Definitions / Key Concepts

Definitions

1. **Gospel** – the Good News about God at work in Jesus Christ; the word Gospel means *Good News*

2. **grace** – a share in God’s life and friendship that we receive through the sacraments

3. **sacrament** – an effective, outward sign, instituted (given) by Christ, to give grace
   - 3 Sacraments of Christian Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist
   - 2 Sacraments of Healing: Penance and Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick
   - 2 Sacraments of Service: Holy Matrimony, Holy Orders

4. **ziggurat** – an ancient structure; a tower made of a series of smaller and smaller brick platforms, one on top of the other, with a temple on the top

5. **justice** – respecting the rights of others and giving them what is rightfully theirs

6. **ark** – a large ship

7. **covenant** – agreement between God and his people

Key Concepts

1. God promised that he would send a Savior to fully restore humanity’s friendship with God.

2. The prophet Isaiah described the Savior as the *Suffering Servant*.

3. In the Gospels we read of Jesus’ work to bring hope to the poor and suffering, freedom to those who are persecuted, and healing to those who are sick.

4. The Gospels are the books of the Bible in which the Good News of Jesus’ life and teachings are presented. There are four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

5. The stories of Cain and Abel, Noah and the Flood, and the Tower of Babel belong to the *prehistory period* of events recorded in the Book of Genesis.

6. **Cain and Abel** – the two sons of Adam and Eve
   - Cain – older son, farmer; Abel – younger son, shepherd
   - God looked with favor on Abel’s offering, but not Cain’s. This was the biblical writer’s way of indicating that we cannot always understand the ways of God and we should not try to judge his ways.
   - Cain became angry, jealous, and resentful; he murdered his brother Abel.
   - Lessons to be learned:
     1) Human life is sacred and murder is prohibited.
     2) Learn to accept life as one finds it and respect one another.

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7. **Noah and the Flood**
   - God told Noah, a just man, to build an ark for himself and two of every animal because he was going to destroy the lawless and sinful people by sending a flood.
   - Rained for 40 days and 40 nights
   - Rainbow -- symbol of the covenant God made with man not to destroy all life on earth again
   - Other ancient peoples also had great flood stories, so Noah’s story is not original.
   - Religious truth: God’s forgiveness and love, and humanity’s goodness, can overcome all evil.
   - Christian symbolism
     1) ark: symbol of the Church – ark saved Noah; through the Church we are saved
     2) flood waters – symbol of waters of Baptism // Just as the world was washed and made clean by the flood, we are washed and made clean in the baptismal water.

8. **Tower of Babel**
   - symbolized the separation among different groups of people
   - symbolized humanity’s loss of unity and the development of different languages
   - **Before** the Tower, all spoke the same language and were united.
   - Tower – resembled a ziggurat; symbol of human resistance to God’s will
   - After God confused their language, they could not understand each other and the unity of the human race was lost.
   - **After** the Tower, people spoke many languages and developed different ways of living and communicating.