

Lesson Plan, Grade 7 - Chapter 2

Catechist Background

Doctrinal Content

- God is the author and inspiration of the sacred words of Scripture that humans have recorded under his guidance and direction. (CCC, 105, 106)
- Scripture can be read and interpreted in a literal sense and a spiritual sense, providing a richness to the living reading of Scripture in the Church. (CCC, 115–117)
- The four Gospels, which developed over the course of time after Jesus' Resurrection and Ascension, are the center of the Bible because they record the truth of the life and ministry of Jesus. (CCC, 75, 76)
- God continues to speak to us today through the Scriptures, as we proclaim them at Mass, reflect on them personally, rely on them for making choices, and study them to learn more about the life and teachings of Jesus. (CCC, 81, 1153)
- Moral conscience is present at the heart of every person. But we must assimilate it through the Word of God and put it into practice in order to strengthen and act upon it. (CCC, 1776–1782, 1802)

Catechist Background

Indeed, the word of God is living and effective, sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating even between soul and spirit, joints and marrow, and able to discern reflections and thoughts of the heart.—Hebrews 4:12

Reflect Why do we say that the Word of God is living? How does this affect the way you live?

Many Catholics are aware that our Church draws its beliefs from both Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition. The New Testament came out of the beliefs of the early Christian Church. Hence, the Church predates the New Testament Scripture; in fact, accounts of the early days of the Church are included there. The leaders of the Church, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, eventually determined which books would be included in the New Testament. Their criteria included such things as widespread acceptance and consistency with the whole of Christian doctrine.

The Word of God changes a person who is faithful to its teachings. The Bible teaches, comforts, provokes, challenges, and motivates us in life-changing ways. One cannot seriously delve into Sacred Scripture without being transformed. And because we believe that Jesus Christ is the true Word of God, the nature of the transformation is that the one who takes in the Word becomes more like the Word—in other words, that person becomes more Christ-like. Our God, the author of all life chooses to reveal himself to us through his Word. We bring our lives to that Word with an open heart

and the Church says, we enter into a “dialogue” with God. How can we not be changed by that?

Reflect How has your exposure to Sacred Scripture changed you for the better?

Catechist’s Prayer

Loving Father, you promised that you will be with us always. When I feel alone, bless me with awareness of your presence. Through your word, help me recognize you in others, and give me the grace of appreciation. I ask this in Jesus’ most holy name. Amen.

Sharing the Message

How Seventh-Graders Understand Chapter Topics

Seventh-graders might think of Scripture as a collection of boring, old stories. When we appreciate that Scripture is the living Word of God, we begin to see our own struggles, joys, and journeys reflected in the stories of God’s People.

Teaching Tip

As you help the students understand the various literary forms of Scripture, encourage them to also relate what they find in Scripture to themselves with questions such as, “Have you ever felt like the person in this story?” or “What could this mean for us today?”

Sharing the Message with Seventh-Graders

At this age, young people are beginning to be concerned about establishing friendships that run deeper than those they had with the playmates of their childhood. They want to be able to share their thoughts and feelings with their friends. However, they are not usually comfortable sharing this deeply with the group.

- Having a sense of belonging is important to most people. Because of this, some seventh-graders may be enticed to play along with the cruelty of the adolescent pecking order, just so they belong. Help them find other ways to belong.
- Young people sometimes need help making the connection between their lives and the lives of those who have gone before them. Help them understand how the decisions, good and bad, of past generations affect the world we live in today.

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

Bible, conscience, Inspiration, Scripture

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 Option for the Poor and Vulnerable, pages 340–341.

- Start the Live step of the process by talking about Saint Matthew on page 72. Then move directly to the Catholic Social Teaching feature.
- Or, to expand the lesson, complete page 72, then move to the Catholic Social Teaching feature.
- Return to Chapter 2 for the prayer on page 73.

Music Option

- Use the following song to enhance catechetical learning or for prayer.
 - “God Has Chosen Me,” Live, Page 73

Catechist Instruction, Grade 7 – Chapter 2

Invite Page 63

Objective

- Reflect on God's personal invitation through Scripture

♥Let Us Pray

Invite the participants to gather in the prayer space. Have them make the Sign of the Cross. Invite a volunteer to take the role of Leader, praying the first lines as well as the Psalm verse.

Lead the rest of the group in the response. Have the young people move from the prayer space back to their seats.

Say: God's Word is at the heart of our faith. It is alive; it is light on our journey to God; it shows us how to live; it brings us joy. Let's listen as God speaks to us through Sacred Scripture.

† 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: God reveals himself to us through Sacred Scripture. His Word "lights our paths" and strengthens us to make better choices.

- Invite the young people to respond to the questions.

Discover (1) Pages 66-67

Objectives

- Explain Divine Inspiration as God's direction and guidance of the human writers of Scripture
- Contrast the content of the Old Testament and the New Testament
- Recognize the literary forms contained in the Bible

Teaching Activity: Literary Forms Matching Game

Participants will assemble in groups of 8 and compete as teams to match the literary forms used in the Bible to the correct examples of each of those forms.

Before the Lesson

Materials Needed:

Go to aliveinchrist.osv.com and download Examples of Literary Forms and Catholic Faith Words pages
sticky notes, stopwatch, tape

Preparation

- Post the Catholic Faith Words page on the board for reference during the activity.
- Write the following words onto separate sticky notes and post them on one side of the room: Miracle, Laws, Parable, Psalm, Apocalyptic, Narrative, Teaching, and Proverb.
- Post the Examples of Literary Forms pages on the wall on the opposite side of the room.
- Organize the young people into teams of 8.

Activity Directions

As the activity begins, point out the definitions from the Catholic Faith Words pages that are on the board. Review what we mean by *Sacred Scripture*. Introduce the term *Divine Inspiration* and ask a volunteer to read the definition from the board.

Say: Because God communicated through human words, here are some examples of human forms of writing. You know many of these already from your Language Arts studies. Let's see how quickly your team can identify these literary forms that are found in the Bible.

Ask the first team to stand and face the wall with the examples posted on it. At "go," have the first team member choose an example and run to the other side of the room to grab the sticky note with the correct form listed on it. Have them place the sticky note with the literary form on the example. If it is incorrect he/she will need to return to the opposite wall and find the correct literary form and replace the sticky note they originally took. Before you begin, let the teams know that they will be timed as a group. The team with the fastest time will win the game. Time the teams as they complete the round. To extend the game, provide other examples for each literary form and complete another round.

Review each literary form and their corresponding examples with the group.

Miracle: Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead. (John 11) Laws: God gives Moses the Ten Commandments. (Exodus 20) Parable: The return of the lost son. (Luke 15:11–32) Psalm: Psalm 23:4 Apocalyptic: Daniel's vision of the four great beasts. (Daniel 7) Narrative: Matthew 21:15–16 Teaching: Luke 6:20–23 Proverb: Proverbs 16:18

Combine the team scores for each round and announce the winning team.

Discover (2) Pages 68-69

Objectives

- Analyze the literal sense and spiritual sense of Scripture
- Distinguish the different major emphases presented by the four Evangelists in their respective Gospels
- Identify the development of the Gospels from the Person of Jesus to the written Word

The Importance of the Gospels

Review the text with the group. • Tell the young people that when we use the term *senses* in relation to Scripture, we mean “layers.”

- Explain that the senses we use to understand Scripture are the literal sense and the spiritual sense. The spiritual sense can be broken down further into the allegorical sense, moral sense, and anagogical sense.

Christ the Good News

Have the youth silently read the text.

- Ask: Where in the Bible do we find the main sources of the life, ministry, and teachings of Jesus? ***in the four Gospels***
- Point out that the Gospels are the central books in the canon of Scripture, the Church’s complete list of inspired books including in Sacred Scripture.

Go to the Source

Invite some volunteers to take turns reading from the Bible the verses of John 1:1–14. Discuss the follow-up questions on page 68 as a group.

A Different Emphasis

Read aloud the introduction. Point out the Catholic Faith Words box and have a volunteer read aloud the definitions of *Gospel* and *Evangelists*.

The Gospels and Their Authors

Allow time for the young people to read about the Gospel authors. Encourage them to pay attention to the different focus of each author. • Invite the young people to discuss the question at the top of the page.

Activity

Have the young people break into small groups to complete the activity.

- Discuss the question as a large group.

Quick Review

There are multiple senses, or layers of meaning, in Scripture that affect what we “take away” from God’s Word. The Gospels all center on the work of Christ, but they each offer a different emphasis on his life and mission.

Extend the Lesson

Use **Activity Master 2: Symbols of the Evangelists** to extend the lesson; it is not included in the timed estimate for this section of the Lesson Plan.

Discover (3) Pages 70-71

Objectives

- Recognize that God's "voice" in the proclamation of Scripture and our response comprise a dialogue
- Examine the role of conscience in our lives

Conversation with God

Have the young people silently read the text.

- Ask them to underline the most important sentence.
- Encourage them to share what they underlined.

The Word as Light

Read aloud the text.

- Allow volunteers to share with the group about times when the Word of God was a light for them.

† Scripture

Have a volunteer proclaim Matthew 5:14–16.

- Arrange the youth into small groups to discuss ways that they can be "a light" to others.

Following the Light

Have a young person read aloud the opening paragraph. • Assign the reading of each of the bullet points to four different volunteers.

Point out the Catholics Today box. Have the youth break into small groups to review it.

- Ask the groups to describe someone they know who, through actions and behavior, appears to have allowed the Bible to shape his or her conscience.
- Invite them to share with one another something they have learned from Scripture.

Urge the young people to take note of the moments when they are most aware of connecting to God through his Word. Remind them to consider carefully what God might be saying to them.

In Summary

Read aloud the Catholics Believe summary points as a group.

- Allow some time for the youth to reflect on ways that they can incorporate God's Word and guidance into their daily lives.

Live Pages 72-73

Objectives

- Demonstrate the capacity to locate a Scripture verse that has personal relevance
- Explore the faith life of Saint Matthew
- Offer the Prayer of Petition

Our Catholic Life

Have a volunteer read aloud the two paragraphs.

- Discuss, as a group, some of the wisdom that can be learned from Scripture.

People of Faith

Explain to the young people that Saint Matthew was a Gospel writer and is the source of much of what we know about Jesus Christ.

- Read aloud the People of Faith paragraph, and review with the group the content of the People of Faith Background box.
- *Say:* Knowing this information about Saint Matthew, put yourself in his place and compose a simple three- to four-sentence prayer. The prayer should be something that Matthew would have said to God the Father.

Here are some additional details about Saint Matthew to assist you in presenting this section:

- The Gospel according to Matthew was written to proclaim Jesus as the Messiah to the Jewish people. He explained that God had set up a spiritual Kingdom for his Son, rather than the earthly kingdom the Jews expected.
- Matthew spent at least fifteen years preaching and sharing the Good News of God's Kingdom with the Jewish people of Palestine.

Activity

Read aloud the directions for the activity on page 72.

- Allow the youth time to find their Scripture passage and reflect on the questions.
- Once everyone has completed their work, allow volunteers to share their passage and their answers with the group.

Prayer of Petition

♥ Appoint one volunteer to serve as the leader and one to be the reader for the prayer celebration.








- Divide the remaining participants into two groups: Side 1 and Side 2. Tell them to be ready to pray their part of the prayer.
- Follow the order of prayer on the prayer page.

► Conclude by inviting the young people to sing or reflect on the song "God Has Chosen Me," 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 2 Lesson Plan

Objectives	Process	Materials
Invite, 15 minutes		
The Word of God in Sacred Scripture Page 63	 Psalm 16:11 Pray the opening prayer.  Hebrews 4:12 Guide the youth through the process of Scripture reflection. • Discuss Have You Ever Thought questions.	
Discover, 45 minutes		
God Speaks in Human Words Pages 66–67 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain Divine Inspiration as God’s direction and guidance of the human writers of Scripture • Contrast the content of the Old Testament and the New Testament • Recognize the literary forms contained in the Bible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching Activity Learn about literary forms found in the Bible by playing a matching game to show the different ways God speaks to us through Sacred Scripture. 	 Literary Forms and Catholic Faith Words pages <input type="checkbox"/> sticky notes and tape <input type="checkbox"/> stop watch
The Importance of the Gospels Pages 68–69 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze the literal sense and spiritual sense of Scripture • Distinguish the different major emphases presented by the four Evangelists in their respective Gospels • Identify the development of the Gospels from the Person of Jesus to the written Word 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss senses in relation to Scripture.  Read and reflect on John 1:1–14. • Review the focus and audience of the Gospel writers. • Activity Read and reflect on the meaning in the Gospels. • Activity Master Symbols of the Evangelists 	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens <input type="checkbox"/> Bible  Activity Master 2
Conversation With God Pages 70–71 <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 the ways God speaks to us.  Read Matthew 5:14–16. 	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens <input type="checkbox"/> highlighter
Live, 15 minutes		
Our Catholic Life Page 72	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the wisdom in Scripture. • People of Faith Learn about Saint Matthew. • Activity Reflect on Scripture. 	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens
Celebration of the Word Page 73	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assign a reader and a leader. • Follow the order of prayer. 	 “God Has Chosen Me”

CATHOLIC FAITH WORDS

Sacred Scripture, Divine Inspiration, canon of Scripture, Gospel, Evangelists

ASSESSMENT

Chapter Review, Page 74

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

Name _____

Date _____

Symbols of the Evangelists

Select one of the Evangelists and draw your own version of the symbol associated with him.

When you have completed your drawing, locate other members of the class who drew the same symbol as you and gather together to share your artwork.

Each group will present their drawings to the rest of the class while a group spokesperson reads aloud the text on the Gospel writing of that Evangelist from page 69 of the textbook.

Matthew	Human
Mark	Lion
Luke	Ox
John	Eagle

Name _____

Date _____

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

1. ____ is another name for the Bible, the Word of God written by humans acting under the Holy Spirit's inspiration and guidance.

a. Sacred Tradition	c. Divine Tradition
b. Sacred Scripture	d. Divine Scripture
2. The ____ sense of Scripture refers to the actual words that have been recorded.

a. analogical	c. literal
b. allegorical	d. spiritual
3. Catholics respond to God and commit themselves to follow God's Word during _____.

a. Mass	c. the Epistles
b. the Gospels	d. Tradition
4. Divine ____ is the process by which the Holy Spirit assisted the human authors in writing the Bible.

a. Revelation	c. Proclamation
b. Inspiration	d. Annunciation

Complete each sentence with the correct term.

5. The _____ message is the Good News of God's Kingdom and his saving love.
6. God's Word helps us develop a _____, which helps us judge between right and wrong.
7. In the Bible, the literary form of _____ helps people recall, in a straightforward way, something about God's relationship with the world.
8. The _____ of Scripture explains how to live justly and humbly before God.

Write a response on the lines below.

9. What is the canon of Scripture? _____

10. Name the four Evangelists and describe their work. _____

Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead. (John 11)

God gives Moses the Ten Commandments. (Exodus 20)

The return of the lost son. (Luke 15:11–32)

“Even though I walk
through the valley of the
shadow of death, I will fear
no evil, for you are with
me; your rod and your staff
comfort me.” Psalm 23:4

Daniel's vision of the four great beasts. (Daniel 7)

“When the chief priests and the scribes saw the wondrous things he was doing, and the children crying out in the temple area, ‘Hosanna to the Son of David,’ they were indignant and said to him, ‘Do you hear what they are saying?’ Jesus said to them, ‘Yes; and have you never read the text, “Out of the mouths of infants and nurslings you have brought forth praise”?’” Matthew 21:15–16

“And raising his eyes toward his disciples he said: ‘Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours. Blessed are you who are now hungry, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who are now weeping, for you will laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude and insult you, and denounce your name as evil on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice and leap for joy on that day! Behold, your reward will be great in heaven.’” Luke 6:20–23

“Pride goes before
disaster, and a haughty
spirit before a fall.”
Proverbs 16:18

Catholic Faith Words

Sacred Scripture the Word of God written by humans acting under the Holy Spirit's inspiration and guidance; another name for the Bible.

Catholic Faith Words

Divine Inspiration the gift of the Holy Spirit which assisted the human authors in writing the Bible to ensure it contained the truths God wanted us to know.

Catholic Faith Words

canon of Scripture the Church's complete list of inspired books included in Sacred Scripture.