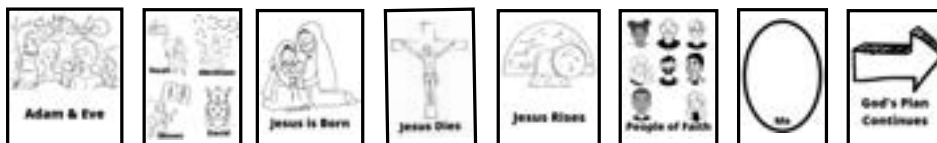
Assemble the *Unfolding His Plan* demonstration to use as a visual aid while you teach the salvation history portion of this lesson.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- *Unfolding His Plan* pages
- scissors

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Cut each page in half along the dashed line.
2. Fold each of the eight pieces (talking points) in half to form a paper tent, with the wording inside and set up them in order (as shown below) as they are mentioned in the narration.
3. At the end, unfold each tent to reveal the hidden message inside. (To display the message, you could: reverse the fold, have volunteers help hold each card, hang them on the wall, etc.)



THE STORY OF SALVATION HISTORY

In the beginning, God created everything. He made it perfect, and He made it out of love. God created us differently from all other earthly creatures. He made human beings in His image and likeness so that we are able to make free choices and, especially, the choice



"The Subcommittee on the Catechism, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has found the doctrinal content of this lesson, copyright 2022, to be in conformity with the Catechism of the Catholic Church."