

Lesson Plan, Grade 7 - Chapter 7

Catechist Background

Doctrinal Content

- Jesus, the Son of God, became man to show us how to live and to share his divinity with us. Because he is true God and true man, Jesus Christ is “the way” to the Father. (CCC, 456-460, 480)
- Jesus is the Substantial Image of the Father because he reflects the nature of who God is; his actions demonstrate God’s love for us. (CCC, 467, 604, 605)
- When we seek the Lord and live as disciples of Christ, following his example, we will experience the fullness of life. Happiness comes from becoming the people God created us to be. (CCC, 27-30)

Catechist Background

[He] emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a Cross.—Philippians 2:7-8

Reflect How does Jesus being fully human affect the way that you live your life?

Jesus is true God and true man. Saint Paul tells us that Jesus was a human being just like us except for one thing. He did not sin. Did Jesus’ lack of sinfulness mean that he was almost—but not quite—fully human? Of course not. Rather, it tells us something profound about what it means to be human.

Jesus didn’t sin. He was born without the stain of Original Sin, that pattern of human brokenness that has burdened humankind since the sin of our first parents. Jesus was tempted as all human beings are—in fact, he experienced greater temptations than we can imagine—yet he never gave in to them. And all the while he lived a life of incredible joy, showing his disciples, and us, that the true path to happiness is to do God’s will.

Jesus liberated us from sin through his Passion, Death on the Cross, and Resurrection. Through the Sacrament of Baptism, we receive the new life he won for us. In Baptism we are born anew into the life of Christ. It is an initiation that brings with it incredible benefits, but also great responsibilities. Those who are baptized into Christ must be willing, as he was, to pour out their lives in loving service to God and others. The good news is that it is in this very act of offering our lives that we learn how to truly live in joy and abundance.

Reflect How do you use your baptismal gifts in the service of God and others?

Catechist's Prayer

Jesus, my Lord and companion, you know what it is like to be human. Help me to always trust that you are with me to lift me up and give me strength. Thank you for your loving presence. Amen.

Sharing the Message

How Seventh-Graders Understand Chapter Topics

Seventh-graders have already begun to dream about the things they think will make them happy and to think about what they will be when they are older. We all search for happiness in the wrong places sometimes, but Jesus shows us a pattern for living that will lead to true and lasting happiness. Young teens often need help understanding that Jesus' life and teachings can be a guide to living today.

Teaching Tip

Teens are often asked what they want to be when they grow up, but they are rarely asked who they think God created them to be. Ask that question in various ways, and ask the young people how Jesus shows us what it means to live the lives we were made for.

Sharing the Message with Seventh-Graders

Adolescents observe how they and their peers are developing at different paces. Help them trust the natural process of growth.

- The simpler ambitions of their childhoods are being reevaluated as seventh-graders learn about their own gifts and interests. "What do you want to be when you grow up?" is suddenly a more complex question than it once was.
- Encourage the young people to look at their future through another lens: "What do you think God imagined for you?"

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

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

divine; Elizabeth, cousin of Mary; God, the Son; Rosary

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 Solidarity of the Human Family, pages 344–345.

- Start the Live step of the process by talking about Saint Maximilian Kolbe on page 140. Then move directly to the Catholic Social Teaching feature.
- Or, to expand the lesson, complete page 140, then move to the Catholic Social Teaching feature.
- Return to Chapter 7 for the prayer on page 141.

Music Option ►

Use the following song to enhance catechetical learning or for prayer.

- "Behind and Before Me," Live, Page 140

Catechist Instruction, Grade 7 – Chapter 7

Invite Page 131

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, including the Psalm verse. Prompt the group's response. Have the young people move out of the prayer space and back to their seats.

Say: We know God more perfectly through Jesus Christ, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity. While Jesus offers us the perfect image of God, he also offers us a way to live fully as human beings.

† 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 gave us Jesus, his Son, the most wondrous gift. Jesus restores our relationship with the Father and shows us how to live in right relationship with God and our neighbor.

- Invite the young people to respond to the questions.

Discover (1) Pages 134-135

Objectives

- Explore the understanding of the fullness of human potential
- Explain that the Son of God became man to show us how to live and to share his divinity with us
- Read aloud the opening question and elicit responses from the group.
- Have a volunteer record the responses on the board or on chart paper.

True God, True Man

Invite four volunteers to read the opening paragraphs.

- Facilitate a discussion of the question that follows.
- Emphasize that working toward our full potential is a lifelong quest.

The Son of God Became One of Us

Ask: Have you ever imagined Jesus as a child who needed help from his parents, or Jesus as a teenager who felt annoyed with his parents?

- Direct the young people to read the text in this section to learn more about Jesus' human life.

The Joyful Mysteries

Discuss the definition of *Visitation* in the Catholic Faith Words box. Organize the group into five groups and give each group a Bible.

- Assign each group one of the events from the Joyful Mysteries.
- Allow time for the groups to find their stories in the Bible and work together to summarize the story.
- Invite a spokesperson from each group to share their summary with the whole group and explain what it tells them about Jesus and his family life.

Activity

Arrange the youth in pairs. Have one of the partners read aloud the instructions.

- Allow the partners to work together to come up with descriptions.
- If time permits, pose specific scenarios and encourage the young people to share ways that the issues could be handled, using ideas that reflect the teachings of Jesus.

Quick Review

Through Jesus' humanity, we learn what God the Father intended for all human beings. By living as disciples of Christ, we can become all that God created us to be.

Discover (2) Pages 136-137

Objectives

- Explain that Jesus is the Substantial Image of the Father because he is a visible image of the true nature of God
- Explore the ways that Jesus' actions demonstrate God's love for us.

Teaching Activity: We Are Never Alone

Using a clear window film, the group will see a visual representation of Jesus' fully human and fully divine nature. The young people will then be given an index card with a syllable written on it and participate in a game that explains that Jesus is the substantial image of the Father because he is a visible image of the nature of God.

Before the Lesson

Materials Needed ☛ Go to aliveinchrist.osv.com and download the Catholic Faith Words pages

Window Film Static Cling or clear contact paper (wide size), 18 large blank index cards, colored markers, tape

Preparation

- Cut two large circles out of the window film or contact paper. Cut the circles with rough edges so they do not look identical.
- On one circle, use a red marker to draw wavy lines across the film in red. Be sure to leave some white space between each wavy line so the pattern is visible.
- On the other circle, use a blue marker to draw the same type of wavy lines across the film in blue.
- Create wavy lines on both circles until all of the clear window film is covered up. Place each circle on a piece of paper.
- Write one syllable from each of the following words on large unlined index cards: gen er ous sac ri ficial for giv ing mer ci ful com pass ion ate jus tice
- Place a tiny dot of same color on cards that belong together.
- Select a volunteer to play Jesus during the activity. Explain to the volunteer that he or she will be putting the syllables on the index cards in order to spell out the words generous, sacrificial, forgiving, merciful, compassionate, and justice. Explain that the other participants will be holding the index cards with each syllable and they will need to pay attention to the dots in order to group the syllables together in proper order.

Activity Directions

Post the Catholic Faith Words page on the board for reference during the activity. As the activity begins, point out the definitions from the Catholic Faith Words pages that are on the board. Introduce the term *Mediator* and ask a volunteer to read the definition from the board.

Hold up the red and blue circles and display them to the group. As you speak, hold up one circle at a time when you say the phrase fully human and fully divine.

Say: Jesus is our Mediator because he is fully human and fully divine. He is the intermediary or bridge between God and humans.

Take the paper backing off of the red circle and attach it to the board or wall.

Say: This circle will represent Jesus' divine nature. Jesus always was one with the Father and Holy Spirit. The Holy Trinity makes the decision to enter our human

experience to save us from the sin we have chosen. The Second Person of the Holy Trinity takes on human flesh. And what do we call that great mystery? ***The Incarnation***
Take the backing off of the blue circle and hold it up

Say: This is Jesus' human nature. As God made man, Jesus perfectly reveals (shows us) what his Father is like. He is the substantial image of the Father. He is our mediator because his sacrifice makes it possible for all people to live in loving friendship with God forever.

Then place the blue circle over the red circle. Point out to the group how when placed together the blue and red wavy lines on the clear film come together to make a new pattern.

Mix up the index cards and give one to each participant. Have the youth stand in circle and show their syllable.

Say: It is difficult for us as limited human beings to see what the words are. Jesus can do so because he is God and therefore sees like God.

Have the volunteer playing Jesus organize the young people into groups to create their words.

Point to each group and have them read their word together.

Say: "These words are all characteristics of God's love. Jesus' words and actions helped us to see God's love. Jesus helps us to know how to live a life that is open to God's invitation. His words and actions show us the way to love him in return. Because Jesus is the Way to the Father, his first followers were sometime called followers of the "The Way."

Discover (3) Pages 138-139

Objectives

- Examine the behaviors and dispositions of discipleship that are rooted in the life of Christ
- Identify fullness of life as becoming the people God created us to be

Read aloud the opening question and elicit responses from the group.

The Way to Live

Point out that the more closely we follow Jesus' example, the more we fulfill our God-given potential. Invite volunteers to read aloud this section. Share with the group a YouTube video of a person supporting someone else through a challenge or helping someone accomplish their dream.

- Review the definition of *discipleship*.
- Ask: If our goal is to be a disciple of Jesus, what kind of support do we need in order to become a committed disciple? ***the Church, God's grace, the Sacraments, our faith community***
- Have each participant write his/her thoughts on precut pieces of paper that when assembled will create megaphones (a sign of supporting a team).

Jesus' Example

Ask the youth to read through the suggestions for following Jesus' example.

* Direct them to place a check mark beside the ways they have intentionally followed Jesus' example this week.

- Encourage them to reflect on the areas in which they need to grow.

Activity

Read aloud the introduction to the activity and the two questions.

- Divide the participants into small groups to begin brainstorming.
- After they have answered the questions, ask each group to present their ideas to the group.
- Then decide, as a group, on one thing you can do together.

In Summary

Ask the young people to silently read the summary information.

- Have them quietly reflect on how they are living up to their full potential as followers of Jesus.

Extend the Lesson

Use **Activity Master 7: Do Well** to extend the lesson; it is not included in the timed estimate for this section of the Lesson Plan.

Live Pages 140-141

Objectives

- Examine the requirements of discipleship
- Explore the faith life of Saint Maximilian Kolbe
- Offer the Prayer of Thanksgiving

♥ Pray a prayer of petition, asking God to help guide the young people and strengthen them to reflect Jesus' love to others.

Our Catholic Life

Ask a volunteer to read aloud the information in the Our Catholic Life section.

- Have the youth discuss the question in small groups.

People of Faith

Explain to the young people that Saint Maximilian Kolbe followed Jesus' example and offered up his life in love for another.

- Read aloud the People of Faith paragraph.
- Share some of the points from the People of Faith Background box.
- Invite the young people to reflect on the great sacrifices that are sometimes asked of the disciples of Jesus.

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

- Maximilian's devotion to being a disciple of Christ is seen in his work to defend the Church and her members.
- As a young boy, Maximilian Kolbe had a vision of the Blessed Virgin Mary who offered him a choice of two crowns, one white, which represented purity, and one red, which represented martyrdom. Young Raymund said that he would take them both.

Activity

Ask the youth to read the prompts and complete this activity on their own.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

♥ Divide the group down the middle and assign the young people to Side 1 or Side 2. You will be the Leader.

- Set the prayer table with images of Jesus and a lit candle.
- Invite Sides 1 and 2 to stand in the prayer space facing each other.
- *Call them to prayer with these words:* Jesus, bless and strengthen us to live as your disciples.
- Follow the order of prayer on the prayer page.

► Conclude by inviting the young people to sing or reflect on the song "Behind and Before 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 7 Lesson Plan

Objectives	Process	Materials
Invite, 15 minutes		
The Way Page 131	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Psalm 136:1 Pray the opening prayer. Philippians 2:5–8 Guide the youth through the process of Scripture reflection. • Discuss Have You Ever Thought questions. 	
Discover, 45 minutes		
True God, True Man pp. 134–135 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the understanding of the fullness of human potential • Explain that the Son of God became man to show us how to live and to share his divinity with us 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk about Jesus' human and Divine natures. • Reflect on the fullness of life that comes with being a disciple. • Activity Describe the kinds of things that Jesus expects from young people this age. 	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens <input type="checkbox"/> board or chart paper <input type="checkbox"/> Bible
Jesus Is the Way to God pp. 136–137 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain that Jesus is the Substantial Image of the Father because he is a visible image of the true nature of God • Explore the ways that Jesus' actions demonstrate God's love for us 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching Activity The young people will participate in a game that explains that Jesus is the substantial image of the Father because he is a visible image of the nature of God. 	Catholic Faith Words <input type="checkbox"/> markers, tape <input type="checkbox"/> window film or clear contact paper, 18 index cards
The Way to Live pp. 138–139 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine the behaviors and dispositions of discipleship that are rooted in the life of Christ • Identify fullness of life as becoming the people God created us to be 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss specific ways that Jesus taught us to be good disciples. ★ The young people will indicate ways they already follow Jesus' example. • Consider ways to apply Jesus' teachings on discipleship. • Activity Reflect on ways that discipleship can be adventurous as well as noble. • Activity Master Do Well 	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens Activity Master 7
Live, 15 minutes		
Our Catholic Life Page 140	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss examples of discipleship. • People of Faith Learn about Saint Maximilian Kolbe. • Activity Reflect on discipleship and finding "the Way." 	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens
Prayer of Thanksgiving Page 141	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Divide the group into two sides. • Follow the order of prayer. 	"Behind and Before Me"

CATHOLIC FAITH WORDS

Visitation, Mediator, discipleship

ASSESSMENT

Chapter Review, Page 142

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

Name _____

Date _____

Do Well

It is often said:

If you feel good about yourself, you will do well.

Suppose the opposite was true:

If you do well, you will feel good about yourself.

Imagine that you asked Jesus, "What does it mean to do well?" What would he say?

Record your thoughts below.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

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. Name for disciples of Jesus
- ____ 2. Special prayer that focuses on the events in the lives of Jesus and Mary
- ____ 3. Title given to Jesus because he alone is able to bring us closer to God the Father
- ____ 4. The birth of Jesus

- a. Nativity
- b. Mediator
- c. followers of the Way
- d. Rosary

Complete each sentence with the best term or phrase.

5. Jesus is the Second Person of the _____.
6. Becoming the person God calls you to be is reaching your _____.
7. Jesus is known as the _____ of the Father.
8. The _____ is the event in which Mary, who was pregnant with Jesus, visited her cousin Elizabeth, who was pregnant with John the Baptist.
9. _____ is accepting Jesus' invitation to believe in and follow him by studying his ways and putting them into practice.

Write a response on the lines below.

10. Jesus is "true God" and "true man." What did Jesus show us by being human?
What did Jesus show us by being Divine?

Catholic Faith Words

Mediator the title given to Jesus because, as true God and true man, he alone is able to reconcile all people to God the Father, bringing us closer to God the Father by his words and saving actions.