

FOUNDATIONS

CLASSROOM LESSON 4

The Bible: Our Family's Story

Grades K-6



Catechist's Prayer - Heavenly Father, thank You for Your ever-faithful love and Your constant care. From the beginning of time, You had a plan to draw us ever closer to You. When we turned away, You sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, to save us. I ask for Your grace to teach this lesson with great love. I lift up each of the students. May this lesson help each child recognize that You have a plan for their life; a plan filled with happiness. May they recognize Your voice as we read Scripture. I offer this class, this entire day, to Your honor and glory. In Jesus' Name, I pray. Amen.

Contact your students in advance to remind them of your upcoming class date and time.

Preparation - Read through your lesson carefully to become familiar with the lesson content.

- ◆ Prepare the "Unfolding His Plan" activity:
 - Cut each *Unfolding His Plan Demonstration* page in half along the dotted line.
 - Cut *God's Plan is Still Unfolding Display* pages in half along the dotted line, each student will need a half page.
 - Cut the *Unfolding His Plan Cards* in half to create two sets. You may wish to cut apart each set of the *Unfolding His Plan Cards* if you have younger students.
- ◆ Cut apart the *Let the Children Come Prayer Cards*.

Classroom Preparation - Arrive 20-30 minutes early. Prepare your prayer center with a cloth in the color of the current liturgical season, candles, and a crucifix or picture of Jesus, along with any other items appropriate to this lesson and/or the current liturgical season. Be ready to greet the students who arrive early.

MATERIALS PROVIDED:

- supply box
- *Unfolding His Plan Demonstration*
- *God's Plan is Still Unfolding Display*
- *Unfolding His Plan Cards*
- *Let the Children Come Prayer Card*
- *Saint Josemaría Escrivá Coloring Sheet*
- *Review Cards*

NEEDED FROM HOME:

- classroom decorations
- Bible
- additional prayer center items
- examples of Bible translations or Bible stories (See Page 10.)

Key Lesson Points

FOR CATECHISTS

Catechists: To prepare yourself for this lesson, refer to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (CCC) on God's stages of revelation. Find the partial text below and complete text in paragraphs 54-65 of the CCC.

“In the beginning God makes himself known

God, who creates and conserves all things by his Word, provides men with constant evidence of himself in created realities. ... He invited them to intimate communion with himself. ... This revelation was not broken off by our first parents' sin.”

“The Covenant with Noah

After the unity of the human race was shattered by sin God at once sought to save humanity part by part. The covenant with Noah after the flood gives expression to the principle of the divine economy toward the ‘nations,’ in other words, towards men grouped ‘in their lands, each with [its] own language, by their families, in their nations.’⁹ CCC 54-56

9 Gen 10:5; cf. 9:9-10, 16.; 10:20-31.

“God chooses Abraham

The people descended from Abraham would be the trustees of the promise made to the patriarchs, the chosen people, called to prepare for that day when God would gather all his children into the unity of the Church.¹⁸ They would be the root onto which the Gentiles would be grafted, once they came to believe.¹⁹ CCC 60

18 Cf. Rom 11:28; Jn 11:52; 10:16.

19 Cf. Rom 11:17-18, 24.

“God forms his people Israel

After the patriarchs, God formed Israel as his people by freeing them from slavery in Egypt. He established with them the covenant of Mount Sinai and, through Moses, gave them his law so that they would recognize him and serve him as the one living and true God, the provident Father and just judge, and so that they would look for the promised Savior.²⁰ CCC 62

20 Cf. DV 3.

“God has said everything in his Word

‘In many and various ways God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son.’²⁶ Christ, the Son of God made man, is the Father's one, perfect and unsurpassable Word. In him he has said everything; there will be no other word than this one.” CCC 65

26 Heb 1:1-2.

LESSON SUMMARY:

Since the beginning of time, God has had a plan for all of creation, and this plan is still unfolding! This plan of our “salvation history” is the most important story ever told, and we can learn about it, from its very beginning, in the Holy Bible.

By virtue of our baptism, we are a part of God's family and that means our lives are a part of the salvation story too. Salvation history focuses on God's love as He carries out His plan for saving us through a series of covenants, or a type of promise that is entered into. Many of us are familiar with some of these covenants God made, like those with Noah and Moses, which prepared the way for the ultimate covenant Jesus made with us by His death on the cross. As we live, love and pray like Jesus, our story is part of the big story of Jesus continuing to offer salvation to the world.

It is important to remember that the Bible is not just a story, but is God's living Word. The humans who physically wrote the Bible were inspired by the Holy Spirit, which makes the Bible completely full of truth. It is alive, relevant for our lives today, and shows us how to follow Jesus. We encounter the Lord through the holy Scriptures and our souls are nourished by His words. Because we are a part of God's story, it is important to become familiar with that story and grow closer to God through the Scriptures. We need the Word of God in our life.

In this lesson, students get the opportunity to learn that they and their family are a part of God's story of salvation, that He has a plan for each and every one of our lives, and that the Bible contains the story of salvation history. These ideas are taught through exploring some of the most familiar stories in the Bible together and providing tips for reading, experiencing, and reflecting on God's word in the Holy Bible. It is awesome to think that we are a part of this big plan, the story of the entire world and all of history. And we learn about the story of our salvation in the Bible, which can feed us daily with God's loving words, spoken right to our hearts. What a beautiful gift to have!

LESSON FOCUS:

God's story of our salvation is found in the Bible. By virtue of our Baptism, we are a part of that story. The Bible is God's true and living Word, which is alive and relevant for our lives today.

LESSON GOALS:

In this lesson, your students will learn about the major stages in the story of salvation history to better understand how God has been working to bring His children back to Himself, and how His loving plan for salvation is still unfolding before us today.

They will also learn that the Holy Bible is God's Word to us and will be given tools to read and experience these messages from Him.

The Bible: Our Family's Story

Catechist Lesson Plan—Lesson 4, FOUNDATIONS
Grades K-6

1 WELCOME

- Welcome students as they arrive.
- Give each a name tag.

2 PRAYER

Gather the students together near your prayer center.

Father in heaven, we thank You for the gift of Faith. Bless each student and our time together. Open our hearts and minds as we learn about God's plan for each of us. Help us to continue to seek Your guidance every day. Amen.

3 ATTENDANCE

Take attendance once students have all arrived.

4 WHAT WILL WE SEE ON SUNDAY?

Encourage your students to engage with the Mass by helping them look forward to what they will see when they come to church next Sunday.



Throughout the course of a typical *Family Formation* program year you will pass through all the major seasons of the liturgical year. Consider the current or upcoming season and point out any feast days or holy days of obligation and what they mean.

- What is the current church season? With what color will the church be decorated?
- What color will your priest be wearing? Use your liturgical calendar or dress your priest paper doll for the season and display him on your classroom prayer table.
- From which book will the Gospel be read? (Saint Matthew, Mark, Luke or John) If students are bringing a Bible to your class, you could help them to bookmark next Sunday's readings.

Consider what will be happening at your parish:

- Mention your priest (and deacons) by name. Will they be at the entry greeting people as they leave? If so, encourage your students to say hello.
- Can families bring up the gifts? How can they sign up to do so?
- Will there be any familiar hymns you can point out?
- Will there be hospitality or any other family-friendly event after Mass?
- Consider mentioning which Mass you will be attending with a "see you there!" invitation.

5 LESSON



OUR CHOICES MAKE A DIFFERENCE

This active game highlights good directions to follow versus bad ones, and serves as an introduction to the truth that our choices make a difference and following God's plan is best.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- The catechist or classroom aide reads the commands listed below, mixing up the lists.
- The players obey all commands that begin with the words, "Jesus says." If you say, "Jesus says touch your toes," then all players must touch their toes.
- However, if for example, you say, "fall down" without saying, "Jesus says" first, the players must not fall down, and if they do, that player is out.

GOOD DIRECTIONS TO FOLLOW

- Jesus says, read the Bible (hands out as if holding a book)
- Jesus says, meet a new friend (shake hands with the person next to you)
- Jesus says, go to Mass (walking motion)
- Jesus says, listen at Mass (hands at ears in a listening motion)
- Jesus says, say a prayer (hands folded)
- Jesus says, genuflect
- Jesus says, I love you (body hug)
- Jesus says, praise God (hands up)
- Jesus says, jump for joy (jump in place)

BAD DIRECTIONS TO FOLLOW

- Say unkind things about others (pretend to whisper or make a *shhh* sign)
- Sleep in church (eyes closed with sleep hands)
- Fight with sisters and brothers (arms crossed and grumpy face)
- Disobey your parents (hands on hips, shaking head no)
- Steal some cookies (grab and make a sneaky hiding motion)

GOD'S PLAN FOR US

Did you know that since the beginning of time, God has had a plan for all of creation? Throughout history, and even right this moment—here and now—God is lovingly unfolding His plan. Did you know that you are a part of God's plan? This plan is called salvation history. The word "salvation" means being saved from our sins. The story begins with our very first parents, Adam and Eve, and continues throughout human history all the way to right here in (place, year—e.g. Ham Lake, 2022). Salvation history is the story about God and about us. It is the most important story ever told! We can read the story of salvation history in the Holy Bible.

The Holy Bible is God's Word to us! It is not like any other book. When we read the Bible, we are not just reading about things that happened a long time ago, we are hearing God's Word for our lives today.

The Bible contains many different stories. Stories of adventure and romance, of fierce battles, brave warriors, daring princesses, cunning spies, great miracles, and stories of amazing love. Even though the story contains many different parts, there is one great story that runs through them all. It is like a beautiful golden thread that is woven through all of these different stories.

SIN:
Choosing to do something you know is wrong.