

Lesson Plan, Grade 7 - Chapter 20

Catechist Background

Doctrinal Content

- We can work together with God as he builds his Kingdom by choosing to believe, having faith, and making the necessary changes in our lives so we can work toward what is just, peaceful, and loving. (CCC, 2819-2820)
- Justice is giving God and others what is due to them as children of God made in his image and possessing equal human dignity. (CCC, 1929-1931)
- The Tenth Commandment focuses on the intentions of our heart. To live right, we must rely on God, trust in his care, and have the right attitude toward money and things. (CCC 2534-2536, 2548)
- Society does not always support the values of God's Kingdom, so we must stand together in solidarity with those who need our help. (CCC 1939-1942)

Catechist Background

The Lord rules forever ... It is he who judges the world with justice, who judges the peoples with fairness. The Lord is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. Those who know your name trust in you; you never forsake those who seek you, Lord. ... To you the helpless can entrust their cause ..." —Psalm 9:8-11, 10:14

Reflect According to Jesus' teachings, what do we "owe" to those who are in need, physically and spiritually?

The Gospel that we hear during Mass can bring us comfort and spiritual healing. But hearing God's Word should also challenge us. Jesus calls us to a life of discipleship. This means we should dedicate ourselves to live for Christ. We are called upon to live by the Word of God, to take his message out into the world, and to love and care for one another. This requires individual effort and personal commitment. Jesus led the way, but it is up to us to choose to follow and continue his work in this world.

The sense of mission is part of the identity of the Catholic Church, salvation is not just a God-and-me prospect. As with other aspects of Catholic life, community plays an important part in our understanding of being reconciled with God and experiencing his transforming life and love. We are given new life through our faith in Jesus Christ, but that faith comes to us through others, is supported in the Church community, and is expressed and witnessed through our actions. We serve Christ as we serve others.

Reflect How do your actions reflect your recognition of the presence of Christ in those who are poor and vulnerable?

Catechist's Prayer

Loving Jesus, in your public ministry you had a passion for justice. May I too be passionate about justice, may I not be content to ignore suffering, and may I be an agent of your hope and healing for all I meet. Amen.

Sharing the Message

How Seventh-Graders Understand Chapter Topics

Seventh-graders have a strong sense of justice and fairness, but they may miss the practical ways in which they can work with God to help him build his Kingdom in their everyday lives. They sometimes miss injustices around them (unless they are involved in them), or they feel they are too young or too small to make changes.

Teaching Tip

Point out that we cooperate with God as he builds his Kingdom when we stand up for what is right and fair in the smallest moments of our everyday lives. This can include defending or befriending those who are lonely, unpopular, teased, or bullied.

Sharing the Message with Seventh-Graders A characteristic of younger adolescents is that they can sometimes bounce back and forth between great self-absorption and concern for others.

- Children this age may or may not recognize their own giftedness. They should be encouraged to engage in discernment experiences to help surface those gifts.
- Affirming the virtuous qualities of seventh-graders often encourages them to act more generously.

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 Faith Literacy

conscience, discrimination, stewardship

Catholic Social Teaching

To integrate Catholic Social Teaching into your lesson, choose one of the following features: Life and Dignity of the Human Person, pages 334–335; or Option for the Poor and Vulnerable, pages 340–341.

- Start the Live step of the process by talking about Pope Leo XIII on page 312. Then move directly to the Catholic Social Teaching feature.
- Or, to expand the lesson, complete page 312, then move to the Catholic Social Teaching feature.
- Return to Chapter 20 for the prayer on page 313.

Music Option

► Use one or more of the following songs to enhance catechetical learning or for prayer.

- "We Will Follow," Live, Page 313

Catechist Instruction, Grade 7 – Chapter 20

Invite Page 303

Objective

- Reflect on God's personal invitation through Scripture

♥Let Us Pray

Invite the youth to gather in the prayer space and make the Sign of the Cross. Proclaim the opening prayer and Psalm verse, and lead the group in the response.

Have the youth move out of the prayer space and back to their seats. Explain that it is not enough to believe; we need to act on what we believe. Our Lord is a just Lord, and he loves just deeds.

Say: Justice is at the heart of a disciple. Jesus calls his disciples to see as he sees so that injustice can be named and challenged through words and actions. Let's take a glimpse into what God's Kingdom is like.

† Scripture

Guide the youth 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: The Bible makes it very clear that we are to not only to recognize Jesus in those who are in need, but also to help them. This helps to build up the Kingdom of God.

- Invite the young people to respond to the questions.

Discover (1) Pages 306-307

Objectives

- Define justice as giving God and others what is due to them as children of God made in his image and possessing equal human dignity
- Discover that to live in God's Kingdom, people must choose to believe, to have faith, and to make the necessary changes in their lives

Direct the young people to look at the images on page 306 and 307. *Ask:* How do you think these images connect with the chapter?

All Are Invited

Review the text with the youth.

- Facilitate a discussion around these questions: What does the word justice mean to you? What feelings do you get when you hear or see the word?
- Read the definition in the Catholic Faith Words box on page 307.
- Point out that justice is not necessarily related to legal issues, but to everyday situations involving equality.

† Go to the Source

Have a volunteer locate and read aloud Luke 4:14–22 to discover where Jesus announced his mission and how his followers responded.

† Scripture Background

Jesus Begins His Ministry This passage from Luke (4:14–22) begins Christ’s public life in Nazareth. The quotations from Isaiah show that he views his role as bringing justice to those who cannot achieve it on their own.

- The “year acceptable to the Lord” mentioned in verse 19 is the jubilee year. A jubilee year occurred every 50 years; the custom was to forgive debts and free slaves.
- The people of Nazareth are somewhat incredulous that Jesus is preaching. Their reactions prompt Jesus to remark that prophets are often unappreciated by those who know them best.

On a Mission

Create a word web with Kingdom of God in the center. After the group silently reads the text, have the youth add key phrases about the Kingdom to the web.

- Invite group discussion on the word web and on the question at the end of this section.

Making It Real

Remind the youth that words are easy to say but sometimes it’s hard to follow up with actions. Have them read the text to find out how Jesus lived out his words.

- *Ask:* Why are the Kingdom of God and justice so closely related? Possible response: ***Justice begins with love and leads to peace, all signs of God’s Kingdom***

Activity

Have the youth work with a partner to complete the activity.

- Compile their responses on the board or on chart paper, then determine whether the group can do any of them.

Quick Review

We must work to change the world so that everyone has what they need and what they have a right to as a person created in God's image; we must work for justice. If we are working for justice, then we are working for the God's Kingdom. We must choose to believe, to have faith, and to treat others in loving, peaceful, and just ways in order to help build up the Kingdom of God.

Discover (2) Pages 308-309

Objectives

- Identify people of the Kingdom of God by the actions that work toward what is just, peaceful, and loving

Teaching Activity: Kingdom People

Youth will watch video clips of two people who have lived their lives to spread the Gospel message and have worked to bring peace and justice to the lives of others.

Before the Lesson

Materials Needed

➦ Go to **aliveinchrist.osv.com** and play the *Compassionate Listening* and *Oscar Romero's Last Sermon* Video Clips and to download The Lord's Prayer Handout, Catholic Faith Words page
tape

Preparation

- Print out a Lord's Prayer Handout for each participant.
- Cue the *Compassionate Listening* and *Blessed Oscar Romero's Last Sermon* video clips to play for the group during the activity.
Compassionate Listening Video Clip: <http://youtu.be/A2WZe5rHCFM>
Oscar Romero Video Clip: <http://youtu.be/luZV6whwj1g>

Activity Directions

Say: You have been learning about God's Kingdom. In one of his parables, Jesus compared the Kingdom to a mustard seed that is meant to grow and spread. The Kingdom is here, but not yet complete. We cooperate in helping it grow through our actions that reflect justice, peace, and love. We wait and pray for the day that Jesus comes again and completes the Kingdom here on Earth.

Today we are going to meet two people who prayed for the coming of the Kingdom and lived their lives as Kingdom people.

As we explore justice today, we meet Sister Helen Prejean, a religious sister of the Congregation of Saint Joseph who has spent her life serving others in Jesus' name.

When she began visiting incarcerated prisoners, she met several men that were on death row. She continued to visit them until they were later executed. Let's listen as she talks about what God wants us to do.

Play the *Compassionate Listening* video clip for the group.

Lead a group discussion about what Sister Prejean had to say about compassion and how it relates to justice.

Say: Now let's meet Archbishop Oscar Romero from El Salvador. In the 1970's, El Salvador was in turmoil. The government participated in activities that tortured and committed acts of violence to many innocent people. Archbishop Romero spoke for justice for the people, especially the poor. In this clip we will watch an actor portraying Archbishop Romero say the words from his last sermon.

Play *Oscar Romero's Last Sermon*.

Post the definition of peace on the board or wall and read it aloud to the group.

Say: Archbishop Romero wanted his people to live in peace. He knew there could be no peace without justice. He was killed by the government to silence his cry for justice. While you may never have to offer that ultimate sacrifice, God asks each of us to cooperate with him and bring his Kingdom here to Earth.

Distribute The Lord's Prayer handout and say: The Lord's Prayer is often called the perfect prayer because it captures the message of the Gospels. On the sheet in front of you, underline the phrases of this perfect prayer that speaks about God's Kingdom. Think about Sister Helen and Archbishop Romero as you do this.

Instruct the young people to turn the paper over and think of the place in their lives where there is no justice and where others need help to live peacefully. It may be at school, or in your town or city. Ask them to imagine what Jesus might do to bring his Father's Kingdom to that place. Ask volunteers to share their answers with the group.

Discover (3) Pages 310-311

Objectives

- Explain why solidarity is a Christian virtue
- Describe how being poor in spirit can be connected to the Tenth Commandment

Point out the question at the top of the page.

† Go to the Source

Ask a volunteer to read Luke 18:18–30, Jesus’ teaching about detaching ourselves from our “riches.”

- Have the group brainstorm a list of riches and discuss whether these things are hard or easy to give up.
- Have a volunteer record the list on the board or on chart paper.

Living for the Kingdom

Summarize the text:

- Competing and consuming often overshadow what is truly important in our lives.
- We can appreciate God’s power and Jesus’ role as our teacher/ leader in the Resurrection.

Our Brothers’ and Sisters’ Keepers

Write the word solidarity on the board.

- Ask the youth what the word means and what feelings surface when they hear it. Read aloud the first two paragraphs on page 310.
- Direct the young peoples’ attention to the definition of solidarity in the Catholic Faith Words box. Review the rest of this text, pointing out how “being poor in spirit” ties in to the Tenth Commandment.
- Invite the young people to highlight the sentence that shows what helps us resist envy.
- Ask: What are some examples of solidarity in your everyday lives. **Possible responses: Working in a study group, helping with parish activities, assisting younger siblings with homework Call attention to the Where It Happened feature and discuss the text. Point out the photo of Pope Saint John Paul II**

† Scripture Background

Luke 18:18–30

In this passage, a wealthy man asks how he can enter Heaven. After hearing that the man has observed the Commandments governing relationships with others, Jesus challenges the man to sell his worldly goods and follow him. The man reacts with sadness, and Jesus says that it is harder for a rich man to enter Heaven than for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle. As the crowd wonders whether a rich person can ever enter Heaven, Jesus affirms God’s willingness to save everyone who has lost earthly goods for the sake of the Kingdom. The lesson here is that by giving away worldly goods, we are making ourselves more dependent upon God and less dependent on things.

In Summary

Go over the summary statements with the group. • Ask if anyone has any further questions on these important points.

Extend the Lesson

Use **Activity Master 20: Encouraging Changes** to extend the lesson; it is not included in the timed estimate for this section of the Lesson Plan.

Live Pages 312-313

Objectives

- Connect social media with sharing the Church's message
- Explore the faith life of Pope Leo XII
- Offer the Prayer of Petition

Our Catholic Life

Share the information in this feature.

- Brainstorm, as a group, some answers to the question.

People of Faith

Tell the young people that Pope Leo XIII did much to help keep the Church alive and to help build God's Kingdom.

- Ask a volunteer to read aloud the People of Faith paragraph.
- Share the content in the People of Faith Background box with the group.
- Say: Following the example of Jesus in his pursuit of justice and peace, Leo used his diplomatic skills to help settle troubles between nations and within nations.

Here are some additional details about Pope Leo XIII to assist you in presenting this section:

- Drawing upon his diplomatic experience as a papal legate to Belgium, Pope Leo XIII helped guide the government of that nation and others down the path of justice and religious tolerance.
- As Germany unified under Otto von Bismarck, Pope Leo XIII helped Bismarck win the much-needed support of the nation's Catholics in exchange for ending Kulturkampf (the persecution of Catholics).

Activity

Have the youth read the instructions and work through the activity independently.

A Prayer of Petition

♥ Appoint a strong reader to serve as the leader; divide the rest of the group into two sections: Side 1 and Side 2. Let everyone review their parts.

- Tell the young people to bring their textbooks as you invite them to process into the prayer space.
- Say: Dear God, you instilled in us the vision of your Kingdom. Help us work for its presence on Earth! • Follow the order of prayer on the prayer page.

► Conclude by playing the song "We Will Follow," 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 20 Lesson Plan

Objectives	Process	Materials
Invite, 15 minutes		
Act with Justice Page 303	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Psalm 89:15 Pray the opening prayer. Psalm 9:8–11, 10:14, 18 Guide the youth through the process of Scripture reflection. • Discuss Have You Ever Thought questions. 	
Discover, 45 minutes		
All Are Invited pp. 306–307 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define justice as giving what is due to God and what is due to others as children of God made in his image and possessing equal human dignity • Discover that to live in God's Kingdom, people must choose to believe, to have faith, and to make the necessary changes in their lives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk about why the Church is responsible for seeking justice. Reflect on Luke 4:14–22. ★ Consider what Jesus came to do and what we need to do to live for the Kingdom. • Activity List ways to help others who assist God in building up his Kingdom. 	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens <input type="checkbox"/> Bibles <input type="checkbox"/> board or chart paper
Not Yet Complete pp. 308–309 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify people of the Kingdom of God by the actions that work toward what is just, peaceful, and loving 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching Activity Youth will watch video clips of two people who have lived their lives to spread the Gospel message and have worked to bring peace and justice to the lives of others. 	<i>Compassionate Listening</i> Video Clip, <i>Oscar Romero's Last Sermon</i> Video Clip, The Lord's Prayer Handout, Catholic Faith Words <input type="checkbox"/> tape
Living for the Kingdom pp. 310–311 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain why solidarity is a Christian virtue • Describe how being poor in spirit can be connected to the Tenth Commandment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the practice of solidarity. Reflect on Luke 18:18–30. • Activity Master Encouraging Changes 	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens <input type="checkbox"/> board or chart paper <input type="checkbox"/> highlighters Activity Master 20
Live, 15 minutes		
Our Catholic Life Page 312	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the questions in the Our Catholic Life section. • People of Faith Learn about Pope Leo XIII. • Activity Practice the decision-making steps: see, judge, and act. 	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens
A Prayer of Petition Page 313	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Divide the group into two sides. • Follow the order of prayer. 	"We Will Follow"

CATHOLIC FAITH WORDS

justice, peace, solidarity

ASSESSMENT

Chapter Review, Page 314

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Name _____

Date _____

Encouraging Changes

Identify a couple of situations in your school that take away from the dignity of others.

Situation: _____

How it robs people of dignity: _____

Why people would act this way: _____

Situation: _____

How it robs people of dignity: _____

Why people would act this way: _____

Select one of the situations. Complete the rest of the sheet with this situation in mind.

Define the situation: _____

Tell specific reasons why what is happening is wrong: _____

List possible ways of resolving this situation directly (for example, go to the people involved and ask them to stop). _____

List ways of resolving the situation indirectly (for example, distract people from the situation by scheduling another activity). _____

Would it be better to resolve this situation directly or indirectly? Why? _____

Now make a plan of action to stop the harmful situation. _____

Name _____

Date _____

Match each description in Column A with the correct term in Column B.

Column A

Column B

- ___ 1. The sin that the Tenth Commandment warns us about
- ___ 2. The desire to give what is due to God and what is due to others as children of God
- ___ 3. A state of calm and harmony when things are in order and people settle problems with kindness
- ___ 4. Christian virtue that motivates believers to share their spiritual and material gifts

- a. justice
- b. peace
- c. solidarity
- d. envy

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

5. The Kingdom of God will be complete when ____.
- a. Jesus comes again c. everyone has enough food
- b. we recite the Lord's Prayer d. the Bible is finished
6. By supporting workers in Poland, Pope Saint John Paul II showed ____.
- a. hope c. solidarity
- b. pride d. charity
7. ____ is called the perfect prayer because it sums up the message of the Gospels.
- a. The Mass c. The Hail Mary
- b. The Lord's Prayer d. The Glory Be
8. Jesus compares the Kingdom of God to a mustard seed that ____.
- a. withers in the sun c. grows and spreads
- b. becomes food for everyone d. falls on poor soil

Write a response on the lines below.

9. What opportunities to further justice do you see in your everyday life?

10. Why is it important for everyone to work for the Kingdom of God?

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass
against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Catholic Faith Words

peace a state of calm and harmony when things are in their proper order and people settle problems with kindness and justice.