

# Lesson Plan, Grade 8 - Chapter 1

## Catechist Background

### Doctrinal Content

- God made humans in his image and likeness so we could be in relationship with him. (CCC 35, 45)
- With a soul, reason, and free will, humans can set their priority and direction in life toward friendship with God. Jesus is the model for living out this relationship. (CCC, 356, 357)
- Through the accounts of creation and the establishment of the covenant, we learn that God is faithful to all humans, even when they sin. (CCC, 346)
- Natural and revealed law helps us live out the covenant and grow closer to God. (CCC, 1954–1974)

### Catechist Background

God created mankind in his image; in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and God said to them: Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that crawl on the earth. ...God looked at everything he had made, and found it very good. —Genesis 1:27–28, 31

**Reflect** What does it mean to you to be created in God's image?

Human beings were created to be in relationship. It is part of our nature. Because we were created by a God who is himself a communion of Persons—and created for the expressed purpose of union with our creator—how could it be otherwise? There is a natural inclination within each of us to be with others. When those relationships are defined by justice and love, they become what God intended them to be. When they are defined by selfishness and abuse, they become disordered.

We find in the Old Testament that God's People struggled to maintain just and right relationships with him and others. He continued to love them despite their shortcomings, and he established a covenant with them as an indication of their unique relationship with him. He also provided laws for them to follow, and he continued to affirm this covenant with his Chosen People. He remained faithful to the covenant, and chose leaders and prophets to call the Israelites to be faithful to the covenant, too. Through the law, most notably revealed in the Ten Commandments, God gave his people loving instruction and direction on what their relationships with him and others should be like. All of his laws are based on love and helping his people know his will.

**Reflect** How do the relationships in your life help you come to know God better?

### **Catechist's Prayer**

God our loving Father, be with those who seek to pass along their love for you and the Church to others. Bless us as catechists that we may faithfully and honorably share your truth with the children in our care. In Jesus' name. Amen.

### **Sharing the Message**

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

Eighth-graders may still understand God's law as a list of "dos and don'ts," rather than an invitation to relationship. They will be more open to God's law when they understand his great love for them and how the law of God helps them be the people they were meant to be.

### **Teaching Tip**

All schools have rules about how students should interact with each other. Ask the young people to name some of the rules at their schools about physical fighting, name-calling, etc. Now ask them if they would need reminders of these rules when they are spending time with their closest friends or whether they would follow these rules naturally. Talk about how when our relationship with God and others is as it should be, we naturally follow God's law, not because we are forced to, but because we want to.

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

As they expand their relationships and social responsibilities, younger adolescents are beginning to grapple with the expectations of others, including the sometimes-conflicting expectations of family members and peers.

- Eighth-graders want to believe in a God who is bigger and more in control than they are, yet they also seek a God who is an intimate, understanding, and very personal companion.
- One of the greatest things you can communicate to a young person is that he or she is made in God's image and likeness. When teens begin to see themselves and others as precious children of God rather than objects to be used, they grow greatly in their sense of self-worth and in their ability to love generously.

### **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**

covenant, Ten Commandments

**Catholic Social Teaching**

To integrate Catholic Social Teaching into your lesson, choose one of the following features: Rights and Responsibility 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 Marcella on page 60. Then move directly to the Catholic Social Teaching feature.
- Or, to expand the lesson, complete page 60, then move to the Catholic Social Teaching feature.
- Return to Chapter 1 for the prayer on page 61.

**Music Option**

- Use the following song to enhance catechetical learning or for prayer.
  - "Almighty Creator," Live, Page 61

# Catechist Instruction, Grade 8 – Chapter 1

## Invite Page 51

### 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.

Invite a volunteer to read aloud the Psalm verse. Prompt the group's response.

Have the young people return to their seats.

*Say:* Because God wanted to have a relationship with us based on our ability to choose, he made us different from the rest of creation. Let's listen to what the Bible says about how God created man in his image and likeness.

### † 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 purpose of our life is to grow in total union with God so that we will experience that union for all of eternity.

- Invite the young people to respond to the questions.

## Discover (1) Pages 54-55

### Objectives

- Recognize that we are made to be in relationship with God
- Identify ways humans are different from the rest of the created world
- Examine Jesus' relationship with God the Father and apply it to our own lives

### Joined with God

Tell the young people:

- God wants us to have a relationship with him.
- We are challenged to discover what is really important in life and how to build our lives around what really matters.

## Our Purpose

As a group, brainstorm ways we differ from the rest of the created world.

- Create a list on chart paper. Hang the list where it can be seen.

Invite three volunteers to read aloud the paragraphs in this section.

- Give the group an opportunity to identify the connection between their list and the contents of the paragraphs. Allow them to add to the list.

Emphasize the last paragraph in this section and discuss the question.

## Jesus' Example

Have the young people silently read the paragraphs on pages 54 and 55.

- Ask them to underline the key point in each paragraph.
- Review the key points as a group, making sure that the youth understand that Jesus is our model for being in relationship with God the Father.

## † Scripture

Invite a volunteer to proclaim the Scripture.

- Ask: What was Jesus telling the disciples with these words? ***Possible response: that they should not be constantly worried about material concerns; that they should focus more on God's Kingdom.***

## † Scripture Background

### Matthew 6:26–33

Matthew wants us to know that Jesus is the Messiah promised to the Jewish people. This Gospel emphasizes the love that is centered in Jesus' teachings and the relationship we are called to have with God the Father.

- This Scripture passage reminds us not to be a slave to the world's ideas of treasures.
- Blessed are the meek, and those who mourn, the poor, the merciful, the clean of heart, the peacemakers, and those who are persecuted. These are the treasures God values.

## Activity

Read aloud the directions.

- Have the youth work independently on completing the activity.
- Allow volunteers to share the different ways they are "like" Christ.

## Quick Review

We are made in the image of God, who wants us to live in relationship with him. Jesus is our model for being in right relationship with God the Father.

## Extend the Lesson

Use **Activity Master 1: Intergenerational Sharing** to extend the lesson; it is not included in the timed estimate for this section of the Lesson Plan.

## Discover (2) Pages 56-57

### Objectives

- Discuss the covenant, or sacred promise, made between God and humans • Recognize God's faithfulness to humans even when we sin

### Teaching Activity: Faithful to the Covenant

Young people will watch a video clip of *Cinderella Man* that helps to illustrate God's promise to his People. They will then review how some Old Testament figures lived in a covenant relationship with God.

### Before the Lesson

#### Materials Needed:

✪ Go to **aliveinchrist.osv.com** and download the Living Out The Covenant descriptions, Catholic Faith Words page, and play the *Cinderella Man* video clip tape sticky notes and markers

### Preparation

- Post the Catholic Faith Words page on the board for reference during the activity.
- Write the following names onto separate sticky notes and post them on one side of the room: Noah, The Chosen People, Moses, Ruth, Solomon, Susana, Jeremiah
- Print the Living Out the Covenant descriptions for use during the activity.
- Cue the video clip that will be shown to the group.  
Cinderella Man Video Clip  
Video Link:  
<http://www.wingclips.com/movie-clips/cinderella-man/stealing-sausage>

### Activity Directions

Begin the activity by pointing out the definition from the Catholic Faith Words page that is posted on the board. Remind the young people that a *covenant* is a sacred promise, a promise between God and his people.

*Say:* God continues to be faithful to his People, and to each of us individually—even when we make bad choices. Let's watch a clip from the movie *Cinderella Man*.

After viewing the clip, invite a group discussion about how this sacred promise between a father and a son is like God's covenant with us.

One at a time, read the descriptions of people in the Bible who lived out the covenant to the group. After you've read each description, stop and ask a volunteer to grab the sticky note of the person's name that he or she thinks you have described. Have the volunteer place the sticky note on the description of that person.

There may be some confusion between Susanna and Ruth, as the youth may not be as familiar with these stories. Poll the participants and ask them if they are familiar with the stories of these biblical figures.

Say: God has called you by name and made a sacred promise to love you and be faithful to you. Think about that Dad asking his son to make a promise. What will you promise in response to God's call to you? Return to your seats and write your response at the bottom of page 57.

## **Discover (3) Pages 58-59**

### **Objectives**

- Discover how God's Law guides us to live in his image and follow the covenant
- Understand that natural and revealed law guide us in faithful living

Read aloud the question and elicit responses from the group.

- Have a volunteer record the responses on the board or on chart of paper.

### **Guided by the Law**

Ask two volunteers to read aloud the opening paragraphs.

- Emphasize the point that natural moral law is written by God in our hearts. It is accessible through our God-given reason and shows that each person created in God's image has a fundamental human dignity.

### **Laws of Love**

Review the section on revealed law with the group. Involve several of the young people by assigning the bullet points to different readers.

- Tell the youth to underline the sentences they think are most important in the readings.
- Provide time for them to share what they noted as most important and why.

Continue the review of the content by enlisting the help of volunteers in covering the bullet points under Natural law.

- Read aloud the definitions for *Ten Commandments* and *Decalogue*.
- Point out that the Ten Commandments guide us, not only in regard to serious sin, but also in matters that are less serious.

## **† Scripture Background**

### **The Ten Commandments**

As noted in the student book, the Ten Commandments can be found in Exodus 20:2–17 and Deuteronomy 5:6–21. In other places in the Old Testament, we find these laws summarized into love of God and love of neighbor. (See Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18.) In Jesus' time, Jews may have already combined the two into a Great Commandment as Jesus did in his response to the question "Which commandment is

the greatest?" Jesus tells his listeners that love of God, neighbor, and self are the basis for and fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets. (See Matthew 22:34–40.)

**Activity**

Read the instructions to the group.

- Have the young people complete the activity individually.
- Review the correct answers together.

**In Summary**

Have volunteers read aloud the opening sentence and each of the three summary points. • Discuss how the Ten Commandments help us maintain our friendship with God.



## **Live Pages 60-61**

### **Objectives**

- Apply the Ten Commandments to personal attitudes and actions
- Explore the faith life of Saint Marcella
- Offer the Prayer of Petition

### **Our Catholic Life**

Ask a volunteer to read aloud this section.

- Have the participants work in groups of two or three to discuss how the Ten Commandments apply to the lives of people their age.
- Discuss the questions as a group.

### **People of Faith**

Explain to the youth that Saint Marcella lived in a way that helped her grow in relationship with God.

- Read aloud the People of Faith paragraph.
- Review with the group the People of Faith Background box.
- Share with the young people that Saint Marcella gave up many of the comforts of life to give herself to God and his work.

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

- Saint Jerome gave her and the women who met at her mansion guidance about spiritual matters. Marcella learned from Saint Jerome, but was never afraid to stand up to him in arguments.
- When the Goths looted Rome in A.D. 410, they tortured Marcella. They wanted her treasure. But they let her go when they learned that she had given all her money to the poor.

### **Activity**

Read the activity introduction and question.

- Give the youth time to reflect on and respond to the prompt.

### **Prayer of Petition**

♥ Ask four volunteers to serve as the readers. You will be the leader.

- Give the youth a few minutes to read over their assigned passages. Remind them to read slowly and reverently.
- Set up a prayer table and place on it symbols or pictures of creation and a Bible opened to Genesis 1:24–31.
- Ask the young people to gather around the prayer table. • Follow the order of prayer on the prayer page.

► Conclude by inviting the young people to sing or reflect on the song “Almighty Creator,” downloaded from **[aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://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 1 Lesson Plan


Objectives	Process	Materials
<b>Invite, 15 minutes</b>		
<b>In God's Image</b> Page 51	 <b>Psalm 139:14</b> Pray the opening prayer.  <b>Genesis 1:27–28, 31</b> Guide the youth through the process of Scripture reflection. • Discuss Have You Ever Thought questions.	
<b>Discover, 45 minutes</b>		
<b>Joined with God</b> Pages 54–55 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognize that we are made to be in relationship with God</li> <li>• Identify ways humans are different from the rest of the created world</li> <li>• Examine Jesus' relationship with God the Father and apply it to our own lives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brainstorm ways humans differ from the rest of creation.</li> <li>• Review key points on Jesus' relationship with God the Father.</li> </ul>  Read <b>Matthew 6:26–33</b> . <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Activity</b> Name characteristics that are "like" Christ.</li> <li>• <b>Activity Master</b> Intergenerational Sharing</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens <input type="checkbox"/> board or chart paper <input type="checkbox"/> Bible  Activity Master 1
<b>Called to Covenant</b> Pages 56–57 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss the covenant, or sacred promise, made between God and humans</li> <li>• Recognize God's faithfulness to humans even when we sin</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Teaching Activity</b> Young people will watch a video to help illustrate God's promise to his People and review examples of covenant relationships in the Old Testament.</li> </ul>	 <i>Cinderella Man</i> Video Clip, Living Out the Covenant, Catholic Faith Words <input type="checkbox"/> sticky notes <input type="checkbox"/> markers
<b>Guided by the Law</b> Pages 58–59 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discover how God's Law guides us to live in his image and follow the covenant</li> <li>• Understand that natural and revealed law guide us in faithful living</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss how the Commandments help us maintain God's friendship.</li> <li>• <b>Activity</b> Identify the correct number of each Commandment.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens
<b>Live, 15 minutes</b>		
<b>Our Catholic Life</b> Page 60	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss the questions in the Our Catholic Life section.</li> <li>• <b>People of Faith</b> Learn about Saint Marcella.</li> <li>• <b>Activity</b> Identify expectations for seeing the image of God in others.</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens
<b>Prayer of Petition</b> Page 61	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask four volunteers to be readers.</li> <li>• Follow the order of prayer.</li> </ul>	 "Almighty Creator"

## CATHOLIC FAITH WORDS

soul, free will, covenant, Ten Commandments, Decalogue

## ASSESSMENT

Chapter Review, Page 62

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Intergenerational Sharing

Take an opportunity to learn some things from your grandparents, a favorite aunt or uncle, or an older person who plays an important role in your life.

Tell the important elder in your life that you have some questions from class that you would like to discuss with him or her.

Ask your chosen person if he or she would like to have the discussion over lunch or dinner or simply find a comfortable place to sit and talk.

Give your relative or friend a copy of the questions you want to discuss before your outing. Think about how you would answer these questions.

How do I know what is really important?

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What is my purpose in life?

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How do I know the right way to live?

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What I wish I had more wisdom about:

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

## Column A

- \_\_\_\_ 1. Sacred promise or agreement between humans or between God and humans
- \_\_\_\_ 2. Ten Commandments
- \_\_\_\_ 3. Spiritual principle of a human that will exist forever
- \_\_\_\_ 4. God-given freedom and ability to choose and make decisions

## Column B

- a. Decalogue
- b. covenant
- c. soul
- d. free will

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

5. Natural law, like the Ten Commandments, guides us in making choices. **True/False**

\_\_\_\_\_

6. The prophet Noah constantly reminded the people that God would take away their hardened hearts and replace them with a new heart. **True/False**

\_\_\_\_\_

7. It is your soul that makes it possible for you to think, reason, and judge. **True/False**

\_\_\_\_\_

8. God chose Moses to lead his people out of Egypt and gave him the Ten Commandments. **True/False**

\_\_\_\_\_

Write a response on the lines below.

9. How does natural law serve as the foundation for the rights and responsibilities all humans share?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

10. Explain how intellect helps people live out their covenant relationship of love.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

With his family, he trusted that God would keep them safe through the flood. God made a covenant with him never to wash away all living creatures on Earth again.

They were the descendants of Abraham and Sarah, and God promised to make of them a great nation. Even when they turned from God, they were forgiven and called back to the covenant.

God saved him from his abandonment as an infant and raised him to lead the people of Israel in rebellion against their Egyptian captors. He then led the people out of Egypt and through the Red Sea when God parted the water. God gave him the Ten Commandments as a sign of his covenant love.



She was a Moabite who became part of the Chosen People through marriage. She became an example of self-sacrifice and good moral character through her gift of faith in God.

As King of Israel, he was noted for a wisdom that reflected God's care for his People.

She trusted that God's wisdom in the prophet Daniel would prove that the accusations against her were false. She became a model of truthfulness for her family and all of God's People.

Though at first he did not believe he was capable or worthy of being a prophet, he finally put his trust in God and answered the call. He constantly reminded the people that God would remove their hardened hearts and replace them with new hearts.

# Catholic Faith Words

**covenant** a sacred promise or agreement  
between humans or between God and humans.