

# Lesson Plan, Grade 8 - Chapter 2

## Catechist Background

### Doctrinal Content

- God's revelation is contained in his written word of Scripture and in the Sacred Tradition of the Church passed down from Jesus; entrusted to the Apostles; and safeguarded by them and their successors, the bishops. Together, they make up one source of Divine Revelation, or deposit of faith. (CCC, 75– 80, 84)
- Faith is both a gift from God and a free human choice and action. Faith is an individual act and an act of the Church as a whole; the faith of the Church nourishes and strengthens the faith of each of us. (CCC, 153, 176, 181)
- Faith makes a difference in our lives; others can see by the way we live that we believe in God. The three Theological Virtues help us to believe in God, trust in his plan for us, and love him as he loves us. (CCC, 1812–1813)

### Catechist Background

"What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well,' but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it? So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead." —James 2:14–17

**Reflect** How can we make a difference in the lives of others by living our faith?

Hard-wired into each of us is the desire to know where we came from and why we are here. God has revealed these truths to us in the books of Sacred Scripture. Yet understanding and applying what God has revealed requires more than just reading the Bible. This totally free self-revelation requires a response on our part, and that response is faith. Faith is a gift from God that calls for acceptance on the part of each individual. We accept the gift of faith by accepting all that God has revealed to us and by believing in him and his will for us. We accept the gift of faith, in part, by trying to live according to God's commands. What we believe and how we live directly influence one another in an ongoing cycle.

Living faithfully is not always easy, especially in a world that often urges us to make choices that are contrary to the Gospel. That is where the Church, as the guardian of Sacred Tradition, comes in. The Church helps us maintain our fidelity by illuminating what God has taught in the Scriptures, by strengthening us with the Sacraments, and by lifting us up when we fail. In addition, the Church gives us the support of a community that nourishes and inspires us.

**Reflect** When are some times you have responded to God's revelation by believing and trusting in him?

### **Catechist's Prayer**

God of Love, you have made yourself known to us through words and actions. Help me to have faith in you and to respond by sharing my belief in you with the children I teach. Amen.

### **Sharing the Message**

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

The New Testament Scriptures and the Sacred Tradition of the Church may seem so distant to some of the youth that they may question why they would trust these as sources of God's Revelation any more than other things, such as their own feelings or the views of other religious groups. This is especially true in an age of relativism, where proclaiming a "truth" is sometimes considered "judging" others.

#### **Teaching Tip**

Point out that the human authors of Sacred Scripture, and the Apostles who handed down Sacred Tradition, died defending and proclaiming their teachings. Sometimes people can be deceptive, but they don't die for things they know are not true.

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

Younger adolescents tend to think in extreme terms—either you have faith or you don't. The concept that faith and doubt can coexist in the same person is a reality they have yet to embrace.

- With this mindset, some teens tend to form judgments about other people's belief systems—for example, "if you don't see things my way, you are wrong."
- Helping the young people relate and connect the basic beliefs of Scripture and doctrine to their own lives increases their appreciation and understanding of it. It might also help them to be less judgmental.

### **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**

Church, faith, virtue

## **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 Option for the Poor and Vulnerable, pages 340–341.

- Start the Live step of the process by talking about Saint Thomas on page 72. Then move directly to the Catholic Social Teaching feature.
- Or, to expand the lesson, complete page 72, then move to the Catholic Social Teaching feature.
- Return to Chapter 2 for the prayer on page 73.

## **Music Option**

- Use the following song to enhance catechetical learning or for prayer.
  - "Open My Eyes," Live, Page 73

# Catechist Instruction, Grade 8 – Chapter 2

## Invite Page 63

### Objective

- Reflect on God's personal invitation through Scripture

### ♥Let Us Pray

Have the young people gather in the prayer space and make the Sign of the Cross. Pray the leader prayer. Invite the youth to pray the Psalm together. Prompt the group's response. Have the young people return to their seats.

Explain that the Lord, who is always present with us, will increase our faith and guide us as we learn how to best share his love with others.

*Say:* Let's listen to God's Word and learn about the connection between faith and works.

### † 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:* Faith is a gift from God but it is also our choice to accept God's invitation to share in his life.

- Invite the young people to respond to the questions.

## Discover (1) Pages 66-67

### Objectives

- Discover how the message of Jesus' saving action was first communicated through the Apostles and then the Gospels
- Identify how the Church continues to proclaim the Good News of salvation
- Recognize that Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition together are sources of God's Divine Revelation

### Teaching Activity: Handing Down Jesus' Teaching

Participants will form a line that represents how the Church helps us understand who God is and our relationship with him through Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition.

#### Before the Lesson

##### Materials Needed

✚ Go to **aliveinchrist.osv.com** and download the Holy Spirit Prayer page, and Catholic Faith Words page  
a Bible, several sacred objects from around the church (a Vatican Council II book, a copy of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, a loaf of bread, and a chalice), two cardboard boxes, marker, poster board, scissors, and tape

##### Preparation

- Post the Catholic Faith Word page on the board for reference during the activity.
- Write the phrase *treasure chest* on the outside of one cardboard box and place the sacred objects near it for use during the activity.
- Write the word *God* on the outside of the other cardboard box
- Create the outline of a computer monitor using the poster board.
- Print copies of the prayer page for use during the activity.
- Choose a volunteer from the group to play the role of God the Father.
- Search the web for an image of an electronic transformer surrounded by a fence with warning signs on it. Print out the image for use during the activity.

##### Activity Directions

Begin the activity by showing the group the image of an electrical transformer with fences and warning signs.

Ask: Why do you think this electrical transformer is so protected? ***The electricity there is so intense is a human touched it they would die.***

Point to the power lines in the image and show the young people how the power lines connect to the electrical transformer.

Say: The electricity that runs from the transformer to the power lines is decreased as it's brought through those lines to an outlet in your homes so you that you can use a computer without it frying!

Invite the volunteer that is role playing as God the Father to come up and stand over the cardboard box that has the word *God* on it.

Say: God's intense power could be compared to the electrical transformer.

Ask another volunteer to hold up the poster board that you have made into a computer monitor.

*Say:* This computer monitor was created with the capacity to receive electricity, but only in a way it could receive it without it being too much.

Have the young people line up in two lines facing each other beginning at God and ending at the monitor.

*Say:* God reveals himself to us in ways that we can understand without being overwhelmed by his power and glory. One of the ways he reveals himself is in his Word, Sacred Scripture. The Holy Spirit opens our hearts to receive God's Word. Give a Bible to "God" and tell "God" to hand it to the first person in one line who will pass it on to the next person, and then the next, etc. until it reaches the computer monitor.

*Say:* God also chooses to reveal himself to us through Sacred Tradition. Ask a volunteer to read the definition for *Sacred Tradition* from the board. Take the box labeled *treasure chest* and you continue to speak as you place objects in box.

*Say:* Sacred Tradition is the teaching of Jesus handed down verbally through the Church's Creeds, Sacraments, and other teachings. One of the ways that the Church interprets and applies Sacred Tradition is by gathering bishops in councils to speak about the faith of the Church, her teachings, and important issues. In all these ways, the Holy Spirit guides the Church as she hands down the teaching of Jesus.

Give the box or chest to the first person in the other line and have them pass it down to the monitor.

*Say:* The gift of our Catholic faith is truly a treasure that has been handed down to each of us. People have been tortured and kill because of their faith. People in many countries walk miles for the chance to go to Mass. Other people give up years of their life to bring our faith to others as missionaries. A great price has been paid so that our Catholic faith is here for you. Let's take a minute to give thanks.

Hand out the downloaded prayer and have the children read it together before returning to their seats.

### **Extend the Lesson**

Use **Activity Master 2: Living by Faith** to extend the lesson; it is not included in the timed estimate for this section of the Lesson Plan.

## **Discover (2) Pages 68-69**

### **Objectives**

- Identify faith as a gift from God and a personal response to that gift
- Explore how the Church supports the faith of her members
- Understand that Sacred Tradition is safeguarded by the Church and interpreted by the Magisterium

Read aloud the opening question. Elicit the young peoples' responses.

### **We Respond in Faith**

Invite the youth to think about receiving presents.

- *Ask:* What was one of your all-time favorite gifts?
- Invite group sharing of gift-giving stories.

*Say:* Now we are going to talk about a gift God has given us—the capacity to know him. He invites us to accept this gift, the gift of faith, and we are free to accept or reject it.

Invite volunteers to read aloud the paragraphs on this page as well as the one at the top of page 69.

- Facilitate a discussion on the question at the end of this section.

### **† Scripture Background**

#### **Faith**

Faith tells us that God is with us even in the darkest or most confusing moments of our lives. Mark 9:14–29 emphasizes the Gospel writer's overall focus of urging those who are being persecuted to put their complete trust in God. The father in this passage utters the words we can make part of our daily lives: "I do believe, help my unbelief!" The Gospel according to Mark strives to respond to two basic questions: "Who is Jesus?" and "What does it mean to be his disciple?" The journey of faith is our willingness to spend a lifetime seeking the answers and trusting that God is with us in the process.

#### **Belief: An Act of the Church**

Organize the youth into groups of four and spread them out around the room.

- Give the groups an opportunity to read the information on page 69, including the graphic organizer: Topics of Vatican II.
- Encourage participation by having different members of the smaller groups to read different sections aloud to the large group.
- Offer an opportunity for comments and questions to be shared with the large group.

**Activity**

Read aloud the directions.

- This might be a good activity to work on as a group.
- Invite the youth to call out answers while a volunteer writes them on the board or on chart paper.
- Then have the young people pick five of the ideas to write down.

**Quick Review**

Our faith in God flows from the faith of the Church. The faith of the Church offers us support and helps us grow stronger in our personal faith.

**Discover (3) Pages 70-71****Objectives**

- Discuss how faith made a difference in the lives of people in Sacred Scripture
- Examine how the three Theological Virtues help us to believe in God, trust in his plan, and love him as he loves us

Invite the youth to reflect on the opening question.

**Strength through Faith**

Review with the group the two paragraphs in this section.

**The Effects of Faith**

Ask five volunteers to each read aloud one of the entries in the chart.

\* Have the young people place a check mark next to the person whose experience they most identify with.

- After they have had some time to respond, allow volunteers to share whom they chose and why.

Continue reviewing the text in the Strength through Faith section with the group.

- Allow volunteers to read aloud the bullet points that describe the Theological Virtues.
- Facilitate a discussion on the question about love at the end of the section.

**† Scripture**

Have a student read aloud the Scripture passage from Luke.

- Ask: What do you think Jesus is telling his followers in this passage?



## **† Scripture Background**

### **1 Corinthians 13:1–13**

Couples preparing for marriage will often choose this passage for one of the readings in their ceremony during the Rite of Marriage. As they publically commit to helping each other grow in holiness through their love for one another in the Sacrament of Marriage, so too all of God's People experience a oneness in God's love. This passage is a shift in perspective from the chapter that comes before (one body, many parts) and the one that follows (the gifts of prophecy and tongues). In the midst of a discussion with the people of Corinth about the importance of their gifts, comes the reminder of the greatest gift of all: God's love.

### **In Summary**

Have the youth silently read the summary information.

- Ask them to identify and share times when faith has made a difference in their lives.
- If they don't want to share this information, invite them to journal their thoughts.

## **Live Pages 72-73**

### **Objectives**

- Examine the importance of good works
- Explore the faith life of Saint Thomas
- Offer the Celebration of the Word prayer

Invite the young people to reflect on some ways they can show their gratitude to God for what he has given them.

### **Our Catholic Life**

Review the Our Catholic Life information with the youth.

- Impress upon them the importance of honoring human dignity because we are all made in God's image.
- Have participants share their responses to the question at the end of this section with a partner.

### **People of Faith**

Explain to the young people that Saint Thomas gave his life for Christ.

- Read aloud the People of Faith paragraph.
- Share some of the points of interest on India, where Saint Thomas preached, from the People of Faith Background box.
- Discuss how we, and others, might turn doubts to belief.

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

- Tradition says that after Pentecost, Thomas preached in India.
- India is one of the oldest civilizations in the world, dating back at least 5,000 years. India has a population of over 1 billion people.
- India is home to two Eastern Catholic Churches, including the Syro-Malabar Catholic Church of the Chaldean Tradition, with approximately 4 million members.

### **Activity**

Read aloud the activity instructions.

- Have the youth work independently to come up with their questions.
- Invite volunteers to share which Saint they imagined and what they would like to ask.

### **Celebration of the Word**

♥ Ask the participants to prepare the room for the prayer service and to assign their own leader.

- You might also ask another volunteer to read the Gospel.
- Allow the leader time to review his/her lines.
- Begin with the Sign of the Cross and follow the order of prayer on the prayer page.

► Conclude by inviting the young people to sing or reflect on the song “Open My Eyes,” 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 2 Lesson Plan

Objectives	Process	Materials
<b>Invite, 15 minutes</b>		
<b>Revelation and Faith</b> Page 63	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>Psalm 16:11</b> Pray the opening prayer.</li> <li> <b>James 2:14–17</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>God Made Known</b> Pages 66–67 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discover how the message of Jesus' saving action was first communicated through the Apostles and then the Gospels</li> <li>• Identify how the Church continues to proclaim the Good News of salvation</li> <li>• Recognize that Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition together are sources of God's Divine Revelation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Teaching Activity</b> Form a line that represents how the Church helps us understand who God is and our relationship with him through Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition.</li> <li>• <b>Activity Master</b> Living by Faith</li> </ul>	Holy Spirit Prayer, Catholic Faith Words, Activity Master 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Bible</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> scissors, markers, tape, sacred objects, 2 cardboard boxes, poster board, image of electrical transformer</li> </ul>
<b>We Respond in Faith</b> Pages 68–69 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify faith as a gift from God and a personal response to that gift</li> <li>• Explore how the Church supports the faith of her members</li> <li>• Understand that Sacred Tradition is safeguarded by the Church and interpreted by the Magisterium</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss what it means to have faith.</li> <li>• Review topics from Vatican II.</li> <li>• <b>Activity</b> Identify five important things that help us grow in faith.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Bibles</li> </ul>
<b>Strength through Faith</b> Pages 70–71 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss how faith made a difference in the lives of people in Sacred Scripture</li> <li>• Examine how the three Theological Virtues help us to believe in God, trust in his plan, and love him as he loves us</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss how the three Theological Virtues point us toward God.</li> <li> Read <b>Luke 17:5–6</b>.</li> <li>★ Youth will indicate a person of faith whose experience they identify with.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens</li> </ul>
<b>Live, 15 minutes</b>		
<b>Our Catholic Life</b> Page 72	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss the Our Catholic Life question.</li> <li>• <b>People of Faith</b> Learn about Saint Thomas.</li> <li>• <b>Activity</b> Write questions for a Saint about his/her relationship with God.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens</li> </ul>
<b>Celebration of the Word</b> Page 73	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invite youth to prepare the prayer space.</li> <li>• Follow the order of prayer.</li> </ul>	"Open My Eyes"

## CATHOLIC FAITH WORDS

Sacred Tradition, faith, Church, councils, virtue, Theological Virtues

## ASSESSMENT

Chapter Review, Page 74

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Living by Faith

Think about some of the people who showed their faith in God from the Old Testament and the New Testament. Pick a couple and write about their situations. Then compare their situations to modern day challenges and struggles that people your age face.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Explain how stories from the Bible can teach you how to demonstrate and live your faith today. Share your ideas with a classmate or someone from home.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

1. A strong habit of doing good that helps us make good moral decisions is known as a \_\_\_\_\_.  
 a. habit                      b. virtue                      c. faith                      d. test of faith
2. \_\_\_\_ is both a gift from God and a free human response to believe in God.  
 a. Belief                      b. Faith                      c. Tradition                      d. Mercy
3. The community of baptized believers, or the \_\_\_\_, believes in God and follows Jesus.  
 a. council                      b. priests                      c. Church                      d. Tradition
4. \_\_\_\_ helps us interpret Scripture and apply it to the circumstances of our time.  
 a. Tradition                      b. Faith                      c. Virtue                      d. The Bible

Complete each sentence with the correct term.

5. The \_\_\_\_\_—faith, hope, and charity (love)—are the three virtues from which all other virtues flow.
6. In \_\_\_\_\_, the Church sets down in writing the important beliefs that are central for living a life of faith.
7. One of the ways that the Church interprets and explains Sacred Tradition is by gathering bishops in \_\_\_\_\_ to speak about the faith and teachings of the Church.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ is God's Word to the Church, safeguarded by the Apostles and handed down to future generations in her Creeds, Sacraments, and other teachings.

Write a response on the lines below.

9. How can worship help people say "yes" to God?

---



---



---

10. Explain this sentence: "Faith is your response to God's invitation to share in his life."

---



---



---

Holy Spirit, help us to understand and be grateful for the Catholic faith that has been given to us. Open our hearts so that we may begin to recognize both the gift and responsibility it is to be Catholic in a world that may not help us to see the value of religion or even faith. Bless us with many good examples of faith-filled people. Amen.

# Catholic Faith Words

**Sacred Tradition** is God's Word to the Church, safeguarded by the Apostles and their successors, the bishops, and handed down verbally—in her Creeds, Sacraments, and other teachings—to future generations.