

Lesson Plan, Grade 7 - Chapter 1

Catechist Background

Doctrinal Content

- We can come to know God in many different ways: through all he has created, through the voice of conscience, and through human intellect and reason. (CCC, 31–35, 46)
- Although God reveals himself in many ways, we will not fully understand the mystery of God until we know him completely in Heaven. (CCC, 1027)
- God planned, from the beginning, to give his only Son, Jesus Christ, to reconcile all of creation to himself. (CCC, 1)
- Many Old Testament accounts speak of God's faithfulness to his promise of salvation. (CCC, 422, 652)
- From the Genesis creation accounts and the world around us, we get a sense of the attributes of God—eternal, truth, love, merciful, and holy. (CCC, 212–221)

Catechist Background

The works of God are all of them good; he supplies for every need in its own time. ... Nothing can limit his saving action. ... To him, nothing is small or insignificant, and nothing too wonderful or hard for him. —The Wisdom of Ben Sira (Sirach) 39:16, 18, 20

Reflect What do these words of Scripture mean to you?

When we look at the wonders of creation, we know there must be a God who loves and cares for us. Scientific theories that include evolution are not necessarily incompatible with our faith, as long as they leave room for the truth of God's role as sole Creator and his Divine plan of creation. We human beings are an important part of that plan. God created us in "his image and likeness." We have been given a special dignity by God, as well as free will and the ability to love. Because of our free will, we can choose to live in joyful union with him.

Sadly, our first parents, Adam and Eve, chose to disobey God, and through their act of disobedience, sin and suffering entered into the human experience. The Old Testament is filled with epic tales of the struggles of God's People to live faithfully despite their sinfulness. Theirs is a story of great peaks and low valleys, the height of jubilation and the depths of despair. But throughout it all, God always remained faithful and, in his compassion, raised up heroes such as Abraham, Moses, and David to lead his People. All of these great, but flawed, leaders set the stage for the one who would eventually come and reveal the fullness of God's love for us, Jesus Christ.

Reflect How can you make time for appreciating creation, praising the Creator, and sharing this joy with others?

Catechist's Prayer

Holy Spirit, touch my mind and my heart that through me you have an impact on these young people. Bless me with wisdom, with grace, and with passion. Be with me and make my words your own. Amen.

Sharing the Message

How Seventh-Graders Understand Chapter Topics

Two big questions in the minds of adolescents are “Who am I?” and “Why am I here?” We find beautiful answers to those questions in our Catholic Faith, which can support young people as they develop in their identity.

Teaching Tip

As you discuss what Scripture and Church teaching says about God and his creation (including human beings), continually ask the young people what this says about who they are and how they are different from other creatures made by God. Point out that the God who made the entire universe knows their name (and as Jesus said, knows how many hairs they have on their heads). He is a big and powerful God, but he desires a personal relationship with them.

Sharing the Message with Seventh-Graders

Adolescents are beginning to see that life is not always an either-or proposition. This can be frightening as they realize some childhood beliefs may require reexamination.

- Seventh-graders are constantly being pressured to take sides on issues such as fashion and pop culture. In our polarized culture, religion, too, can be a contentious issue for them.
- Remember, young people develop critical thinking skills at varying rates. Not all have the same ability to think abstractly.

Chapter Connections

Tasks of Catechesis

Helping children grow in a faith that is “known, celebrated, lived, and expressed in prayer” (NDC, 20).

This chapter focuses on the following tasks of catechesis:

- Promoting Knowledge of the Faith
- Moral Formation

NCEA IFG: ACRE Edition

Knowledge of the Faith

- Objective: To know and understand basic Catholic teaching about the Incarnate Word Jesus Christ as the way, truth, and life

Moral Formation

- Objective: To be knowledgeable about the teachings of Jesus and the Church as the basis of Christian morality and to understand Catholic Social Teaching

Catholic Faith Literacy

Abraham, Creator, mystery

Catholic Social Teaching

To integrate Catholic Social Teaching into your lesson, choose one of the following features: Rights and Responsibilities of the Human Person, pages 338–339; or Care for God’s Creation, pages 346–347.

- Start the Live step of the process by talking about Our Lady of Fátima on page 60. Then move directly to the Catholic Social Teaching feature.
- Or, to expand the lesson, complete page 60, then move to the Catholic Social Teaching feature.
- Return to Chapter 1 for the prayer on page 61.

Music Option

- Use the following song to enhance catechetical learning or for prayer.
 - “Our God Reigns,” Live, Page 61

Catechist Instruction, Grade 7 – Chapter 1

Invite Page 51

Objective

- Reflect on God's personal invitation through Scripture

♥Let Us Pray

Invite the young people to gather in the prayer space and make the Sign of the Cross. Pray the leader prayer. Invite a volunteer to read aloud the Psalm verse. Prompt the group's response.

Have the young people move from the prayer space back to their seats.

Say: God created everything that we see and hear, especially each of us. Everything God created is good. Let's listen to what the Bible tells us about God's plan.

† Scripture

Guide children through the process of Scripture reflection.

Invite the young people to be still, close their eyes, and focus on their breathing.

Encourage them to open their minds and hearts to what God is saying to them.

- Proclaim the Scripture and have the youth sit in silence.
- Ask: What did you hear God say to you today?
- Allow volunteers to share.

► You may play instrumental music to begin the reflection.

Remember, this is a spiritual discipline that takes practice. The young people will grow in their capacity to sit in silence. Throughout the year, build to four minutes.

Have you ever thought...

Say: All creation gives glory to God—including each one of us. When you care for creation, you share in God's plan.

- Invite the young people to respond to the questions.

Discover (1) Pages 54-55

Objectives

- Examine the unique role of humans and the purpose of human intellect and reason
- Differentiate the ways we can come to know God
- Recognize that humans cannot fully understand God, so he remains a mystery until we know him completely in Heaven

Coming to Know God

Have a volunteer read aloud the text.

- Explain that God has given us the ability to recognize his presence through all of creation.

Seeing God in the Works of Creation

Read aloud the text.

- Ask the young people to describe the word reason in their own words.
- Have them discuss the questions in small groups.

† Scripture

Invite a volunteer to read the Scripture quote.

- Send the youth directly to the source, Genesis 1:1—2:4, to find out more about why God created the world and humans.

† Scripture Background

Genesis 1:1—2:25

The full texts of the Genesis creation accounts reflect the Hebrew people's search for an ultimate answer to some of life's fundamental questions: Who made humans, and why? Where did we come from, and where are we heading?

- Both accounts in Genesis reveal the religious truth that humans are creatures of God and are reliant upon him for life, love, and happiness.
- The Bible and science do not contradict one another regarding creation. Science addresses how various things in the world came to be. Genesis reveals who created the world and why.

Beyond Words

Invite a volunteer to read aloud the first paragraph.

- Remind the young people that we learn from the creation accounts that God made humans in his image and likeness.
- Ask them to describe some of the characteristics of Adam and Eve that reflect God in them. **Possible responses: ability to think, make choices, have feelings, and so on**

Have the youth silently read the last two paragraphs.

- Explain that despite the gifts God has given us, we still cannot understand him completely.

Work with Words

Write the Catholic Faith Words on the board or on chart paper.

- Ask the young people to explain what these two terms mean, based on what they read in the text.
- Have a volunteer read aloud the definitions from the box.

Activity

Allow the young people time to reflect on the questions. Then have them complete the activity individually.

- Invite volunteers to share their questions. Doing so can allow for a variety of answers.

Quick Review

God makes himself known to us, out of love, through Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition. We will not fully know or understand God until we get to Heaven.

Discover (2) Pages 56-57

Objectives

- Recall Old Testament accounts showing God did not abandon his
- People and remained true to his promise to save them
- Identify that God planned from the beginning to give his only Son, Jesus Christ, to reconcile all of creation to himself.

Teaching Activity: Divine Revelation Picture Puzzle

Participants walk together to journey between two stones to discover God's continuing revelation through the Old Testament and the fullness of his revelation in Jesus, his Son. As they journey, the youth stop to open envelopes containing puzzle pieces that demonstrate the different ways God has revealed his plan of salvation to us. The assembled puzzle reveals the image of God's saving plan for all humans.

Before the Lesson

Materials Needed:

✪ Go to aliveinchrist.osv.com and download the image of Jesus and the Catholic Faith Words page

11x17 poster frame, paper stones, manila envelopes, and tape

Preparation

- Post the Catholic Faith Words page on the board for reference during the activity.
- Cut the image of Jesus into four puzzle shaped pieces. Use a permanent marker to trace the shapes of the four puzzle pieces onto the picture frame.
- Turn the puzzle pieces over and write one of the following four phrases on the back of each piece:
 - God makes a promise to Noah to restore his order in the world.
 - God calls the Israelites through Abraham and Sarah to lead all nations to him.
 - God calls Moses to take the Israelites from slavery to freedom.
 - The prophets remind the Israelites of God's promise and his faithfulness.
- Place each puzzle piece into a separate envelope labeled, "Divine Revelation" and mark the envelopes with the numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4.
- Create two large flat stones from a roll of paper. Make the stones large enough so that several participants can stand on top of each stone. On the first stone write the question, "What does God want for us?" On the second stone write the answer, "To accept his salvation and live with him forever in Heaven." Cut the stones out of the paper.

Activity Directions

As the activity begins, place the two paper stones on the floor a great distance from each other on opposite ends of a hallway. Hand the four numbered envelopes to four volunteers and ask them to hold them for now.

Say: God's plan was revealed to all people through the story of the Israelites. He revealed that plan gradually and he did it through the many people who he called into relationship. Ask the young people to gather in front of the first stone and line up as if they were about to embark on a journey together. Ask two volunteers to stand on the first stone and read aloud the question written on it. Ask another volunteer to walk over to the second stone and read the answer aloud.

Say: That was God's desire for us when he created us in his image and likeness.

Point out the definition of the *image of God* from the Catholic Faith Words page that is on the board.

Say: Original Sin and choosing outside of God's plan prevented us from having what God intended for us. So God began to reveal his saving plan for all people.

Walk the group a quarter of the way down the pathway between the two stones.

Say: How is God revealing himself to us?

Ask the first volunteer to open the first envelope and read what is written on the back of the first puzzle piece. When the phrase has been read, attach it in its proper place on the frame, with the words facing the participants. Ask the group to continue walking and stop at the halfway point between the two stones. Have the second volunteer open the second envelope and read about another way God has revealed himself to us.

Repeat this step two more times until all four envelopes have been opened and the phrases on the puzzle pieces have been read and attached to the frame.

Say: Jesus was the fullness of God's revelation to us because he is God. Through him God's order was restored. Through him all nations are offered the gift of salvation. Through him we are led from the slavery of sin to the freedom of eternal life and his sacrifice on the Cross is forever a sign of God's love and faithfulness. How awesome is our God! What a gift he gave us in his Son Jesus.

Turn the picture frame around and reveal the face of Jesus.

Discover (3) Pages 58-59

Objectives

- Examine fundamental beliefs about God: he is eternal, he is truth, and he is love
- Reflect on the attributes of God

Tell the group that this section will focus on some things we know about God.

Revealed Truths

Have the young people read the two paragraphs in silence.

- Explain that both nature and our own humanness make it possible to know God.
- Point out some things we can know about God: God is eternal, God is truth, God is love.
- Call the youth's attention to the meaning of eternal in the Catholic Faith Words box.

God Is Truth

Read aloud the paragraph.

- Invite a group discussion on the questions at the end of the text.

God Is Love

Invite two volunteers to read aloud the material in this section.

- Remind the young people that God loves us completely, and his love is perfect.

The Attributes of God

Use the chart to help the group review the attributes of God.

★ Ask the young people to highlight the attribute of God that best describes the way they relate to him right now. Then have them put a check mark next to the attribute that they find most comforting.

- Arrange the participants in small groups.
- Encourage the groups to discuss their answers.

In Summary

Have volunteers read aloud the opening sentence and each of the three summary points.

- Close by asking the young people to select an attribute of faith they would like to work on in the coming week.
- Remind them that they do not have to share this information.

Extend the Lesson

Use **Activity Master 1: What Does God Look Like?** to extend the lesson; it is not included in the timed estimate for this section of the Lesson Plan.

Live Pages 60-61

Objectives

- Describe adoration and its importance as a prayer form
- Explore the devotion to Our Lady of Fátima
- Offer the Celebration of the Word prayer

♥ Invite the young people to consider how they know they are loved.

- Allow a minute of silence for their personal prayer and reflection.

Our Catholic Life

Ask a volunteer to read aloud the two paragraphs.

- Based on the reading, invite another volunteer to share what he or she understands about prayers of adoration.
- Have the youth silently reflect on the two questions at the end of this section.

People of Faith

Explain to the young people that Our Lady of Fátima is a title for Mary, the Mother of Jesus.

- Read aloud the People of Faith paragraph.
- As a large group, review the People of Faith Background box.
- Invite the youth to pray a decade of the Rosary in honor of Our Lady of Fátima.

Here are some additional details about Our Lady of Fátima to assist you in presenting this section:

- Through a series of apparitions (May 13–October 13, 1971), Mary told three shepherd children that she desired frequent recitation of the Rosary and penance done for sinners.
- Pope Saint John Paul II credited Our Lady of Fátima for his survival of the attempt on his life in 1981.

Activity

Review the directions on page 60.

- Allow time for the young people to complete the two sections.
- Invite volunteers to share their responses.

Celebration of the Word

♥ Explain to the participants that they will be praying and reflecting on the Word of God.

- Choose three readers and allow them to rehearse their parts. You will be the leader.
- Gather the youth in the prayer space with their books.
- Invite them to quiet themselves.
- Begin with the Sign of the Cross and follow the order of prayer.

► Conclude by inviting the young people to sing or reflect on the song “Our God Reigns,” downloaded from **aliveinchrist.osv.com**.

Chapter Review

If you are using eAssessments, remind the young people that they will need to be completed by the due date. Feedback is important at this age. For the tool to be used effectively, provide feedback to the young people about their work.

Chapter 1 Lesson Plan

Objectives	Process	Materials
Invite, 15 minutes		
The Mystery of God Page 51	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Psalm 19:2 Pray the opening prayer. The Wisdom of Ben Sira (Sirach) 39:16–21 Guide the young people through the process of Scripture reflection. • Discuss Have You Ever Thought questions. 	
Discover, 45 minutes		
Coming to Know God Pages 54–55 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine the unique role of humans and the purpose of human intellect and reason • Differentiate the ways we can come to know God • Recognize that humans cannot fully understand God, so he remains a mystery until we know him completely in Heaven 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk about recognizing God’s presence. • Discuss human reason. Read and reflect on Genesis 1:1–2. • Describe ways God makes himself known to us. • Activity Reflect on God and creation. 	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens <input type="checkbox"/> board or chart paper
God’s Plan for Us Pages 56–57 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recall Old Testament accounts showing God did not abandon his People and remained true to his promise to save them • Identify that God planned from the beginning to give his only Son to reconcile all of creation to himself 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching Activity Participants will assemble a puzzle picture to highlight God’s plan of salvation history and identify Jesus Christ as the fullness of God’s revelation to us. 	Image of Jesus, Catholic Faith Words <input type="checkbox"/> 11 × 17 frame <input type="checkbox"/> paper stones and tape <input type="checkbox"/> manila envelope
Revealed Truths Pages 58–59 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine fundamental beliefs about God: he is eternal, he is truth, and he is love • Reflect on the attributes of God 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss how it’s possible to know God. • Learn about attributes of God. ★ The youth will select attributes of God that reflect how they currently relate to him. • Activity Master What Does God Look Like? 	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens <input type="checkbox"/> highlighter Activity Master 1
Live, 15 minutes		
Our Catholic Life Page 60	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss adoration and its importance as a prayer form. • People of Faith Learn about Our Lady of Fátima. • Activity Youth will identify people who reflect attributes of God. 	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens
Celebration of the Word Page 61	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select three readers. • Follow the order of prayer. 	“Our God Reigns”

CATHOLIC FAITH WORDS

Divine Revelation, mystery, image of God, eternal

ASSESSMENT

Chapter Review, Page 62

aliveinchrist.osv.com Customize and Download Assessments, Interactive Student Reviews, eAssessments

Name _____

Date _____

What Does God Look Like?

You will be working in a small group to create a poster. You will need poster board, magazines, scissors, tape or glue, markers, yarn, colored paper, pipe cleaners, and this instruction sheet.

Step 1:

Create a headline for your poster. It could read “What We Think God Looks Like,” “Our Vision of God,” or something similar. Write your headline ideas in the space below. Circle the one that your group chooses.

Step 2:

As a group, discuss what you think God looks like and how you would like to illustrate your ideas. List your group’s ideas in the space below.

Step 3:

Work together to create your image. Use as many supplies as you would like. Try to think beyond “typical” images of God. List any supplies that you may need in the space below.

Step 4:

Be prepared to make a presentation on your creation. Make sure someone in your group is able to explain why you created your image of God the way you did. Make some notes about your creation in the space below.

Name _____

Date _____

Match each description in Column A with the correct term in Column B by filling in the appropriate letter.

Column A

Column B

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| ___ 1. Steadfast love, truth, almighty | a. intellect |
| ___ 2. Choosing to turn from God | b. sin |
| ___ 3. God is, was, and always will be | c. attributes of God |
| ___ 4. The ability to think and make connections | d. eternal |

Circle the letter of the choice that best completes each sentence.

5. Created in the image of God, humans have the ability to think, ____, be free, love, and be in a relationship with God and others.
- | | |
|-----------|------------|
| a. hate | c. protest |
| b. choose | d. change |
6. A(n) ____, is a truth of faith that cannot be fully understood but is believed because God has shown it to us through Scripture, his Son, or the Church.
- | | |
|------------|----------|
| a. mystery | c. canon |
| b. account | d. truth |
7. The story of God's relationship with his Chosen People is recorded in the ____.
- | | |
|--------------|------------------|
| a. Tradition | c. Old Testament |
| b. Gospels | d. New Testament |
8. Through ____, God wants to reconcile creation to himself.
- | | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| a. the Old Testament | c. his Son |
| b. his attributes | d. his blessings |

Write a response on the lines below.

9. What is Divine Revelation? _____

10. Why do humans need the salvation of Jesus Christ? _____



Catholic Faith Words

Image of God the Divine likeness in all human beings that comes from being made by God and includes the ability to think, choose, be free, love, and be in relationship with God and others.