

Credo: I Believe

Parish Catechist Manual

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Parish Catechist Manual

Faith and Life Series
Third Edition

BOOK FIVE

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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 on www.faithandlifeseries.com.

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

Pedagogy

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

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

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

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

Methodology

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

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

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

Ecclesial Methodology

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Optional Activities and Resources

This manual has been developed to include flexible options for new or experienced catechists, class times that range 60–90 minutes, and style of teaching. Please note that the Activity Book and Family Guide are optional components depending on the allotted class time and catechist or parish preferences. Additional activities and resources (Appendix B) can be accessed online through www.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 5 OVERVIEW

Grade 5 Text Overview

The fifth grade text, *Credo: I Believe*, is an introduction to the Creed and teachings of the Faith. The fifth grader has an active imagination and is advancing in his use of reason. He is able to apply simple concepts to the world around him and apply an example from experience to a given lesson. The teacher should, therefore, make use of true-to-life presentations using concrete examples reinforced through repetition, such as those included in this manual, in addition to the catechist’s personal good example.

Grade 5 Scope and Sequence

THEME: A thorough study of the articles of the Creed as the basic elements of our Catholic Faith, with a special emphasis on careful understanding of definitions through the words of the Gospels, the prophets, and the prayers of the Church

Weeks 1–7

- **Part I: God, the Father of All**
- Chapters 1–10: The Old Testament, and mankind’s participation in and loss of God’s life

Weeks 8–17

- **Part II: God the Son, the Redeemer**
- Chapters 11–22: The fulfillment of God’s plan in Christ, true God and true man

Weeks 18–22

- **Part III: God the Holy Spirit, the Sanctifier**
- Chapters 23–30: Our call to holiness and witness in the Church

Grade 5 Lesson Outline—*Credo: I Believe*

Faith and Life Series Parish Catechist Manual 22–25 Week Curriculum*		
LESSON #	CHAPTER	TOPIC
	S	INTRODUCTION
1	1	Faith/Creed
2	2–3	The Trinity/Creator
3	4	Angels
4	5–6	Image of God/The Fall
5	7	Abraham/Isaac/Jacob & Esau/Joseph
6	8–9	Moses/Passover/Exodus/10 C/Kings of Israel
7	10	Prophets/Isaiah/Jeremiah
8	11	John the Baptist/Jesus
9	12–13	Nativity/Incarnation/Magi/Holy Family
10	14	Baptism of Jesus/Parables/12 Apostles
11	15	Messiah/Miracles/Transfiguration
12	16	Forgiveness
13	17	True God and True Man
14	18	Accepting and Following Jesus
15	19	The Father’s Will
16	20–21	Crucifixion/Resurrection
17	22	Forgiveness of Sins/Great Commission/Ascension
18	23–24	Holy Spirit/Pentecost/Communion of Saints
19	25–26	Catholic Church/Church Hierarchy/Precepts
20	27–28	Revelation/Grace and the 7 Sacraments
21	29	Blessed Virgin Mary
22	30	Death/Last Things
	S	Advent/Christmas
	S	Lent/Easter
		S=SUPPLEMENTAL LESSON
<p>*25 Week Curriculum includes 3 Supplemental Lessons: 1 Introduction Grade Level Overview of Salvation History and 2 Liturgical Year Lessons</p> <p>With addition of Mass/Confession and other liturgical year rites, etc., 25 weeks usually goes to 30–32 weeks. For parishes that have more than 25 teaching classes, it is suggested to expand combined chapters using provided optional activities..</p>		

GRADE 5 SALVATION HISTORY OVERVIEW

Salvation History Overview

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RESOURCES

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

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

Catechist Formation Resources at faithandlifeseries.com

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

The Catechism of the Catholic Church

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

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

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

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

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

Faith and Life Series

Parish Catechist Manual

Grade 5 Supplemental Lessons

Three Supplemental Lessons

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

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

Aims of Faith and Life Supplemental Lessons

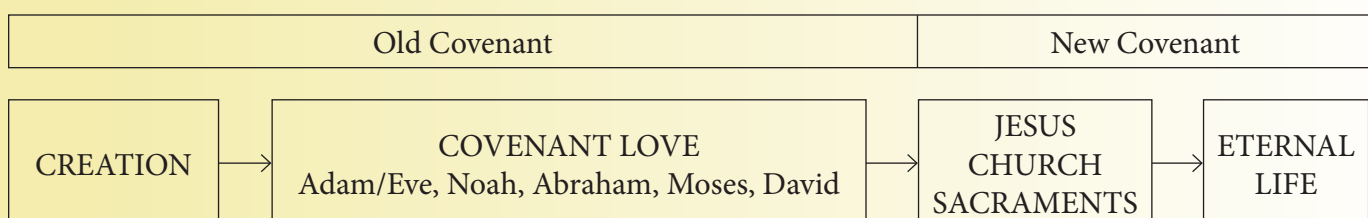
The story of salvation history provides the pedagogical structure of the *Faith and Life* series. Doctrinal, liturgical, spiritual, and moral elements of the Faith flow from this structure. Therefore, the objective of these supplements is to provide students with a bird’s-eye view of God’s saving plan.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

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

Salvation History Overview Supplement

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

GOD’S PLAN OF SALVATION OVERVIEW



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

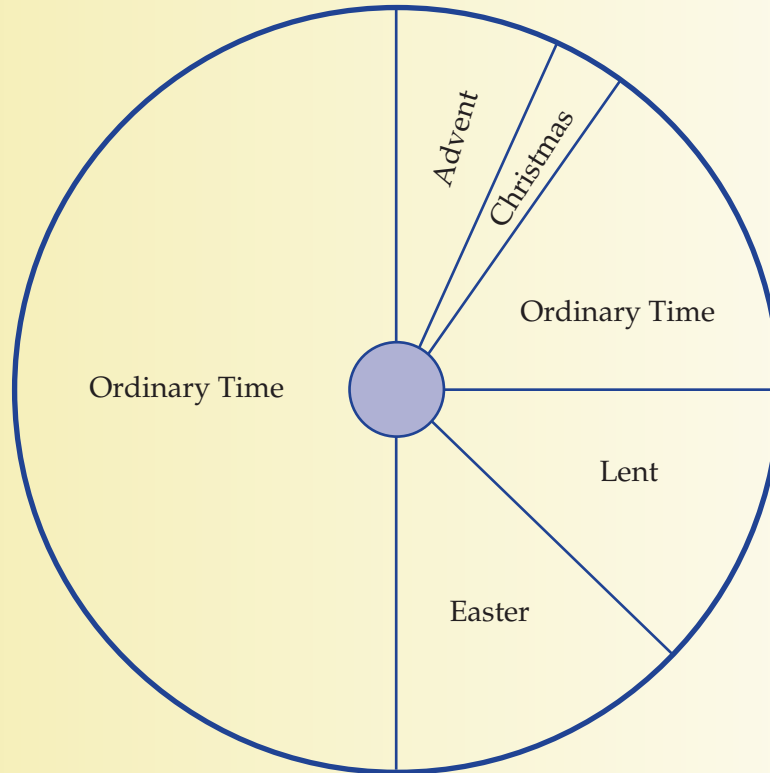
Liturgical Year Supplement

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

Liturgical Calendar

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

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



Grade 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.

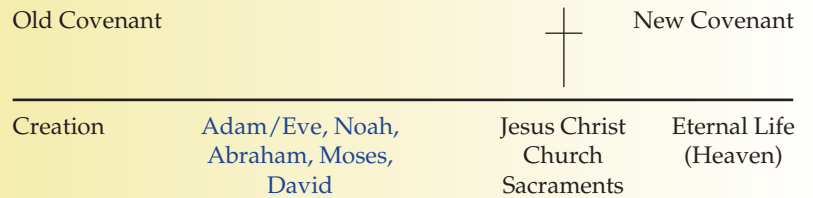
- Discuss students’ goals in life:
 - *What sort of goals do you have in life? (Answers will vary.)*
 - *Who helps you achieve those goals? (Parents, friends, coaches, etc.)*
 - *What is our ultimate goal in life? (Eternal happiness with God in heaven.)*
 - *How do we achieve our goal of eternal life? (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.”

Lesson 1

Chapter 1—I Believe

Creed: “I believe.”

Correlated Materials

Student Text: Chapter 1, pp. 11–14
Activity Book: Chapter 1, pp. 1–5
Family Guide: G 5–1, pp. 8–9

LESSON FOCUS

Faith is a gift from God that enables us to believe in him and the truths he has revealed. Some truths, called mysteries, can never be fully understood, cannot be known without God’s revealing them, and cannot be believed without God’s gift of faith. There is nothing we do to earn this gift. It is a free gift, which we can choose either to accept or to reject. The Creed is a statement of what Catholics believe by faith. It summarizes what has been revealed by Christ and his Apostles, according to the teaching of the Church.

AIMS

- Students will grow in their knowledge of and appreciation for the gift of faith.
- Students will understand their need for God’s revelation and gifts.

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. 11

“Be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong” (1 Corinthians 16:13).

Saint Paul is telling us to stand firm in our faith. This is particularly important for us this year as we study the Creed, a summary of our Catholic Faith. We will always come against those who do not believe. In this case we need to have courage and be strong.

SACRED ART: Student Text, p. 12

The Miraculous Draught of Fishes, Raphael

Jesus said to Peter, “Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch. . . . Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men” (Luke 5:4, 10). For the Apostles who had been out fishing all night without any luck, it takes great faith to drop their nets in response to Jesus’ command. Each of us is called to place our faith in Christ and not be afraid.

PRAYER WITH CHILDREN:

Lord, we thank you for the gift of faith. Today, we pray that our faith in you will increase and that we will learn to turn to you in all that we do.

Proclamation (1 minute)

(Proclaim slowly, then repeat.)

God gives us the grace to believe the truth that he reveals to us, especially through the revelation of his Son, Jesus Christ.

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH REFERENCES

- Creeds: 185–97
- Faith: 142–49, 153–65
- Implications of Faith in One God: 222–27, 229
- Mystery of Faith: 42, 50, 158, 206, 230, 234, 237, 1066, 2558
- Faith: The Beginning of Eternal Life: 163–65, 184

MATERIALS

- Bible
- Chalkboard or dry erase board (a portable board is fine if your room does not have a built-in board)
- Activity Book, pp. 1–4

WORDS TO KNOW

faith: a God-given power and habit by which we believe in him and all he has revealed; also the body of truths we believe

revelation: the truths of the Catholic Faith that God has made known to us through Scripture and Tradition

mystery: a divinely revealed truth that we can never fully understand

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

FOCUS I OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

- Activity Book, p. 2

Lesson Explanation (35–45 minutes)

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

Focus I: Faith is a supernatural gift from God.

- *Do you believe everything that you hear?* (Answers will vary.)
- *Are some things difficult to believe?* (Answers will vary.)
- *When it comes to God, how do we know what to believe?* (The Church gives us the Creed.)
- *How are we able to believe something we don't fully understand?* (By faith. This is what today's lesson is about.)
- *When we were baptized we received three gifts from God. What are these?* (Faith, hope, and love—the theological virtues.)
 - Because these gifts are from God, we call them supernatural.
 - These gifts are given to us freely from God. We do not earn these gifts.
 - *Which of these gifts gives us the ability to believe in God and the mysteries of God?* (Faith.)
- **Faith** is more than just believing in something. It is a supernatural gift from God that helps you to hold fast to the **mysteries** of God.
 - *Think of one of the mysteries of God that you believe because you have faith.* (Jesus is present in the Eucharist, Jesus rose from the dead, etc.)
 - *Can you think of a mystery of God that is difficult for you to believe?* (Answers will vary.)
 - *What should we do if we are having difficulty believing in one of the mysteries of God?* (Pray to God for an increase in faith.)
 - Just like your body has grown as you have gotten older, your faith can continue to grow stronger throughout your whole life.
 - We have the ability to accept or to reject the gift of faith. God gives us the grace to help us accept our faith.
 - *What are some things that may have caused your faith in God to increase?* (Prayer, seeing God's hand in our lives as he answers our prayers, etc.)
- *Can our faith in God be weakened?* (Yes.) *What causes our faith to be weakened?* (Sin, lack of prayer, fear, etc.)
 - *What should we do if we know our faith has been weakened?* (Receive the Sacraments; pray; talk to our parents, teachers, or a priest.)

Conclusion: God gives us the virtue of faith at our Baptism, and we cannot fully believe the mysteries of the Catholic Faith without it.

Aquinas' Proofs of 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:** Everything in the universe is contingent, 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.

FOCUS 2 OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

- Activity Book, p. 1

Faith with a capital letter; faith with a small letter.

Faith—what we believe, the Catholic Faith is what we believe as Catholics.

faith—a supernatural gift from God that enables us to believe the truths he has revealed.

Focus 2: God reveals himself to us in many ways and gives us the gift of faith to believe in him.

- How do we know that God exists?
 - Reason—We can reason through our own power that God exists. For example, we can say there must be a first cause, a first mover, or a necessary Being (see catechist sidebar Aquinas' proofs of the existence of God).
 - Faith—Faith is beyond our natural power of reason; it is a supernatural gift, through which we can know that God exists.
 - *Do you believe that God exists through reason, through faith, or both? (Answers will vary.)*
- God has made himself known to us through **divine revelation**.
 - Divine revelation is given to us through Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition.
 - *What is Sacred Scripture? (The Bible.)*
 - The Sacred Scriptures were written by human authors through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.
 - Sacred Tradition is the oral Tradition handed on from the Apostles. The liturgy, the Magisterium, and the moral teachings of the Church are all a part of Sacred Tradition. It is through Sacred Tradition that the Scriptures were compiled and the Faith has been handed on to you.
- God has fully and most perfectly revealed himself through Christ. In Christ the invisible God is made visible.

Conclusion: God reveals himself to us through Scripture, Tradition, and most perfectly through Christ himself. The truths of the Catholic Faith are guarded by the Church and summarized in the Creed.

Focus 3: The Creed is what we believe in our Catholic Faith.

- “Faith” can also refer to *what* we believe.
 - *What do we call the prayer that professes what we believe? (The Apostles' Creed.)*
- The **Apostles' Creed** professes the most important truths of our Faith about God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and how the Holy Spirit continues to work through the Church.
- Every one of these truths in the Creed has been revealed to us through God.
- **Explain** to students that if there is a mystery that they do not fully understand now, the gift of faith will help them to understand as we study the truths of the Creed throughout the year.
 - **Remind** students that each time we profess the Creed, we will grow stronger in our faith because some of the truths are deep mysteries that cannot always be reasoned.

- These are the truths in our Creed about God. **Ask students to respond in faith with a yes. Do you believe that**
 - *God, the Father, is the Creator of heaven and earth?*
 - *Jesus Christ is the only Son of God the Father?*
 - *Jesus was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary?*
 - *Jesus suffered, died, and was buried?*
 - *Jesus descended into hell and rose from the dead?*
 - *Jesus ascended into heaven?*
 - *Jesus will come again to judge the living and the dead?*
 - *The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Blessed Trinity?*
 - *The Catholic Church is the one and holy Church founded by Christ?*
 - *God forgives our sins?*
 - *Our bodies will be resurrected on the last day?*
 - *Life is everlasting?*
- These are the truths in our Creed about man. **Ask students to respond in faith with a yes. Do you believe that**
 - *We are created by God?*
 - *God loves us so much that he sent his only-begotten Son to die for our sins, so that we could be children of God?*
 - *Jesus is true God and true man?* He understands us and is always like us in all ways but sin. Therefore, we should strive to be like him in all ways.
 - *Jesus paid the price for all of our sins and redeemed us?*
 - *Jesus opened the gates of heaven for us?*
 - *Jesus went to heaven and is our King, and we are his subjects?*
 - *We will be judged by our thoughts, words, deeds?*
 - *We are temples of the Holy Spirit, whom we receive at Baptism?*
 - *We are part of the Church?* We must recognize the authority of this institution founded by Christ.
 - *God, in his mercy, forgives our sins in Baptism and in the Sacrament of Penance?* We must be sorry for our sins and do our best to avoid sin.
 - *We must respect our bodies because they will rise to share in our eternal reward?*
 - *We will live forever, and our souls will never die?*
- **Why do you think it is important that each of us believes these truths?** (*Answers will vary.*)
 - God has revealed them to us.
 - God has given us the gift of faith and the grace to accept this faith so that we can believe deep mysteries about God.
 - It is important that we all believe the one truth of Jesus Christ.

FOCUS 3 OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

- Activity Book, pp. 3–4

- **Have you ever been entrusted to watch over or keep something very valuable?** (Answers will vary.)
 - **Read 2 Timothy 1:14:** “Guard the truth that has been entrusted to you by the Holy Spirit.”
 - The truths of our Creed have been entrusted to us as Catholics. We are called to guard and protect these truths.
 - **What does that mean to you?** (That the truths of the Catholic Faith are a treasure entrusted to us by God; we are called to protect these truths; we must know these truths so that we are able to protect them.)
 - **Does the Creed contain every detail of the Catholic Faith?** (No. It is an overview. The Creed is just the central doctrines of the Faith.)
 - **What are examples of important teachings that are not in the Creed?** (Family; marriage; moral purity; Ten Commandments; the two Great Commandments to love God and our neighbor; etc.)

Conclusion: The Creed lists the truths of our Faith, which God has revealed to us, and as we pray it we affirm our belief in these truths.

Review Lesson 1, Chapter 1 (3 minutes)

- Faith is a gift from God given to you at Baptism.
- God has revealed himself through Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition, but most fully in Christ.
- The Creed is a summary of the Catholic Faith.

Application (10–15 minutes)

Choose one or more of the following for discussion.

- **What can you do to keep your faith strong?** (Pray; receive the Sacraments; learn more about the saints, who kept their faith strong; learn more about the Bible and our Catholic Faith)
- **What should you avoid doing so that you won't risk losing your faith?** (Sin; hanging around people who do not have the same values that we have and allowing them to influence us to turn away from God.)
- **Who do you know that has a very strong faith? How do you know _____'s faith is strong? How would you like to be more like _____?** (Answers will vary.)
- **Discuss** the importance of living out the Creed, as opposed to just reciting it at Mass.
 - **How can we live out our Faith?** (Answers will vary. Examples: By loving God through obedience to the commandments, by obeying our parents or those in authority, by being good stewards of our time, by giving time to those in need, etc.)

Saint Thérèse of Lisieux

Lisieux, France
Died September 30, 1897

Saint Thérèse of Lisieux is a good example of someone who knew how difficult the journey to heaven can be, but she had great faith in God. Thérèse wanted to be a saint, but she felt that she could not become a great saint, so she chose to make small daily sacrifices, such as giving her dessert to someone else rather than eating it herself. She would show her love for others by being humble in this way. This was what she called her “little way to heaven,” which was short and direct. By remaining childlike, she asked Jesus to carry her in his arms to the Father. She felt she was too little to do great acts like the great saints before her, so she found her own pathway.

- Look again at the art on Student Text, page 12, *The Miraculous Draught of Fishes*. Imagine that you had been out all night fishing and had caught nothing. Then Jesus tells you to go back out and lower your nets.
 - *Do you think that the Apostles went back out because they had faith in Jesus? (Answers will vary.)*
 - *How much faith would it take you to lower your nets again? (Answers will vary.)*
 - *Have you ever been asked to do something that was difficult, but you really believed in it and persevered? (Answers will vary.)*

Celebration (5–10 minutes)

Choose one or more of the following.

- Pray the Apostles’ Creed slowly and deliberately. Tell the students to ask God for the faith to believe more deeply.
- Read about Saint Thérèse of Lisieux (see sidebar). Remind the students that Saint Thérèse had a very simple faith. Each of us should try to model Saint Thérèse’s holiness through a simple faith.
- Pray the Act of Faith, Student Text, p. 137.
- Sing or pray “Faith of Our Fathers” in the *Adoremus Hymnal*, #603.

Take Home

- Student reading for next lesson: Student Text, Chapter 2, pp. 15–19
- Optional: Activity Book: Chapter 1, pp. 1–5
- Optional: Family Guide: G 5–1, pp. 8–9

CHAPTER 1

I Believe

"Be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong."
1 Corinthians 16:13

What is faith? Many of the stories we enjoyed when we were younger talk about the importance of "faith," or "believing." "If more children would believe in fairies, then Tinkerbell would come back to life," says Peter Pan. Remember *The Little Engine That Could?* The little engine was able to pull an enormous train when the bigger engines failed. He repeated over and over to himself, "I think I can." By believing that he could pull the train over the mountain, the little engine made his wish come true.

But that is not the kind of faith we are talking about here. Fairy tale heroes make things come true by having "faith" in them. But truths about God, about ourselves, and about God's Church are real and true whether we believe them or not. **Faith** is a gift that God gives us. This gift helps us to believe God's **revelation** to us about himself and the world he made. We receive the gift of faith at Baptism. Because most of us have had the gift of faith since we were babies, we often take it for granted. We find it easy to believe what we are taught in religion class. We don't realize that it is only because of God's help that we can believe

so easily. But if you think about it, because they are **mysteries**, many of the truths we believe cannot be known by the human mind alone. We cannot possibly understand completely how God can be three Persons but only one God. We cannot "prove" by scientific experiment that Jesus Christ is both God and man. We need faith in order to believe these things. And since God has shown us his wisdom and love so many times in human history, we know we can trust him to tell us the truth, even if at times it is hard to understand.

Now that you are older, you will begin to notice that much of the world around you is without faith. Many people have never been baptized and have not received the gift of faith. Many others have chosen to turn away from the faith they once had. Just because you were given faith when you were baptized does not mean that you will always have it. You must ask God each day to keep your own faith strong; as you grow older you will probably find many people, books, and TV shows that will try to convince you that the life of faith is not real or mature. If you ask God, he will help you to keep following him instead of an unbelieving crowd.

The Apostles' Creed

We also use the word *faith* in another way. Besides giving us the power to believe, it also refers to *what* we believe. When we speak of "the Catholic Faith," we mean "all that we Catholics believe."

If someone who is not a Catholic asked you, "Can you tell me everything you believe?" you might not know where to start. But the Church has given us a quick, orderly way of saying what we believe. This is the **Apostles' Creed**. The Apostles' Creed contains the most important truths of our Faith. It starts right at the beginning with our belief that there is a God, and that he is the almighty Creator of heaven and earth. It goes on to tell about God's Son, who came to earth to save us from our sins. The last part of the Creed tells how God the Holy Spirit continues to work in the world through the Catholic Church. When we say the Creed we are making a "profession" of our Faith. That is, we are standing up for what we believe.

In this book we will examine the Creed to see what we can discover about our Faith. You have learned quite a lot about the Faith

in earlier grades. But in this book we will take a deeper, more careful look at what we believe, so that when you say the Creed you can do so more intelligently, understanding what you are saying and meaning what you are saying.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.



Words to Know:

faith Revelation
mystery Apostles' Creed

Faith is the beginning of the Christian man.

—Saint Ambrose

Q. 1 How is the Sign of the Cross made?

The Sign of the Cross is made by placing the right hand at the forehead, saying: "In the name of the Father;" then the hand is placed at the breast, saying: "and of the Son;" then the hand touches the left and right shoulders, saying: "and of the Holy Spirit;" and it ends with the word "Amen" (CCC 2157).

Q. 2 How are the two chief mysteries of the Faith expressed by the Sign of the Cross?

By the Sign of the Cross we express the unity of the Blessed Trinity by the words; and we express the Passion, death, and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ by tracing the Cross (CCC 1235, 2157).

Q. 3 What are the truths revealed by God?

The truths revealed by God are chiefly those summarized in the Apostles' Creed. They are called truths of Faith because we must believe them with full faith as taught by God, who can neither deceive nor be deceived (CCC 185–87).

Q. 4 What is the Apostles' Creed?

The Apostles' Creed is a profession of faith in the chief mysteries and other truths revealed by God through Jesus Christ and his Apostles and taught by the Church (CCC 194).

Q. 5 What is a mystery?

A mystery is a truth revealed by God, which is beyond our reason but not contrary to it (CCC 237).

Q. 6 What are the chief mysteries of the Faith that we profess in the Creed?

There are two chief mysteries of the Faith professed in the Creed: the unity of the Blessed Trinity and the Incarnation, Passion, death, and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ (CCC 189–90, 512).

Q. 7 Are these two chief mysteries of the Faith professed and expressed also in another way?

Yes, we profess and express these two chief mysteries of the Faith when we make the Sign of the Cross, which is also the sign of a Christian (CCC 2157).

Name: _____

I Believe

Quiz 1

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

Word Bank

Part I:		right	Part II:	
earth	hell	believe	belief	revelation
heaven	Creed	third	Creed	truths
judge	Jesus	sins	faith	
Amen	Holy Spirit	catholic	help	
Father	Son	saints	mysteries	
	Mary	crucified		

Part I: The Apostles' Creed

I **believe** in God, the **Father** almighty, Creator of heaven and **earth**, and in **Jesus** Christ, his only **Son**, our Lord, who was conceived by the **Holy Spirit**, born of the Virgin **Mary**, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was **crucified**, died, and was buried; he descended into **hell**; on the **third** day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into **heaven**, and is seated at the **right** hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to **judge** the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy **catholic** Church, the communion of **saints**, the forgiveness of **sins**, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. **Amen**.

Part II: Fill in the blanks with the correct words from the Word Bank.

- Faith** is a gift that God gives us which helps us to believe God's **revelation** to us about himself and the world he made.
- The Apostles' Creed contains the most important **truths** of our Faith.
- When we say the **Creed**, we are standing up for what we **believe**.
- Because they are **mysteries**, many of the truths we believe cannot be known without God's help.
- We should ask God every day for his **help** to know him better.

Name: _____

God Exists

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

- How do we know that God exists?
One way we know that God exists is by faith.
- How do we encounter the revelation of God through Christ?
We encounter the revelation of God through Christ in Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition.
- What are the truths revealed by God?
The truths revealed by God are chiefly those summarized in the Apostles' Creed. They are called truths of Faith because we must believe them with full faith as taught by God.
- What is a mystery?
A mystery is a truth revealed by God, which is beyond our reason but not contrary to it.
- What are the two chief mysteries of our Faith that we profess in the Creed?
The chief mysteries of our Faith that we profess in the Creed are the Unity of the Blessed Trinity and the Incarnation, Passion, death, and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Name: _____

The Gift of Faith

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.



- When did you receive the gift of faith?
We received the gift of faith at Baptism.
- Why don't many people have the gift of faith?
Many people have never been baptized and have not received the gift of faith.
- What things might try to lead you away from your faith?
Many people, books, and TV shows will try to convince us that the life of faith is not real or mature.
- How can you keep your faith strong?
You must ask God each day to keep your own faith strong.
- What is a profession of faith?
A profession of faith is standing up for what we believe.
- In what do you profess belief? What prayer explains our Faith?
We profess belief in all that Catholics believe. The Apostles' Creed explains our Faith.

Name: _____

The Apostles' Creed

Write your own answers to the following questions about the Apostles' Creed.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth,

How is God our Father?

Answers will vary.

What does "almighty" mean?

What does "create" mean?

What does "heaven and earth" mean?

and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,

Who is Jesus Christ?

How is Jesus the Son of God?

What does "Lord" mean?

If Jesus is God, and the Father is God, how can we believe in one God?

Who is the Virgin Mary?

suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell;

Who is Pontius Pilate?

Why was Jesus Crucified?

Why did Jesus descend into hell?

How long was Jesus' body buried?

Name: _____

The Apostles' Creed

Write your own answers to the following questions about the Apostles' Creed.

on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

What happened three days after the Crucifixion of Jesus?

When did Jesus ascend into heaven?

When will Jesus come again and what will he do?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

Who is the Holy Spirit?

Who founded the Catholic Church?

Who belongs to the Communion of Saints?

Who forgives sin? How can our sins be forgiven?

When will our bodies be resurrected?

What does "life everlasting" mean?

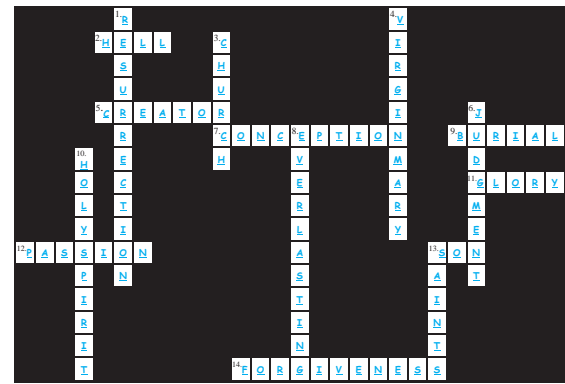
Where might a soul go after its bodily death?

What does "Amen" mean?

What prayer summarizes the chief mysteries of our Faith?

Name: _____

The Doctrines of the Creed



Across

2. He descended into _____.
5. God, the Father almighty, _____ of heaven and earth.
7. The _____ by the Holy Spirit.
9. I believe in Jesus' death and _____.
11. He ascended into heaven in _____.
12. His _____, death, and Resurrection.
13. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only _____.
14. I believe in the _____ of sins.

Down

1. I believe in the _____ of the body.
3. I believe in the holy Catholic _____.
4. He was born of the _____.
6. I believe in the _____ of the living and the dead.
8. I believe in life _____.
10. He was conceived by the _____.
13. I believe in the Communion of _____.

Lesson 2

Chapter 2—The Blessed Trinity Chapter 3—Creator of Heaven and Earth

**Creed: “God the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth”**

Correlated Materials

Student Text: Chapter 2, pp. 15–19;
Chapter 3, pp. 20–23
Activity Book: Chapter 2, pp. 7–10;
Chapter 3, pp. 11–14
Family Guide: G 5–2, pp. 10–11;
G 5–3, pp. 12–13

LESSON FOCUS

By reason alone, we can know that God exists. Only because God has revealed himself to us, however, can we know that God is a Blessed Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, three Divine Persons sharing one nature, all equal, all eternal, and each possessing the perfections of God. This is one of the great mysteries of our Faith.

God is the Creator of heaven and earth. He alone has no creator, no beginning, and no end. As Creator, he loves and cares for his creation. Creation, in turn, witnesses to the truth about its Creator—his existence, goodness, and love. God created the world for the service of man, but man must be a good steward of creation.

Begin the Lesson

Preparation (10–20 minutes)

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

SCRIPTURE: Student Text, p. 15:

“But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you” (John 14:26).

Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to the Apostles. He told them that the Holy Spirit would teach them, inspire them, and lead them in the Church. The Holy Spirit will also teach, inspire, and lead each of us.

Student Text, p. 21

“For thus says the LORD, who created the heavens [he is God!], who formed the earth and made it: ‘I am the Lord, and there is no other’” (Isaiah 45:18).

Isaiah proclaims that the Lord God created the heavens and the earth and that he IS the one true God and there is no other.

SACRED ART: Student Text, p. 17:

Mary, Queen of Heaven (detail), Master of the Saint Lucy Legend

The focus of this lesson, the Trinity, is the emphasis of the detail shown in this work of art. We see the Father (crowned), the Son and the Holy Spirit (symbolized as a dove) working together as one God, yet three distinct persons of the Blessed Trinity. This painting is entitled *Mary, Queen of Heaven* because as you can see in this detail, the Trinity is preparing to enthrone Mary as the Queen of Heaven with the crown.

AIMS

- Students will grow to love God more through entering into a deeper understanding of the mystery of the Trinity.
- They will grow in their gratitude for a God who created them out of love, and strive to grow in the image of God through love of God and neighbor.
- They will understand that God created the world for man, that they are part of God's loving plan, and that they must be good stewards of his creation.

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH REFERENCES

- Belief in One God: 199–202
- Revelation of God as Trinity: 234, 261–64
- God's Reasons for Creating: 293, 315, 319
- Trinitarian Role in Creation: 316
- God's Creation and Man's Role in It: 317–24, 355–58

MATERIALS

- Bible
- Student Text and Activity Book
- Chalkboard or dry erase board

WORDS TO KNOW

Blessed Trinity: three Divine Persons in one God

person: a being with intellect and will

nature: the essence of a thing; what it is

create: to make from nothing

Student Text, p. 20

The Creation of the Stars, Monreale

Think about God's vastness and greatness, about the fact that every star is known to him. He is vast and great, but he knows every part of creation, including all of our hearts, and he wants us to love him and share in his life.

PRAYER WITH CHILDREN:

Lord, we thank you for revealing to us the great mystery of the Most Holy Trinity, and we thank you for creating us. Help us to know you through creation and to serve you and share in your life as you created us to do.

Review Lesson I, Chapter I (3 minutes)

- Faith is a gift from God given to you at Baptism.
- God has revealed himself through Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition, but most fully in Christ.
- The Creed is a summary of the Catholic Faith.

Proclamation (1 minute)

(Proclaim slowly, then repeat.)

There is one God in three Persons, who created heaven and earth. We are made to love as God loves. God created heaven and earth out of love. Creation is a work of the Trinity.

Lesson Explanation (35–45 minutes)

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

Focus I: God is eternal and is three Divine Persons.

- We can use reason to figure out that there is one first cause of everything.
 - Everything that we know in the world is caused by something else that came before it. For example, you exist because your parents existed before you.
 - *Can everything have a cause that existed before it? (Logically, no; therefore, there must be an "uncaused cause"—a source of everything else that is.)*
 - Therefore, we can use our minds alone to know there must be a single God who existed before all else.
- We can know by faith—because it is revealed in Scripture—that God is all holy, almighty, all knowing, eternal, unchanging, and all present.
 - Faith is different from reason: reason is the power of our minds to understand things on their own, while faith is God's supernatural gift to us that enables us to believe the truths he has revealed.

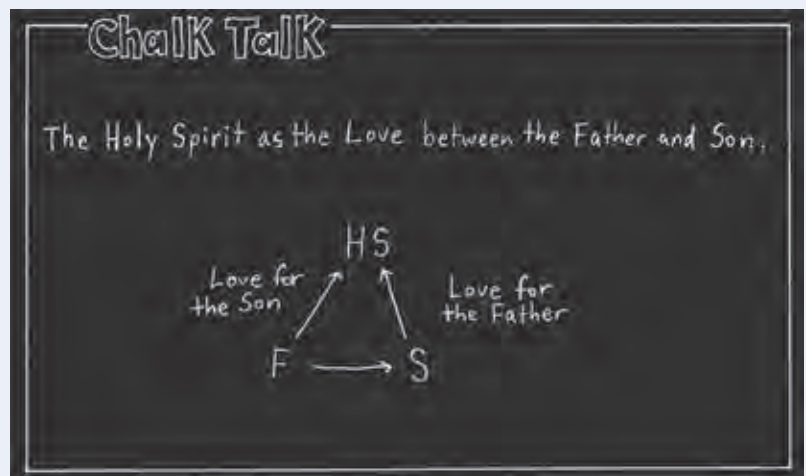
- **On the board**, list the attributes of God, and if time allows, read the Scripture verses that illustrate them.
 - All holy (God is perfectly good; he cannot do evil): Isaiah 6:3
 - Almighty (God can do everything perfectly and without labor): Amos 5:8
 - All knowing (God knows everything completely): Psalm 139
 - Eternal (God has always existed; he has no beginning or end; he is not bound by time): Revelation 4:8
 - Unchanging (God is perfect and does not become, or need to become, other than he already is): Psalm 102:25–27
 - All present (God is everywhere at all times; as pure spirit, he is not bound by space; all things are contained in God): Psalm 139:7–10
- **Discuss** briefly that we know by faith, because it has been revealed in Scripture, that God is perfectly holy, knows everything and can do anything, exists outside time and from the beginning to the end of time, and never changes.
- There are some aspects of God’s existence that we can know *only* as God reveals them to us. Through faith we believe in these mysteries.
 - *When are we given the gift of faith? (At Baptism.)*
 - Many of the truths of the Faith that are revealed are mysteries: we can understand them, but not fully.
 - *How could we grow in understanding of the mysteries of the faith? (By learning about them, and by praying for our faith to increase.)*
 - God sometimes reveals a deeper understanding of the mysteries to some of the saints, but we should not be frustrated if we do not fully understand these mysteries now.
- One of the great mysteries of our Faith is the Holy Trinity. There are three **Persons** in one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. These truths have been revealed to us in Scripture; pray for the faith to believe these mysteries.
 - A **person** is *who* someone is. Although there is only one God, there are three Divine Persons in one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
 - The nature of God tells *what* one is. Each Person in the Trinity is God.
 - The mystery of the Trinity is “the central mystery of the Christian faith and life” (CCC 234). It is the source of the other truths of the Faith and sheds light on all of them.
 - The three Persons of the Trinity are one and the same God, and also specific from one another: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
 - The Persons of the Trinity have their own missions (the Son of God, Jesus Christ, became man and is our Savior, the Holy Spirit is sent to guide the Church), but they act as one God (see CCC 316).

FOCUS | OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Activity Book, p. 9. Have students re-create the illustration on Activity Book, page 9, out of construction paper. While they work, discuss the relation among the trinitarian Persons. Emphasize that while each Person is not the other two Persons, each is equally and truly God. Remind students that the Trinity is a relationship of love.
- As in the legend of Saint Patrick, use a three-leafed clover to illustrate that there are three Persons in one God. Hand out clovers, or let the students draw them as they contemplate the mystery.

- The **Blessed Trinity** is a communion of Persons. The love 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.

CHALK TALK: THE HOLY SPIRIT



Conclusion: We know by reason that God exists and by faith that he is one God in three Persons. Through creation we know and experience his goodness and his trinitarian love.

Focus 2: God created everything out of nothing, to show forth his love and goodness.

- **Define** the following terms:
 - **create:** to make something out of nothing
 - **creator:** one who creates
 - **creature:** anything created (i.e., not God)
 - **creation:** all that which is created (a creature is part of creation)
- Think about how all the parts of creation work; how tiny atoms hold together to make substances; how plants grow; how the organs of the human body work in harmony together.
 - *Have you ever thought about how complex these things are? (Answers will vary.)* While they are complex, everything works together perfectly.
- All of creation exists *because God holds it in existence.*
 - God is perfect and perfectly sufficient on his own; he does not *need* creation or anything in it. Everything that exists, exists because of his generosity and love for us.
- **If time allows, have students discuss the aspects of creation that remind them of God's holiness, love for us, etc.**
 - *How does God show us who he is through the things he has created? (Examples: God holding the world in existence*

FOCUS 2 OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

- Activity Book, p. 12. Have students draw or write about parts of creation for which they are thankful.

FOCUS 3 OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Activity Book, p. 14
- Have students write a letter of gratitude to God for his creation, including the gifts he has given them personally, such as their talents and the people they love.

shows his power; God caring for humanity's needs shows his love; God having all creation work together shows his wisdom; God bringing life from disaster, e.g., new life after a forest fire, shows his mercy.)

Conclusion: God created everything, including us, and creation shows us his glory. Through creation, he also invites us to respond to his generous gifts.

Focus 3: God cares for his creation, and we share in this responsibility through stewardship.

- God made all of creation to reflect his glory, and to provide for all of our needs.
 - *What was God's ultimate reason for creating the physical world? (God is pure spirit and does not need anything to add to his being; the physical world was created for us.)*
 - *Why did God create us? (For our own good, so that we can know him and love him. He is perfect and perfectly happy in and of himself, but his love is so great and so generous that it overflowed into creation.)*
 - "Providence" means that God literally *provides* for our needs through creation, through its order and goodness, so that we may understand who God is and come to love him and serve him better.
- We can show our gratitude for creation and care for it as God desires us to do.
 - *Name some of the things that God has given you. (Family, home, faith, the beauty of creation, etc.)*
 - *How should we respond to all that we have received? (With gratitude, and a desire to care for creation and help it be what God intended it to be.)*
 - Besides being thankful, we should also use our gifts wisely and not waste them.
 - *What do we call using God's creation as he intends us to? (Stewardship.)*
 - *How can we be good stewards of the world around us and of our own selves?*
 - We can admire and praise God for his creation (worship).
 - We can use our talents well, to give God glory.
 - We can use physical resources wisely, and care for God's creation.

Conclusion: God made creation to show us his glory, and we can show our gratitude to him by caring for it as he intends us to.

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

- God is three Persons in one divine nature: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- Out of his love and goodness, God created heaven and earth and all creatures.

Saint Patrick

Scotland and Ireland,
late fourth century

Saint Patrick was born in Scotland, but was captured at the age of fourteen and sent to pagan Ireland as a slave. During the six years he was a slave, he grew in faith and prayed unceasingly. After he escaped and returned to his family, he was led by a dream to become a priest and then a bishop and to return as a missionary to the people of Ireland. He was ready to be martyred, but instead he traveled and preached for years. He is famous, in legend, for using a shamrock to illustrate the principle of the Trinity, but whether or not that really happened, it is certain that Saint Patrick brought God's truth to the people of Ireland. By the end of his life he had founded many churches and monasteries and baptized and confirmed thousands. Saint Patrick's zeal for God helped Ireland become a Christian nation.

Saint Francis of Assisi

Assisi, Italy, 1182–1226

Saint Francis was born into a rich family, but in his midtwenties he renounced his inheritance and chose to live a life of poverty. Inspired by the Gospels, he had no possessions but lived in faith that God would provide all that he needed. Saint Francis traveled and preached about the love of God, and accepted everything with joy (even being beaten by robbers and kissing a leper). People were attracted to Saint Francis' way of life, and he acquired many followers. In 1209 he founded the Order of the Friars Minor with a simple mission of following the gospel, living in poverty and charity, and preaching. Saint Francis was also known for his love of nature, and there are stories of him talking to birds and wild animals about God. He was a wonderful example of stewardship: he loved and served God and all of his creation while taking no more than he needed.

- As human beings, we know God through his creation, and we are made to know God and share in his life. We should respond by loving God and taking care of his creation.

Application (10–15 minutes)

Choose one or more of the following for discussion.

- **If God is all holy, all loving, and all merciful, and we are made in his image, how should we act?** (We are created in God's image to share in his life, and we should try to imitate his holiness, love, and mercy.)
 - **Talk about ways to be holy and to show love and mercy in daily living.** (Pray, go to Mass, love our neighbor even if we are angry with them, show mercy when someone has done wrong to us.)
- **How can your family reflect the love of the Trinity?** (Discuss how the love among the Persons of the Trinity is love in its highest and most perfect form, the exact love for which we are intended to strive. Have students think of ways the members of their families can love each other better.)
- Name a specific way you are taking care of God's creation, including nature and the animals and people around us.
- **Take part in a stewardship project with your class.** If time and resources allow, brainstorm a concrete way to be good stewards of creation and participate as a class in that activity.

Celebration (5–10 minutes)

Choose one or more of the following.

- Say a prayer thanking God for his creation and asking him to help the students be good stewards of his gifts. Lead the students in praying the Glory Be (Student Text, p. 137).
- Sing or pray "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name" in the *Adoremus Hymnal*, #461.
- Read about Saint Patrick or Saint Francis of Assisi or both (see sidebar). Remind the students of Saint Patrick's firm belief in the mystery of the Holy Trinity and his creativity in teaching about it, an example to us both of faith and zeal in evangelization. Remind them of Saint Francis' deep love and care for all of God's creation, an example to us of stewardship.

Take Home

- Student reading for next lesson: Student Text, Chapter 4, pp. 24–27
- Optional: Activity Book: Chapter 2, pp. 7–10; Chapter 3, pp. 11–14
- Optional: Family Guide: G 5–2, pp. 10–11; G 5–3, pp. 12–13

CHAPTER 2

The Blessed Trinity

"But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you."

John 14:26

The very first truth we hold by faith is that God exists. Now this truth can also be known without faith; man can reach it by his reason. Sadly, so many people treat this truth with indifference. The truth that God exists is the most important truth of all. Once you seriously admit that God exists, it turns everything around. What matters is no longer just *me* but *God*. His will matters, not just mine; his plans, not just mine.

God Is Perfect

Many times people ask, "Wasn't it boring for God before he made heaven and earth? He was all by himself, with nothing to do or see and no place to go."

If you have ever had this thought, it is because you are thinking that God is just like you. Yes, if you had to be by yourself from all eternity, you would be very bored. That is because you are not perfect. As a perfect being, God needs only himself to be happy.

What does it mean to be a perfect being? Since all we really know are our own imperfect selves, it is hard to understand what "perfection" is. But if we think about our imperfections and

then remember that God does not have them, we will begin to understand.

No matter how hard we try, we all commit sins some time or another. But God is all holy; this means that God is *perfectly* holy—he cannot do any evil.

There are many things we cannot do because we are not strong or smart enough. Even in those skills we do best, we will never be perfect. God is *almighty*. He can do everything perfectly and without effort.

However hard we study, most knowledge will never be ours in this life. God is all knowing. God knows what we do and even what we think! He knows all the mysteries of the universe and everything about himself. And unlike people, who can only think of one thing at a time, God can "see" all his knowledge at once.

We are always changing. We stop one action and start another. For example, we must often stop what we are doing in order to eat or go to sleep. We must move around after a long period of sitting or standing if we want to avoid getting cramps. Even growing, a change that is good for us, means leaving behind some of the joys of childhood

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for certain advantages of being grown up. How much better it would be to have the best things of childhood and adulthood, all at once!

Unlike us, God is eternal and *unchanging*. He never had a beginning or point where he "started up," nor will he ever come to an end. Nothing he does starts or stops either. He does not go from one joy to another, but enjoys all happiness eternally.

We cannot see God, because he is pure spirit; he has no body. Therefore he is not confined to one place at a time. God is omnipresent, meaning that he is everywhere: in heaven, on earth—in all places. God is all holy, all powerful, all knowing, eternal, and omnipresent. God is the fullness of all perfection.

Three in One

There is another reason why God was not "lonely" before he created the world. You have heard about it before. God is Three Persons, the Three Persons of the **Blessed Trinity**.

Although there is only one God, there are three **Divine Persons** in one God: the First Divine Person is God the Father, the Second Divine Person is God the Son, and the Third Divine Person is God the Holy Spirit. From all eternity, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit knew and loved one another. Each of the three Divine Persons equally has all the attributes of God we have discussed.

The Blessed Trinity is a mystery we will never completely understand, even in heaven. When we think of the Blessed Trinity now, we usually make the mistake of picturing

three gods, not one, or of picturing one God with three "parts." Neither picture is correct. There is only one God, yet each of the three Divine Persons is distinct and completely God, not one-third of God. The Church describes this by saying that although there are Three *Persons* in God, he is only one God.

By **nature** we mean *what* a thing is. Person means *who* someone is. Suppose you ran into a friendly alien from another planet who had just landed on earth. If he asked, "What are you?" your answer would be, "a human being." If he then asked, "Who are you?" you would reply, "Sarah," "John," or whatever your name is. With the Blessed Trinity, the answer to "What are you?" would be, "God." The answer to "Who are you?" would be, "God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit."

This Is a Mystery

You may wonder why we bother studying something that we cannot fully understand. The reason is that God wants us to know as much about him as we can. Otherwise, he would not have told us about himself. Also, if we love someone, we want to know things about that person. We love to hear our parents tell us about their childhood. So, too, we are happy to learn about God. We look forward to learning much more when we will finally come to live with him in heaven.

Words to Know:

Blessed Trinity Person nature

"I believe in God, the Father almighty . . . , in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit . . ."

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Q. 8 What does "Unity of God" mean?

By "Unity of God" we mean that there is only one God (CCC 202).

Q. 9 What does "Blessed Trinity" mean?

By "Blessed Trinity" we mean three Divine Persons in one God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Each Person of the Blessed Trinity is distinct from the other while remaining fully God (CCC 234, 253).

Q. 10 What does it mean to say that the three Divine Persons are "distinct" from one another?

By saying the three Divine Persons are "distinct" from one another, we mean that the three Persons of the Blessed Trinity are not the same Person, although all three are fully God (CCC 254–55, 266).

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Q. 11 Do we understand how the three Divine Persons, although really distinct, are only one God?

We do not understand, nor can we understand, how the three Divine Persons, although really distinct, are each fully God. That there is one God in three Divine Persons is a mystery (CCC 237).

Q. 12 Who is the First Person of the Blessed Trinity?

The First Person of the Blessed Trinity is God the *Father* (CCC 190, 238).

Q. 13 Who is the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity?

The Second Person of the Blessed Trinity is God the *Son* (CCC 190, 240).

Q. 14 Who is the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity?

The Third Person of the Blessed Trinity is God the *Holy Spirit* (CCC 190, 243).

Q. 15 Why is the Father the First Person of the Blessed Trinity?

The Father is the First Person of the Blessed Trinity because he does not proceed from another Person and because the other two Persons, the Son and the Holy Spirit, proceed from him (CCC 239, 244).

Q. 16 Why is the Son the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity?

The Son is the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity because he is eternally begotten by the Father, and because he, together with the Father, is the principle of the Holy Spirit (CCC 241–42, 244).

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- Q. 17** *Why is the Holy Spirit the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity?*
The Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity because he proceeds from the Father and the Son (CCC 244-45).
- Q. 18** *Is each Divine Person of the Blessed Trinity God?*
Yes, each Person of the Blessed Trinity is fully God (CCC 253).
- Q. 19** *If each Divine Person of the Blessed Trinity is God, are the three Divine Persons therefore three gods?*
The three Divine Persons are not three gods; they are one God because each has the one and same unique divine nature or substance (CCC 253, 255).
- Q. 20** *Are the three Divine Persons equal, or is one greater, more powerful, and more wise than the others?*
The three Divine Persons, since each is fully God, are equal in every respect, and possess equally and in common every perfection and every action (CCC 256).
- Q. 21** *Did the Father exist before the Son and the Holy Spirit?*
No, the Father did not exist before the Son and the Holy Spirit. All three Divine Persons are equally the eternal God (CCC 240).

Name: _____

The Blessed Trinity

Quiz 2

Part I: Match the attribute of God to the description.

1. **b** God can do everything.
2. **c** God knows what you are doing, and even what you think.
3. **d** God had no beginning and will never end.
4. **e** God is everywhere.
5. **a** God cannot do or will any evil.

- a. all holy
- b. almighty
- c. all knowing
- d. eternal
- e. omnipresent

Part II: Answer the following questions.

1. Is there only one God? **Yes**
2. How many Divine Persons are there in God? **Three**
3. Who is the First Person of the Blessed Trinity? **God the Father**
4. Who is the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity? **God the Son**
5. Who is the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity? **God the Holy Spirit**
6. What word do we use to tell what something is? **nature**
7. What word do we use to tell who someone is? **person**
8. What do we call something that is hard to understand without God's help? **mystery**

Part III: Write a prayer praising God for his attributes listed above in Part I.

Name: _____

Knowing God from the World Around Us

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. Can we know that God exists without faith?
The very first truth we hold by faith is that God exists. Now this truth can also be known without faith; man can reach it by his reason.
2. Name some things in God's creation that show that it had to come from someone intelligent.
Answers will vary.
3. Since most things cannot think for themselves, who guides them? (Hint: someone intelligent.)
God guides all creation.
4. Does this "someone intelligent" direct everything according to his plan?
God directs all creation according to his plan.

Name: _____

God is...

Find the following words in the puzzle below. Note: these words may be spelled backwards or diagonally!

- | | | | |
|--------------|-------------|---------------|----------|
| Supreme | All Wise | Loving | Merciful |
| Omniscient | Almighty | Kind | Generous |
| Eternal | All Present | Tenderhearted | Gentle |
| All Powerful | All Good | All Perfect | Immense |
| All Holy | Majestic | Spirit | |

A T N E I C S I N M O W D H T A T S A J A
 Y A T F T E R Y O U T F N E S E R P L L A
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 P I B L E Q M A J E S T I C U O E I T E O
 M S E D A L I N E E E A F T E R E R T H R
 O T W E W I G L T A L C A B F O U I T C N
 C E A T I O H N U T W H Y E G O O T C R N
 C A T E D Y T O U O F A C L L P E O Q L E
 E T O K N O Y W L O V T E A N D S E R V

Name: _____

The Blessed Trinity

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.



1. What is the Blessed Trinity?
The Blessed Trinity is the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God in three Divine Persons.
2. How many gods do we believe in?
There is only one God.
3. How many Persons are in God?
There are three Divine Persons in God.
4. Is one Person more powerful/wise/better than the others?
The three Divine Persons, since each is fully God and equal in every respect, possess equally and in common every perfection and every action.
5. What is the nature of the Father? of the Son? of the Holy Spirit?
The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit equally possess the same divine nature.
6. Can we fully understand the Blessed Trinity? Why?
The Blessed Trinity is a mystery we will never completely understand because God alone is all perfect and all wise.

Name: _____

Mystery of God

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. What does the "Unity of God" mean?
By "Unity of God" we mean that there is only one God.
2. What does "Blessed Trinity" mean?
By "Blessed Trinity" we mean three Divine Persons in one God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Each Person of the Blessed Trinity is distinct from the other while remaining fully God.
3. What does it mean to say that the three Divine Persons are "distinct" from one another?
By saying the three Divine Persons are "distinct" from one another, we mean that each Person of the Blessed Trinity is not the same Person, although all three are fully God.
4. Who is the First Person of the Blessed Trinity? Why?
The First Person of the Blessed Trinity is God the Father. The Father is the First Person of the Blessed Trinity because he does not proceed from another Person and because the other two Persons, the Son and the Holy Spirit, proceed from him.
5. Who is the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity? Why?
The Second Person of the Blessed Trinity is God the Son because he is the eternally begotten by the Father, and because he, together with the Father, is the principle of the Holy Spirit.
6. Who is the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity? Why?
The Third Person of the Blessed Trinity is God the Holy Spirit because he proceeds from the Father and the Son.
7. Is each Divine Person of the Blessed Trinity God?
Yes, each Person of the Blessed Trinity is fully God.
8. Are the three Divine Persons equal?
Yes, the three Divine Persons are equal since they are equally the eternal God.



Creed: "Maker of heaven and earth"

CHAPTER 3

Creator of Heaven and Earth

"For thus says the LORD,
who created the heavens
(he is God!),
who formed the earth and made it
(he established it;
he did not create it a chaos,
he formed it to be inhabited!);
'I am the LORD, and there is no other. . . .'
Isaiah 45:18

Create, Creator, creation, creature: all of these words go together. They tell us about God, the universe, and ourselves.

God is the Creator of heaven and earth. This means that he created everything out of nothing. A man may say he has "created" a work of art or a line of fashion clothing. But he did not create them out of nothing. He used things that were already around, such as paint or cloth. Only God can truly create. That is, only God can bring something into being from nothing.

All that God has made we call "creation." That includes both heaven and earth, the physical and spiritual. Each thing that God has created is a "creature." (You can see the same root word in "create" and "creature.") "Creature" usually brings to mind a lizard, a spider, or something out of a science fiction movie. But an angel is just as much a creature as a lizard—or a mountain or a star or a man.

Is God a creature? No, God alone is uncreated. He had no beginning. God is the cause of all creation. A fairy tale is not written by a fairy-tale character, but by someone who is outside of the story. In a similar way, God is not "part" of creation, he is its Creator.

As we learned in the last chapter, God did not need to create heaven and earth. But he did and in his wisdom, he "saw that it was good" (Gen 1). In his love, he wanted others to enjoy the gift of life. He wanted to give others the chance to know and love him. Not only God the Father but God the Son and God the Holy Spirit took part in Creation. We learn this from the Bible. "The Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters," we read in the story of Creation (Gen 1:2). And when speaking of Jesus, God's Son, Saint John's Gospel says, "All things were made through him" (Jn 1:3).

Most people believe in God through faith. But if we take a look at creation and think carefully, our minds can discover many things about God. First, we can learn that there is a God. How could this world have come to be without him? Some people do not believe in God. They think the universe made itself when mindless atoms came together by chance to make the stars and planets. But we know that nothing can make itself. The parts of a computer do not just come together by themselves. Paint dripping on paper does not make itself into a picture of a mountain scene or a field of flowers. It takes an intelligent mind to build a computer or paint a picture. The universe is even more complicated and beautiful. Only the perfect mind of God could have designed it.

Not only did God create the world, but he keeps it going according to his plan. You can see how plants, animals, minerals, and the weather seem to work together in harmony. Yet we know they do not think about working together. The earth does not say, "I should turn on my axis so that there can be day and night." The squirrel does not think to himself, "It is a good thing I forget to dig up some of the acorns I bury. They will grow into oak trees someday." In his wisdom and love, God directs all his creation.

Many people do not stop to admire the things God has created or to thank him for them. Knowing that God made the world—and made it for us—should make us see the world in a new light. God made heaven and earth for you. They exist to remind you of God and to show you how great and good he is. He wants you to enjoy them and be grateful for them.

Next time you visit a zoo or see a wildlife program on TV think about God. Remember that he made monkeys, raccoons, and bear cubs funny and entertaining for a reason. The reason is that he knew you would enjoy them that way.

God knows that even little things, like the first snow of winter or the first robin of spring, can give us joy. That is partly why he made them. God is the Father of all creation and the loving Father of each of us. He made the world for us.

God has given us rule over a part of creation so we may make a right and wise use of it. That is why it is wrong for us to abuse or waste any of God's creation and gift to us.

Word to Know:
create

The Beauty of Creation Bears Witness to God

Question the beauty of the earth,
the beauty of the sea,
the beauty of the wide air around you,
the beauty of the sky;
question the order of the stars,
the sun whose brightness lights the day,
the moon whose splendor softens the gloom
of night;
question the living creatures that move in
the waters,
that roam upon the earth,
that fly through the air,

the spirit that lies hidden,
the matter that is manifest;
the visible things that are ruled,
the invisible things that rule them;
question all these.
They will answer you:
"Behold and see, we are beautiful."
Their beauty is their confession of God.
Who made these beautiful changing things,
if not one who is beautiful and changeth
not?

—Saint Augustine

"I believe in God . . . Creator of heaven and earth."

Q. 22 *Why is God called the "Creator of heaven and earth"?*

God is called the Creator of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen, because he made them out of nothing. To make something out of nothing is to create (CCC 279, 296).

Q. 23 *Is the world entirely the work of God?*

Yes, the world is entirely the work of God, and in its grandeur, beauty, and order, it reflects to us the infinite power, wisdom, and goodness of God (CCC 296, 299).

Q. 24 *Did God create only the material things that are in the world?*

No, God did not create only the material things that are in the world, but he also created the pure spirits and the souls of each human being (CCC 327–28, 355).

Q. 25 *Why did God create heaven and earth?*

God created heaven and earth so that creatures could share in his love, being, and goodness (CCC 295).

Q. 26 *Can man know from the world around him that God exists?*

Yes, from the world around him, man can know that God exists. Man can know that God is the beginning and end of the universe (CCC 32, 36).

Q. 27 *What special role does man have in the created world?*

Man's special role is to care for God's created world and to use it wisely (CCC 378, 380).

Q. 28 *Has God abandoned his creation, leaving it entirely to the care of men?*

No, God continues to keep all creation in existence, directing it to its proper end (CCC 301).

Name: _____

Creator of Heaven and Earth

Quiz 3

Part I: Name five things that are created by God and five things that are made by man.

Created by God	Made by Man
1. <i>Answers will vary</i>	1. <i>Answers will vary</i>
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.
5.	5.

Part II: Fill in the blanks with the correct words from the Word Bank.

Word Bank

creature	spiritual	directs
nothing	alone	creation
care	create	discover

- God created heaven and earth out of **nothing**.
- All that God has made we call **creation**.
- God created both the physical and the **spiritual**.
- A **creature** is anything created by God.
- To make something out of nothing is to **create**.
- God **alone** is uncreated.
- In his wisdom and love, God **directs** all his creation.
- Man's special role is to **care** for God's created world and to use it wisely.
- By looking at creation and thinking carefully, our minds can **discover** many things about God.

Part III: Write a prayer thanking God for some of the things he has made.

Name: _____

Creation

Add to this picture in blue some things God creates and in red some things man makes.



Name: _____

Thanking God for Creation



What are some things God created that you are thankful for?

Answers will vary.

Name: _____

Creator of Heaven and Earth

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. Explain what it means to create and why only God can be called the Creator.
God created everything out of nothing and so only he can be called the Creator.

2. Explain how God cares for his creation.
God keeps his creation going according to his plan. Plants, animals, minerals, and the weather seem to work together in harmony.

From observing creation we can learn a little about what God is. We can know that he exists, that he is powerful, wise, and good. Give examples of things present in the world today that show us these truths about God and how he cares for his creation.

1. God exists:
Answers will vary.

2. God is all powerful:

3. God is all wise:

4. God is all good:

Name: _____

Learning About God from His Creation

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. How do we know that God is not created?
God alone is uncreated. He is the cause of all creation.

2. Why did God make heaven and earth?
God made heaven and earth because in his love he wanted others to enjoy the gift of life. He wanted to give others the chance to know and love him.

3. Did the universe make itself? How do you know?
The universe did not make itself because we know that nothing can make itself. Only the perfect mind of God could have designed it.

4. What can we learn from the way plants, animals, and weather all seem to work together in harmony?
It should make us see the world in a new light. They remind us of God and show us how great and good he is.

5. Should we stop to admire God's creation?
God wants us to enjoy the world and be grateful for all creation. He made the earth for us!

6. Does God know the big and little things?
God knows that even little things, like the first snow of winter or the first robin of spring, can give us joy.

7. What must we do to show God that we are thankful for his creation? Can you think of some examples?
Answers will vary.

Lesson 3

Chapter 4—Realm of the Angels

Correlated Materials

Student Text: Chapter 4, pp. 24–27
Activity Book: Chapter 4, pp. 15–18
Family Guide: G 5–4, pp. 14–15

LESSON FOCUS

Before God created man, he created the angels, intelligent creatures who are pure spirits. There are nine choirs of angels, and each choir has its task. There are also fallen angels, or devils, who, when tested by God, chose to rebel against him and not to follow him. Just as other angels work to lead men to heaven, fallen angels work to lead men away from God into sin.

AIMS

- Students will understand that there are various levels of existence in God’s creation.
- Students will realize that God created the angels to help them get to heaven.
- The students’ awareness of the reality of the immaterial order of creation will be heightened by their study of the angels and demons.

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH REFERENCES

- Angels: 328–36, 350–52
- Fall of the Angels: 391–95, 414
- Heaven: 1023–29, 1053
- Hell: 1033–37, 1056–57

Begin the Lesson

Preparation (10–20 minutes)

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

SCRIPTURE: Student Text, p. 24

“For he will give his angels charge of you to guard you in all your ways” (Psalm 91:11).

Angels are our guardians and God’s messengers.

SACRED ART: Student Text, p. 26

Delivery of Saint Peter, Raphael

Think about the power of the angel in this painting, and how he brings light to the dark circumstances of Peter’s imprisonment. The angels serve God and bring his goodness and light where they go. Here we see the angel releasing Peter from prison.

PRAYER WITH CHILDREN:

Lord, we thank you for creating the angels in their mystery and power, and for sending them to help your Church. Give us grace to depend on the care and intercession of the angels in our daily lives.

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

- God is three Persons in one divine nature: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- Out of his love and goodness, God created heaven and earth and all creatures.
- As human beings, we know God through his creation, and we are made to know God and share in his life. We should respond by loving God and taking care of his creation.

Proclamation (1 minute)

(Proclaim slowly, then repeat.)

Angels are pure spirits who are God’s messengers. Each of us has been given a guardian angel.

MATERIALS

- Bible
- Student Text and Activity Book
- Chalkboard or dry erase board

WORDS TO KNOW

angel: a pure spirit with intellect and will. Angels are God's messengers, who glorify him without ceasing.

pure spirit: an intelligent being without a body

demon: a fallen angel who became evil

Lesson Explanation (35–45 minutes)

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

Focus 1: Angels are pure spirits, created to love and serve God.

- *Have you ever thought about where the angels came from?* (Answers will vary.)
- Before he created the physical world, God created **pure spirits**, the angels.
 - *What does it mean to be pure spirit?* (To exist without physical being, in the spiritual realm alone.) God is pure spirit, but he is eternal and uncreated. Human beings have one nature with a body and a soul. We are part of the material and spiritual life. Angels are the only *created pure spirits*.
 - **Draw** the Life Ladder on the board.

Life Ladder

There are various levels of life or existence in God's creation. There is a certain order or hierarchy among them.

SPIRITUAL

Divine Life
Angelic Life
Human Life*

MATERIAL

Human Life*
Plant Life
Non-life (inanimate)

**Man shares in both the spiritual and material life because he is composed of both body and soul.*

- Human life is both spiritual and material. Man has one nature made of a body and a soul.
- **Angels**, who behold the face of God and serve him perfectly, surpass all visible creatures (CCC 330).
- Angels are personal and immortal creatures, meaning that each one is a person, a pure spirit who is unique and has the powers of knowing and loving, and each one will live forever.
- Angels, being created outside time and living in heaven with God, are also already perfected; they are exactly who God has created them to be (except for the fallen angels).
- Angels love God and serve him as his messengers and helpers of his plan of salvation.
 - *What do angels do?* (Angels are servants and messengers of God with their whole beings [CCC 329].) Like us, they are created to love and serve God, but unlike us, they already do it perfectly.

The Nine Choirs of Angels according to Saint Thomas Aquinas

Seraphim: This is 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: Archangels carry out what needs to be done.

Angels: God's messengers and guardians to mankind.

FOCUS | OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

- Activity Book, p. 17. Read Scripture passages about visits of angels in both the Old and New Testaments.

- Angels are not bound by matter, and in fact have immense power over it. They have no physical form but can control the material world, which enables them to carry out God's will on earth in a way no other creatures can.

Conclusion: God created the angels to love and serve him, and they do it perfectly, of their own free will. However, some of the angels used their free will to choose not to love and serve God.

Focus 2: The angels were tested, and some of them rebelled against God and are called demons.

- At their creation, the angels were given a choice: whether to love and serve God or not.
 - *Can a person love God if he is not free also to choose not to love him?* (No. Love can only truly exist as an act of a free will.)
 - Therefore, angels (like humans after them) were given intelligence and free will: the ability to know God and to choose whether or not to love and serve him.
 - God wants every one of his creatures to love him and share in his life; this is the purpose for which all angels and humans were created. But we cannot choose to love him without free will, and so at their creation the angels were given the choice.
- Some of the angels chose not to serve God, and were thrown out of heaven.
 - With their free choice, some of the angels—led by Lucifer, now called Satan—radically and irrevocably rejected God and his reign (CCC 392).
 - God did not punish them out of anger or a lack of mercy; rather, their choice to reject him was entirely their own and with full knowledge, so the consequences are natural to it; the angels who refused to serve God serve their own purposes instead. Each of the angel's choice to turn away from God was final; when each chose to be separate from God, he no longer had access to his goodness, and these choices are thus entirely evil.
 - *How is this choice different from the choices we make?* (If we turn away from God, we still have an opportunity, through the mercy of God, to turn back to him; whereas the fate of each angel's choice was final.)
 - *What does this teach us about God's love for mankind?* (God shows his mercy for us; he wants to give us a chance to turn to him.)
- These angels are now called **demons**, and they desire only evil.
 - We call the fallen angels "demons" or "devils."
 - The demons have the powers of angels (as they are angels by nature), but they are still creatures subject to God. They cannot prevent the building of God's reign.
 - The demons' entire purpose is to subvert the will of God, and they succeeded most notably in tempting Adam and Eve to sin, resulting in the Fall of mankind.

FOCUS 2 OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Read Revelation 12:7–17, which tells the story of the angelic test and the fall of the demons. Then reread Revelation 12:4: “His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven, and cast them to the earth.” Satan took one-third of the stars (angels) with him.
- Act out the passage from Revelation. Divide students into Michael and the good angels, and Satan and his servants. Read the passage and have the students dramatize the battle and the ejection of the demons from heaven.

FOCUS 3 OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

- Have students practice the Prayer to My Guardian Angel (Student Text, p. 142): Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom God’s love commits me here, ever this day be at my side, to light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen.

- Demons are allowed to roam the world currently, but Christ has already conquered death, and them—they will not prevail.
 - God and Satan are often portrayed as equal enemies, light and dark, matched forces of good and evil.
 - **Emphasize** that *this portrayal is not correct*. While it is true that Satan and the demons hate God, they are entirely different in nature from God. God is eternal and all powerful; the demons are created beings. They exist only because God allows them to exist.
 - *(If a student questions this, explain that God allows the demons to exist because it is not in God’s nature to annihilate beings simply because they refuse to obey him. He created them; therefore he allows them to exist as they choose.)*
 - **What will happen to the demons at the end of time?** *(They will be cast into hell for eternity.)*
 - We know that this is their end because Christ has already conquered death and claimed full victory over them—nothing can stand against him.

Conclusion: Some of the angels chose not to serve God, and they are called demons and desire only evil, but they cannot win against Christ’s power. Also, the good angels are numerous and very powerful, and they help us on earth.

Focus 3: Each of us has been given a guardian angel.

- Angels serve God and help carry out his purpose.
 - **What is God’s purpose for our lives?** *(He wants us to choose to love him and serve him, and to grow in virtue during our time on earth so that we may attain heaven after death.)*
 - As God’s servants, angels want what God wants, and they love us and work to help us grow closer to him.
 - **How could angels use their powers to help this happen?** *(They can protect and guide us; specifically, each of us has an angel as a protector and shepherd during our time on earth.)*
- We can depend on our guardian angels and ask them to protect us and guide us.
 - **In what specific ways could angels guard and guide us in our daily lives?** *(By protecting us from physical harm, and by protecting us from spiritual harm by helping us to resist temptation and avoid sin.)*
 - **Emphasize** that angels know God’s wisdom more fully than we do, so we can ask them to help us understand his will for us.
 - Angels can inspire us to do good and help us see opportunities to obey God in our daily lives.

Conclusion: Each of us has been given a guardian angel to protect and guide us. Guardian angels love us and want us to grow closer to God. We should ask our guardian angels to help us to resist sin and to follow God’s will.

The Archangels

From Scripture, we know of three archangels: Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael.

- Michael is the prince of the heavenly hosts. He led the battle against Satan and cast him out of heaven. (See Jude 9, Revelation 12:7–17.)
- Gabriel is the messenger angel. He appeared to Zechariah and Mary, to prepare them for the births of John the Baptist and Jesus. (See Luke 1:5–38.)
- Raphael was sent as healer, guardian, and messenger of God to Tobit and his family. (See Tobit 5:1–6; 6:9–17; 8:1–3; 11:1–4; 12:1–21.)

Review Lesson 3, Chapter 4 (3 minutes)

- Angels are pure spirits, created to love God and serve him.
- The angels were tested, and some of them rebelled against God and are called demons.
- Some of the angels are sent to earth to help carry out God's will, and each of us has been given a guardian angel to guide and protect us.

Application (10–15 minutes)

Choose one or more of the following for discussion.

- **Can you think of examples of times that an angel has been a messenger?** (At the Annunciation, when Gabriel came to Mary to ask her to bear God's Son; at Jesus' Nativity, when the angels appeared to the shepherds to announce the glory of his birth; also any other examples the students might know from the Scriptures.)
- **The angels were judged by their free choice. What are some free choices that someone can make and put into action to show that he loves God?** (Students can brainstorm, but for example, going to Mass weekly, praying daily, practicing the virtues by being loving toward those around them and obedient to their parents, being good stewards of their time and talents, caring for God's creation. See Lesson 2.)
- Take the time to pray to your guardian angel. **When could you pray to them as part of your daily prayers?** (Answers will vary.)
- Encourage a friend or family member to pray to his guardian angel for protection.

Celebration (5–10 minutes)

Choose one or more of the following.

- Read about the archangels. Remind the students that the angels are God's servants in heaven who are also sent to earth to carry out his will. Through them we can know his love, and we benefit from their guidance and their powerful protection.
- Sing or pray "Angels We Have Heard on High" in the *Adoremus Hymnal*, #323.
- Pray together, thanking God for giving us our guardian angels to guide and protect us.
- Lead the students in praying the Prayer to Saint Michael (Student Text, p. 141).

Take Home

- Student reading for next lesson: Student Text, Chapter 5, pp. 28–30; Chapter 6, pp. 31–34
- Optional: Activity Book: Chapter 4, pp. 15–18
- Optional: Family Guide: G 5–4, pp. 14–15

CHAPTER 4

Realm of the Angels

“For he will give his angels charge of you
to guard you in all your ways.”

Psalm 91:11

There have been plenty of stories and movies about visitors from outer space. Advertisements for them often include such statements as “We are not alone.” This is supposed to mean that the people of planet earth are not the only intelligent creatures in the universe.

Whatever anyone thinks about creatures from outer space, it is indeed true that we are not alone. There really are creatures, not human beings, with intelligence watching you right now!

There is no use looking over your shoulder. These beings, God’s **angels**, are ordinarily invisible to our eyes. It is by faith that we know angels exist and are a part of God’s creation. Like God they are **pure spirits**: they are intelligent beings without bodies. They move and act by using their minds. That is why angels are pictured with wings. They can go where they want as quick as a thought, just by wanting to be there.

Angels in a picture might all look the same: long rows of figures in white robes. But every angel is different. Church tradition tells us that there are different groups or choirs of angels. You have heard of *cherubim* and *seraphim*

in the Preface of the Mass and in the song “Hail, Holy Queen.” These are two choirs of angels. In the Bible we learn of another choir, called *archangels*. Saint Gabriel is one of these. Some angels have greater power and intelligence than others, but all are superior to men. Even the “lowest” angel knows more than all the wise men who have ever lived.

According to tradition, after God created the angels, he tested them. We do not know what the test was. The angels who loved God and wanted to serve him passed the test. They could stay in heaven. Other angels refused to serve God. They admired their own perfections too much, and they refused to serve God as Lord of all. One of them had been the highest of all the angels, Lucifer. When Lucifer (who is now called Satan) rejected God, he and his followers became **demons**. They had to leave God’s presence and never return. Ever since then they have hated God and tried to make others hate him too.

The word angel means “messenger.” We often find angels in the Bible acting as God’s messengers, bringing to people news of God’s

plan for them. The story that first comes to mind is that of the Angel Gabriel. He brought to Mary the good news that God had chosen her to be the Mother of the Savior. In the Old Testament three angels visited Abraham, appearing and acting like men. They told Abraham that his old and childless wife, Sarah, would have a son that year. In the book of Tobit, the Archangel Raphael takes the appearance of a young man. He guides young Tobias on a long journey to recover a debt owed to his parents. On this journey he leads Tobias to his future wife and gives him the means of curing his father’s blindness.

Other examples of the angels’ work can be found in the Gospels. Angels announced the good news of Jesus’ birth to the shepherds. Angels came to care for Jesus after he had fasted forty days and been tempted by the devil.

Angels, both good and bad, are more active in our world than we may think. Satan and the bad angels would rather have us think they were not around, but they are. They are miserably unhappy and they want to see us unhappy too by drawing us away from God, our true source of happiness.

On the other hand, God has given each of us a guardian angel. Our guardian angels inspire us to do what is good. They show us what God wants us to do. Guardian angels protect us not only from danger to our souls but danger to our bodies as well. You may have had some close escapes from death or serious injury. It is often your angel who helps you at these times.

Why not get to know your guardian angel better? Talk to him. Ask for his help when you are lonely, afraid, or tempted to sin. Pray to your guardian angel each day.

Angels are splendid creatures; they are very powerful and very intelligent. They are the friends and servants of God, and we owe them reverence and respect, similar to the way we owe it to a parent, teacher, or older person. We should be especially grateful to our guardian angel who watches over us.

A chapter on angels would not be complete without mentioning Saint Michael the Archangel. Scripture and Tradition tell us that Michael was captain of the good angels who drove Lucifer and the bad angels out of heaven. The Church calls upon Saint Michael to defend her in the battle against evil. Paintings of Saint Michael show him with a sword or spear, standing over Satan in victory. With the help of the angels we too can overcome sin.

Words to Know:

angel pure spirit demon

PRAYER TO SAINT MICHAEL

Saint Michael, the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. *Amen.*

Become familiar with the angels; for without being seen, they are present with you. Pray often to them, praise them constantly, and use their aid and assistance in all your affairs.

—Saint Francis de Sales



“...of all things visible and invisible...”

Nicene Creed

Q. 29 What are the pure spirits?

The pure spirits are intelligent beings that do not have a body (CCC 328, 330).

Q. 30 How do we know that the pure spirits exist?

We know by faith that there are creatures who are pure spirits (CCC 328).

Q. 31 What creatures that are pure spirits do we know through faith?

Through faith we know that there are pure spirits that are good, the angels, and pure spirits that are wicked, the demons (CCC 329, 391–93).

Q. 32 What are the angels?

The angels are invisible servants of God and our guardians. God has entrusted each man to a guardian angel (CCC 329, 336).

Q. 33 Do we have duties to the angels?

We have the duty of showing reverence and respect to the angels. To our guardian angel we also have the duties of gratitude, of giving ear to his inspirations, and of never offending his presence by sin (CCC 335).

Q. 34 What are the demons?

The demons are angels who rebelled against God by their pride. Because of their hatred of God, they were cast into hell (CCC 391–94).

Name: _____

Realm of the Angels

Quiz 4

Part I: Matching.

1. **d** defeated Satan
2. **g** leader of the demons
3. **h** assigned by God to protect you
4. **a** helped Tobias find a wife
5. **j** spoke to Mary
6. **c** two of the choirs (orders) of angels
7. **e** what *angel* means
8. **i** number of angels to visit Abraham
9. **f** heard angels when Jesus was born
10. **b** helped by angels

- a. Raphael
- b. Jesus
- c. cherubim and seraphim
- d. Michael
- e. messenger
- f. shepherds
- g. Satan/Lucifer
- h. guardian angel
- i. three
- j. Gabriel

Part II: Answer the following questions.

1. Do pure spirits have bodies? **No**
2. Are angels pure spirits? **Yes**
3. What do we call the angels that rebelled against God? **demons**
4. Are angels messengers and servants of God? **Yes**
5. What do we call the angels that God has given to each of us to protect us? **guardian angels**
6. Who is the captain of the good angels? **Saint Michael**
7. Can the angels help us overcome sin? **Yes**
8. Do we have to show reverence and respect to the angels? **Yes**
9. What happened to the good angels who passed the test that God gave them? **They stayed in heaven.**
10. What happened to the bad angels? **They had to leave God's presence. (They were cast into hell.)**
11. Which angel brought to Mary the news that God had chosen her to be the Mother of the Savior? **Gabriel**

Part III: On the back of this page, write a prayer to your guardian angel asking him for help.

A-4

Faith and Life Series • Grade 5 • Appendix A

Name: _____

Unit 1 Test

Chapters 1-4

Part I: Fill in the blanks with the correct words from the Word Bank.

Word Bank

believe	Creator	hell	sins
saints	Son	heaven	body
Holy Spirit	Mary	right	life
Father	third	catholic	
Jesus Christ	died	judge	

The Apostles' Creed

I **believe** in God, the **Father** almighty, **Creator** of heaven and earth, and in **Jesus Christ**, his only **Son**, our Lord, who was conceived by the **Holy Spirit**, born of the Virgin **Mary**, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, **died**, and was buried; he descended into **hell**; on the **third** day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into **heaven**, and is seated at the **right** hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to **judge** the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, in the holy **catholic** Church, the communion of **saints**, the forgiveness of **sins**, the resurrection of the **body**, and **life** everlasting. Amen.

Part II: Fill in the blanks.

1. The Apostles' Creed contains the most important truths of our Catholic **Faith**.
2. When we say the Creed, we are standing up for what we **believe**.
3. **Faith** is the gift God gives us to help us believe in him and what he has revealed to us about himself.
4. When we say that God is the Creator of heaven and earth we mean that he created everything out of **nothing**.
5. The three Divine Persons of the Blessed Trinity are the **Father**, the **Son**, and the **Holy Spirit**.

Faith and Life Series • Grade 5 • Appendix A

A-5

Name: _____

Unit 1 Test (continued)

Part III: Define the following attributes of God.

- All holy: **God cannot do or will any evil.**
- Almighty: **God can do everything.**
- All knowing: **God knows all things, even what you are doing and what you are thinking.**
- Eternal: **God had no beginning and will never end.**
- Omnipresent: **God is everywhere.**

Part IV: Yes or No.

1. **Yes** Did God create the angels?
2. **No** Do angels have bodies?
3. **Yes** Are angels intelligent?
4. **Yes** Did God create the angels to be his servants?
5. **No** Did all the angels remain in heaven to serve God?
6. **Yes** Did some of the angels rebel against God and become demons?
7. **Yes** Do you have a special angel who protects you?
8. **No** Can you see your guardian angel?
9. **Yes** Can you talk to your guardian angel?

A-6

Faith and Life Series • Grade 5 • Appendix A

Name: _____

Angels

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.



1. What is an angel? Is it a creature? **The word angel means "messenger." Angels are creatures, because like us, they were created by God.**
2. Are all the angels the same? **Every angel is different. Church tradition tells us that there are different choirs or "orders" of angels.**
3. Can we see angels? Why? **No. We cannot see angels because they are pure spirits, which means that they have no bodies. They move and act by using their minds.**
4. What are some different choirs or orders of angels? **Some of the different choirs of angels are the cherubim, seraphim, and archangels.**
5. Are angels intelligent? **Angels are creatures with intelligence.**

Faith and Life Series • Grade 5 • Chapter 4 • Lesson 1

15

Name: _____

God Tests the Angels

Explain what happened after God created the angels. What happened when God tested the angels? What happened to them? What do the angels do now?



Answers will vary but should follow the student text.

Name: _____

Realm of the Angels

The word angel means “messenger.” In the Bible we often find angels acting as God’s messengers, bringing to people news of God’s plan for them. Read the following passages from both the Old and New Testaments, and then state what message the angel was bringing.

Genesis 22:1–19

Answers will vary.

Judges 13:1–14

Tobit 5:1–6 and Tobit 12

Luke 1:5–23

Luke 1:26–38

Luke 2:8–20

Matthew 2:13–23

Acts 12:1–11

Name: _____

Angels: God’s Messengers

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. What are pure spirits?

A pure spirit is an intelligent being without a body.

2. How do we know that pure spirits exist?

We know by faith that there are beings who are pure spirits.

3. What creatures that are pure spirits do we know through faith?

Through faith we know that there are pure spirits that are good, the angels, and pure spirits that are wicked, the demons.

4. What are the angels?

The angels are invisible servants of God and our guardians. God has entrusted each man to a guardian angel.

5. Do we have duties toward the angels?

We have the duty of showing reverence and respect to the angels. To our guardian angel we also have the duties to be grateful, give ear to his inspirations, and never offend his presence by sin.

6. What are demons?

The demons are angels who rebelled against God by their pride. Because of their hatred of God, they were cast into hell.

7. Can you think of different angels in the Bible? When do we hear about angels?

Answers will vary.

Lesson 4

Chapter 5—Made in His Image Chapter 6—The Fall from Grace Creed: “All things visible and invisible”

Correlated Materials

Student Text: Chapter 5, pp. 28–30;
Chapter 6, pp. 31–34
Activity Book: Chapter 5, pp. 19–22;
Chapter 6, pp. 23–26
Family Guide: G 5–5, pp. 16–17;
G 5–6, pp. 18–19

LESSON FOCUS

God made man in his image. We image God through our ability to reason, to make choices freely, and to love. Adam and Eve were the first man and woman. When God created them, he filled their souls with grace, a share of his life, so they could live in harmony with each other and with creation on earth and live with him forever in heaven.

Like the angels, Adam and Eve faced a test: Would they obey God and love him, or would they rebel out of pride? They chose to rebel, losing God’s gifts of grace and original holiness and justice. All mankind inherited the effects of Original Sin, including concupiscence—a tendency to sin—and suffering, which God permits but doesn’t cause.

Begin the Lesson

Preparation (10–20 minutes)

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

SCRIPTURE: Student Text, p. 28

“Then 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.’” (Genesis 1:26).

God made man in his image, to love as he loves. God gave man dominion over all of the earth.

Student Text, p. 31

“But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, ‘Where are you?’” (Genesis 3:9).

After the sin of Adam and Eve, God knew what they had done, but he asked them, “Where are you?”

SACRED ART: Student Text, p. 29

The Newborn Child, Georges de la Tour

In this painting light emanates from the Child. It is uncertain as to whether or not this artist is painting the Christ Child with Mary and Saint Anne or whether or not the artist is showing through the use of light that man is made in the image of God.

Student Text, p. 31:

Annunciation (detail), Fra Angelico

The detail shown in this painting is focused on Adam and Eve being banished from the Garden of Eden. In this class we will focus on the devastation that came with their disobedience to God, their fall from grace. In a larger detail of the *Annunciation* (see page 50) Mary, who is full of grace, is accepting to be the

AIMS

- Students will understand that they should strive to live according to their nature as intelligent, free creatures, and that because they are made in the image of God, every human being has great dignity from the moment of conception.
- Students will understand that they can share in God's life through the gift of grace, and that the choices they make have consequences.
- Students will understand God is good, loving, and forgiving, and that he does not cause suffering but brings good out of it.
- Students will understand that through Baptism they were born into God's family and the life of grace was poured into their souls.

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH REFERENCES

- Created as Body and Soul in the Image of God: 355–58, 362–68, 380–81
- The Original Justice of Creation: 374–79, 384
- The Fall: 396–401, 415–16
- Consequences of Original Sin: 402–9, 417–19
- Promise of a Redeemer: 410–12, 420–21

MATERIALS

- Bible
- Student Text and Activity Book
- Chalkboard or dry erase board

WORDS TO KNOW

soul: the spirit of a man

grace: any gift from God. Sanctifying grace is God's life in our souls.

free will: the ability to make a choice to do good

Original Sin: the sin of Adam that is passed on to each of us

Mother of God. The entire picture tells the whole story, Adam and Eve losing the gift of grace, Mary, who is full of grace, will bring forth Jesus who will restore the gift of grace to mankind.

PRAYER WITH CHILDREN:

Lord, we thank you for creating us in your image to know you and love you, and for sending your Son to redeem us. We ask you to give us grace to overcome Original Sin and to become the people you created us to be.

Review Lesson 3, Chapter 4 (3 minutes)

- Angels are pure spirits, created to love God and serve him.
- The angels were tested, and some of them rebelled against God and are called demons.
- Some of the angels are sent to earth to help carry out God's will, and each of us has been given a guardian angel to guide and protect us.

Proclamation (1 minute)

(Proclaim slowly, then repeat.)

Out of love, God created man in his image and likeness. This enables us to love and serve God and to share in his life. Through grace we can be one with God in heaven. By sinning man lost the gift of grace, but God promised to send a Savior.

Lesson Explanation (35–45 minutes)

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

Focus 1: Man is created with a body and soul and is given certain gifts.

- Humanity is unique in creation: human nature unites the spiritual and physical worlds.
 - God created man with one human nature made of a body and **soul**. God gave us a soul so that we would be made in his image, able to love as he loves.
 - Because we have souls
 - We have **free will**, which gives us the ability to make choices.
 - We have intelligence, which gives us the ability to know truth.
 - We have the ability to love as God loves.
 - Our souls will live forever.

FOCUS | OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

- Activity Book, p. 20.
Have students use their imaginations to draw the Garden of Eden. Discuss aspects of our world that would have been different in Eden.

- **List** what characteristics we as physical creatures share with animals:
 - We have senses and can move around.
 - We receive and process nourishment, we grow, we reproduce, and our bodies die.
- At their creation, God gave Adam and Eve preternatural gifts.
 - Before they sinned, Adam and Eve had a human nature that was untainted. Because they were full of grace, they lived in perfect harmony with each other.
 - *What are some evils (the absence of good) in human existence now that before the Fall would not have existed for Adam and Eve? (Death, illness, conflict among people, unhappiness, etc.)*
 - Before the Fall, Adam and Eve would live forever; there would be no death; their bodies did not suffer or grow old. They were made to live forever, both body and soul. (After the Fall humans retained their immortal souls, but now our bodies decay and must eventually be separated from our souls in the pain of death.)
 - Knowledge was given directly (infused) to Adam and Eve by God.
 - There was no tendency toward sin. Not only were Adam and Eve originally sinless; they were free from concupiscence, the tendency to sin that make us more susceptible to temptation.
- God also gave Adam and Eve the supernatural gift of grace.
 - **Define: Grace** is God’s life in us.
 - Grace is a free gift from God; we do not earn it.
 - Before the Fall, Adam and Eve shared fully in God’s life through his gift of grace.
 - God has no need for us to share in his life, but he gives grace because he loves us. We are able to love as God loves when his grace resides in our souls.

Conclusion: God created Adam and Eve in his image, in a state of grace, and they were perfectly happy.

Focus 2: God tested man, and man fell from grace.

- God asked Adam and Eve to obey him, but they were tempted by the devil and chose not to.
 - **Read or summarize** the Fall of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, which the students should know. If time allows, read the story from Genesis 3:1–15.
 - God gave Adam and Eve everything they needed. The choice to disobey him came entirely from their own pride.
 - *What did Adam and Eve’s choice “say” to God? (Their choice was a rejection of God’s love and his desire for a relationship with them. It said that they considered themselves more important than him.)*

FOCUS 2 OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Activity Book, p. 24. Have students reflect on life before and after the Fall, and what the details might have looked like for Adam and Eve.
- Read Genesis 3 and have students play the parts of the serpent, Eve, Adam, and God. Discuss what it must have felt like for Adam and Eve to be thrown from Eden.

- As a result of their choice, Adam and Eve damaged their relationship with God and lost the life of grace.
 - Adam and Eve, by disobeying God, chose to reject him and his gifts to them. The consequences of their sin were not the actions of an angry God, but the natural result of their rejection. It was *their* choice to break their relationship with God.
 - Because of sin, Adam and Eve lost their preternatural gifts from God.
 - *What did they lose? (Answers will vary; lead students to understand that their bodies would decay and die; and they no longer had knowledge infused by God, but must live in ignorance and work to learn.)*
 - They now had concupiscence, the tendency to sin. They were susceptible to their passions (desires of the body and anger toward other creatures).
 - Adam and Eve also lost God's supernatural gift to them: grace. They no longer shared in God's life. They could no longer know God as they had, and without his intervention they could no longer attain heaven.
 - Adam and Eve are our parents. The consequences of their choice were handed down to all humanity through the inheritance of **Original Sin**. We are all born without grace and doomed to death because of their choice to reject God.

Conclusion: By their own choice, Adam and Eve broke their relationship with God and were ejected from the Garden of Eden, but God's goodness and providence can answer any evil.

Focus 3: God promised to send a Savior.

- God loved his people and would not abandon them to the consequences of their sin, so he promised to send a Savior.
 - *After Adam and Eve sinned, did God stop loving them? Can God stop loving anyone? (No, God is love and it is his nature to love; while God is a merciful God, he is also a just God.)*
 - God's nature is perfect, all-sufficient love.
 - God loved Adam and Eve perfectly, so he promised to send a Savior (his own Son) to heal the rift between God and man and restore us to grace and hope for eternal life.
- Jesus, the Savior, would be the New Adam, obediently accepting death and opening the gates of heaven.
 - Adam's response to God was to disobey him and reject the gifts of creation.
 - *Would it even be possible for Jesus, the Son of God, to make those same mistakes? (No, because he is God.)*

Why is there evil in the world?

God does not and cannot cause evil; everything that God created was good; everything that God intends is good. Evil is the absence of good. In the absence of good, sin and evil became rampant after the sin of Adam and Eve. Suffering was a consequence of Original Sin. The Church teaches that after God created the angels (who were all good), out of the sin of pride, Lucifer chose to turn against God. One-third of the good angels followed him. We call these bad angels “devils.” Their desire is to win over souls to themselves. Their desire is to tempt us and to trick us, just as they successfully tempted Adam and Eve to turn away from God. We must constantly protect ourselves from the influences of evil in our world. It is a good idea to say the Prayer to Saint Michael every day. (See Student Text, p. 141.) Keep in mind, though, that the power of Satan is not infinite—he is only a creature. He has already been defeated by Jesus on the Cross—yet his power will continue to be unleashed until the end of time, when Jesus returns. If we live in a state of grace and receive the Sacraments regularly, we will be protected from the influences of evil.

- Draw this table on the board to compare Adam and Jesus and illustrate how Jesus healed the rifts Adam’s sin created.

ADAM	JESUS
Made perfect	Is perfect
Was tested	Was tested
Disobeyed God	Obeded God
Lost grace and heaven for men	Won grace and heaven for men

- Through perfect obedience in total self-giving love, Jesus enabled us to receive God’s grace once again and have a chance to attain heaven.
- List concrete examples of how sin damages:
 - It harms *our relationship with God*, because he intends for us to share in his life and grow in holiness, and sin is a rejection of that.
 - It harms *our relationships with other people*, because we can hurt them and they can hurt us, and we fail to grow in love for one another.
 - It harms *the world around us*, such as when we don’t practice good stewardship and the natural world is damaged.
- Jesus died to conquer death and reestablish our access to grace. Through the Sacraments we receive sanctifying grace.
 - Jesus accepted death even though he himself was perfect, and by his death and Resurrection he conquered death and healed the relationship between God and humanity.
 - We receive and participate in Jesus’ redemptive work primarily through the life of the Church on earth. Baptism erases the stain of Original Sin from our souls, and through the Sacraments we receive sanctifying grace.
 - Even though we still have the effects of sin around us and in our lives, Jesus made it possible that we can again receive the gift of grace so that we have the hope of eternal life with God in heaven.
 - Only through the power of grace (God’s life in us) in our lives can we overcome sin and evil. We cannot do it alone.
- Suffering came into the world through the sin of Adam and Eve. Because evil is the absence of good, evil abounded after this sin.
- Why does God allow bad things to happen? (Answers will vary; explain the following.)
 - God does not cause evil, nor did he create anything that is evil. (See sidebar.)
 - Because of the gift of free will, God allows us to choose evil over good, although God will never allow evil unless a better good will come from it.

FOCUS 3 OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

- Activity Book, p. 25. Have students meditate on Jesus's victory over death on the Cross, and the continuing victory over sin and death that is accomplished in each of our lives, as we receive grace in Baptism and in all the Sacraments.

Saint Jude Thaddeus

Apostle

Saint Jude was chosen by Jesus to be one of the twelve Apostles. At the Last Supper, he asked Jesus why he planned to show himself to them and not to the world. Jesus responded that he and the Father would show themselves to those who loved him (see John 14:22–24). After Pentecost, Saint Jude traveled to Mesopotamia as a missionary and then went on to Persia with Saint Simon, another Apostle, where they were both martyred. Today Saint Jude is known as the patron saint of impossible causes, and people ask his intercession for difficult problems. Saint Jude's love for Jesus in the face of persecution and his love for all people, especially those who are struggling, exemplify for us the human ability to overcome temptation and become who God intends us to be.

- *If God will only allow evil if a better good comes from it, can you think of a time in your life or even in the world today when something good came from suffering or a bad situation? (Answers will vary. Many times with natural disasters, people come together and turn to God; if a person sins and experiences suffering, sometimes he will come to know Jesus where otherwise he may not have, and so forth.)*

Conclusion: God had the perfect answer to Adam and Eve's sin, and he provided it in his Son, Jesus Christ, who became our Savior and restored man's relationship with God.

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

- God created us in his image: we are body-soul creatures, the only physical beings who also are spiritual beings and are like God.
- Adam and Eve were created in a perfect state of grace, but chose to disobey God and brought the consequence of Original Sin upon mankind.
- God did not abandon us to sin, but sent his Son to redeem us.

Application (10–15 minutes)

Choose one or more of the following for discussion.

- God created us in his image so we can love as he loves. In God is the perfection of every virtue, so as we grow in virtue we become more like him and reflect his image more fully.
 - *How can we display different virtues by our daily choices? (Gratitude, kindness, obedience, orderliness, patience, honesty, moderation, respect, sincerity, modesty, prayerfulness, self-control.)*
- If you are having a bad day, stop to pray for God's grace. A prayer for grace is a prayer that God will always answer; by receiving grace we participate more fully in his life, and he wants that for us. He will give us grace to overcome temptation and grow in holiness. Take time now to pray for God's grace to work in your life.
- Renew the life of grace in your soul by going to confession. Confession is a chance for a "clean slate"—the eternal effects of our actual sins are erased, and we receive an outpouring of God's grace.
- Do a penance (small sacrifice) that will help you resist temptation. Small penances can help us focus our minds and hearts on pursuing virtue and holiness, and help us avoid sin and occasions of sin. Making small penances is an excellent way to invite God's grace into our daily lives and grow closer to him.

Celebration (5–10 minutes)

Choose one or more of the following.

- Read about Saint Jude Thaddeus. (See sidebar.)
- Sing or pray “Lord Jesus, Think on Me” in the *Adoremus Hymnal*, #364.
- Pray together, thanking God for creation and for the gift of grace. Lead the students in praying the Act of Contrition (Student Text, p. 138).

Take Home

- Student reading for next lesson: Student Text, Chapter 7, pp. 35–37
- Optional: Activity Book: Chapter 5, pp. 19–22; Chapter 6, pp. 23–26
- Optional: Family Guide: G 5–5, pp. 16–17; G 5–6, pp. 18–19

Creed: “All things visible and invisible”

CHAPTER 5

Made in His Image

“Then 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.’”

Genesis 1:26

Of all God’s creatures, none is more unusual than man. Only man shares both the world of the angels and the world of the animals. Since man is made up of body and soul he is part of the spiritual order with the angels and plants. Because of his **soul** man can think, know, love, and freely choose what is good. A man’s soul will never die; it is immortal. As you know animals do not have the kind of souls that live forever. Nor can they think or choose.

On the other hand, because he has a body man shares with the animals some things that angels do not have. He can feel things, he has the senses of sight, hearing, touch, taste, and smell. He needs air, food, and water to stay alive.

To understand better the wonderful mystery of ourselves, we must know about the first man and woman. All of the rest of us have descended from them; that is why we call them our first parents.

God made Adam and Eve as he wanted them to be. They had all they needed physically and mentally to live lives of happiness according to his will. They were given special gifts so that living in the Garden of Eden was without hardship or difficulty; they would never be sick, would never suffer, and they would not have to die. Their wills were not weak as ours are, and they saw and understood things clearly.

Before Original Sin, man enjoyed these special gifts. But God also gave our first parents a gift that was supernatural. God gave Adam and Eve a share of his own life, the life of **grace**. This means that after enjoying life on earth for a while, Adam and Eve could enjoy being with God in heaven. There would be no death in between this world and heaven. This gift was not only for Adam and Eve, but for all their descendants, ourselves included.

The Bible tells us that when God created Adam, he said, “Let us make man in our image.” This does not mean that God has a body like us. It means that we are like God in our minds and in our **free will**—our freedom to choose to do good. We are persons with great dignity. God loves each of us as his children. Because of this, each of us has great worth and value. It makes no difference if someone is disabled or unloved by other people. Even a tiny unborn baby growing within its mother’s womb is more important than all the stars in the sky, all the inventions of science, and all the works of art. Each of us is known and loved by God. That matters more than anything else.

Words to Know:

soul grace free will

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“What is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him? Yet you have made him little less than the angels, and you have crowned him with glory and honor. You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet.”

—Psalm 8:4–6

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- Q. 35** *What is man?*
Man is a reasoning being composed of body and soul (CCC 355).
- Q. 36** *What is the soul?*
The soul is the spiritual part of man, by which he lives, understands, and enjoys freedom. The soul allows man to know, love, and serve God (CCC 356, 363).
- Q. 37** *Does a man's soul die with his body?*
A man's soul does not die with his body; rather, the soul lives forever because it is a spiritual reality (CCC 366).
- Q. 38** *What care must we take of our soul?*
We must take the greatest care of our soul because it is immortal and because by saving our soul we can be happy forever (CCC 366–67).
- Q. 39** *Who were the first man and woman?*
The first man and woman were Adam and Eve, who were created immediately by God. All other men descend from them. Hence Adam and Eve are called our *first parents* (CCC 375).
- Q. 40** *Was man created weak and sinful as we are now?*
Man was not created weak and sinful as we are now, but was created holy and in a state of perfect happiness (CCC 374, 400, 416).
- Q. 41** *What destiny did God assign to man?*
God assigned to man the supreme destiny of being in union with him forever. Because this is entirely above and beyond the capacity of human nature, man also received from God a supernatural power to achieve this destiny. This power is called *grace* (CCC 27, 1998).
- Q. 42** *What is grace?*
Grace is a share in God's own life that gives us power over our weak human nature (CCC 1999).

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Name: _____

Made in His Image

Quiz 5

Part I: Fill in the blanks with the correct words from the Word Bank.

Word Bank

free	happy	immortal	Grace	freely
life	image	forever	weak	think
spiritual	die	soul	perfect	

- Man is made in the **image** and likeness of God in his mind and in his **free** will.
- Because of his soul man can **think**, know, love, and **freely** choose what is good.
- We must take the greatest care of our **soul** because it is **immortal** and because by saving our soul we can be **happy** forever.
- Man was not created **weak** and sinful as we are now, but was created holy in a state of **perfect** happiness.
- Grace** is a share of God's own **life**.
- A man's soul does not **die** with his body. The soul lives **forever** because it is a **spiritual** reality.

Part II: Answer the following questions.

- Does man have a body and a soul? **Yes**
- Does man have free will? **Yes**
- Who are our first parents? **Adam and Eve**
- Does God know and love everyone? **Yes**
- Does every person have great dignity? **Yes**
- Is a tiny baby growing within his mother's womb more important than all the stars in the sky? **Yes**

Faith and Life Series • Grade 5 • Appendix A

A-7

Name: _____

Made in His Image

Read Genesis 1:26–27, and then tell what it means that man is made in the image and likeness of God.

Being made in the image and likeness of God means that we are like God in our minds and in our free will—our freedom to choose to do good.

There are various levels of life or existence in God's creation. There is a certain order or hierarchy among them.

SPIRITUAL
Divine Life
Angelic Life
Human Life*
MATERIAL
Human Life*
Animal Life (sensitive)
Plant Life (vegetative)
Non-life (inanimate)

Man shares in both the spiritual and material life because he is composed of both body and soul. See if you can give an example of what men have in common with the following groups:

Angelic:
Answers will vary.

Animal:

Vegetative:

Faith and Life Series • Grade 5 • Chapter 5 • Lesson 1

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Name: _____

Man Before the Fall

Before the Fall, man had all he needed to be happy. He would not be sick, he would not suffer, and he would not even die! Draw a picture of the Garden of Eden.

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Faith and Life Series • Grade 5 • Chapter 5 • Lesson 2

Name: _____

Called to Heaven

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.



1. What supernatural gift did Adam and Eve possess before the Fall?
Before the Fall Adam and Eve possessed a share in God's own life, the life of grace.
2. What other gifts did Adam and Eve possess before the Fall?
They would never be sick, would never suffer, and they would not have to die. Their wills were not weak as ours are, and they saw and understood things clearly.
3. Adam and Eve were blessed by God's presence. They had a special relationship with God. Were we all to receive this gift? Are we now? How?
In the beginning we were all to receive that gift, but now, because of Original Sin, we do not have that special gift. God offers us this gift by grace.

Faith and Life Series • Grade 5 • Chapter 5 • Lesson 3

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Name: _____

God Made Man in His Image

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.



1. What does it mean to be made in the image and likeness of God? Does God have a body?
Made in the image and likeness of God means that we are like him in our minds and our free will. God is pure spirit without a body.
2. Who is made in the image of God? Old people? Young people? Unborn babies?
All human beings are made in the image and likeness of God.
3. Why is man a special creature? What two worlds does he share in?
Man can think, know, love, and freely choose what is good. A man's soul will never die; it is immortal. Man shares in the spiritual and the material worlds.
4. What was life like for Adam and Eve before Original Sin?
Adam and Eve had all they needed physically and mentally to live lives of happiness according to God's will.
5. Does God know and love each and every one of us as his children?
Yes. Each of us has great worth and value. God even loves someone who is disabled or unloved by other people. Even a tiny unborn baby growing within the mother's womb is more important than all the stars in the sky, etc.

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Faith and Life Series • Grade 5 • Chapter 5 • Lesson 4

CHAPTER 6

The Fall from Grace

"But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?'"
Genesis 3:9

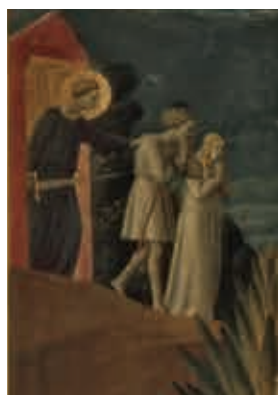
God gave Adam and Eve a life without pain, sickness, or death. They lived in harmony with all living things on earth. With the gift of sanctifying grace, they knew God as a friend and were confident of eternal life with him.

As with the angels, God tested Adam and Eve. He gave them the chance to show their love and thanks for all he had given them. All they had to do was freely obey God's command. And they had been carefully warned that disobedience would have terrible consequences.

Adam and Eve failed the test. Satan tempted Eve with the same desire for power that ruined him: "You shall be like gods." Eve rejected the happiness God had given her and believed the lies of Satan. She was guilty of tremendous pride as well as disobedience. Eve's next action was far from god-like. She convinced Adam to disobey God along with her.

With Adam and Eve's acts of disobedience God's grace left their souls. They had great feelings of guilt and shame. Adam and Eve tried to hide from God. They must have known that this was impossible, but that is

what sin makes us wish to do. Even when God spoke to them, they were not sensible enough



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to confess their sin and ask God's forgiveness. Instead they tried to put the blame somewhere else: "Eve told me to do it." "The serpent tempted me."

It sounds familiar, doesn't it? "He hit me first." "It's not my fault. She broke my pencil." It is not a coincidence that we behave like Adam and Eve when we have done something wrong. By sinning, Adam hurt not only himself. Having lost God's gifts, he could not pass them on to his children. Just as some people pass on defects to their children, Adam passed on **Original Sin** to us. It is called Original Sin because it was committed at the beginning of the human race, and it is passed on to each of us at our own beginning. Someone might think that it is unjust of God to punish all of us for Adam's sin. But we must remember that what Adam and Eve lost because of Original Sin were free gifts which God had given them. The life of grace is something to which none of us has a right.

The effects of Original Sin include a strong inclination to sin. In simpler words, it is easy for us to sin. Even when we want very much to be good, we often give in to sin anyway. That is why some people say it was "unfair" of God to punish Adam and Eve for one sin. They forget that before Original Sin, Adam and Eve were not like us. They were in control of their feelings. With sanctifying grace and their great knowledge, they did not really "feel like" doing evil the way we do. That is why the first sin was so serious and deserved such great punishment.

After sinning, Adam and Eve had to leave the Garden of Eden and raise their children in a world of pain, exhausting work, and ignorance. They and their descendants would end their time on earth with death. There was no hope of eternal life in heaven by their own efforts.

But God loved his children too much to abandon them. He promised to send his Son to earth to be the New Adam, the perfect man who would "pass the test" on behalf of all men. Jesus would obediently accept death on a Cross to make up for the sin of Adam and for all sins committed since then. His death would open heaven to all who had died (like Adam and Eve) hoping in God's mercy. The Sacrament of Baptism brings the graces of Christ's death and Resurrection to each of us. Baptism removes Original Sin, fills our souls with sanctifying grace, and makes us God's children. The grace of Baptism diminishes the inclination to sin.

In the next few chapters, we will see how God helped his people through the thousands of years before Christ's coming. We will see how he prepared the entire world for the Good News of salvation.

Pain and Suffering

Throughout history, man has wondered why there is pain and suffering in the world. All suffering is in some way the result of sin. It is easy to see, for instance, that the pain and sorrow caused by war, murder, hatred, anger, and greed is very much "man-made." But what about earthquakes, floods, and terrible diseases?

Before Original Sin, man was in harmony with the natural world. The human body was stronger than any of the tiny organisms that cause sickness. God had given mankind a home that was free from natural disaster. The sin of Adam did more than weaken our souls with the loss of sanctifying grace. In some ways it threw all of nature out of balance, too. That is why we can say that the suffering which comes from the natural world is also the result of sin.

It is sometimes hard to see why God allows so much suffering to go on. He does not cause it, but we have to trust that he allows it for a reason. After all, he has shown us his love in

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many ways, especially by sending his own Son to endure horrible pain in order to save us. God can always bring good out of suffering. It is a bad thing for a man to lose all his money, but this may teach that man to turn to God in prayer for the first time in his life. It seems cruel and unjust when a baby dies in an accident before he can grow up and enjoy life. But perhaps that baby might never have reached

heaven if he had grown up and turned to a life of sin. We do not know. Only God knows the reason for the suffering that comes to each of us in this life. But in heaven he will answer all the questions we may have about it.

Words to Know:
Original Sin



- Q. 43** *What was Adam's sin?*
Adam's sin was a grave sin of pride and disobedience. It was the first sin ever committed, so it is called Original Sin (CCC 397).
- Q. 44** *What damage did the sin of Adam cause?*
Adam's sin affected him and all men. It removed God's grace and gifts from man, and caused man to suffer illness, death, ignorance, and inclination to sin (CCC 402–405).
- Q. 45** *What is the sin called to which Adam subjected the rest of men by his fault?*
The sin to which Adam subjected all men by his fault is called *Original Sin* because it was committed at the origin of mankind and is transmitted to all men (CCC 404).

- Q. 46** *What is Original Sin for us?*
Original Sin for us is the lack of grace with which we come into existence. It is the result of the sin of our first parents, Adam and Eve; it is not a sin that we ourselves commit, but rather one that we inherit (CCC 405).
- Q. 47** *Is God unjust in punishing us on account of the sin of Adam?*
God is not unjust in punishing us on account of the sin of Adam. Original Sin does not take away from us anything to which we have a right as human beings, but only the free gifts that God in his goodness would have bestowed on us if Adam had not sinned (CCC 398–99, 404).
- Q. 48** *Because of Original Sin, did man have to remain excluded forever from heaven?*
Because of Original Sin, man would have had to remain excluded forever from heaven if God had not sent his own Son, Jesus Christ, from heaven to save mankind (CCC 410–12).

Name: _____

The Fall from Grace

Quiz 6

Part I: Compare and contrast man and nature before and after the Fall.
The following may be used as a guideline as student answers will vary.

Before the Fall	After the Fall
Man - no pain, sickness, or death - sanctifying grace - friendship with God - going to heaven	Man - pain, sickness, death - inclination to sin - cut off from God - cut off from heaven
World - in harmony with man - no natural disasters	World - thrown out of harmony - natural disasters, disease, etc.

Part II: Answer the following questions.

- What is the sin that was committed at the beginning of the human race and is passed on to each of us? Original Sin
- Who tempted Eve to disobey God? Satan
- Were Adam and Eve allowed to stay in the Garden of Eden after they sinned? No
- Did Jesus obediently accept death on the Cross to make up for the sin of Adam and for all sins committed since then? Yes
- Which Sacrament removes Original Sin? Baptism
- Is it possible for God to bring good out of suffering? Yes

Name: _____

You Shall Be Like Gods!

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

- Did Adam and Eve know God's love?
With the gift of sanctifying grace, Adam and Eve knew God as a friend and were confident of eternal life with him.
- What was the test God had for Adam and Eve?
God gave Adam and Eve the chance to show their love and thanks for all he had given them. All they had to do was freely obey God's command.
- Why was eating a piece of fruit so serious?
Adam and Eve had been carefully warned that disobedience would have terrible consequences. Satan tempted them with the same desire for power that ruined him: "You shall be like gods." With the acts of disobedience God's grace left their souls.
- Whom did Adam and Eve choose to follow?
Adam and Eve chose to follow Satan.
- What were Adam and Eve like after they had eaten the fruit?
After they had eaten the fruit, God's grace left their souls and they had great feelings of guilt and shame. Adam and Eve tried to hide from God.

Name: _____

Before and After the Fall

Compare the two columns and reflect on life before and after the Fall.

Before the Fall

1. Adam and Eve had God's life in them.
2. Adam and Eve did not know evil, pain, or suffering.
3. Before the Fall, Adam and Eve did not have to labor.
4. They did not have to die.
5. They lived in the Garden of Eden.

After the Fall

1. Adam and Eve no longer had God's life and could not go to heaven.
2. After the Fall, they were sad and knew evil. They also suffered.
3. After the Fall, they had to work very hard, even for food.
4. They would die and their bodies would return to dust.
5. They had to leave the Garden of Eden and needed a Savior in order to go to heaven.

Name: _____

Jesus Christ, the New Adam

The New Adam, Jesus Christ, passed the test for all of us. He died on the Cross in order to bring us new life through Baptism. Reflect on Jesus as the New Adam by using the pictures below.



Name: _____

The Fall from Grace

Because of his sin Adam lost God's friendship and special gifts. Fill in the chart below by describing Adam and Eve before and after their Fall from grace.

Before the Fall	After the Fall
<p><u>Answers will vary but should be based on the student text, class discussion, Scripture, and the activity on page 23.</u></p>	

Sin not only affects men, but also the world around us. Compare the world before and after the Fall.

Before the Fall	After the Fall

Why does God allow suffering to exist?