

# Lesson Plan, Grade 7 - Chapter 5

## Catechist Background

### Doctrinal Content

- The Son of God has existed for all time, and through the Incarnation, became fully man while remaining fully God. (CCC, 461, 464, 480)
- Through the Incarnation, God the Father speaks directly to us through his Son. (CCC, 51-53, 238-242)
- Through the work of the Holy Spirit, the Son of God was born to Mary; her trust and discipleship serves as a model for our own journey of faith. (CCC, 967, 2030)
- Jesus showed that he was divine in many ways, particularly through the working of miracles, which also gives us a glimpse into his human nature and emotions. (CCC, 547-550, 1503)

### Catechist Background

God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.—Philippians 2:9-11

**Reflect** How do we “confess” that Jesus Christ is the Lord?

We human beings were created to live in intimacy with our Creator. By choosing to sin, Adam and Eve distanced themselves and their posterity from God. As a consequence, they brought hardship to the human condition. God, always eager to mend broken relationships, was not content to let us suffer or remain apart from him. In his incredible love for us, God chose to become man. In so doing, he restored the intimacy that our first parents lost through their sinfulness. Jesus saves us from the sin, suffering, and death we chose for ourselves and offers us the perfect image of God the Father.

Jesus, true God and true man, also came to offer us the perfect image of a fully human life. In him we have the template for a life lived lovingly and generously, without being bogged down by fear as our lives so often are. Jesus reminds us of the magnificent dignity of the human person, and challenges us to live just as he lived. He also reminds us that, while death is indeed part of the human experience, we do not need to be enslaved by it. Just as Jesus did, we are called to face with courage and faith all the “deaths” in our lives, big and small. For, with death, we have the hope of eternal life with God.

**Reflect** How has Jesus been an inspiration for you to overcome personal weakness and failure?

### **Catechist's Prayer**

Jesus, help me to remember your loving presence when I feel alone and to follow your example when I feel weak. May all those I encounter today see your face in mine. I ask this in your holy name. Amen.

### **Sharing the Message**

#### **How Seventh-Graders Understand Chapter Topics**

The essential message of the Incarnation is that the Word became flesh. Seventh-graders have a low tolerance for hypocrisy in others. They are easily put off when they see someone say one thing and do another. (They are especially sensitive when they see this in the adults in their lives.) God is a God of both Word and deed. This culminates in the person of Jesus Christ, the fullness of God's Revelation. Jesus was a person who perfectly followed his convictions, and perfectly lived what he taught. Sharing this with young people can help you capture their attention and imagination.

### **Teaching Tip**

Compare Jesus' words in the Sermon on the Mount with his deeds among the people. Talk with the youth about how Jesus really lived what he preached.

### **Sharing the Message with Seventh-Graders**

Younger adolescents often feel as if they lead multiple lives—they might feel like one person to their families, another to their friends at school, and so on. In the process, they try to discover who they are for themselves. Self-definition is a key developmental need for seventh graders.

- Because what others think of them is so important at this age, some young people are often reluctant to share their true feelings with anyone until they feel complete trust in that person.
- Help the youth see that living within one core group can lead to a narrow sense of what is important, a poor sense of what is needed, and limited ways of coping with tough times. Encourage them to branch out and connect with multiple groups.

### **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
- Teaching to Pray

### **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

**Prayer**

- Objective: To recognize and learn how to engage in Catholic forms of personal and communal prayer and ways of deepening one's spiritual life

**Catholic Faith Literacy**

Incarnation, miracle

**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 Care for God's Creation, pages 346–347.

- Start the Live step of the process by talking about Saints Maria, Rosa, and Mary Zhao on page 112. Then move directly to the Catholic Social Teaching feature.
- Or, to expand the lesson, complete page 112, then move to the Catholic Social Teaching feature.
- Return to Chapter 5 for the prayer on page 113.

**Music Option**

- Use the following song to enhance catechetical learning or for prayer.
  - "Jesus, I Trust in You," Live, Page 113

# Catechist Instruction, Grade 7 – Chapter 5

## Invite Page 103

### Objective

- Reflect on God's personal invitation through Scripture

### ♥Let Us Pray

Ask the young people to gather in the prayer space and make the Sign of the Cross.

Pray the leader prayer, including the Psalm.

Invite the youth to repeat the words from the Psalm verse, then close with the group response. Have the young people move out of the prayer space and back to their seats.

Explain that the psalmist's prayer causes us to pause and ask, "What's in a name?"

Jesus, the "eternal Word," came among us and changed our relationship with God.

Say: God wants us to be a living sign of his Word to others. Let's listen to what Saint Paul teaches about the name of Jesus.

### † 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: Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the living Word, and God's greatest gift to us. We should do our best to be a sign to others of God's never-ending love.

- Invite the young people to respond to the questions.

## Discover (1) Pages 106-107

### Objectives

- Recognize that Jesus was fully human and fully Divine at the same time
- Define the Incarnation as the truth that the Son of God took on a human nature

### **Teaching Activity: Revealing Words**

Participants will compete in teams to match a quote to the well-known people in history that quote is attributed to. They will read Jesus' "I Am" statements and write one or two sentences describing what his words teach us about who he is and how he relates to his Father and to us.

### **Before the Lesson**

#### **Materials Needed**

✦ Go to [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com) and download the Quotations and "I Am" Statements, and the Catholic Faith Words page.

#### **Preparation**

- Post the Catholic Faith Words page on the board for reference during the activity.
- Print five copies of the Quotations and the "I Am" Statements pages
- Cut out the quotes and the names on the Quotations page and separate them.

#### **Activity Directions**

Organize the students into five teams. Give each team the cutouts of the quotes and the names. Have the participants to match the names of people to their quote. Ask them to assign each member of their team with a name and the quote that is attributed to that person.

Read each quote and ask the teams to send up the member of their team with the correct name after you have read each one. Ask a volunteer to keep score.

*Say:* How did you decide who said those words?

Invite participants to respond.

*Say:* Words indicate what kind of person we are. Actually, our words are a part of who we are. In the Gospel according to John we read, "In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God." (John 1:1) Jesus is the Word of God. Jesus is the Word spoken by the Father. The Father speaks through Jesus' physical presence in our world. Does anyone remember what word we use to describe the truth that Jesus, who was always fully divine, takes on flesh and becomes fully human?

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

*Say:* The word Incarnation literally means "in the flesh," and shows our understanding that Jesus has two different natures—human and Divine—in one Divine Person. Who knows what the word Jesus, which is the Greek, or *Y'Shua* in Hebrew means in

English? God saves. Even Jesus' name tells us who he is. So if words tell us about the person, let's look to Scripture to find some words of Jesus. In fact we are going to look at 5 titles that Jesus gives himself in the Gospel according to John. Distribute the "I Am" Statements page to each team. Ask them to read the verses and on the back of their page write two or three sentences describing how Jesus' words teach us about who he is and how he relates to his Father and to us. (For example: I am the Good Shepherd—Jesus recognizes each person as an individual and as valuable.) Have each team read their title and share what they've written. Hang the titles on the board or chart paper next to the definition of Incarnation.

## **Discover (2) Pages 108-109**

### **Objectives**

- Understand that through the Incarnation, God the Father speaks directly to us through his Son
- Describe the Holy Spirit's role in the Annunciation
- Identify Mary as the first and most faithful disciple and a model for us

### **God Is with Us**

Explain that God's promise of a covenant relationship was fulfilled by the Incarnation of Jesus Christ. Emphasize the following:

- God the Father speaks directly to us through his Son, Jesus. • God is close to us in daily life.
- Jesus invites us to follow him.

Give the young people an opportunity to share their responses to the question at the end of this section.

Have a volunteer read aloud the text on the Holy Trinity and the Nicene Creed in the Catholics Today box.

- If time allows, have the youth turn to page 367 in the Our Catholic Tradition section of their books to read more on the Nicene Creed.

### **† Scripture**

To discuss Joseph's response to God's call, have the youth read Matthew 1:18–23.

### **† Scripture Background**

#### **The Magnificat**

From Luke 1:39–56, this is part of Luke's Infancy Narrative describing Jesus' birth and childhood. It is also called The Canticle of Mary and is used in the evening prayer of the Liturgy of the Hours. The *Magnificat* is Mary's song of praise to God. The themes reflect the focus of the Gospel of Luke: sheer delight in God's greatness, the lowly being lifted up, the reversal of human fortunes, and the fulfillment of Old Testament promises.

### **The Holy Spirit Prepares**

Remind the young people about the divine nature of Jesus.

- Jesus is God. His conception was different from ours.
- Jesus was born to Mary, who is called the Mother of God.

Point out Mary's role in God's plan and the importance of her "yes."

- Discuss the questions on Mary and her devotion.

### **Mary—Mother of God and Our Mother**

Have the young people silently read this section.

- Ask them to underline three reasons Mary became the most important woman in history.
- Discuss as a group the content that the youth underlined.

### **Activity**

Discuss the opening question.

- Pass out colored pencils or markers.
- Allow the youths to spend some time designing their mottos.
- Let volunteers share their mottos.

### **Quick Review**

In the wonder of the Incarnation, God the Father speaks directly to us through his Son Jesus. By the power of the Holy Spirit, Mary became the Mother of God and the first and most faithful disciple.

## **Discover (3) Pages 100-111**

### **Objectives**

- Recognize that Jesus' miracles revealed God's power, and they were often a response to his compassion, pity, and thirst for justice
- Identify passages in Scripture that reveal the two natures of Jesus

### **Signs of Divine Power and Love**

Have the young people silently read this section and circle the topic sentence in each paragraph.

- Ask volunteers to share the topic sentences they chose.
- Review the meaning of the word *miracle*.

Organize the participants into six groups.

- Give each group a Bible, and assign them one of the Scripture passages referred to in the reading to look up.
- Have them review and summarize their passages.
- Allow time for the groups to share their summaries.

Encourage a discussion of the questions at the end of the text.

## **The Two Natures of Jesus Christ: Divine & Human**

\* Have the young people look up the Scripture passages listed and summarize what Jesus did in each one.

- Then discuss, as a group, how the images we find of Jesus in these passages symbolize each of Jesus' natures.
- Remind the young people that Jesus is our model of being authentic.

### **Activity**

Read aloud the directions.

- Have the young people complete the activity on their own.

### **In Summary**

Invite volunteers to read aloud the summary information.

- Encourage the young people to spend some time reflecting on one of their spiritual role models, specifically on some of the things they can learn from them.

### **Extend the Lesson**

Use **Activity Master 5: God Is with Us** to extend the lesson; it is not included in the timed estimate for this section of the Lesson Plan.

## **Live Pages 112-113**

### **Objectives**

- Relate to different titles for Jesus
- Explore the faith lives of Saint Maria Zhao-Guo and her daughters Saint Rosa Zhao and Saint Mary Zhao
- Offer the Litany of the Holy Name of Jesus prayer

### **Our Catholic Life**

Ask a volunteer to read aloud this section.

- Discuss the many titles of Jesus.
- Invite the youth to share the title for Jesus that they use most often.

### **People of Faith**

Explain to the young people that Saints Maria, Rosa, and Mary Zhao gave up their lives for their faith.

- Read aloud the People of Faith paragraph.
- Write some of the interesting points from the People of Faith Background box on the board or on chart paper.
- Invite the youth to reflect on the many martyrs of our faith.

Here are some additional details about Saints Maria, Rosa, and Mary to assist you in presenting this section:



- When the three women were told to deny their faith or die, Rosa's defiant answer was, "We have already made up our minds that we would rather die than deny our faith."
- The Zhaos, along with more than fifty other Chinese martyrs, were beatified by Pope Pius XII in 1955. Pope Saint John Paul II canonized them on the centennial of their martyrdom in 2000.

### **Activity**

Have the young people work on the activity on their own.

- If time allows, invite volunteers to share one of their "I am" statements.

### **Litany of the Holy Name of Jesus**

♥ Assign a leader and instruct him or her to pause after each petition.

- You may want to assign different volunteers to read each line to allow more involvement in the litany.
- Follow the order of prayer on the prayer page.

► Conclude by inviting the young people to sing or reflect on the song "Jesus, I Trust in 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 5 Lesson Plan

Objectives	Process	Materials
<b>Invite, 15 minutes</b>		
<b>Jesus, Word of God</b> Page 103	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>Psalm 8:2</b> Pray the opening prayer.</li> <li> <b>Philippians 2:9–11</b> Guide the youth through the process of Scripture reflection.</li> <li>• Discuss Have You Ever Thought questions.</li> </ul>	
<b>Discover, 45 minutes</b>		
<b>The Eternal Word</b> Pages 106–207 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognize that Jesus was fully human and fully Divine at the same time</li> <li>• Define the Incarnation as the truth that the Son of God took on a human nature</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Teaching Activity</b> Match quotes to well known people in history and write about Jesus’ “I Am” statements.</li> </ul>	Quotations, “I Am” Statements, Catholic Faith Words <input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens
<b>God Is with Us</b> Pages 108–109 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand that through the Incarnation, God the Father speaks directly to us through his Son</li> <li>• Describe the Holy Spirit’s role in the Annunciation</li> <li>• Identify Mary as the first and most faithful disciple and a model for us</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss how Jesus changed our relationship with God the Father.</li> <li>• Talk about the Holy Spirit’s role.</li> <li> Reflect on <b>Matthew 1:18–23</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Activity</b> Expand on how to be a good disciple of Jesus.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens <input type="checkbox"/> Bible
<b>Signs of Divine Power and Love</b> Pages 110–111 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognize that Jesus’ miracles revealed God’s power, and they were often a response to his compassion, pity, and thirst for justice</li> <li>• Identify passages in Scripture that reveal the two natures of Jesus</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss what Jesus’ miracles signify.</li> <li>• Look to Scripture to understand the different natures of Jesus.</li> <li>• <b>Activity</b> The youth will brainstorm solutions Jesus could offer to problems they are facing.</li> <li>• <b>Activity Master</b> God Is with Us</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens <input type="checkbox"/> Bibles Activity Master 5
<b>Live, 15 minutes</b>		
<b>Our Catholic Life</b> Page 112	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss the question in the Our Catholic Life section.</li> <li>• <b>People of Faith</b> Learn about Saints Maria, Rosa, and Mary Zhao</li> <li>• <b>Activity</b> Young people will describe how they are living a Christian life.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens <input type="checkbox"/> board or chart paper
<b>Litany of the Holy Name of Jesus</b> Page 113	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assign a leader.</li> <li>• Follow the order of prayer.</li> </ul>	“Jesus, I Trust in You”

## CATHOLIC FAITH WORDS

Incarnation, Emmanuel, Annunciation, miracle

## ASSESSMENT

Chapter Review, Page 114

[aliveinchrist.osv.com](https://www.aliveinchrist.osv.com) Customize and Download Assessments, Interactive Student Reviews, eAssessments

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## God Is with Us

Think about your own experiences and the experiences of people you know. Complete the diagram below by identifying ways that show God is with us.

I know that  
God is with  
us when ...

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

## Column A

## Column B

- \_\_\_\_ 1. The truth that Jesus Christ is both true God and true man
- \_\_\_\_ 2. An event that can't be explained scientifically because it happened through the power of God
- \_\_\_\_ 3. The visit of the angel Gabriel to Mary to tell her she would be the Mother of God
- \_\_\_\_ 4. The eternal Word of God

- a. Jesus
- b. Annunciation
- c. miracle
- d. Incarnation

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

5. The Holy Spirit was acting in Mary even before she was born so that through her the Son of God could become man. **True/False**

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Jesus is like us in all things but sorrow. **True/False**

\_\_\_\_\_

7. The name Jesus literally means "God lives." **True/False**

\_\_\_\_\_

8. God the Father speaks directly to us in Christ through the power of the Incarnation. **True/False**

\_\_\_\_\_

Write a response on the lines below.

9. What is the significance of God the Father's promise to send his Son, who would be named "Emmanuel," which means "God is with us"? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

10. In your own words, explain how Jesus is fully God and fully man. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Quotations

"Now I know I have a heart, because it is breaking."	The Tin Man
"If you give what you do not need, it isn't giving."	Mother Theresa
"Many of life's failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up."	Thomas Edison
"I never killed a man that didn't deserve it."	Mickey Cohen, Gangster
"One has not only a legal but a moral responsibility to obey just laws. Conversely, one has moral responsibility to disobey unjust laws."	Martin Luther King, Jr.
"Preach the gospel everywhere you go, and, if necessary use words."	Saint Francis of Assisi
"It is not enough that I succeed, everyone else must fail"	Attila the Hun

### The “I Am” Statements

“I am the bread of life.”	John 6:35
“I am the light of the world.”	John 8:12
“I am the gate for the sheep.”	John 10:7
“I am the good shepherd.”	John 10:11
“I am the vine, you are the branches.”	John 15:5

# Catholic Faith Words

**Incarnation** the truth that the Second Divine Person of the Holy Trinity, the Son of God, assumed human nature in order to save all people; Jesus Christ is both true God and true man.