

Grade 7 - Lesson 1

St. Michael the Archangel Parish

Proclamation:

Faith, which is reasonable, is a gift from God by which we believe in him. Man is created in God's image, and God has revealed himself out of love for man.



Catechetical Points

- Salvation History
- God reveals himself through Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition.
- We can believe in God through both reason or the gift of faith.
- Each of us is made in the image and likeness of God.

Materials

- Blank paper
- YouTube (Please bring your own laptop or tablet)
 - Wi-Fi: StMichaelGuest
 - Password: 6084375348

Catechist Prayer before the lesson:

“Lord, thank you for calling me to the ministry of catechesis. It is a great privilege and an awesome responsibility to echo your Word to others. Draw me closer to you, so that I may teach by word and example. Amen.”

Before class starts:

- If there any any new students in your class, be sure to introduce yourself and the other students to each other.

[5 min] **Opening Prayer**

- Have the students open their books to page 13 and read the Scripture passage from Daniel 3:52.
- Read the commentary on page 1 of the Teacher's Manual.
- As we start the new school year, ask the students if there is anything they would like to pray for. Pray an **Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be** together. (Student text page 175)

[5 min] **Icebreaker**

- Divide the class into groups of 2 or 3 students. Give each group a piece of paper and have them write a list of all the things they have in common. After a few minutes, have each group share with the class.

[10 min] **Knowing God Through Creation** (p. 13)

- Ask: **"How do we know anything about God?"**
 - Divine Revelation is the way God tells humans about himself and makes his plans known. God reveals himself to us through Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition. We can know God through creation, through the voice of conscience, and through human intellect and reason. We also learn about God from the Bible, our parents, the Church, the Mass, religious ed classes, and prayer.
- Ask: **How do you know that God exists?**
- Ask: **Do you know anyone who doesn't believe in God? What can you do if someone's faith is weakened?**
- We can believe in God through reason or through the gift of faith. Science and faith do not contradict each other; instead, they work together because God is the author of all nature.
- Read about creation on page 13 in the Student Text.

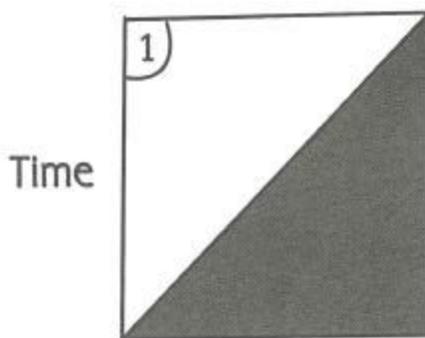
[15 min] **The Days of Creation**

- Hand out blank paper for the students to draw the days of creation as you lead each step.

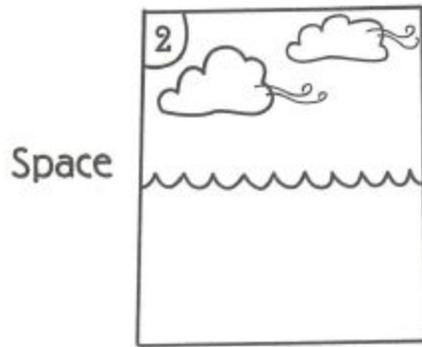
- God created the entire universe out of nothing. In the beginning, the world was formless and empty.
- Draw six boxes on the whiteboard and write in the numbers for each day of creation (bottom to top). Make sure you leave space above the boxes and to the left side of the drawing (See the finished drawing below).

3	6
2	5
1	4

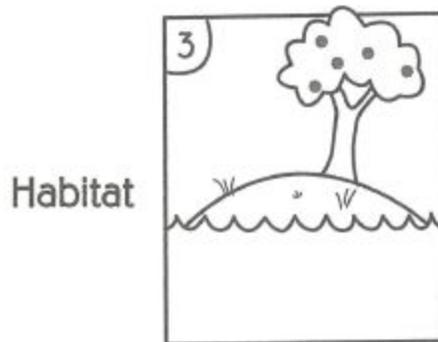
- During the first 3 days of creation, God gave form to the world. On the first day, God made light and darkness. This was the creation of “Time”.



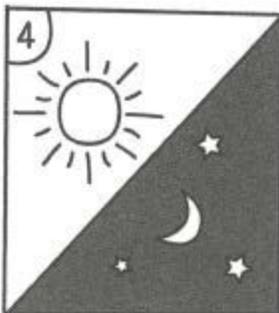
- On the second day, God made space, the sky, and the seas. This was the creation of “Space”.



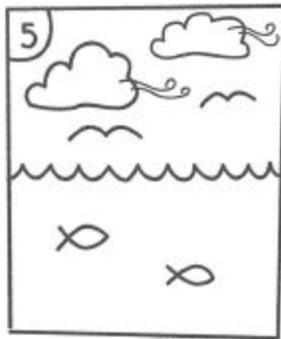
- On the third day, God created the dry land and the vegetation. This was the creation of habitats for God's creatures.



- The first 3 days solved the problem of the world being “formless”. Then God used the next 3 days to fix the problem of the world being “empty”.
- On the fourth day, God created the sun, moon, and stars. This filled the realm of “time” to keep track of days and seasons.



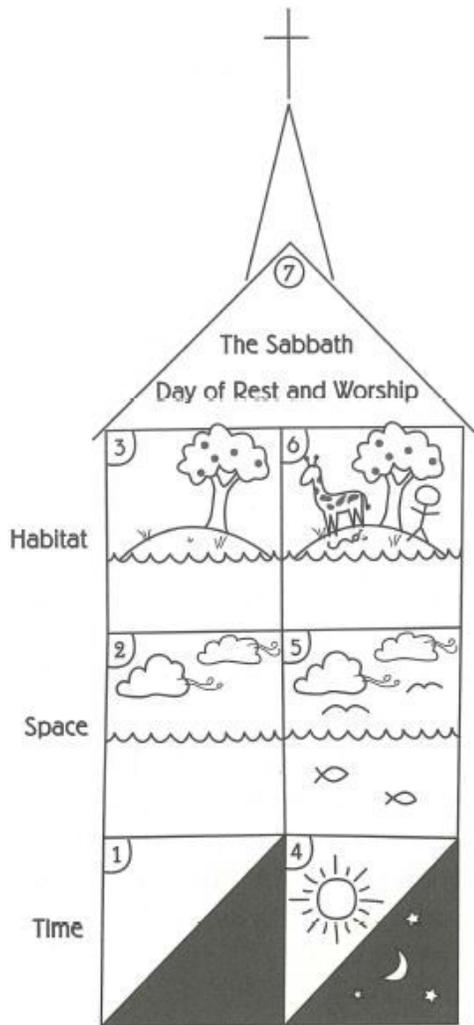
- On the fifth day, God created the birds and fish. This filled the realm of “space” with creatures of the air and sea.



- On the sixth day, God created animals and humans. They filled the habitats on the land that God prepared.



- On the seventh day, God rested. This is the Sabbath, which is the day for rest and worship. Add a roof to your drawing to make a temple.



- Through this creation story, we can see how all creation is perfectly ordered, and we can know our Creator through his creation.

[15 min] **The Story of Salvation History**

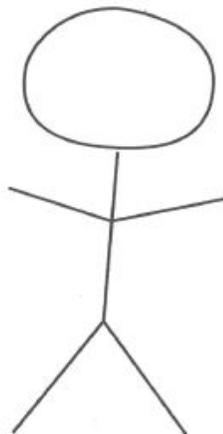
- God made everything in the universe good, including all the angels in heaven. But Lucifer (Satan) disobeyed God and many angels followed him. They became evil spirits, who tempt all humans to sin.
- God gave Adam and Eve the choice to follow him (free will), but they chose to disobey when they were tempted by the devil. This is called Original Sin, because it was the first sin humans ever committed.

- When Adam and Eve sinned, death and suffering entered the world, and they were separated from God. But God had a plan to make things better again by sending his Son, Jesus, to save us from sin and open the gates of heaven for us.
- The Bible tells the history of God's plan to save us. God's loving plan for all creation is called Providence.
- Watch the YouTube video **Salvation History** by Allison Low (Please bring your own laptop or tablet).
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jnm5wPdy_m4
 - Wi-Fi: StMichaelGuest
Password: 6084375348
- Pause the video at **0:50** after the introduction on sin and salvation.
 - Ask: **What is sin?** *When we freely choose to do, think, or say something that disobeys God's laws, and we turn away from God's love.*
 - Ask: **What is salvation?** *God's forgiveness of sins and the restoration of friendship with him. Jesus' sacrifice on the cross is our salvation which opened the gates of heaven to us.*
- Pause the video at **2:20** after Adam and Eve.
 - Ask: **What happened because of Adam and Eve's sin?** *Death, pain, and suffering entered the world, and they were expelled from paradise.*
- Pause the video at **3:45** after Noah.
 - Ask: **Why does God flood the earth?** *To destroy the wickedness in the world.*
- Pause the video at **4:55** after Abraham.
 - Ask: **Who does God ask Abraham to sacrifice?** *His only son, Isaac.*
 - Ask: **Why does God ask him to do this?** *To test Abraham's faith, trust and obedience to God.*
- Pause the video at **6:20** after Moses.
 - Ask: **Who led the Jewish people out of slavery in Egypt into the Promised Land?** *Moses.*
 - Ask: **What did God give Moses on Mt. Sinai?** *The Ten Commandments.*
- Pause the video at **7:33** after David
 - Ask: **David was a shepherd from Bethlehem. What did he become for the Jewish people?** *Their king.*

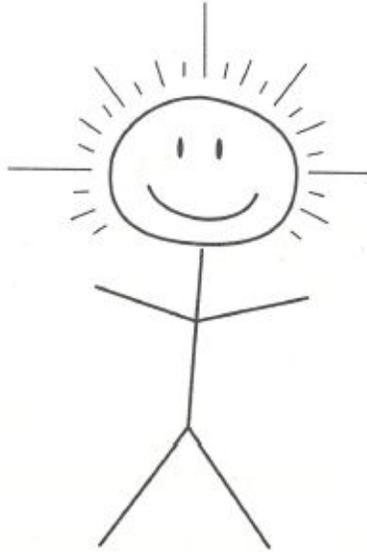
- Ask: **Why did David keep the Ark of the Covenant in the capital city of Jerusalem?** *To help keep God at the center of the people's lives.*
- Pause the video at **8:15** after Solomon.
 - Ask: **What important building did Solomon build?** *The Temple of Jerusalem.*
- Pause the video at **9:03** after the prophets.
 - Ask: **What did the prophets tell the people?** *That the Messiah would come soon.*
- Pause the video at **10:55** after Jesus
 - Ask: **At the Last Supper, Jesus establishes the New and Everlasting _____.** *Covenant.*
- Ask: **What does the story of Salvation History have to do with your life?**

[15 min - Optional Review from last year] **The Image and Likeness of God**

- Ask: **We often hear that each of us is created in the image and likeness of God, but what does this mean?**
- Unlike the animals, we can understand through reason, and we have free will. Because we are made in the image of God, God created us to know, love and serve him.
- Adam was the first human created. Because he was created in the image and likeness of God, we can say that he was a child of God.
- Ask: **What do you think the purpose of Adam's life was?**
- To learn more about Adam's role in creation, let's draw a picture. Use pencils so you can erase as we do each step. Hand out blank paper to the class.
- First draw Adam:



- To indicate that Adam is God's son, show him smiling and make his face shining with God's glory:



- God put Adam in charge of “serving and guarding” the Garden of Eden. The ancient Jewish people saw Eden as the first temple in the world, which means that Adam's first role was to be a priest. Draw a stole on Adam to show that he was a priest:



- God gave Adam another job besides being a priest. God gave Adam “dominion” over all other creatures on earth. This means that Adam was king over all living things. To show that Adam was a king, draw a crown on him:



- God gave Adam a third job: to name all the creatures on earth. A person who speaks on behalf of God is called a prophet. To show that Adam was a prophet, draw him with an open mouth, speaking God's Word:



- Our finished drawing shows that Adam was priest, prophet, and king. This was the meaning of Adam's life, and it is also the meaning of each of our lives. Jesus also lived as a priest, prophet, and king, and we adopted these roles at our baptism.
- Being a king means that we have power over ourselves, over sin, and over Satan.
- Being a priest means that we are children of God and we are called to make sacrifices, such as offering our time, talents, and treasure to others and the Church. Laypeople are called *common* priests, while ordained men in the priesthood are called *ministerial*

priests, who are given the additional graces to administer the Sacraments, especially the Holy Eucharist.

- Being a prophet means that we are called to speak the truth to others in our lives and speak God's Word to the world.
- Each of us is called to live out these roles of priest, prophet, and king, but we often mess up because of sin. But Jesus lived out these roles perfectly, which is why he is called the "last Adam" or the "Second Man".
- Read about Jesus, our Priest, Prophet, and King on page 53 in the Student Text.
- Ask: **How can we follow Jesus' example in our own lives?**

[10 min] **Knowing Ourselves Through Reason** (p. 14)

- Ask: **How are humans different from the animals?**
- Read page 14 in the Student Text, starting with "When we consider..."
- Ask: **Humans are above all the other creatures on earth, but who do you think possesses greater intelligents: humans or angels?**
- Draw the **Man is like a bridge** diagram from the sidebar on page 5 of the Teacher's Manual on the whiteboard. Explain that Man is the highest physical being, but the lowest spiritual being in the hierarchy of creation. But because we are created in the image and likeness of God, all human beings have equal dignity and the right to life.
- Have the students complete page 2 in the Activity Books and discuss. Possible answers are on page 10 of the Teacher's Manual. Discuss.

[1 min] **Closing Prayer**

- Pray the Act of Faith on page 175 of the Student Text.