

Lesson Plan, Grade 7 - Chapter 9

Catechist Background

Doctrinal Content

- Sin and suffering came into the world because of human action, but God sent leaders, prophets, and, ultimately, his Son to guide us back to him. (CCC, 218, 402-406, 410)
- Jesus is sometimes called the new Adam, because his saving action is the only means by which we are saved from the Original Sin of Adam and Eve and our own personal sin. (CCC, 411, 430-431)
- The Paschal Mystery is Christ's work of redemption through his Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension. (CCC, 517, 1708)
- Jesus' saving actions continue through his Church. We experience new life in Christ in the Seven Sacraments. (CCC, 738-740, 1136-1139)

Catechist Background

"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation ... making peace by the blood of his cross ... and you who once were alienated and hostile in mind because of evil deeds he has now reconciled ... through his death, to present you holy, without blemish ..."—Colossians 1:15, 20, 21, 22

Reflect Why are we, as human beings, in need of reconciliation with God?

The Paschal Mystery is at the very core of our Christian faith. The Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus is the central reality around which all of salvation history revolves. Everything that came before was leading up to it; everything that came after was defined by it. In this act of incredible love and self-sacrifice, Jesus repaired the breach of Original Sin and reconciled humanity with God. Is it any wonder, then, that we proclaim this profound mystery of our faith every time we celebrate the Eucharist?

Yet, the Paschal Mystery is not merely a historical event, it is an ongoing part of salvation history and human experience. Part of that which defines us as humans is our awareness that we live and we die. Through our Baptism we become immersed in the Paschal Mystery, which teaches us that death is not to be feared by those who place their trust in God. When we see how fear of death—and the rampant denial of it—defines so much of our culture, the wisdom of the Paschal Mystery becomes even more crucial. We place our hope in the one who stared death in the eye and did not blink. We are confident that some day, we, like Jesus, will rise to a new and eternal life with God in Heaven.

Reflect How does your faith in the Paschal Mystery influence how you feel about life and death?

Catechist's Prayer

We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again. Lord Jesus, help me to express this belief in everything I do. Amen.

Sharing the Message

How Seventh-Graders Understand Chapter Topics

Seventh-graders can understand Jesus' Death within the context of the whole Paschal Mystery, which includes his Resurrection. Stations of the Cross and similar depictions of Jesus' suffering are appropriate for this age group, particularly if we can relate Jesus' own suffering back to our everyday lives. It's important that young people know that doing good sometimes involves sacrifice and suffering. But God is with us and understands suffering because he became a human being who suffered also. The Resurrection teaches us that with God there is an Easter Sunday for every Good Friday.

Teaching Tip

Appreciating Jesus as our Savior requires that we get in touch with our own need for salvation. Help the young people recognize and name those things in themselves that bog them down and keep them from living with joy.

Sharing the Message with Seventh-Graders

As they develop physically, intellectually, and emotionally, some adolescents will act out in ways they themselves do not understand. Keep in mind that when they say they don't know why they did something foolish or destructive, they may be telling the truth.

- Seventh-graders often navigate between the fear of standing out and the need to be noticed. As is true even for younger children, sometimes negative attention is perceived as better than no attention.
- Appreciating Jesus as our Savior requires that the young people get in touch with their own need for salvation. Help them recognize and name the things in themselves that bog them down and keep them from living with joy.

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
- Missionary Initiation

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

Missionary Spirit

- Objectives: To recognize the centrality of evangelization as the Church's mission and identity embodied in vocation and service; to be aware of how cultures are transformed by the Gospel

Catholic Faith Literacy

Original Sin, Paschal Mystery

Catholic Social Teaching

To integrate Catholic Social Teaching into your lesson, choose one of the following features: Call to Family, Community, and Participation, pages 336–337; or Rights and Responsibilities of the Human Person, pages 338–339.

- Start the Live step of the process by talking about Saint Madeliene Sophie Barat on page 164. Then move directly to the Catholic Social Teaching feature.
- Or, to expand the lesson, complete page 164, then move to the Catholic Social Teaching feature.
- Return to Chapter 9 for the prayer on page 165.

Music Option

- Use the following song to enhance catechetical learning or for prayer.
 - "Lord, Your Love Is Everlasting," Live, Page 165

Catechist Instruction, Grade 7 – Chapter 9

Invite Page 155

Objective

- Reflect on God's personal invitation through Scripture

♥Let Us Pray

Invite the youth to gather in the prayer space and make the Sign of the Cross. Pray the leader prayer. Select a few volunteers to read aloud the Psalm verse. Prompt a response from the remainder of the group. Have the youth return to their seats.

Explain that the opening prayer reminds us of our need for mercy and forgiveness.

Say: Let's listen to God's Word and see how Jesus' sacrifice of love reconciled the world to God the Father.

† 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: The reading from Saint Paul's Letter to the Colossians addresses a central theme of Jesus' mission and ministry: our redemption. Because God so loved the world, he sent his only Son and saved us from sin and death.

- Invite the young people to respond to the questions.

Discover (1) Pages 158-159

Objectives

- Examine how sin and suffering came into the world
- Explore God's faithfulness in sending leaders and prophets to guide his People back to him

Original Holiness

Talk with the young people about the symbolism in the artwork on this page. Ask two volunteers to each read aloud one of the opening paragraphs.

- Have the youth discuss the question at the end of this section with a partner.

Work with Words

Come back to this section after reviewing all of the text on pages 158 and 159. Ask a volunteer to write the three Catholic Faith Words on the board.

- Invite the rest of the group to explain the terms based on what was covered in the lesson.
- To check their answers, have three volunteers each read aloud one of the definitions from the Catholic Faith Words box.

Forever Different

Remind the young people that Original Sin is not something we do; it is something we inherit.

Have the youth review this content with a partner.

- Ask each pair to prepare a summary statement of what they read.
- Invite volunteers to share their summaries with the group.

Offer your own overview of this section by saying:

- The result of Original Sin is that we live with the tendency to give in to temptation, disobey God, and commit sins.
- In spite of our actual sins, God loves us, forgives us, and keeps calling us back to him.
- God sent Jesus to call us back into right relationship with him and one another.

Activity

Read aloud the instructions.

- Arrange the participants in small groups to brainstorm and work on this activity together.
- Have each small group share their responses with the whole group.

Quick Review

Sin and suffering came into the world because of human action. God sent leaders, prophets, and ultimately sacrificed his Son, in order to guide his People back to him.

Discover (2) Pages 160-161

Objectives

- Identify Jesus' saving action as the only means by which we are saved from Original Sin and personal sin
- Compare and contrast Jesus, the new Adam, with the first Adam

Teaching Activity: Jesus Gives Us a Way

Participants will form a line that starts at God the Father and ends at Adam and Eve. They will pass paper hearts back and forth that represent God's love for us and our love for God. Young people will experience the break, or rupture, that sin creates in our relationship with God. They will see how Jesus, the Son of God, came to save and redeem the human race.

Before the Lesson

Materials Needed

✦ Go to aliveinchrist.osv.com and download Titles for Jesus and Catholic Faith Words pages
cross or crucifix, red and pink (or white) construction paper, a paper crown, pen, and tape

Preparation

- Post the Catholic Faith Words pages on the board for reference during the activity.
- Post the Titles for Jesus and their definitions around the room (Messiah, Christ, Redeemer, Savior, New Adam).
- Cut a red heart out of the red construction paper. Cut a pink (or white) heart out of construction paper.

Activity Directions

As the activity begins, choose three volunteers to play God, Adam, and Eve during the activity. Introduce the term *salvation* and ask a volunteer to read the definition from the board.

Say: We know that when God created human beings he wanted them to be able to live in total loving relationship with him. Gather the participants together and ask them to form a straight line. Place the volunteer you have selected to play God at the front of the line. Place the volunteers you have selected to play Adam and Eve at end of the line.

Say: Here's God on this side of the line and here's Adam and Eve at the other end of the line. Everyone in the line is part of a bridge. God loves Adam and Eve.

Ask the participants in the line to pass the red heart from God down to Adam and Eve.

Say: Adam and Eve return God's love.

Ask the participants in the line to pass the white or pink heart from Adam and Eve to God.

Say: When they choose to sin—to find life outside of their relationship with God—there is a rupture, a break in the relationship.

Ask two participants from the middle to step out of the line.

Say: Now, there is no way for Adam and Eve to be in total union with God. Everything is out of order. But God so loved us, Saint John says that he sent his only Son, to sacrifice his life for us so that we would know that God was willing to give everything to save us.

Give the large cross to the participants that are standing at the break in the line. Ask them to reconnect the line by holding part of the cross.

Say: Jesus gives us a way to have what God wanted for us from the beginning of creation—a life forever in his love. Jesus saves us from the sin that made that impossible, original sin, and continues to save us from our personal sin.

Ask the participants to resume passing the hearts down the line again and have them pass the hearts across the cross that connects them.

Say: We have many names for Jesus that describe who Jesus is or speak about what he did for us. As we listen to those titles and their definitions, we will write them on the crown that is a reminder that Jesus is our King.

While participants are reading the titles posted on the wall, have one volunteer write them on the crown. When the group is done, place the crown around the cross.

Extend the Lesson

If time allows, look online for an example of a monastic manuscript. Show the group the image you have found, focusing particularly on the beginning letters. Ask the youth to choose a title and illuminate the first letter of each word.

Discover (3) Pages 162-163

Objectives

- Identify the Paschal Mystery as Christ's work of Redemption
- Describe how the Church continues Jesus' saving actions

Jesus Brings New Life

With the help of several volunteers, read aloud the text on this page.

- Organize the participants into small groups and give each group a Bible.
- Direct the groups to look up the different Gospel accounts of Jesus' Passion to see how they are similar and how they are different.
- Ask the small groups to record their observations to share with the whole group.

Remind the young people that although Jesus was Divine, he was also human and he truly suffered, died, and was buried.

Discuss what is happening in the painting on page 162.

If time permits, review some of the following Catholic observations of Good Friday with the group:

Good Friday, the day that Christ died on the Cross, is the most somber day in the Church year. It is the second day of the Triduum—the three holiest days of the liturgical calendar. Catholics observe this by:

- participating in the parish Good Friday liturgy.
- venerating the cross by bowing, genuflecting, or touching or kissing it, which symbolizes bending our heart and soul before God.
- taking part in the Stations of the Cross.
- fasting as a sign of the public penance required of the Church on this day.

Jesus Continues to Save

Emphasize that Jesus' Paschal Mystery is present today in the forgiveness, healing, and new life offered through the Mass and the Seven Sacraments, especially in the Eucharist.

Have the youth silently read this section to themselves.

- Invite volunteers to share summaries of each of the paragraphs on this page.

Write the following Scripture passages from the New Testament teachings on forgiveness on the board or on chart paper:

- Matthew 6:9–15, The Lord's Prayer
- Luke 5:17–26, The Healing of a Paralytic 1 John 1:9, Acknowledging Our Sins
- Colossians 1:9–14, Prayer for Continued Progress • Matthew 18:21–35, Parable of the Unforgiving Servant
- Mark 1:2–11, Baptism of Repentance for the Forgiveness of Sins

- For an extra credit opportunity, have the young people select one of the passages to read and summarize.
- Invite them to bring back their summaries to share with the group at a later date.

In Summary

Have volunteers read aloud the summary statements. *Ask:* What does the new life that Jesus brings to us really mean? Through Jesus' sacrifice, we can now be forgiven for our sins and look forward to a life of happiness forever with God.

Extend the Lesson

Use **Activity Master 9: Our Redemption** to extend the lesson; it is not included in the timed estimate for this section of the Lesson Plan.

Live Pages 164-165

Objectives

- Explore forgiveness of ourselves and others as an act of faith in God's mercy
- Explore the faith life of Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat
- Offer the Prayer of Praise

Our Catholic Life

Have the youth silently read the content in the Our Catholic Life box.

- Ask them to reflect on the questions at the end of this section.

People of Faith

Explain to the young people that Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat helped to open over one hundred schools and convents in her lifetime.

- Read aloud the People of Faith paragraph.
- Review with the group the extra information in the People of Faith Background box.
- Invite the young people to pray that God will help them become the person he intends them to be.

Here are some additional details about Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat to assist you in presenting this section:

- Saint Madeleine was the Superior General of The Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. When a revolution caused the novitiate in Paris to close, Sister Sophie founded a new novitiate in Switzerland.
- From there the Society spread into other European nations and abroad. Among her best-known words of advice were, "Let us attach ourselves to God alone, and turn our eyes and our hopes to Him."

Activity

Ask the youth to read the directions; then allow them time to recall a past experience.

- Invite volunteers to share their real or fictional stories.
- Remind them that they are not required to share personal stories.

Prayer of Praise

♥ Appoint four readers.

- Give them an opportunity to review their sections.
- Set the prayer table by covering it with a white cloth and a crucifix.
- Invite the youth to stand.
- *Call them to prayer with these words:* God, bless us with your grace as we seek forgiveness and as we seek to forgive others. • Follow the order of prayer on the prayer page.

► Conclude by playing the song, or inviting the youth to sing, "Lord, Your Love Is Everlasting," 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 9 Lesson Plan

Objectives	Process	Materials
Invite, 15 minutes		
Christ Our Savior Page 155	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Psalm 138:8 Pray the opening prayer. Colossians 1:15, 19–22 Guide the youth through the process of Scripture reflection. • Discuss Have You Ever Thought questions. 	
Discover, 45 minutes		
Original Holiness Pages 158–159 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine how sin and suffering came into the world • Explore God’s faithfulness in sending leaders and prophets to guide his People back to him 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk about the cause and consequences of Original Sin. • Discuss God’s guidance. • Activity Talk about Original Sin in today’s world. 	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens <input type="checkbox"/> board or chart paper
God So Loved the World Pages 160–161 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify Jesus’ saving action as the only means by which we are saved from Original Sin and personal sin • Compare and contrast Jesus, the new Adam, with the first Adam 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching Activity Participants will form a line that starts at God the Father and ends at Adam and Eve. They will pass paper hearts back and forth that represent God’s love for us and our love for God. 	Titles for Jesus, Catholic Faith Words <input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens <input type="checkbox"/> tape <input type="checkbox"/> cross or crucifix, red and pink (or white) construction paper, a paper crown
Jesus Brings New Life Pages 162–163 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the Paschal Mystery as Christ’s work of Redemption • Describe how the Church continues Jesus’ saving actions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the Paschal Mystery. • Explain how Jesus continues his saving actions today. • Activity Master Our Redemption 	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens <input type="checkbox"/> board or chart paper <input type="checkbox"/> Bibles Activity Master 9
Live, 15 minutes		
Our Catholic Life Page 164	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the question in the Our Catholic Life section. • People of Faith Learn about Saint Madeleine Sophie Barat. • Activity Consider how good things can come from bad experiences. 	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens
Prayer of Praise Page 165	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assign four readers. • Follow the order of prayer. 	“Lord, Your Love Is Everlasting”

CATHOLIC FAITH WORDS

Original Holiness, Original Sin, personal sin, salvation, Paschal Mystery

ASSESSMENT

Chapter Review, Page 166

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Name _____

Date _____

Our Redemption

The reading from Saint Paul's Letter to the Colossians (1:15–22) addresses a central theme of Jesus' mission and ministry: our redemption. We are a people in need of being saved.

Identify "evidence" or examples that indicate we are a people in need of reconciliation. Specifically, focus on ways that we (either as individuals or human beings in general) treat each other and treat God's creation.

What does it mean to be reconciled with God?

How does Jesus help us to be reconciled with God?

Name _____

Date _____

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

1. Jesus made eternal life with God the Father possible by _____.
 - a. the Sacrament of Reconciliation
 - b. the practice of fasting
 - c. the Paschal Mystery
 - d. Original Sin
2. The Paschal Mystery is Christ's work of ____ through his Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension.
 - a. Original Sin
 - b. healing
 - c. suffering
 - d. Redemption
3. We call ____ the Messiah because he was sent by God the Father to fulfill his promise to redeem his People.
 - a. Jesus
 - b. John the Baptist
 - c. Peter
 - d. Martha
4. The Church has the power to forgive our sins committed after Baptism through _____.
 - a. the Old Testament prophecies
 - b. the Sacrament of Reconciliation
 - c. Mosaic Law
 - d. the Book of Genesis

Write the word or phrase that best completes each sentence.

5. The term "Anointed One" refers to the Greek word _____.
6. _____ is the sin of our first parents that introduced sin, suffering, and death into the world.
7. Because Jesus, in his humanity, remained faithful to God the Father, he is called the _____.
8. _____ is the loving action of God's forgiveness of sins and the restoration of friendship with the Father brought by Jesus Christ.
9. A deliberate thought, word, deed, or omission that violates the law of God is called _____.

Write a response on the lines below.

10. Describe the Original Holiness of the first humans.

Messiah—a Hebrew word that means “anointed,” showing he is chosen and empowered. This word was used by Christians to refer to Jesus as “the Much-Awaited Anointed One from God.”

Christ—a Greek word
that translates the Hebrew
word Messiah. It means “the
Anointed One.”

Redeemer—Jesus is the Redeemer of the World. God accomplished once and for all his plan of salvation by Jesus' redemptive Death.

New Adam—Jesus is called the “New Adam.” Adam was unfaithful to God, but Jesus remained faithful to God, even when he was tempted.

Catholic Faith Words

salvation the loving action of God's forgiveness of sins and the restoration of friendship with the Father brought by Jesus Christ.