

Lesson Plan, Grade 8 - Chapter 4

Catechist Background

Doctrinal Content

- Jesus' Transfiguration revealed his Divine glory as the Son of God, and shows us God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. (CCC, 554-556)
- The Church is part of God's plan for all people to come to know him, love him, and glorify him. (CCC, 824, 851)
- The Holy Spirit is alive and active in the Church, uniting her and guiding her and each of us to help further God's work on Earth. (CCC, 747, 845)
- Grace is the free, loving gift of God's own life, which he offers to us, his adopted sons and daughters. (CCC, 1996-1999)
- Our prayer reflects the way we understand and know God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (CCC, 2564-2565)

Catechist Background

At that very moment he rejoiced [in] the holy Spirit and said, "I give you praise, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike. ... No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him."—Luke 10:21-22

Reflect How have you encountered each Person of the Trinity in your life?

Everything Jesus did reflected the Father's glory. Jesus consistently offered praise and gratitude for his Father's generosity and grace. Jesus wanted to show his followers that he and the Father were one. Ultimately, this served as the foundation for one of the charges leveled at Jesus during his trial before the Sanhedrin. To those who had open ears, open hearts, and open minds, however, it communicated a new and loving familiarity with the God of their ancestors, now revealed as "Abba," the tender and loving Father.

As Jesus made possible new understandings of the Father, so too the Holy Spirit makes possible a full understanding of whom Jesus is. The Holy Spirit was present at Jesus' Baptism and the Transfiguration. After Jesus' Ascension, the Holy Spirit inspired the Apostles to understand Jesus' identity as the Messiah of prophecy and their own role in making him known throughout the world.

The three Persons of the Blessed Trinity not only reveal themselves individually, but also reveal each other by how they interact. In this revelation we come to know the intimate relationship of love and holiness that is our Triune God. We also come to

understand the relationship of God with us individually and communally in the Church.

Reflect How does our belief in God as Trinity influence your own relationships?

Catechist's Prayer

Loving Jesus, in all that you said and did on Earth, you reflected your Father's magnificent love. Today, help me to also be a reflection of that love. I ask this with faith in you. Amen.

Sharing the Message

How Eighth-Graders Understand Chapter Topics

The Trinity is a mystery for all Catholics—young and old alike. It's difficult sometimes to comprehend that God is three and yet one. Eighth-graders, with their growth in abstract reasoning, are beginning to comprehend this better than when they were younger. Part of that understanding means being comfortable with a mystery we cannot adequately explain.

Teaching Tip

To help the young people get a glimpse into the Trinity, it might be helpful to provide an analogy. Ask the youth to think about a flame. The flame has three different aspects or qualities—the flame itself, the light provided by the flame, and the heat that the flame generates. These three qualities are a part of one entity that cannot be separated.

Sharing the Message with Eighth-Graders

Young people at this age often define themselves by their various relationships. They may perceive these differences in "self" and struggle to reconcile inconsistencies between home, school, social relationships, and different groups.

- For the most part, eighth-graders have not yet developed the capacity to fully appreciate the rights and feelings of others as equal to their own, but they are moving toward that awareness.
- Create opportunities to help the young people engage with others and develop a level of understanding and empathy.

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
- Teaching to Pray

NCEA IFG: ACRE Edition

Moral Formation

- Objective: To know and understand basic Catholic teaching about the Incarnate Word Jesus Christ as the way, truth, and life

Prayer

- Objectives: 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

Church, holy, prayer

Catholic Social Teaching

To integrate Catholic Social Teaching into your lesson, choose one of the following features: Rights and Responsibilities of the Human Person, pages 338–339; or The Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers, pages 342–343.

- Start the Live step of the process by talking about Saint Lucy on page 100. Then move directly to the Catholic Social Teaching feature.
- Or, to expand the lesson, complete page 100, then move to the Catholic Social Teaching feature.
- Return to Chapter 4 for the prayer on page 101.

Music Option

- Use the following song to enhance catechetical learning or for prayer.
 - "I Believe," Live, Page 101

Catechist Instruction, Grade 8 – Chapter 4

Invite Page 91

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.

Begin the leader prayer. Have the group pray the Psalm together and finish with the group response.

Have the youth move out of the prayer space and back to their seats. Explain that the Holy Spirit guides us in knowing who God is.

Say: We give praise and glory to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In today's passage, Jesus both rejoices in the Holy Spirit and gives praise 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: Jesus helped the disciples understand that he is the beloved Son of God. He revealed the Blessed Trinity to us.

- Invite the young people to respond to the questions.

Discover (1) Pages 94-95

Objectives

- Retell the story of the Transfiguration and what it revealed to the disciples about Jesus
- Explain what the Transfiguration revealed about the Trinity
- Relate the role of the Old Testament prophets to Jesus

A Glimpse into God

Say: We are never alone on our journey of faith, because the Holy Trinity is always with us.

Ask a volunteer to read the two paragraphs to the group.

Right Before Their Eyes

Ask the youth to read all three paragraphs and underline the words or phrases they think are important.

- Give them an opportunity to share one of the things they underlined and why they believe it is important.
- Ask: Whose voice was heard from the cloud? **God the Father**
- Invite the young people to offer their thoughts on the quote from the Gospel according to Luke.

Have the youth look at the photo on the top of page 94 as you read aloud the paragraph at the top of this page.

- Facilitate a group discussion on the questions that follow.

† Go to the Source

Send the young people to Luke 9:28–36 to find out what Elijah, Moses, and Jesus were discussing.

- Ask the accompanying question.

† Scripture Background

The Transfiguration

Luke 9:18–27 recounts Jesus' first prediction of his Passion. In its midst, we find a passage on what it means to be a disciple. "If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."

To look at the passages immediately before and after this, the message may seem dire indeed: "The Son of Man must suffer greatly," and "... whoever wishes to save his life will lose it ..." But then Luke offers us the story of the Transfiguration in verses 28–36 as the heavenly confirmation that Jesus' suffering will end in glory.

On the Mountaintop

Give the youth an opportunity to volunteer as readers for the three paragraphs in this section.

- Invite a volunteer to read aloud the definition of *Transfiguration*.
- Have the young people highlight the lines in the text that give us a "glimpse into the Trinity."
- Review as a group the lines that were highlighted.

Discover (2) Pages 96-97

Objectives

- Identify that the Church helps us see and appreciate the glory of God
- Explain the significance of Pentecost
- Explore the role of the Holy Spirit in the Church today

Point out the question and ask if the youth know anything about the Holy Spirit's work on Earth.

God's Glory Revealed

Ask a volunteer to read aloud the opening paragraph and the bullet points.

- Invite the youth to suggest more exciting times.
- Have the volunteer write the additional ideas on the board or on chart paper.
- Ask another volunteer to read the last two paragraphs in this section.

The Holy Spirit Guides the Church

Summarize the beginning of this section.

- Review with the group the definition for *Pentecost*.

Read aloud the final paragraph of this section.

- Ask the young people to underline what the Holy Spirit does for the Church today.

Have volunteers read the questions at the end of this section; discuss the answers together as a group.

Activity

Have the youth read the instructions and complete the activity on their own.

- Invite volunteers to share some of their experiences.
- Once the young people have had a chance to share, invite them to stand, make the Sign of the Cross, and silently pray a prayer of thanks for the glorious moments God has given them.

Quick Review

Jesus promised his Apostles that the Holy Spirit would help them spread the Good News to others. The Church was fully revealed on Pentecost, fifty days after Jesus' Resurrection, when the Holy Spirit descended on the first Apostles and disciples.

Extend the Lesson

Use **Activity Master 4: My Family Tree** to extend the lesson; it is not included in the timed estimate for this section of the Lesson Plan.

Discover (3) Pages 98-99

Objectives

- Recognize that grace is the free, loving gift of God's own life
- Explore how our prayer reflects the way we understand and know God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

Teaching Activity: The Gift of God's Grace

Participants will work as partners to create streamers that help illustrate how we can recognize the free, loving gift of God's grace. They will also write a prayer about opening their hearts to God's grace.

Before the Lesson

Materials Needed

✚ Go to aliveinchrist.osv.com and download the Prayer Handout and Catholic Faith Words pages

white crepe paper streamers, white and yellow construction paper, yarn, colored markers, hole punch, scratch paper, paper clips, tape

Preparation

- Create enough necklaces so that there is one necklace for each participant. You will need half the amount of the necklaces to be triangles and half circles. Cut out 8-inch triangles out of the white construction paper and 8-inch circles out of the yellow construction paper. One half of the participants will need triangles, and the other half will need circles. Make a hole in each triangle and circle.
- Cut strings of yarn and create necklaces using the triangles and circles by placing the yarn through the holes and tying the ends together.
- Cut the white paper streamer rolls into smaller rolls. Create enough smaller rolls of the paper streamer so that each pair of partners gets a roll to use during the activity. Secure the smaller rolls together with paper clips or tape.

Activity Directions

Begin the activity by posting the Catholic Faith Word page for *Holy Trinity* on the board or wall and reading aloud the definition.

Say: We know that God is a mystery of three Divine Persons in one God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit. In the Sacrament of Baptism, we are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Say: When we gather at Mass and profess our faith together, what do we say? ***The creed*** That's right, a creed is a formal statement of what is believed about the Holy Trinity and the Church. Who remembers the names of the two creeds that are part of our Catholic Tradition? **The Nicene Creed and the Apostles' Creed**

Post the Catholic Faith Word page for *creed* and invite a volunteer to read aloud the definition.

Say: You have also learned that God's has willed to share his life and help with us. We call that free loving gift, grace. So, we are going to try to imagine how God offers his grace to us.

Post the Catholic Faith Word page for *grace* and read aloud the definition.

Ask the young people to find a partner and pair off. Distribute one roll of the paper streamer and a piece of scratch paper to each pair of participants.

Say: With your partner, take the roll of crepe paper and remove the clip. The streamer represents God's grace. How do we experience God's love and grace?
As you say the following words, write them on the board or chart paper.

Say: We experience it when we see beauty, hear truth, receive the Sacraments, are treated justly, and when we are forgiven.

Say: Place the scrap paper under the streamer and lightly write one of those words (beauty, truth, justice, forgiveness, goodness, peace) on the streamer. Be careful when writing on the streamer. Write the rest of the words down the streamer, choosing a different colored marker for each word. As you and your partner write the words on the streamer, think of a time when you saw something beautiful, were forgiven, heard the truth, etc. When you are finished, roll your streamer back up with the words on the inside and secure it with a paper clip.

Give each pair of participants one triangle and one circle necklace. Ask them to work with their partners to choose which one will wear the triangle and which one will wear the circle.

Say: If the symbol around your neck is a triangle, who do you think you represent? ***The Holy Trinity*** If the symbol around your neck is a circle, who do you think you represent?

Invite participants to share their answers.

Say: The circle represents us—human beings. God creates us with the capacity to receive his grace. It is almost like we are designed with a receiver that needs to be tuned into God's life and love.

Ask the participants wearing the triangle necklace to take one edge of the streamer and hold it up to the triangle. Ask the participants wearing the circle necklace to unroll the streamer and hold the other edge up to the circle.

Say: What is a person like who is open to God's grace? What about someone who is not? It is up to us to make a choice, not just once, but every single day, several times a day, to open our hearts to God's grace. An important way to do that is through prayer. Because grace is a participation in the life of the Holy Trinity, it is important that we pray reflecting our belief in the three Divine Persons in one God.

Extend the Lesson

Distribute the Prayer handout to each pair.

- *Say:* With your partner, return to your seats and write a prayer on the handout that tells about your desire to open your heart to God's grace.

Live Pages 100-101

Objectives

- Indicate ways we can call on each of the three Persons of the Trinity
- Explore the faith life of Saint Lucy
- Offer the prayer using the Profession of Faith

Encourage the youth to silently offer their own prayers to the Holy Trinity.

Our Catholic Life

Invite one volunteer to read aloud the paragraph and another to read the three examples.

- Ask the question.
- Discuss the ways we can open ourselves to the work of the Blessed Trinity in our prayer lives.

People of Faith

Explain to the young people that Saint Lucy died filled with the Holy Spirit and praising God.

- Read aloud the People of Faith paragraph.
- Share the content from the People of Faith Background box.
- Invite the youth to reflect on the many martyrs of our faith.

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

- Share that Saint Lucy was well known for her beautiful eyes. It was said that her eyes radiated her love for Christ. Her name comes from the Latin word *lux* meaning "light."
- She is often honored as the patron Saint of people with eye diseases and those who are blind.
- In paintings Saint Lucy is frequently shown holding her eyes on a golden plate.

Activity

Have the youth work on the activity individually.

- If time allows, ask volunteers to share some of their answers.

Profession of Faith

♥ Set a prayer table with a white cloth, a red candle, and symbols for God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

- Invite the young people to sit in a circle with the prayer table in the center.
- Assign three readers. Follow the order of prayer on the prayer page.
- Have each reader pray their words, allowing for a brief pause between sections.

► Conclude by inviting the young people to sing or reflect on the song “I Believe,” 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 4 Lesson Plan

Objectives	Process	Materials
Invite, 15 minutes		
The Trinity Made Known Page 91	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Psalm 145:3 Pray the opening prayer. Luke 10:21–22 Guide the youth through the process of Scripture reflection. • Discuss Have You Ever Thought questions. 	
Discover, 45 minutes		
A Glimpse Into God pp. 94–95 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retell the story of the Transfiguration and what it revealed to the disciples about Jesus • Explain what the Transfiguration revealed about the Trinity • Relate the role of the Old Testament prophets to Jesus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss what the Transfiguration revealed about the Trinity. • Activity Identify reasons good advice is something ignored. 	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens <input type="checkbox"/> highlighter
God's Glory Revealed pp. 96–97 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify that the Church helps us see and appreciate the glory of God • Explain the significance of Pentecost • Explore the role of the Holy Spirit in the Church today 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk about the importance of Pentecost. • Identify what the Holy Spirit does for the Church today. • Activity Make a list of glorious moments and describe how they influenced relationships. • Activity Master My Family Tree 	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens <input type="checkbox"/> board or chart paper Activity Master 4
Relating to God pp. 98–99 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize that grace is the free, loving gift of God's own life • Explore how our prayer reflects the way we understand and know God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching Activity Youth will work as partners to write words on streamers that remind us how we can recognize the free, loving gift of God's grace and write a prayer. 	Prayer Handout, Catholic Faith Words <input type="checkbox"/> markers, hole punch, yarn, paper clips, tape <input type="checkbox"/> white crepe streamers, construction paper, scratch paper
Live, 15 minutes		
Our Catholic Life Page 100	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the Our Catholic Life question. • People of Faith Learn about Saint Lucy. • Activity Young people will explain the place God has in their lives. 	<input type="checkbox"/> pencils or pens
Profession of Faith Page 101	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select three readers. • Follow the order of prayer. 	"I Believe"

CATHOLIC FAITH WORDS

Transfiguration, Pentecost, grace, Holy Trinity, Creed

ASSESSMENT

Chapter Review, Page 102

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

Name _____

Date _____

My Family Tree

A family tree is a record of family members and relationships. Work with your parents/guardians or other family members to fill in the details of your family tree. Add more boxes where needed. Ignore boxes that don't apply to your family. Bring the completed tree back to share at a later date with the class.

The diagram is a family tree template. At the center is a dark gray circle labeled "My Family Tree". A vertical line connects this circle to a horizontal line below it, which branches into three boxes: "Sister/Brother", "My Name", and "Sister/Brother". Each of these boxes has a blank line for a name. From the "My Name" box, a vertical line goes up to another horizontal line, which branches into four boxes: "Aunt/Uncle", "Mother", "Father", and "Aunt/Uncle". Each of these boxes has two blank lines for a name. From the "Mother" and "Father" boxes, vertical lines go up to a horizontal line, which branches into four boxes: "Grandmother", "Grandfather", "Grandmother", and "Grandfather". Each of these boxes has two blank lines for a name. From the "Aunt/Uncle" boxes on the left and right, vertical lines go down to two larger boxes labeled "Cousins". Each "Cousins" box has four blank lines for names.

Name _____

Date _____

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

Column A

- ____ 1. God's gift that enables us to be adopted as his children
- ____ 2. When Jesus' divine glory was shown to his disciples
- ____ 3. One of the titles given to Jesus
- ____ 4. The day the Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles

Column B

- a. Lamb of God
- b. Pentecost
- c. Transfiguration
- d. grace

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

5. The Holy Spirit prepares us to love Christ and share in his communion. **True/False**

6. In the Sacrament of Baptism, we are baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **True/False**

7. Christmas is celebrated as the beginning of the Church. **True/False**

8. Jesus promised his disciples that the Father would help them spread the Good News after his Ascension. **True/False**

Write a response on the lines below.

9. How does the Transfiguration give us a glimpse into the nature of the Trinity?

10. What does the Church renew on the feast of Pentecost?

Father,

In the name of your Son, Jesus

and by the power of the Holy Spirit

Amen.

Catholic Faith Words

grace God's free, loving gift of his own life and help to do what he calls us to do. It is participation in the life of the Holy Trinity.

Catholic Faith Words

Holy Trinity the mystery of one God in three Divine Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Catholic Faith Words

Creed a formal statement of what is believed about the Holy Trinity and the Church. The word *creed* comes from the Latin for “I believe.” There are two main creeds of the Church: the Nicene Creed and the Apostles’ Creed.