

Catechist QuickStart Guide

Instructions for implementing a 75-minute lesson
in a parish setting for Alive in Christ, Grades 7 & 8

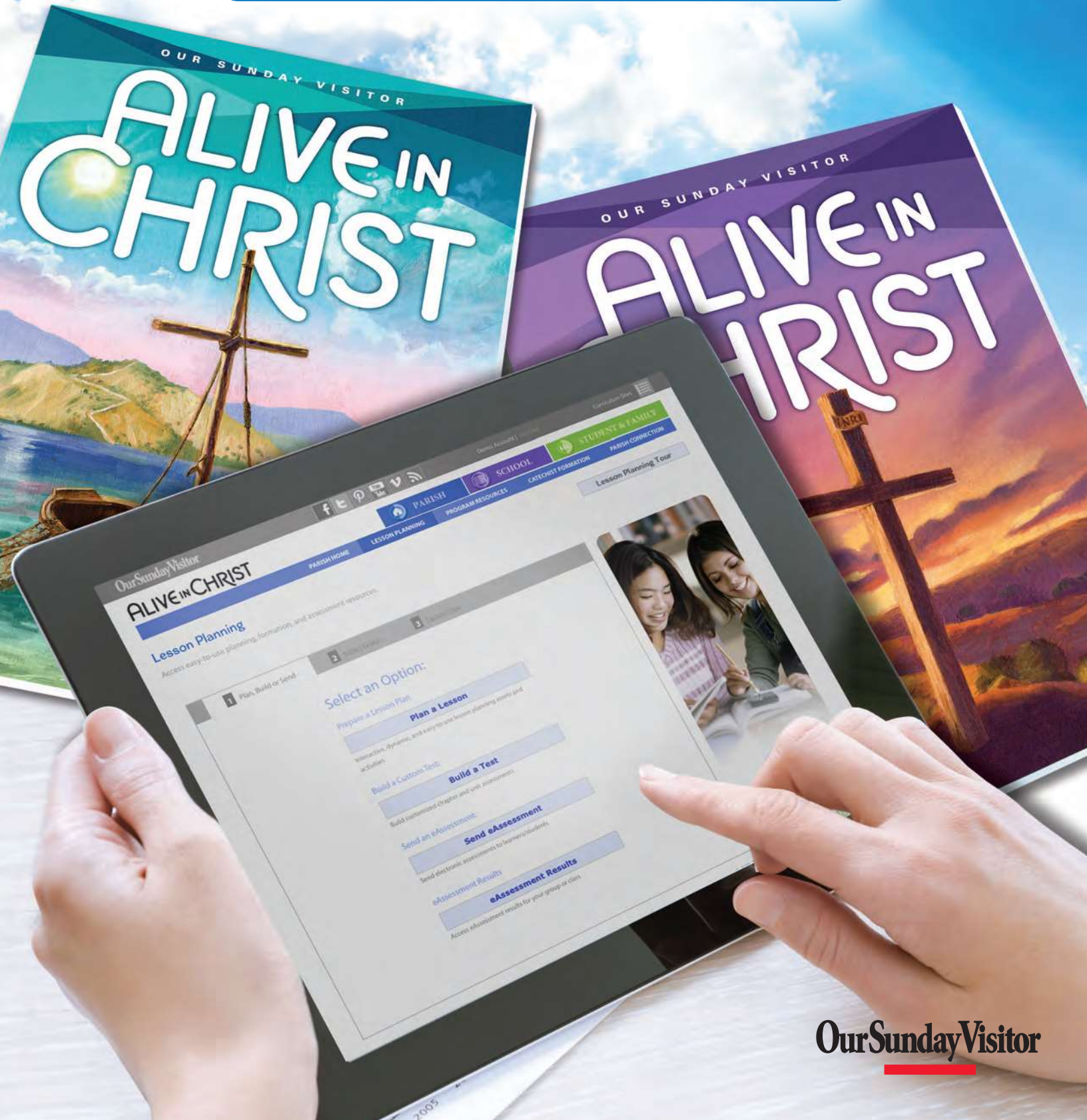


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Instructions for implementing a 75-minute lesson in a parish setting for Alive in Christ, Grades 7 & 8

Our Sunday Visitor has made lesson planning online convenient and easy to do. You will find everything you need in the lesson planning section of aliveinchrist.osv.com in an organized and easy-to-navigate format.

Whether you are planning a lesson, assigning eAssessments for completion online, sharing lesson plans via social media such as Facebook and Twitter, or building a custom assessment, it's all online for you to access anywhere, anytime, and on any device!

You will also find many resources to help you grow in understanding the faith development of children at this age as well as the skills for creatively and effectively communicating the Good News.

This easy-to-follow **QuickStart Guide** will help you get started!

Catechists all over the country love the lesson planning tools on aliveinchrist.osv.com!

"Every lesson for every grade is outlined and easily downloaded to any computer. The online planning tools let catechists choose what they want to download and print. Our tech-savvy kids and tech-challenged catechists need resources like this. With a large parish and core of catechists, having a professional, easy-to-use lesson planning and training tool available 24/7 has made my life as a director so much easier!"

—**Michael Fusco**
Director of Religious Education
Saint Helen – Westfield, NJ



Dear Partner in Ministry,

Alive in Christ Religion Curriculum is making a difference in parishes! Religious educators are telling us that in content, pedagogy, and design, **Alive in Christ** is changing the game when it comes to faith formation. One reason for our success is that **Our Sunday Visitor** is dedicated to providing you, as a leader in faith formation, with fresh technology tools that are easy-to-navigate, support and enhance parish session and home learning, and help you, your students, and their families grow in the knowledge of God's love.

This year, we have added the seventh and eighth grade texts to complete the series. Catechetical leaders and catechists are telling us that they prefer having the flexibility and convenience of planning their lessons exclusively online. In response, our cutting-edge team of web experts created lesson planning tools on aliveinchrist.osv.com that make it easy to plan lessons without the need for a print edition.

This **QuickStart Guide** will help your catechists get started immediately but if you have questions or need assistance, please don't hesitate to call your sales representative.

I want to personally thank you for all you do in sharing the treasure of our faith with young people. Let the love of God pour through so that they see in you the image and heart of our loving God.

May we all grow ever more alive in Christ,

Greg Erlandson
President and Publisher

Get Started

Registration Process

Go to aliveinchrist.osv.com

1 Click on **Parish**.

2 Click on **Lesson Planning**.

3 When accessing lesson planning for the first time, register by clicking the **"Register now!"** link.

The lesson planning section of aliveinchrist.osv.com is password-protected. Enter the special **ISBN number** and **challenge word** to log into this area.

Registration

To register, please provide the ISBN Number of your Catechist/Teacher Edition.

Catechist/Teacher Edition ISBN (no dashes or spaces)

9781612784601

Continue

4

In the box requesting the **ISBN Number**, enter **9781612784601**, then click **"Continue"**.

Registration

Provide the information below to create your account.

Enter the Grade 7/Grade 8 Challenge Word

incarnation

Email

First Name

Last Name

Username

Password

Confirm Password

5

In the first box requesting the **Challenge Word**, enter **incarnation**. (not case-sensitive)

6

Enter your email and name. Create a user name and password. Agree to terms of service. Click the **"Submit"** button.

Preparation

The **Preparation** section provides specific content that will help you understand the objectives you will be teaching, the developmental stage of the child in your session, and the catechetical process you will be using.

Catechist Background contains theological background on the chapter content.

The works of God are all of them good; he supplies for every need in its own time. ... Nothing can limit his saving action. ... To him, nothing is small or insignificant, and nothing too wonderful or hard for him.—The Wisdom of Ben Sira (Sirach) 39:16, 18, 20

Reflect What do these words of Scripture mean to you?

When we look at the wonders of creation, we know there must be a God who loves and cares for us. Scientific theories that include evolution are not necessarily incompatible with our faith, as long as they leave room for the truth of God's role as sole Creator and his Divine plan of creation. We human beings are made in the image and likeness of God, and we have the ability to love. Because of our free will, we can choose to follow God's plan and the ability to love, and learn.

Sharing the Message includes information on how young people at this grade level process, understand, and learn.

How Seventh-Graders Understand Chapter Topics

Two big questions in the minds of adolescents are "Who am I?" and "Why am I here?" We find beautiful answers to those questions in our Catholic Faith, which can support young people as they develop in their identity.

Chapter Connections guide you through ways to enhance and expand the lesson.

The Church teaching says about God and his creation (including human beings) that this says about who they are and how they are made by God. Point out that the God who made the entire universe.

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

PREPARATION

Select: All | None

Unit Preview

Lesson Plan

Chapter 1 Basic Lesson Plan
Chapter Background + Instruction

Catechist Background
God Our Creator

Sharing the Message
How Seventh-Graders Understand

Chapter Connections

Activity Master

Chapter Test

Customizable Chapter Test

Chapter Test Answer Key

Chapter Review Answer Key

Unit Review Answer Key

Family + Faith Pages
Unit 1

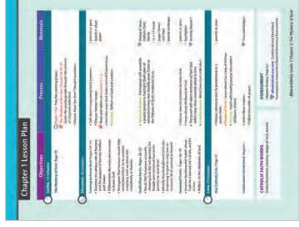
Pre-Test Answer Key

INVITE

Select: All | None

Catechist Instruction

A full Lesson Plan



The **Basic Lesson Plan** contains the essential lesson planning elements (by chapter) in one simple document.

The **Family + Faith** page





Invite Step

The **Invite Step** (15 minutes) begins the lesson with God's invitation through Sacred Scripture. Young people open their minds and hearts to what God is saying to them in Scripture, reflect on it, and transition to the Discover step and chapter objectives.

Click on **Catechist Instruction** for these simple steps to teach this part of the lesson.

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 move from the prayer space back to their seats.
Say: God created everything that we see and hear, especially each of us. Everything God created is good. Let's listen to what the Bible tells us about God's plan.

† 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: All creation gives glory to God—including each one of us. When you care for creation, you share in God's plan.

- Invite the young people to respond to the questions.

A Scripture passage begins the reflection process that is modeled on the practice of Lectio Divina.

Unit Review Answer Key Preview
Family + Faith Pages Preview

NEW! Catechist Online Training

INVITE Select: All | None

Catechist Instruction Preview
Catechist Tips: The Nature Connection Preview

You will find **Catechist Tips** that provide additional ideas, suggestions, and background information.

Catechist Tips: The Nature Connection

Getting outside, breathing fresh air, hearing the birds sing, it can make us feel better instantly. The truth is that there are real physiological benefits to getting into nature.

- When we spend time in nature, our blood pressure lowers, we are less susceptible to anxiety or depression, and we think more clearly.
- If there is nice green space around your building, try to teach some if this lesson outside. Explain to the young people the benefits of being in nature.
- Invite the seventh-graders to find out more about the benefits of spending time in nature.

Catechist tips: This card is home to me

Catechist Tips: Promoting Peace Preview
Catholic Social Teaching: Solidarity of the Human Family Preview

Glossary Activity: Mystery Preview
Multiple Intelligences: Verbal/Linguistic Preview

Additional Activity: Creation in Scripture Preview
Multiple Intelligences: Verbal/Linguistic, Intrapersonal Preview

Additional Activity: Archeology and Creation Preview
Multiple Intelligences: Kinesthetic Preview

Discover Step

The **Discover Step** (45 minutes) helps form Catholic identity through the study of Scripture, knowledge of Church teaching, and an understanding of Catholic practices.

Follow the **Catechist Instruction**, which walks you through the entire lesson.

Discover (1) Pages 54-55

Objectives

- Examine the unique role of humans and the purpose of human intellect and reason
- Differentiate the ways we can come to know God
- Recognize that humans cannot fully understand God, so he remains a mystery until we know him completely in Heaven

Coming to Know God

Have a volunteer read aloud the text.

Download additional **Scripture and doctrinal background, optional activities, and teaching tips.**

Scripture Background

Genesis 1:1–2:25

The full texts of the Genesis creation accounts reflect the Hebrew people's search for an ultimate answer to some of life's fundamental questions: Who made humans, and why? Where did we come from, and where are we heading?

- Both accounts in Genesis reveal the religious truth that humans are creatures of God and are reliant upon him for life, love, and happiness.
- The Bible and science do not contradict one another regarding creation. Science addresses how various things in the world came to be. Genesis reveals who created the world and why.

Beyond Words

Invite a volunteer to read aloud the first paragraph.

INVITE

Select: All | None

Catechist Instruction

Catechist Tips: The Nature Connection

DISCOVER

Select: All | None

Catechist Instruction

Image of Jesus Discover (2)

Catholic Faith Words

Scripture Background Genesis 1:1–2:25

Catechist Tips: "This Land Is Home to Me"

Catechist Tips: Promoting Peace Catholic Social Teaching: Solidarity of the Human Family

Glossary Activity: Mystery Multiple Intelligences: Verbal/Linguistic

Additional Activity: Creation in Scripture Multiple Intelligences: Verbal/Linguistic, Intrapersonal

Additional Activity: Archeology and Creation Multiple Intelligences: Kinesthetic

YouTube Video: Bill Nye Creationism Is Not Appropriate for Children

Catholic Faith Words

Catholic Faith Words

Image of God the Divine likeness in all human beings that comes from being made by God and includes the ability to think, choose, be free, love, and be in relationship with God and others.

The Catechist Instruction walks you through the entire lesson.

With on-page activities, young people are given the opportunity to process and reinforce what they have learned and apply it to their own lives and the experience of the Church.

Discover Step (cont.)

Essential Teaching Activity

The **Essential Teaching Activity** is an experiential, 15-minute activity (within the 45-minute Discover Step) that covers the objectives of one of the Discover Step spreads from the student book in an interactive, developmentally appropriate way.

The **Essential Teaching Activity** is found within the Catechist Instruction.

Teaching Activity: Divine Revelation Picture Puzzle

Participants walk together to journey between two stones to discover God's continuing revelation through the Old Testament and the fullness of his revelation in Jesus, his Son. As they journey, the youth stop to open envelopes containing puzzle pieces that demonstrate the different ways God has revealed his plan of salvation to us. The assembled puzzle reveals the image of God's saving plan for all humans.

Before the Lesson

Materials Needed:

Go to allineinchrist.osv.com and download the image of Jesus and the Catholic Faith Words page 11x17 poster frame, paper stones, manila envelopes, and tape

Preparation

- Post the Catholic Faith Words page on the board for reference during the activity.
- Cut the image of Jesus into four puzzle shaped pieces. Use a permanent marker to trace the shapes of the four puzzle pieces onto the plexiglass of the picture frame.
- Turn the puzzle pieces over and write one of the following four phrases on the back of each piece:
 - God makes a promise to Noah to restore his order in the world.
 - God calls the Israelites through Abraham and Sarah to lead all nations to him.
 - God calls Moses to take the Israelites from slavery to freedom.
 - The prophets remind the Israelites of God's promise and his faithfulness.
- Place each puzzle piece into a separate envelope labeled, "Divine Revelation" and mark the envelopes with the numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4.
- Create two large flat stones from a roll of paper. Make the stones large enough so that several participants can stand on top of each stone. On the first stone write the question, "What does God want for us?" On the second stone write the answer, "To accept his salvation and live with him forever in Heaven." Cut the stones out of the paper.

Activity Directions

INVITE

Select: All | None

☐ Catechist Instruction 

☐ Catechist Tips: The Nature Connection 

DISCOVER

Select: All | None

☐ Catechist Instruction 

☐ Image of Jesus 

Discover (2)

☐ Catholic Faith Words 

Image of God

☐ Scripture Background 

Genesis 1:1–2:25

☐ Catechist Tips: "This Land Is Home to Me" 

☐ Catechist Tips: Promoting Peace 

Catholic Social Teaching: Solidarity of the Human

Family

☐ Glossary Activity: Mystery 

Multiple Intelligences: Verbal/Linguistic

☐ Additional Activity: Creation in Scripture 

Multiple Intelligences: Verbal/Linguistic,

Intrapersonal

☐ Additional Activity: Archeology and 

Creation

Multiple Intelligences: Kinesthetic

☐ YouTube Video: Bill Nye 

Creationism Is Not Appropriate for Children

Notes:

Charts, on-page questions, and activities prompt young people to interact directly with the page, and aid in understanding and retention.

Engage different learning styles while presenting Church teaching and utilizing vocabulary from the student text.

On-page and alternate activities emphasize the core elements of Church teaching and help young people apply those truths to worship, prayer, and daily life.

LIVE

15 min

Live Step

The Live Step (15 minutes) helps young people relate knowledge of the faith and the ways we worship, live, pray, and serve together as Catholics.

Reflect on a practice of **Our Catholic Life** and introduce students to a **Saint, Blessed, or Venerable**.

Objectives

- Describe adoration and its importance as a prayer form
- Explore the devotion to Our Lady of Fátima
- Offer the Celebration of the Word prayer
- Invite the young people to consider how they know they are loved.
- Allow a minute of silence for their personal prayer and reflection.

Our Catholic Life

Ask a volunteer to read aloud the two paragraphs.

- Based on the reading, invite another volunteer to share what he or she understands about prayers of adoration.
- Have the youth silently reflect on the two questions at the end of this section.

People of Faith

Explain to the young people that Our Lady of Fátima is a title for Mary, the Mother of Jesus.

- Read aloud the People of Faith paragraph.
- As a large group, review the People of Faith Background box.
- Invite the youth to pray a decade of the Rosary in honor of Our Lady of Fátima.

Here are some additional details about Our Lady of Fátima to assist you in presenting this section:

- Through a series of apparitions (May 13–October 13, 1971), Mary told three shepherd children that she desired frequent recitation of the Rosary and penance done for sinners.
- Pope Saint John Paul II credited Our Lady of Fátima for his survival of the attempt on his life in 1981.

Activity

Review the directions on page 60.

- Allow time for the young people to complete the two sections.
- Invite volunteers to share their responses.

Celebration of the Word

☐ Additional Activity: Archeology and Creation
Multiple Intelligences: Kinesthetic

☐ YouTube Video: Bill Nye
Creationism Is Not Appropriate for Children

LIVE
Select: All | None

☐ Catechist Instruction
Preview

☐ Catechist Tips: Scripture Background: The Letters of John
Preview

☐ People of Faith Activity: Our Lady of Fátima
Our Lady of Fátima, 20 B.C.–45 A.D.
Preview

☐ Additional Activity: Write a Haiku
Multiple Intelligences: Verbal/Linguistic, Intrapersonal
Preview

☐ Music Option: Our God Reigns
Sample audio clip. Featured song in Student Edition, with lyrics.
Preview

Go to Download Queue

Notes:

Young people are given the opportunity to deepen their relationship with God and the Church through the prayer experiences at the end of each lesson.

Use the closing activity to help relate knowledge of the faith to daily lives.

Preview music options that enhance prayer experiences.

If you follow this easy **three-step process**, you will in fact mirror the **divine pedagogy** by offering young people the opportunity to know God and his truth through Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition. You will inspire them to be open to the Holy Spirit so that they will respond in faith and love and accept the gift of new life in Christ!

Basic Lesson Plan

An Option for Quick Planning

Download a **Basic Lesson Plan** that contains the essential lesson planning elements (by chapter), in one simple document. This handy resource is great for a substitute catechists or anyone who needs "just the basics" to teach the chapter.

These **Basic Lesson Plans** can be found in the **Lesson Planning** under **Preparation**. It is also available in the **Program Resources** section.

ALIVE IN CHRIST

Lesson Planning - Prepare a Lesson Plan

Plan a Lesson - Grade 7 - Opening Lesson - Chapter 1 [back](#)

1 Select a chapter

2 Select your required assets from the list below

3 Once done proceed to the Download Queue

CHAPTERS

Opening Lesson

A New Year

Unit 1: Revelation

Chapter 1: The Mystery of God

Chapter 2: The Word of God in Sacred Scripture

Chapter 3: Jesus, Sign of God's Love

Unit 2: Trinity

Chapter 4: God is Trinity

Chapter 5: Jesus, Word of God

Chapter 6: Holy Spirit, Comforter and Guide

Chapter 8: Model of Way

PREPARATION

Select: All | None

Unit Preview

Lesson Plan

Chapter 1 Basic Lesson Plan
Chapter Background + Instruction

Catechist Background

God Our Creator

Sharing the Message
How Seventh-Graders Understand

Chapter Connections

Activity Master

Chapter Test

Customizable Chapter Test

Click on Chapter.

CALENDAR

September 2015

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

READING 1
1 Timothy 3:14-16

Each **Basic Lesson Plan** contains catechist background and chapter connections, simple catechist instruction including the **Essential Teaching Activity** and related PDFs, a lesson plan at a glance, activity master, and chapter test.

Lesson Plan, Grade 7 - Chapter 1

Catechist Background

Doctrinal Content

- We can come to know God in many different ways: through all he has created, through the voice of conscience, and through human intellect and reason. (CCC, 31-35, 46)
- Although God reveals himself in many ways, we will not fully understand the mystery of God until we know him completely in Heaven. (CCC, 1027)
- God planned, from the beginning, to give his only Son, Jesus Christ, to reconcile all of creation to himself. (CCC, 1)
- Many Old Testament accounts speak of God's faithfulness to his promise of salvation. (CCC, 422, 652)
- From the Genesis creation accounts and the world around us, we get a sense of the attributes of God—eternal, truth, love, merciful, and holy. (CCC, 212-221)

Catechist Background

The works of God are all of them good; he supplies for every need in its own time ... Nothing can limit his saving action. ... To him, nothing is small or insignificant, and nothing too wonderful or hard for him. —The Wisdom of Ben Sira (Sirach) 39:16, 18, 20

Reflect What do these words of Scripture mean to you? When we look at the wonders of creation, we know there must be a God who loves and cares for us. Scientific theories that include evolution are not necessarily incompatible with our faith, as long as they leave room for the truth of God's role as sole Creator and his Divine plan of creation. We human beings are an important part of that plan. God created us in "his image and likeness," of our free will, we can choose to live in joyful union with him.

Sadly, our first parents, Adam and Eve, chose to disobey God, and through their act of disobedience, sin and suffering entered into the human experience. The Old Testament is filled with epic tales of the struggles of God's People to live faithfully despite their sinfulness. There is a story of great peaks and low valleys, the height of jubilation and the depths of despair. But throughout it all, God always remained faithful and, in his compassion, raised up heroes such as Abraham, Moses, and David to lead his People. All of these great, but flawed, leaders set the stage for the one who would eventually come and reveal the fullness of God's love for us, Jesus Christ.

Reflect How can you make time for appreciating creation, praising the Creator, and sharing this joy with others?

Catechist's Prayer
Holy Spirit, touch my mind and my heart that through me you have an impact on these young people. Bless me with wisdom, with grace, and with passion. Be with me and make my words your own. Amen.

Sharing the Message
How Seventh-Graders Understand Chapter 1
Two big questions in the mind...

Our Sunday Visitor

ALIVE IN CHRIST

*...helping children to know, love,
and live our Catholic faith*

Whoever is in Christ
is a new creation...

**behold, new
things have come.**

2 Corinthians 5:17

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