

# Grade 8 - Lesson 1

St. Michael the Archangel Parish

## Proclamation:

*God's plan for each of us is eternal life. The story of salvation shows us how God's plan unfolds.*



## Catechetical Points

- Salvation History
- Revelation comes from both Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition.
- The Apostolic Fathers, The Church Fathers, and The Doctors of the Church

## Materials

- Scrap paper
- YouTube (Please bring your own laptop or tablet)
  - Wi-Fi: StMichaelGuest
  - Password: 6084375348
    - Salvation History by Allison Low
    - The Life of St. Augustine by ExplainEDtv
    - Steven Ray: The Church Fathers by Franciscan University of Steubenville

## 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** (p. 25)

- Have the students read the Scripture passage on **page 25** from Luke 20:21.
  - The Apostles turned to Jesus because they understood that what Jesus taught was the truth. We are made for the truth, and we should seek the truth in all that we do.
- 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. (p.181 in the Student Text)

[10 min] **Icebreaker - Two Truths and a Lie**

- Have each student write down three things: two truths about themselves and one lie. Take turns reading them, and the class tries to guess which one is the lie.

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

- Ask: **What is God's plan for each of us?** *For each of us to share the happiness of eternal life with Him.*
- God had a plan from the beginning of time. Out of love, he created us so that we can share heaven with him for all of eternity.
- 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](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 did God flood the earth?** *To destroy the wickedness in the world.*
- Pause the video at **4:55** after Abraham.
  - Ask: **Who did God ask Abraham to sacrifice?** *His only son, Isaac.*
  - Ask: **Why did 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.**
- At the end of the video, ask: **What does the story of Salvation History have to do with your life?**

[15 min] **Revelation** (p. 25-26)

- Ask: **Do you ever wonder about who God is, who you are, or what we are doing on this earth?**
- Ask: **“How do we know anything about God?”**
  - Divine Revelation is the way God tells humans about himself and makes his plans known. 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.
  - God reveals himself to us through Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition.
- Read the section on **Revelation** starting on **page 25** in the Student Text.
- Ask: **In your family, how are your traditions passed down from your grandparents or parents? In a similar way, the Church passes down its own Tradition to each generation.**
- Revelation in Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition are closely connected and must be kept together for proper understanding of the truths of God and their faithful transmission.
- Read the first 2 paragraphs in the **Source of Revelation** section on **page 26**.
- The Truth given to us through Revelation is like a precious treasure, which is protected by the Church. The role of the teaching office of the Church (**the Magisterium**) is to safeguard and faithfully transmit the truth to God’s people. The Magisterium is made up of the pope and bishops.
- The truth never changes. It cannot change because if it did, it would never have been the truth to begin with.
- Ask: **How are attitudes in modern society about truth different from what the Church teaches?**
- Ask: **What do you think would happen to the truths Christ entrusted to us without the Church to guard, hand on, and interpret them?**

- Ask: **Sometimes people struggle to accept others' authority. Why do you think that is?**
- Ask: **What reasons do you have for trusting the Church's teaching authority?**

[20 min] **The Fathers and Doctors of the Church** (p. 29)

- The **Fathers of the Church** are saints in the early Church who are recognized as special witnesses of the faith. They did a lot of important work in clarifying the core beliefs of the Catholic Faith.
- During the history of the Church, some saints have been recognized for writing outstanding sources of knowledge of the faith. The saints who wrote these books are called the **Doctors of the Church**.
- Have the students look at the list of saints on page 28.
  - Ask: **Which of these saints have you heard of before? Do you have a special devotion to any of these saints?**
- Read the first 2 paragraphs in the **Fathers and Doctors of the Church** section on page 29.
- One of the Church Fathers is St. Augustine, who lived a very sinful life until he converted to Christianity.
  - Watch The Life of Saint Augustine explained by ExplainEDtv: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bMaSjAIWZ00>
- Have the students complete **page 15** of their **Activity Book** (Our Heritage of Faith). Suggested answers are on page 40 of the Teacher's Manual.

[10 min - Optional] **The Apostolic Fathers**

- Watch the **YouTube** video: **Steven Ray: The Church Fathers** by Franciscan University of Steubenville: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C8E9ydemu1g>
- Ask: **How are the Apostolic Fathers different from the Church Fathers?**
- Ask: **Why did Steven Ray convert to the Catholic Church after learning about the Apostolic Fathers?**

[1 min] **Closing Prayer**

- Pray the prayer to St. Michael on page 185 of the Student Text.