

Grade 7 - Lesson 4

St. Michael the Archangel Parish

Proclamation:

God established a covenant with Abraham and his descendants, promising to bless him and all peoples through him.



Catechetical Points

- Throughout Salvation History, God made several covenants.
- There are three important leaders (patriarchs) of God's chosen people: Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
- The story of Fatima.

Materials

- Blank paper
- YouTube (Please bring your own laptop or tablet)
 - Wi-Fi: StMichaelGuest
 - Password: 6084375348
 - The Story of Fatima by Corey Payton.
 - <https://youtu.be/RQyyMU8kNAI>
 - Footprints of God: Abraham
 - <https://formed.org/study/55a6a784505d8ba80aa99bf6/lesson/55a6acc5505d8ba80aa99bf8>
 - [To log in to FORMED, create your own user account by visiting www.stmichael.formed.org]

Before class starts:

- Students who arrive early can play Train Wreck with students from the other grades.

[10 min] **Silent Prayer**

- Bring the class into church for a few minutes of silent prayer.
- Before praying, give the students some ideas of what to pray for:
 - Is there something troubling you this week?
 - Is there someone you know who needs God's help?
 - What are you grateful to God for?

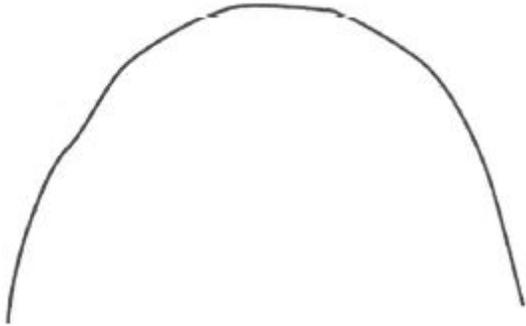
[10 min] **Quiz Game**

- Divide the class into teams and use the whiteboard to keep score.
- Ask review questions using the Chapters 1-4 Unit Test on page 47 of the teacher's manual.

[20 min] **God's Covenants**

- This past month we have been talking about the creation of the world, man's disobedience to God, and God' plan to save the human race from sin. This story is called Salvation History.
- Throughout Salvation History, God has made several promises (covenants) with people in the Old Testament.
 - **Adam and Eve:** God promises to send a Savior.
 - **Noah:** God promises never again to destroy the earth through a flood.
 - **Abraham:** God promises numerous descendants, the Promised Land, and great blessings to all of Abraham's descendants.
 - **Moses:** God gives the Ten Commandments. Israel becomes a nation of priests.
 - **David:** God promises an everlasting kingdom through the line of David.
- In the New Testament, a new and everlasting covenant is made between God and humanity through Jesus. God promises to free us from sin and bring us to heaven, and we in turn agree to give up our sins and follow the teachings of Christ.
- Let's draw the first 2 covenants that God made:

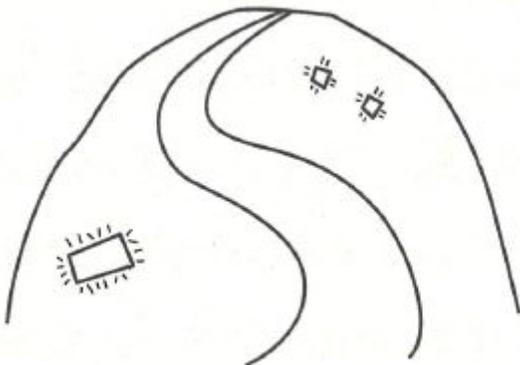
First draw Mount Eden:



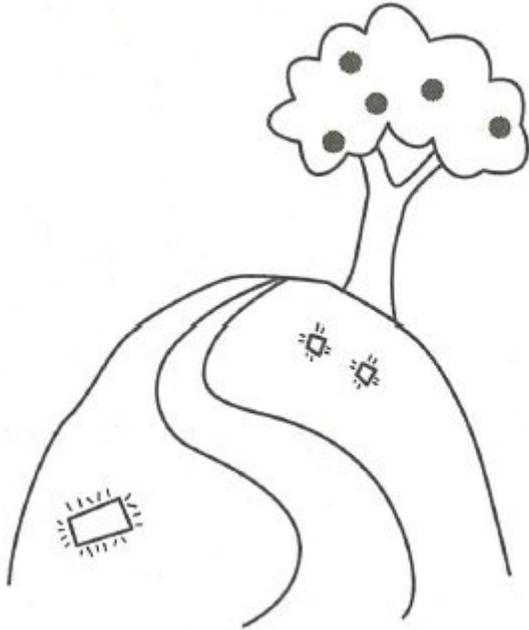
Eden was “the holy mountain of God” and the highest point on the earth where rivers flowed out to all the earth. Draw a river:



Genesis 2:11-12 tells us that there was a lot of gold and many precious stones in Eden. Draw some gold:



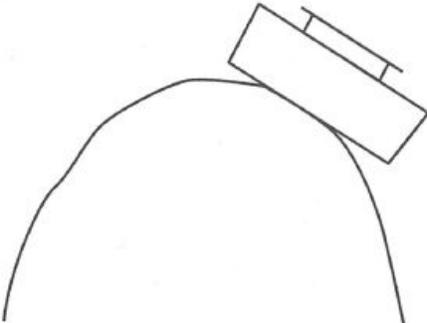
There were 2 important trees in Eden: The Tree of Life, and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Draw at least 1 tree:



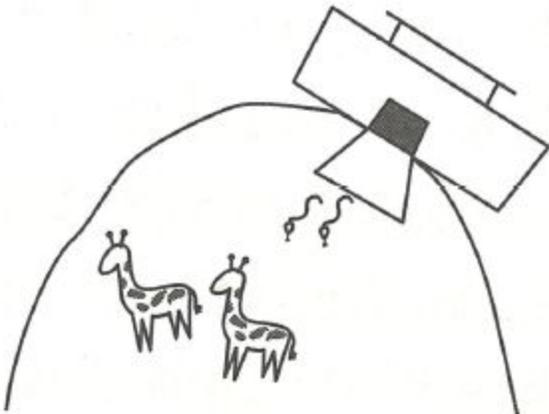
In Genesis 3:24 and in Ezekiel 28:14, we are told that there were cherubim in Eden. Draw an angel and Adam and Eve to finish the picture:



Next, let's draw God's covenant with Noah. First, draw Mount Ararat, which is where the ark landed after the flood waters subsided:



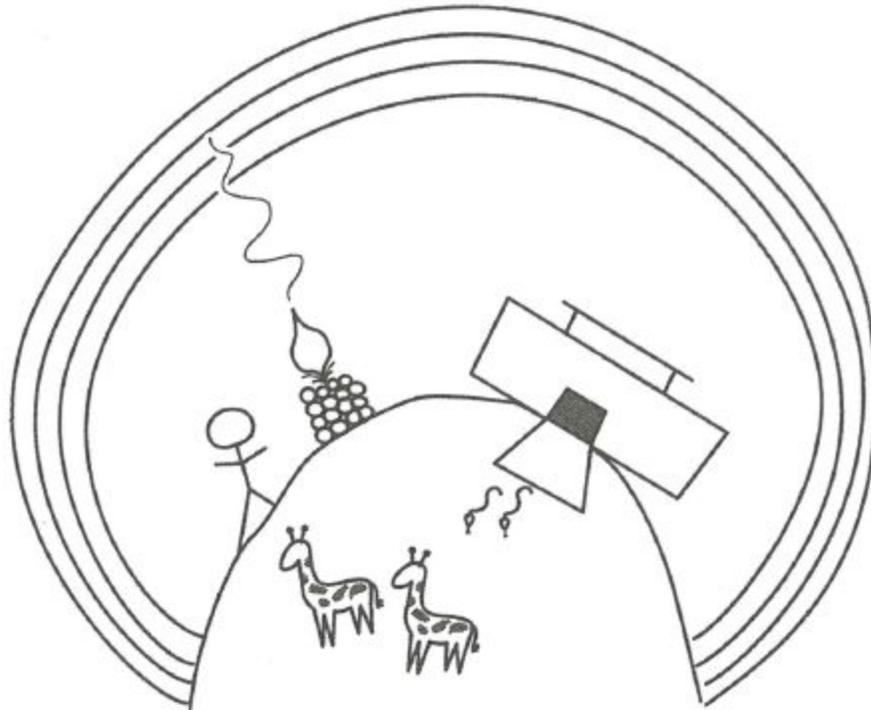
Open the door of the ark to let the animals out:



When Noah emerged from the ark, he performed a priestly act by building an altar and offering a sacrifice to God:



God hears Noah's prayer and uses the rainbow as a sign of his new covenant:



[5 min] **Abraham**

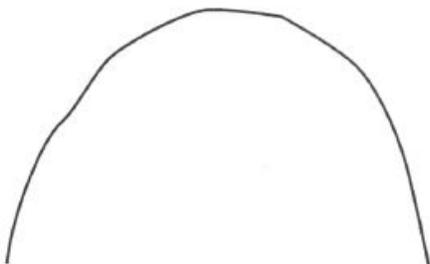
- After Noah, God forms a people, through whom the Messiah will come. There are three important leaders (patriarchs) of God's chosen people: Abraham, Isaac (Abraham's son), and Jacob (Isaac's son).
- Read **God Calls Abraham** on page 31 of the student text (page 46 in the teacher's manual).
- **What virtues did Abraham show?** *Faith, trust, obedience.*
- **Has God ever asked you to have faith, to trust, or to obey him?**

[15 min] **Isaac**

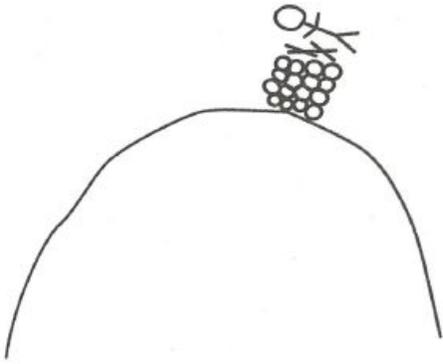
- Read the first paragraph on page 32 of the student text.
- Explain that the Jewish people would often sacrifice animals to God as a burnt offering as an act of worship and to atone for the sins of the people.

- Watch a scene from **Footprints of God: Abraham** (start the video at **52 minutes 30 seconds** when Stephen Ray talks about what is needed for an animal sacrifice. Stop the video at **59 minutes** after he speaks about how we are not saved by faith alone.)
 - <https://formed.org/study/55a6a784505d8ba80aa99bf6/lesson/55a6acc5505d8ba80aa99bf8>
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- **What are the parallels between Isaac and Jesus?** *See the notes on the top right of page 41 in the teacher's manual.*
- Have the students complete **The Covenant Continues with Isaac** on **page 14** in their Activity Book. (Answers are on page 48 in the teacher's manual.)
- **What does it mean to make a sacrifice?**
- **What kinds of sacrifices can you offer to God our of love?**
- Let's draw the covenant of Abraham

First, draw Mount Moriah, where Isaac was to be sacrifice, and would later be the same hilltop where Jesus was crucified:



Draw a pile of stones for the altar with Isaac on top:



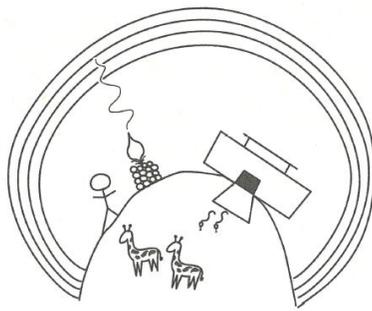
Draw Abraham holding a big knife to finish the picture:



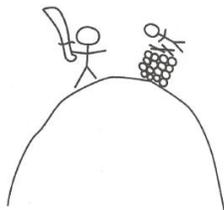
Compare the first 3 covenants:



Adamic Covenant



Noahic Covenant



Abrahamic Covenant

[15 min] **The Story of Fatima**

- Our Lady appeared to 3 shepherd children in Portugal 100 years ago. She brought a message of the “Peace plan from heaven”, which calls of us to live a life of conversion, prayer, and penance.
- Watch **The Story of Fatima** by Corey Payton.
- <https://youtu.be/RQyyMU8kNAI>
- Stop the video after **5:32**.
- Some notes on Fatima:
 - Mary predicted the spread of atheism throughout the world, which would begin in communist Russia a few months later. She also warned about World War II years before it happened.
 - The children at Fatima saw a vision of hell, and Mary explained that many people lose their souls because not enough people pray for the conversion of sinners and make sacrifices for them.
 - Mary first appeared to the children on May 13th, 1917, and she told them that she would perform a miracle exactly 5 months later, so on October 13th, 1917, over 70,000 people gathered at Fatima and witnessed the miracle of the sun, in which the sun gave off many different colors and started moving around in the sky. Even atheist journalists wrote about the miracle in Portuguese newspapers.
- **What should we do in order to live out the message of Fatima in our own lives?**

[1 min] **Closing Prayer**

- **The Prayer of Fatima** (p. 179 in the Student Text / p. 318 in the Teacher’s Manual)