


# Activity Booklet



# BREAK THROUGH!

**THE BIBLE FOR  
YOUNG CATHOLICS**



saint mary's press

Nineteen of the activity pages in this book are used by special license with 1517 Media. Copyright © 2012 and © 2013 Sparkhouse. The remaining activity pages were created by Leslie Barkin.

The content in this resource was acquired, developed, and reviewed by the content engagement team at Saint Mary's Press. Content design and manufacturing were coordinated by the passionate team of creatives at Saint Mary's Press.

Images on page 127 from Shutterstock.com

Scripture texts used in this work are taken from the *New American Bible, revised edition* © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, D.C. All Rights Reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the copyright owners.

Copyright © 2017 by Saint Mary's Press, Christian Brothers Publications, 702 Terrace Heights, Winona, MN 55987-1320, [www.smp.org](http://www.smp.org). All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced by any means without the written permission of the publisher.

Printed in the United States of America

4417

ISBN 978-1-59982-910-4

# Contents

## Introduction.....4

### Old Testament

|   |    |
|---|----|
| The Beauty of Creation .....              | 9  |
| Am I My Brother's Keeper? .....           | 12 |
| Sarah.....                                | 15 |
| Abraham .....                             | 18 |
| Joseph Betrayed by His Brothers .....     | 21 |
| Jacob.....                                | 24 |
| Moses.....                                | 27 |
| The Israelites' Miraculous Escape .....   | 30 |
| Miriam and Aaron .....                    | 33 |
| Joshua .....                              | 36 |
| Deborah.....                              | 39 |
| Samson .....                              | 42 |
| Samuel Hears God's Call .....             | 45 |
| Saul Becomes First King .....             | 48 |
| David Shows His Trust in God .....        | 51 |
| Dedicating the Temple.....                | 54 |
| Elijah and Elisha .....                   | 57 |
| Rebuilding the Wall of Jerusalem.....     | 60 |
| Esther Bravely Goes before the King ..... | 63 |
| The Maccabees .....                       | 66 |
| Job's Friends Confront Him .....          | 69 |
| Isaiah .....                              | 72 |
| God Calls Jeremiah .....                  | 75 |

### New Testament

|                                       |     |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Jesus Resists Temptation .....        | 81  |
| Jesus the Teacher.....                | 84  |
| Lord, When Did We See You? .....      | 87  |
| John the Baptist.....                 | 90  |
| Jesus Calls the First Disciples ..... | 93  |
| Jesus Raises Jairus's Daughter .....  | 96  |
| Jesus Gives Himself .....             | 99  |
| Mary .....                            | 102 |
| Jesus Is Born .....                   | 105 |
| Mary Magdalene .....                  | 108 |
| Who Is a True Neighbor? .....         | 111 |
| Jesus Teaches Martha and Mary.....    | 114 |
| The Forgiving Father .....            | 117 |
| Samaritan Woman Encounters Jesus ...  | 120 |
| Jesus Demonstrates True Service ..... | 123 |
| Jesus Dies on the Cross .....         | 126 |
| Jesus Is Risen .....                  | 129 |
| Peter .....                           | 132 |
| Filled with the Holy Spirit.....      | 135 |
| Paul .....                            | 138 |
| Priscilla and Aquila .....            | 141 |
| Timothy.....                          | 144 |
| A New Heaven and a New Earth .....    | 147 |

# Introduction

*Breakthrough! The Bible for Young Catholics* is filled with features to help introduce your middle school youth to the riches of Scripture. A key feature is the eighty full-color art pieces interspersed throughout *Breakthrough!* Created by Odessa Sawyer, a respected artist for young-adult fiction, these art pieces focus on key events and people in Scripture. Forty of the pieces focus on key Old and New Testament events, and the other forty focus on key Old and New Testament people. Those depicting people are accompanied by imaginative conversations unpacking the roles these people played in God's plan of salvation.

This activity booklet contains activity pages for forty-seven of these art pieces to help your young people explore the big picture of salvation history. You have permission to duplicate these activity pages for use with young people in your parish or school. We have provided three different types of activity pages to help you meet the needs of the diverse learners in your classrooms and groups. Here are descriptions and suggested uses for the three types of pages.

## Journal Activity Pages

The journal pages provide an opportunity for the young people to explore the meaning of the art and stories using their own words and images. Each journal page has three prompts.

1. The first prompt is to reflect on the art piece and the feeling or attitude the artist was trying to convey.
2. The second prompt is to reflect on the meaning of the biblical event or the biblical person's life after reading the indicated Scripture passage.
3. The third prompt, at the bottom of the page, is to make a connection between their life and the biblical person or event.

When young people are part of the meaning-making process, their ability to understand and own the Bible's stories is enhanced. Use these pages to have your middle schoolers journal about the meaning of a biblical person or event before you discuss the meaning together. You will find that the young people will bring much more to the conversation.

## Puzzle Activity Pages

The puzzle pages are knowledge focused. They provide a variety of paper-and-pencil activities—crosswords, math problems, activity sequencing, word challenges—that your middle schoolers can use to master key facts. In order to solve the puzzles, your young people will need *Breakthrough! The Bible for Young Catholics* to look up the Scripture verses listed on each puzzle. This will help them to not only learn about the person or event but also to practice the important skill of locating Bible books and passages.

You can also use the puzzles as an assessment after your study of the person or event. Just have your middle schoolers attempt to complete the puzzle without using the Bible to look up the answers. The answers to all the puzzle activities are located at the back of this booklet.

## Interactive Activity Pages

The interactive pages are meant to be fun and engage the young people's creativity. These pages require cutting and coloring, and the resulting objects are for use in displays, games, challenges, and spontaneous reenactments. You can use these pages in many ways to create a learning experience that fits your group and meeting space. Be sure to help your middle schoolers understand the connection between the experience you create and the particular biblical person or event.

Here are a few tips for using the interactive pages:

- These pages work best if they are copied on to heavy stock, 11-by-17-inch paper. You may want to purchase a ream of this paper from an office supply store to use throughout the year.
- Some of these pages have complex instructions. Try out the activity yourself before the session so you can assist any young people who might be struggling.
- Consider using a wall, shelf, or piece of string to display a sample of each interactive activity as your young people complete them. As you add to this display throughout the year, you will be creating a symbolic "time line" of the people and events you have studied.

## Creating a Lesson

You can easily use these activity pages as a supplement to an existing curriculum or program. When your program references one of these biblical persons or events, use one or more of the activity pages to help your middle schoolers understand the person or event more deeply.

You can also use the three types of activity pages to create your own lessons, providing an in-depth study of each biblical person and event. A 90-minute lesson might look something like this:

1. Start with *Breakthrough!* and the puzzle activity page. Have the young people complete the puzzle by looking up the indicated Bible passages, either independently or in pairs. After 15 or 20 minutes, go over the answers together, reviewing the facts they discovered about the person or event.
2. Next use *Breakthrough!* and the journal activity page to have the young people explore the significance of these facts. Start by having them look at the art on the *Breakthrough!* page (page number identified on the journal page) and ask them what they notice. Then read together the Scripture passage identified on the journal page. Also read the biblical person's interview, if there is one. Then have the young people journal on the first two journaling prompts using words or images. When they are finished, have them share their journal responses in an appropriate way. Build on their responses to summarize the significance of that person or event in God's plan of salvation.
3. Then use the interactive activity page to further explore the significance of the person or event. Offer assistance as needed. When finished, have the young people share their work. Discuss with them how the interactive activity connects to the biblical person or event and also to their own lives.
4. Last, have the young people return to the journal activity page and respond to the "Go Deeper" question at the bottom of the page. They can use the back of the journal page for this. If you are in an academic setting, this could be used as an assessment and the young people could hand in their journal pages for your review.

As an alternative to this process, you could begin with step 2 and have the young people complete the puzzle activity page at the end of the lesson as another type of assessment.



# Old Testament





# The Beauty of Creation

**GOD CREATES THE  
WORLD IN SIX DAYS  
AND RESTS FOR ONE!**

**READ THE STORY  
OF CREATION IN  
GENESIS, CHAPTER 1.**

Having dominion means we are called to care for  
the earth and all its creatures.

What are the emotions on the faces of  
Adam and Eve, and why did the artist  
portray them that way?



**LOOK AT THE ART  
ON PAGE 19.**

*Good* is a word used repeatedly in the  
Creation story. What message do you believe  
God is sending us by repeating that word?  
What do you see as “good” about our world?

**GO DEEPER:** Write or draw about a time you experienced wanting to find a good friend or companion.

# THE BEAUTY OF CREATION

Look at the salvation history time line in the front of *Breakthrough!* It gives a big-picture view of salvation history. In the spaces below, create your own big picture of salvation history by drawing an event that occurred during each time period. Write a brief caption for each drawing.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>PRIMEVAL HISTORY</b><br/> <b>CREATION–2000 BC</b></p>           | <p><b>PATRIARCHS</b><br/> <b>2000 BC–1700 BC</b></p>                 |
| <p><b>EGYPT AND THE EXODUS</b><br/> <b>1700 BC–1250 BC</b></p>        | <p><b>SETTLING THE PROMISED LAND</b><br/> <b>1250 BC–1050 BC</b></p> |
| <p><b>KINGDOMS OF JUDAH AND ISRAEL</b><br/> <b>1050 BC–587 BC</b></p> | <p><b>EXILE AND RETURN</b><br/> <b>587 BC–AD 1</b></p>               |
| <p><b>LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST</b><br/> <b>AD 1–AD 33</b></p>             | <p><b>EARLY CHRISTIAN CHURCH</b><br/> <b>AD 33–AD 100</b></p>        |



# New Testament





# Jesus Resists Temptation

**CHALLENGED FOR FORTY  
DAYS AND NIGHTS, JESUS  
LEAVES VICTORIOUS!**

Based on the art, what is the devil  
trying to tempt Jesus to do?

**READ ABOUT THE  
TEMPTATION OF JESUS  
IN MATTHEW 4:1-11.**



**LOOK AT THE ART  
ON PAGE 1561.**

In this passage, Jesus says, "One does  
not live by bread alone" (verse 4).  
What do you think this means?

**GO DEEPER:** Write or draw about a time you experienced being tempted to do something wrong.

# JESUS RESISTS TEMPTATION

Read the Bible passages indicated below. These passages are about Jesus' Baptism, his temptations, and his teachings on avoiding temptation. Rearrange the groupings of letters to create a sentence that reveals a fact about Jesus' temptations.

Mark 1:9–11

|    |     |      |     |     |     |    |
|----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|----|
| PL | GOD | H H  | WIT | EAS | WAS | IS |
| HE | SA  | SON, | JE  | ID  | SUS | ED |

Matthew 4:1–11

|      |     |      |     |      |       |      |
|------|-----|------|-----|------|-------|------|
| GOD' | RDS | TO L | EED | WE N | I V E | S WO |
|------|-----|------|-----|------|-------|------|

Mark 8:31–33

|      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| PECT | PETE | D EX | R DI | DERS | T GO | T UN |
| WHA  | TAND | SUS  | ED O | F JE | D NO |      |

Mark 9:42–47

|      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| T LE | WE S | S IN | ID T | HAT  | THER | AD O |
| IN   | JESU | HOUL | S SA | D NO | TO S |      |

Mark 10:35–45

|      |      |      |      |     |      |      |
|------|------|------|------|-----|------|------|
| EOPL | RE P | RULY | AT A | GRE | O SE | RE T |
| E WH | LE W | HO A | OTHE | RS  | RVE  | PEOP |

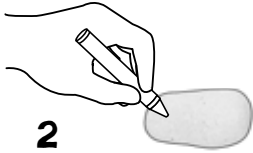
# JESUS RESISTS TEMPTATION

1



Cut out all the shapes.

2



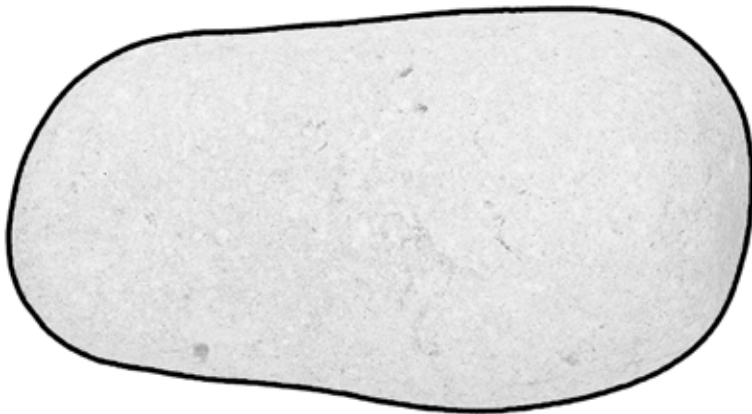
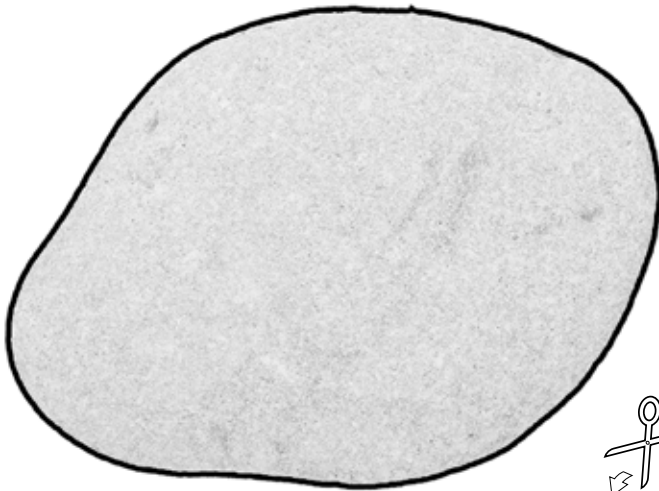
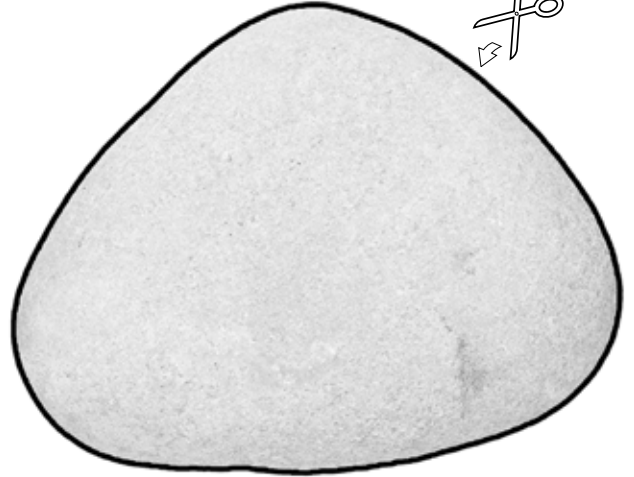
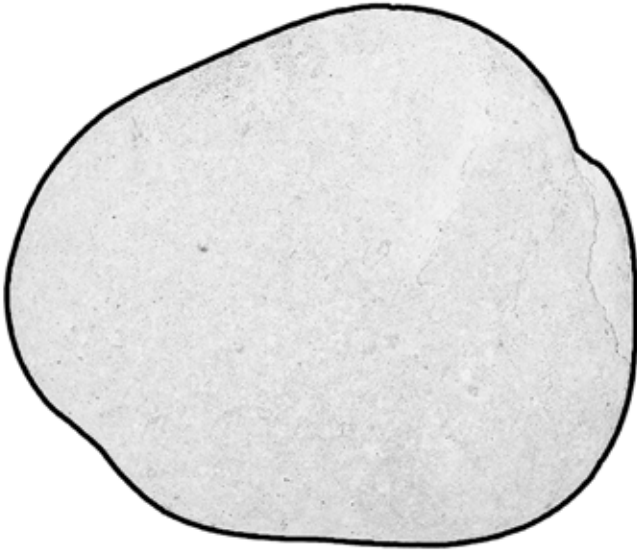
Consider the things that tempt you the most. Use crayons or markers to doodle on each stone an image that reminds you of these temptations.

3



Think and pray about your feelings surrounding these temptations. How will you resist them? Continue doodling about how you might resist.

CUT HERE



**JESUS WAS TEMPTED IN THE DESERT. HE WAS HUNGRY, AND THE DEVIL TOLD HIM TO USE HIS POWER TO TURN STONES INTO BREAD. HE RESISTED. HOW WILL YOU RESIST TEMPTATION?**