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The Church

CHAPTER 1

CHAPTER ONE – TEACHER'S MANUAL



God Prepares the Way for His Church in the Old Testament

Beginning with Adam and Eve, God gradually unfolded his plan of salvation to the world.

CHAPTER PLANNING GUIDE

LESSON	OBJECTIVES	OPENING & CLOSING ACTIVITIES	GUIDED EXERCISES	HOMEWORK
Introductory Lesson	Learning Experience <input type="checkbox"/> Course goals and instructional procedures			Reading <input type="checkbox"/> Read Chapter 1 through <i>Creation Is Made for Man</i> (pp. 2–5) <input type="checkbox"/> <i>We Were Made for Communion with God</i> (pp. 5–6)
Man's Vocation from the Beginning (pp. 2–6)	Learning Experience <input type="checkbox"/> The Church as present in creation from the beginning <input type="checkbox"/> God's creative act <input type="checkbox"/> Man's vocation	Anticipatory Set <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Partner Work</i> : Extraordinary claims by the Church? (p. 3) Closure <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Paragraph</i> summary on man as pinnacle of God's creation (p. 5) Alternative Assessment <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Free Write</i> on man as the image of God (p. 5)	Free Write <input type="checkbox"/> The question the student knows the most about (p. 2) Graphic Organizer <input type="checkbox"/> The perfect structure of creation in Genesis (p. 4) Partner Work <input type="checkbox"/> Bullet-point summary of "image of God" (p. 5)	Textbook <input type="checkbox"/> Study Questions 1–4 (p. 32) Workbook <input type="checkbox"/> Questions 1–7, 28 Reading <input type="checkbox"/> <i>God Prepares His People for the Church</i> (p. 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Sidebar: <i>The Saints: St. Irenæus of Lyons</i> (p. 7) <input type="checkbox"/> <i>The Covenant of Creation</i> (p. 8) <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Adam's Disobedience</i> (pp. 8–9) <input type="checkbox"/> <i>A Plan for Restoration</i> (pp. 9–10)
The Covenants with Adam and Noah (pp. 6–10)	Learning Experience <input type="checkbox"/> God's covenants in the history of salvation <input type="checkbox"/> The covenant with Adam <input type="checkbox"/> Original Sin and the <i>Protoevangelium</i> <input type="checkbox"/> The covenant with Noah	Anticipatory Set <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Opening Prayer / Discussion</i> : The second creation account (p. 6) Closure <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Paragraph</i> summary of God's covenant with Adam and its outcome (p. 9) Alternative Assessment <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Class Discussion</i> on why God created man (p. 9)	Focused Reading <input type="checkbox"/> St. Irenæus on covenants (p. 7) Think/Pair/Share <input type="checkbox"/> Whether history confirms Genesis on man's dominion (p. 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Christ and the Genesis serpent (p. 9)	Textbook <input type="checkbox"/> Study Questions 5–10 (p. 32) Workbook <input type="checkbox"/> Questions 8–11 Reading <input type="checkbox"/> <i>God Calls Abram</i> (pp. 10–11) <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Abraham, Our Father in Faith</i> (pp. 11–12) <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Abraham's Obedience</i> (p. 12) <input type="checkbox"/> <i>A Blessing for All Nations</i> (pp. 13–14)



Holy Trinity (detail) by Balen. The Church founded by Christ is known as the Family of God, the People of God, the Mystical Body of Christ, the Kingdom of Heaven, the Temple of the Holy Spirit, the Bride of Christ, the Sacrament of Salvation, and by many more names, each of which illuminates specific aspects of the Church's nature.

Like the dual nature of Christ himself—true God and true man—the Church has two distinct natures. As the Mystical Body of Christ, the Church is a divine institution. As a community, into which individuals are incorporated through Baptism, the Church also has a human dimension. In order to better understand the nature of the Church, therefore, we need to go back to the very beginning of the human story to see how God prepared his people for the coming of Christ and the establishment of his Church.

IN THIS CHAPTER, WE WILL ADDRESS SEVERAL QUESTIONS:

- ✦ Why were we created?
- ✦ How did God prepare his people for the Church?
- ✦ How was the Church foreshadowed in the Old Testament?
- ✦ What is the meaning of *covenant*?
- ✦ What covenants did God establish with the Israelites?
- ✦ What were the primary features of the Old Testament Covenant, and how did these features point the way to the New Covenant?

Chapter One 3

Man's Vocation from the Beginning (pp. 2–6)

LESSON OBJECTIVES

- The Church as present in creation from the beginning
- God's creative act
- Man's vocation

BASIC QUESTIONS

- Why do we go back to God's creative act to understand the Church?
- What does the creation account in Genesis tell us about creation and man's place in it?
- What is man's original vocation in relationship to God?

KEY IDEAS

- Because God had the Church in mind from all eternity and gradually unfolded her meaning, it is necessary to study God's plan for creation from the beginning.
- God created the universe as a perfect work with man as its pinnacle, creating him in God's own image.
- Man's primeval vocation is communion with God in a filial relationship.

FOCUS QUESTIONS

- **What are some of the names of the Church?**
The Family of God, the People of God, the Mystical Body of Christ, the Kingdom of Heaven, the Temple of the Holy Spirit, the Bride of Christ, and the Sacrament of Salvation.
- **What makes the Church entirely Christ-centered?**
Apart from her communion in Christ and her intimate sharing in the Divine Life of the Blessed Trinity, the Church has no life.
- **What are the two natures of the Church?**
The Church is a divine institution as the Mystical Body of Christ. She is also a human institution, incorporating men into herself through Baptism.

ANTICIPATORY SET

Have the students work with a **partner** to identify some of the seemingly extraordinary claims that Christians make for the Church, based on CCC 760.

- God created the world for the sake of the Church.
- The Church is the goal of all things.
- The Church is the salvation of all men.

FOCUS QUESTIONS

- ❑ How did God bring creation into being?
By the power of his Word.
- ❑ In Sacred Scripture, what does the number three connote?
Perfection or completeness.
- ❑ Why does the creation story divide the act of creation into two corresponding three-day periods?
It is a way of saying that the act of creation was complete and perfect.
- ❑ What forms are created on the first three days?
(1) day and night, (2) sky and sea, and (3) dry land and plants.
- ❑ What rules over day and night?
The sun and moon.
- ❑ What rules over sky and sea?
Birds and fish.
- ❑ What rules over dry land and plants?
Animals and man.
- ❑ What rules over everything in creation?
Man.



God Creating the Sun, the Moon and the Stars by Brueghel. Created in communion with him, Adam and Eve would enjoy an intimate friendship with God in the paradise that he had created for them.

CREATION IS MADE FOR MAN

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. (Gn 1:1)

These opening verses from the Book of Genesis relate God's great work of creation. We see that the universe was formless and void in the beginning, that God brought all creation into being by the power of his Word.

The six days that follow are divided into two corresponding groups of three days. Throughout Scripture, the number three is used to denote perfection or completeness. Here, the Sacred Author uses the number three to signify the perfection of God's creation.

In the first set of three days, God gave shape to the world, overcoming its formlessness and creating the forms that would sustain life.

- ✦ On the first day, God created light and separated it from the darkness, calling one "day" and the other "night." (Gn 1: 3-5)

- ✦ On the second day, he separated the waters, forming the "sky" and the "sea." (Gn 1: 6-8)

- ✦ On the third day, he created "dry land" and gave life to the "plants and vegetation." (Gn 1: 9-13)

During the next set of three days, God filled the world with the life that will rule over the forms that he has created.

- ✦ On the fourth day, God created the "sun and moon" to rule over the "day and night." (Gn 1: 14-19)

- ✦ On the fifth day, he called forth "birds and fish" to rule over "sky and sea." (Gn 1: 20-23)

- ✦ On the sixth day, he created "animals" to rule over the "dry land." (Gn 1: 24-25)

GRAPHIC ORGANIZER

Have the students complete the following table to better see the structure of the creation story in Genesis.

Day	Creation of Forms	Day	Creation of Life to Rule over Forms
1	Created light and separated day and night	4	Created the sun and moon to rule over the day and night
2	Separated the waters, creating sky and sea	5	Created birds and fish to rule over the sky and sea
3	Created dry land and gave life to plants	6	Created animals and man to rule over the dry land and plants

By dividing the act of creation into these two corresponding groups of three-day periods, the creation story is telling us that the act of creation was complete and perfect. However, at this point in Scripture, the purpose of God's creation had not yet been revealed. Finally, God added one last creature to his new world.

God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. (Gn 1:26-27)

By creating Adam and Eve, and placing them over his creation, God was not only creating caretakers or stewards for his new world. Instead, God made man and woman in his "own image," endowing them with the ability to understand, to make choices, and to love. Created in communion with him, Adam and Eve would enjoy an intimate friendship with God in the paradise that he had created for them. The world had been created for mankind, and mankind had been created for God.

The *imago Dei* consists in man's fundamental orientation to God, which is the basis of human dignity and of the inalienable rights of the human person. Because every human being is an image of God, he cannot be made subservient to any this-worldly system or finality. His sovereignty within the cosmos, his capacity for social existence, and his knowledge and love of the Creator—all are rooted in man's being made in the image of God.⁷

WE WERE MADE FOR COMMUNION WITH GOD

God, infinitely perfect and blessed in himself, in a plan of sheer goodness freely created man to make him share in his own blessed life. (CCC 1)

What does Scripture mean when it says that we were made in the "image and likeness" of God? When reading Scripture, it is often best to understand the meaning of a particular word or phrase by looking to



As descendants of Adam and Eve, we, too, are children of God made in his "image and likeness."

Chapter One 5

GUIDED EXERCISE

Have the students work with a **partner** to create a bullet-point list of ideas that "created in the image of God" means.

- The ability to understand, to make choices, and to love.
- Intimate friendship with God.
- Created for God.
- Fundamental orientation to God, which is the basis of human dignity and of the inalienable rights of the human person.
- Non-subservience to any worldly system or finality.
- Sovereignty within the cosmos, capacity for social existence, and knowledge and love of the Creator.

CLOSURE

Have the students write a **paragraph** explaining how man is the pinnacle of God's creative act, according to Genesis.

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT

- ☐ Study Questions 1–4 (p. 32)
- ☐ Workbook Questions 1–7, 28
- ☐ Read "God Prepares His People for the Church" through "A Plan for Restoration" (pp. 6–10)

ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENT

Have the students choose one of the bullet-points from the guided exercise (p. 5) on man's creation in the image of God and **free write** for a few minutes on it, going deeper into the meaning of that idea.

Briefly share results.

FOCUS QUESTIONS

- ☐ According to CCC 1, why did God create man?
To make him share in God's own blessed life.
- ☐ What does "image and likeness" mean when it is used in relation to Seth?
Seth received his nature from Adam his father.
- ☐ What does this tell us "image and likeness" means in relation to Adam?
Adam received his nature from God. Unlike the rest of creation, Adam was a beloved son of the Father.