

Lesson Plan, Grade 7 - Chapter 3

Catechist Background

Doctrinal Content

- Jesus is the fulfillment of the law; he perfectly reveals God the Father to us. (CCC, 73, 240)
- God showed the depth of his love when he made a new covenant in Jesus Christ. This covenant is made present in the world today through the Eucharist. (CCC, 66, 1113)
- Being baptized in Christ gives us a share in his Divine life as sisters and brothers of Christ. (CCC, 1213, 1271)
- Natural moral law and God's revealed law in the Ten Commandments direct us to live in right relationship with him and with one another (CCC, 1954–1960)

Catechist Background

Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased. Upon whom I have put my spirit; he shall bring forth justice to the nations.—Isaiah 42:1

Reflect How is Jesus the fulfillment of God's promise, and how does this affect you?

Throughout salvation history, God continued to be with his People as they struggled to be faithful to the covenant. Because of his immense love for them, he chose to give the human race the opportunity for redemption. That opportunity came in the person of his Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus is the true "Word of God," a word of love, hope, and healing spoken to the very heart of the human family. In Jesus, true God and true man, we come to know God intimately, as a friend and brother, and are shown the model of a human life lived as it was meant to be lived: joyfully, generously, and freely.

In his ultimate act of obedience, his death on the Cross, Jesus restores the union of God and humankind to its original state of harmony, before sin and death entered the human condition. In doing this, he shows us that, while death is still part of the human condition, fear of death does not need to govern our lives. Jesus also knew that resurrected life awaits those who follow him. It was this Good News that gave his first disciples the courage to build the Church and spread Jesus' message throughout the world.

Today we still hear Jesus' Good News whenever and wherever the Gospel is proclaimed. When we gather to celebrate the Eucharist, when we share God's Word, and when we read the Sacred Scriptures, we continue to be nourished by Jesus, the true Word of God.

Reflect What are some ways that you share the Good News?

Catechist's Prayer

God our Father, I believe that every child in my group was sent by you for a special purpose. Help me to honor that purpose. I ask that your Holy Spirit be with me always as I seek to fulfill my ministry as a catechist. Amen.

Sharing the Message

How Seventh-Graders Understand Chapter Topics

Adolescents sometimes think of religion and the teachings of Jesus as something uptight or for “old people.” They may even have trouble connecting with their faith when, while striving for independence, they are feeling at odds with conventional norms or traditional beliefs.

Teaching Tip

Point out that Jesus made the teaching of God “real” to people in a powerful new way, by revealing the truth of God in human form and showing us how to be truly human. But this was hard for the religious leaders of the time to understand. Jesus’ teachings were radical and down to Earth. He exposed hypocrisy and stood up for the underdog. These are aspects of his life that will appeal very much to adolescents today.

Sharing the Message with Seventh-Graders

At this age, adolescent development includes the shift from thinking of themselves based upon their role within their family (child, grandchild, niece) to identifying themselves in more independent ways (student, soccer player, musician).

- Many seventh-graders are learning new ways to show love and respect for the adult members of their families. While they still want to know they are loved, they are often more particular about how they choose to respond to that love.
- The first experiences used by young people to understand the relationship of Jesus and the Father is usually their own relationships with their parents. Help them focus on the bonds of love and loyalty in their families without dwelling on the conflicts.

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

covenant, God the Father, Jesus, Ten Commandments

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 Rights and Responsibilities of the Human Person, pages 338–339.

- Start the Live step of the process by talking about Saint Maria Goretti on page 84. Then move directly to the Catholic Social Teaching feature.
- Or, to expand the lesson, complete page 84, then move to the Catholic Social Teaching feature.
- Return to Chapter 3 for the prayer on page 85.

Music Option

- Use the following song to enhance catechetical learning or for prayer.
 - “We Ever Will Praise You,” Live, Page 85

Catechist Instruction, Grade 7 – Chapter 3

Invite Page 75

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. Have them read the opening prayer to themselves and then quietly reflect on it. Have them move out of the prayer space and back to their seats.

Explain that God reveals himself through the works of Creation, his Word, and his Son, Jesus.

Say: John the Evangelist tells us that "God so loved the world he sent his only Son..." for our salvation. Listen to how God describes his Son in today's Scripture passage.

† 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 made a promise to his People; he fulfilled this promise when he sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to save us from sin and death.

- Invite the young people to respond to the questions.

Discover (1) Pages 78-79

Objectives

- Explain that Jesus is the perfect Revelation of God the Father
- Understand that God's new covenant is made present in the world through the Eucharist

Teaching Activity: God's Revelation

Young people will watch videos of an artist creating images using sand that will mirror the way God has revealed himself to us through his Son, Jesus.

Before the Lesson

Materials Needed

✪ Go to **aliveinchrist.osv.com** and download the Catholic Faith Words page and play the Joe Castillo Sand Art Videos
tape

Preparation

- Post the Catholic Faith Words page on the board for reference during the activity.
- Cue up the Joe Castillo sand art videos that will be shown to the group.
Your Face Is Like a Rose Sand Art Video 1
YouTube Link: <http://youtu.be/4Z3IEKsTKXI>
Easter 2013 Sand Art Video 2
YouTube Link: <http://youtu.be/RJEohHqDmU4>

Activity Directions

As you begin, gather the group together to watch two videos that will help illustrate how God has revealed himself to us.

Say: Jesus is the perfect Revelation of the Father. Through the ages God has revealed himself to us. He has given us glimpses of himself through creation and history, through his covenant with the Chosen people, and most fully through his Son, Jesus Christ.

Begin the first video entitled **Joe Castillo Sand Art: Your Face is Like a Rose**. After the group has watched the video, begin a discussion about how the artist sees something already in the sand and takes away what is necessary for us to see it as well.

Ask: How do you think the video helps us understand the ways that God reveals himself to us?

Invite volunteers to share their responses.

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

Say: Because of God's sacred promise and agreement with his People, he continues to make his ways known to us. He wants to be with us, and he always stays faithful to his promise to be our God.

Begin the next video entitled **Joe Castillo Sand Art: Easter 2013**. After the video has ended, allow for a moment of quiet reflection. Invite volunteers to share what they saw with the group.

Say: The face of Jesus perfectly reveals his Father as he teaches, heals, forgives, suffers and rises from the dead for he is the New Covenant.

Extend the Lesson

Use **Activity Master 3: Show Me the Love** to extend the lesson; it is not included in the timed estimate for this section of the Lesson Plan.

Discover (2) Pages 80-81

Objectives

- Describe how being baptized in Christ gives us a share in his Divine life as sisters and brothers of Christ
- Explore the ways Jesus points us to the coming of God's heavenly Kingdom on Earth
- Ask the young people to share what they know about God through what they know about Jesus. You may wish to record their responses on the board or on chart paper.

Jesus Shows Us the Father

Have a volunteer read the opening paragraph.

One with the Father

Arrange the youth in groups of three or four to read the text together.

- After they have read the text, have them discuss the reflection question.
- Have them brainstorm ideas and record their responses.

Go to the Source

If there is time, have the young people read the suggested passages and answer the questions.

What We Learn from Jesus

Read aloud the opening paragraph. Invite five volunteers to read aloud the bullet points.

* Have the young people underline their preferred "picture" of Jesus as God. Point out the Catholic Faith Words definition for *abba*.

Activity

Invite the youth to read the directions and work on this task individually.

Quick Review

Being baptized in Christ gives us a share in his Divine life. Everything about Jesus points us to the coming of the Kingdom of God on Earth.

Discover (3) Pages 82-83

Objectives

- Define natural moral law
- Recognize that God's revealed law in the Ten Commandments directs us to live in right relationship with him and with one another
- Tell the group that this section will focus on how laws lead us to God.

Laws That Point to God

Have the youth silently read the text. • Ask: What are some other positive natural laws?

- Discuss as a group.

God's Revealed Law

Ask a volunteer to read this paragraph to the group.

Jesus, the New Law

Review this content with the group.

- Ask the young people what they think was the most surprising thing about Jesus. ***the way he spoke about the law***

Invite the youth to consider the Ten Commandments as rooted in love—God's love for them and their love for God—and to discuss the implications.

Read aloud the remaining text to the group.

- Invite three volunteers to explain the Catholic Faith Words in their own words.
- Facilitate a discussion on the summary question.

Activity

Read aloud the activity instructions.

- Have the young people work independently.

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 84-85

Objectives

- Explore ways that others reveal God's love to us
- Discover how Saint Maria Goretti lived the law of love
- Offer the Prayer of Adoration

Our Catholic Life

Have the young people silently read the two paragraphs. • Talk about the importance of working on our friendships. • Discuss, as a group, ways that we can show friendship with Jesus.

People of Faith

Explain to the young people that Saint Maria Goretti is a model of faith and forgiveness.

- Read aloud the People of Faith paragraph.
- Share the content of the People of Faith Background box.
- *Ask:* How can Saint Maria help you see yourself as sacred?
- Invite the youth to reflect on forgiveness.

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

- Even though she was young, Saint Maria Goretti was deeply aware of the connection between her body, mind, and spirit. In those final moments, she wanted her body to be respected as a gift from God.
- Maria understood herself to be sacred because she so intimately knew her Creator.

Activity

Have the young people work on their own to complete the activity on page 84.

Prayer of Adoration

♥ Appoint one volunteer to serve as the leader and four participants to serve as the readers. The rest of the group will pray the “All” parts. Give everyone an opportunity to practice their parts.

- Have the young people gather in the prayer space.
- Follow the order of prayer on the prayer page.

► Conclude by inviting the young people to sing or reflect on the song “We Ever Will Praise You,” 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 3 Lesson Plan

Objectives	Process	Materials
Invite, 15 minutes		
Jesus, Sign of God's Love Page 75	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Psalm 66:5 Pray the opening prayer. Isaiah 42:1–3, 6–7 Guide the youth through the process of Scripture reflection. • Discuss Have You Ever Thought questions. 	
Discover, 45 minutes		
Jesus: God's Own Love Pages 78–79 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain that Jesus is the perfect Revelation of God the Father • Understand that God's new covenant is made present in the world through the Eucharist 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching Activity Watch videos of an artist creating images to help illustrate the way God has revealed himself to us through his Son, Jesus. • Activity Master Show Me the Love 	Joe Castillo Sand Art Videos, Catholic Faith Words page, Activity Master 1 <input type="checkbox"/> tape
Jesus Shows Us the Father Pages 80–81 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe how being baptized in Christ gives us a share in his Divine life as sisters and brothers of Christ • Explore the ways Jesus points us to the coming of God's heavenly Kingdom on Earth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain that Jesus showed us who God is through his actions. ★ The young people will choose the best description of Jesus. Read and reflect on Exodus 20:1–17 and Deuteronomy 5:6–21. • Activity Consider ways to address God. 	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens <input type="checkbox"/> board or chart paper
Laws That Point to God Pages 82–83 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define natural moral law • Recognize that God's revealed law in the Ten Commandments directs us to live in right relationship with him and with one another 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss natural and revealed laws. • Review Jesus' New Commandment. 	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens
Live, 15 minutes		
Our Catholic Life Page 84	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss ways we can show friendship with Jesus. • People of Faith Learn about Saint Maria Goretti. • Activity Reflect on ways others have shown love. 	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens
Celebration of the Word Page 85	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appoint one leader and four readers and begin the prayer. 	"We Ever Will Praise You"

CATHOLIC FAITH WORDS

covenant, *abba*, natural moral law, Ten Commandments, New Commandment

ASSESSMENT

Chapter Review, Page 86

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Name _____

Date _____

Show Me the Love

Think of your life and your relationship with God. Fill in the blanks to complete the phrases.

I know Jesus loves me because _____

I show Jesus my love by _____

My friends are signs of God's love because _____

My family is a sign of God's love. I know this because _____

I demonstrate my love for my family by _____

If there is one thing I could do to grow as a person of love, it would be to _____

Name _____

Date _____

Complete each sentence with the correct term.

1. In the _____, Jesus makes it known that God's Reign and Divine life can be part of our existence.
2. The beginning of the Lord's Prayer refers to God as _____, the English equivalent of "daddy" or "papa."
3. Jesus was God the Father's new _____ with us so that we would be reconciled with him.
4. Precepts about goodness that are written by God in our hearts and accessible through our God-given reason are called _____.

Indicate whether the following statements are true or false. Rewrite the false statements to make them true.

5. A commandment is a sacred promise or agreement between humans or between God and humans. **True/False**

6. When we are baptized, we become adopted children of God. **True/False**

7. The Ten Commandments are the fundamental moral laws given by God to Jesus. **True/False**

8. Christians are called to live holy lives because of the law of love that exists within their hearts. **True/False**

Write a response on the lines below.

9. How does God's revealed law lead us to him? _____

10. What is the New Commandment that Jesus gave us and how does it connect us to God?

Catholic Faith Words

covenant a sacred promise or agreement
between humans or between God and humans.