

Lesson Plan, Grade 7 - Chapter 8

Catechist Background

Doctrinal Content

- Jesus' wisdom came from being the Son of God; he looked at the world with that perspective and challenged some of the commonly accepted understandings of his time. (CCC, 574–576)
- Jesus taught through his words and actions. He used parables to teach us about the coming of God's Kingdom. (CCC, 546)
- In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gave advice and specific direction for living, honoring God, and making our actions reflect our beliefs. (CCC, 1966–1971)
- The Beatitudes challenge us to live by the values of God's Kingdom and to understand that true happiness comes from the hope of eternal life with God. (CCC, 1716–1719)

Catechist Background

He said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ... his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced [in] wisdom and age and favor before God and man.—Luke 2:49, 51-52

Reflect How can knowing God's plan for our lives help us to achieve happiness?

Jesus was an excellent teacher. He spoke with passion and clarity about God's Reign, but more than that, he made present all that he taught. Those who heard him believed not only in what he said, but also in him. They were drawn to Jesus and his teachings because they sensed that his authority came from the Father and that his love was generous and forgiving.

What made Jesus' teaching so compelling—and ultimately dangerous—was that he always spoke God's truth. He did not retreat or back down when he was challenged. He didn't change his message when he faced a hostile crowd. He spoke to the injustices that could be found in some of the established religious and social norms. God's truth transcends time. Jesus satisfied the hunger for God and his truth that dwells in the human spirit, then and now. Those of us who teach in his name are called to do the same.

Reflect In what ways has the teaching of Jesus been a model for your own catechetical ministry?

Catechist's Prayer

Lord Jesus, you were the first and greatest teacher of the faith. Bless me as I seek to teach in your name. May I always follow your example and teach fearlessly, honestly, and compassionately. Amen.

Sharing the Message

How Seventh-Graders Understand Chapter Topics

Seventh-graders can certainly have a rebellious streak at times. Some of this comes from growing up and feeling more independent, but still being very limited in the choices they can make for themselves. Because of this, they can be attracted to stories of people who buck the system and challenge the establishment.

Teaching Tip

The message Jesus teaches about such things as wealth, power, fame, status, and physical pleasure often have a different meaning than what our culture teaches. Discuss with the youth how the teaching of Jesus is a radical challenge to worldly wisdom and popular culture. (Hint: the word "radical" means "getting to the root.")

Sharing the Message with Seventh-Graders

At this age, some young people are beginning to question principles and beliefs they have long held as given truth. This provides a wonderful opportunity to help them review and re-think their childhood understandings.

- Increasingly, seventh-graders will see the differences between the values of the Gospel and some of the values reflected in popular culture. At times, they will engage in a serious internal struggle between their desire to endorse the negative or sinful values of some of their peers and their desire to do what is right.
- Help the young people see that the message Jesus taught about such things as wealth, power, fame, status, and physical pleasure still applies 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: • Moral Formation • Teaching to Pray

NCEA IFG: ACRE Edition

Knowledge of the Faith

- Objective: To be knowledgeable about the teachings of Jesus and the Church as the basis of Christian morality and to understand Catholic Social Teaching

Moral Formation

- 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

Beatitudes, Kingdom, parable, Sermon on the Mount

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 Saint Gerard Majella on page 152. Then move directly to the Catholic Social Teaching feature.
- Or, to expand the lesson, complete page 152, then move to the Catholic Social Teaching feature.
- Return to Chapter 8 for the prayer on page 153.

Music Option

- Use the following song to enhance catechetical learning or for prayer.
 - "You Are the Way," Live, Page 153

Catechist Instruction, Grade 7 – Chapter 8

Invite Page 143

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. Ask a volunteer to proclaim the opening prayer and Psalm verse and to lead the group in the response.

Explain that this prayer helps us reflect on what wisdom is, particularly God's wisdom.

Have the youth return to their seats.

Say: Let's listen to God's Word and see how Jesus seeks wisdom and displays wisdom.

† 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 is our ultimate source of wisdom and guidance.

- Invite the young people to respond to the questions.

Discover (1) Pages 146-147

Objectives

- Illustrate ways that Jesus challenged the commonly accepted understandings of his time
- Explain why Jesus used parables to teach
- Relate Jesus' use of parables with his proclamation of the coming of God's Kingdom

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 watch the Coach Carter Video Clip, and download the Parable Game Plan Handout and Catholic Faith Words pages clipboards (1 for each small group), tape

Preparation

- Search online for some images of Jesus as a coach. Print out a few and tape them up around the room.
- Cue up the video for *Coach Carter*.

Coach Carter YouTube Link: <http://youtu.be/2FKPDOPKzDo>

Activity Directions

Post the Catholic Faith Words pages on the board for reference during the activity. Begin the activity by pointing out the images of Jesus that are posted around the room.

Say: Have you ever had a really good coach or teacher? Someone who has a plan for the team and for each player? Someone who inspires you to make every effort to do what is necessary to be the best you can be. Each team member's effort contributes to the bigger vision or plan.

As Jesus lived out his public ministry, he surprised some people with his teaching. He spoke with an authority they had not heard before. He taught with authority because he is the Son of God.

Jesus called each person to live out God's plan for them. Discovering and living out God's purpose or plan in our lives is called wisdom.

Introduce the term *wisdom* and ask a volunteer to read the definition from the board.

Say: Jesus inspired people to do whatever was necessary in their own lives to grow in loving relationship with the Father. He taught his disciples that God's Kingdom of love, justice and peace would happen when each person said, "yes," to God's plan for them. Jesus helped people to understand the vision of God's Kingdom through parables. In

the Parable of the Good Samaritan (see Luke 10:30–35), Jesus showed that love must overcome prejudice.

Review the terms *Kingdom of God* and *parable* and ask a volunteer to read the definitions from the board.

Say: We are going to watch a clip from a movie called *Coach Carter*, a true story about a coach who required his high school basketball team to have passing grades. When all the members of the team failed to live up to that agreement he locked them out of the gym and provided tutors for them to raise their grades. This was a shock to the players, the school, and the parents. Listen to him explain to his team why this is necessary. What is his plan for each of them and for the team?

Show the video clip and discuss the questions with the group.

Place the young people in pairs and give them each a clipboard with the handout.

Say: This is Jesus' game plan for your life. What does Jesus consider a victory for you? What does he require of people on his team? From the list of parables, choose two that could be considered a game plan for you right now and tell why.

Have the pairs work together to find the Scripture citations and choose which parables will be their game plans. Ask for volunteers to share with the larger group which parables they have chosen and why.

Discover (2) Pages 148-149

Objectives

- Explore some of the major teachings of the Sermon on the Mount
- Describe the attitudes and actions in the world that contradict the teachings of Christ

A Unique Message

Point out that Jesus often shared his wisdom in places where people were most comfortable.

- *Ask:* What does this tell us about the kind of teacher Jesus is? **Possible response: He relates to us where we are; he's like us.**

Explain that the author of the Gospel of Matthew collected many of Jesus' teachings into what we call the Sermon on the Mount. Have a volunteer read the opening paragraph.

Invite a young person to read aloud the definition of Sermon on the Mount on page 149.

Go to the Source

Send the youth to the Scripture Matthew 7:24–29 to read more on the Sermon on the Mount. Invite them to think about the analogy used in this passage.

Words and Actions

Review this section on pages 148 and 149 with the group.

- Discuss the question at the end of the text.

Teachings from the Mount

Divide the participants into four groups. Invite the groups to study the teachings listed in the chart.

* Have each group select and underline one teaching that they think people most need to hear and act upon today. Instruct the groups to mark a star next to the teachings they think are hardest to hear and act on.

- Invite several groups to share which sayings of Jesus they underlined or starred. Elicit additional feedback from the other small groups.

Activity

Have the youth read the instructions and complete the activity.

- Invite volunteers to share the questions they would like to ask Jesus.

Quick Review

The Sermon on the Mount is a collection of Jesus' major teachings. Jesus showed us, through his words and actions, how to always love God and our neighbor, even when it goes against societal and cultural norms.

Discover (3) Pages 150-151

Objectives

- Explain how the Beatitudes offer us the path to a life of happiness and peace
- Relate how being obsessed with material things keeps us from living the real values of God's Kingdom

Divine Words for Wise Living

Ask a volunteer to read this section. Point out that Jesus' wisdom clarified the true meaning of the word *happiness* in his teachings called the Beatitudes.

- When the Beatitudes say that some people are "blessed," they are describing people who are happy because they have the attitudes and behaviors that help promote God's Kingdom.
- True happiness comes from trusting in God and the "things of God."

Invite another volunteer to read the definition of *Beatitudes*.

The Beatitudes

* Allow the young people to work with a partner to fill in the chart.

† Scripture Background

Blessedness in the Beatitudes

In the Beatitudes, Jesus reflects some of the words of the prophets and wisdom writers of the Old Testament. Help the youth compare the message found in six of the Beatitudes to the Old Testament Scriptures listed below:

- First and Second Beatitudes Isaiah 61:1–3
- Isaiah 61:1–3 Third Beatitude Psalm 37:11
- Psalm 37:11 Fourth Beatitude Psalm 107:4–9
- Psalm 107:4–9 Fifth Beatitude Proverbs 14:21
- Proverbs 14:21 Sixth Beatitude Psalm 24:3–5
- Psalm 24:3–5

Go to the Source

Have the youth read Matthew 5:3–12 and Luke 6:20–26 to check their answers in the Beatitudes chart.

- Invite group discussion.

The Message

Use the image on this page to spark a discussion about happiness and the importance of staying connected to others, but especially to God.

Have the youth read the text.

- Ask them to underline the different focuses from the Gospel according to Matthew and the Gospel according to Luke.
- Encourage the youth to rephrase, in their own words, the overall message of the Beatitudes.

Activity

Read aloud the instructions.

- Have the young people work independently to complete the activity.

In Summary

Have volunteers read aloud each bullet point to summarize the key lesson points.

- Allow time for the young people to write one thing about each point that they would share with a friend.

Extend the Lesson

Use **Activity Master 8: Once Upon a Time** to extend the lesson; it is not included in the timed estimate for this section of the Lesson Plan.

Live Pages 152-153

Objectives

- Identify steps to making a good decision
- Explore the faith life of Saint Gerard Majella
- Offer the Prayer of Petition

Our Catholic Life

Review with the group the information in the Our Catholic Life section.

- Have the young people discuss the closing questions with a partner.

People of Faith

Explain to the youth that Saint Gerard Majella cared for the needs of others.

- Have a volunteer read aloud the People of Faith paragraph.
- Review with the group the content of the People of Faith Background box.
- Invite the young people to reflect on times when they received help from someone else.

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

- Saint Gerard's main ambition was to imitate the suffering and humiliation of Jesus.
- When Saint Gerard took his vows, he added an additional one—to do always that which seemed to him more perfect.
- His charitable action earned him the title of Father of the Poor.

Activity

Have the youth silently read the introduction and the questions. • Invite them to work on the activity independently.

Prayer of Petition

♥ Place a lit candle on the prayer table.

- *Call them to prayer with these words:* Jesus, be with us and call on those who embody your Beatitudes to pray with and for us.
- Follow the order of prayer on the prayer page.
- *Conclude with the following:* Jesus, bless us and strengthen us to live as your faithful followers. Amen.

► Invite the youth to sing or reflect on the song "You Are the Way," 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 8 Lesson Plan

Objectives	Process	Materials
Invite, 15 minutes		
Model of Wisdom Page 143	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Psalm 90:12 Pray the opening prayer. Luke 2:46–52 Guide the youth through the process of Scripture reflection. • Discuss Have You Ever Thought questions. 	
Discover, 45 minutes		
Jesus, the Wise Teacher Pages 146–147 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Illustrate ways that Jesus challenged the commonly accepted understandings of his time • Explain why Jesus used parables to teach • Relate Jesus' use of parables with his proclamation of the coming of God's Kingdom 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching Activity Youth will watch a video to help them understand the ways Jesus calls forth the best from his followers. Participants will pair off to complete a handout that shows how we can use the parables as a game plan to help guide us in our lives today. 	Coach Carter Video Clip, Parable Game Plan, Catholic Faith Words <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens <input type="checkbox"/> tape <input type="checkbox"/> clipboards (1 for each small group)
A Unique Message Pages 148–149 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore some of the major teachings of the Sermon on the Mount • Describe the attitudes and actions in the world that contradict the teachings of Christ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss how Jesus used actions and words to teach us. Read and reflect on Matthew 7:24–29. ★ Examine Jesus' teachings from the Sermon on the Mount. • Activity Describe Jesus' wisdom found in the Sermon on the Mount. 	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens
Divine Words for Wise Living Pages 150–151 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain how the Beatitudes offer us the path to a life of happiness and peace • Relate how being obsessed with material things keeps us from living the real values of God's Kingdom 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the Beatitudes. ★ Fill in missing words to complete the Beatitudes. Read Matthew 5:3–12 and Luke 6:20–26. • Activity Write two Beatitudes for adolescents today. • Activity Master Once Upon a Time 	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens <input type="checkbox"/> Bibles <input type="checkbox"/> art supplies <input type="checkbox"/> poster board Activity Master 8
Live, 15 minutes		
Our Catholic Life Page 152	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People of Faith Learn about Saint Gerard Majella. • Activity Consider incorporating Jesus' wisdom in our daily lives. 	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens
Prayer of Petition Page 153	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Light a candle. • Follow the order of prayer. 	<input type="checkbox"/> candle "You Are the Way"

CATHOLIC FAITH WORDS

wisdom, Kingdom of God, parable, Sermon on the Mount, Beatitudes

ASSESSMENT

Chapter Review, Page 154

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Name _____

Date _____

Once Upon a Time

Wisdom: the spiritual gift that makes it possible for someone to know about the purpose and plan of God.

Reflect on times when you were the source of wisdom for someone else, ignored wisdom, and sought wisdom.

A time when I was a source of wisdom for someone else: _____

The situation: _____

My wisdom message was: _____

I got that wisdom from: _____

A time when I ignored wisdom and made an unwise decision: _____

The situation: _____

The wisdom I ignored: _____

The reason(s) I didn't follow it: _____

The result: _____

The message now: _____

A time when I sought wisdom and found it: _____

The situation: _____

Where I found wisdom: _____

The message was: _____

How I knew it was right: _____

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. Summary of key teachings of Jesus found in the Gospel according to Matthew | a. parables |
| ___ 2. God's rule of peace, justice, and love that exists in Heaven, but is yet to come on Earth | b. Beatitudes |
| ___ 3. Short stories Jesus told to illustrate moral or spiritual truths | c. Sermon on the Mount |
| ___ 4. Jesus' eight teachings about the meaning and path to true happiness | d. Kingdom of God |

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

5. Jesus used The Parable of the Good Samaritan to illustrate the idea of ____.
- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| a. discipleship | c. love of neighbor |
| b. an eye for an eye | d. peace |
6. Jesus compared living according to his words to ____.
- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| a. safe sailing on a stormy sea | c. building a house on solid rock |
| b. preaching from a mountaintop | d. ignoring stereotypes of others |
7. In the Beatitudes, Jesus says we will find true happiness when ____.
- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| a. we experience much good luck | c. we read the parables |
| b. God's Kingdom becomes real | d. we change our point of view |
8. ____ is the Gift of the Holy spirit that helps us to see God's purpose and plan for our lives.
- | | |
|--------------|-----------|
| a. Fortitude | c. Piety |
| b. Apostolic | d. Wisdom |

Write a response on the lines below.

9. Why do you think Jesus used parables? _____

10. How do accounts of the Beatitudes differ in the Gospels according to Matthew and Luke?

Parable Game Plan

The Vine and the Branches (John 15:1–17)
The Parable of the Great Banquet (Luke 14:15–24)
Parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders (Matthew 7:24–27)
The Birds of Heaven and the Lilies of the Field (Matthew 6: 24–34)
The Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25–37)

Game Plan #1

Parable: _____

Victory: Eternal Life in Heaven

Requirements of Team Members: A life of faithful discipleship.

Game Plan: _____

Game Plan #2

Parable: _____

Victory: Eternal Life in Heaven

Requirements of Team Members: A life of faithful discipleship.

Game Plan: _____

Catholic Faith Words

wisdom the spiritual gift that helps us to see God's purpose and plan for our lives. Wisdom is also one of the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Catholic Faith Words

Kingdom of God God's rule of peace, justice, and love that exists in Heaven, but has not yet come in its fullness on Earth.

Catholic Faith Words

parable a short story Jesus told using examples from everyday life or nature to illustrate moral or spiritual truths.