

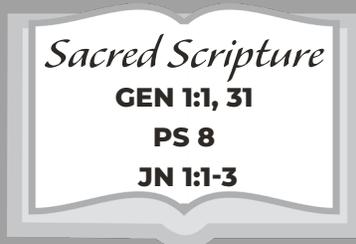
FAMILIES FORMING DISCIPLES

CREATION

TOPICS: The Bible as the inspired word of God
The goodness of Creation
Covenantal History & Promises – Jesus as fulfillment

REFERENCES:

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH
NOS. 135 & 315



CREED	LITURGY	LIFE	PRAYER
nos.	nos.	nos.	nos.
105-108, 279-324	1066, 1145-48, 1213-16, 1218	1700-15, 2060-61, 2077	2626-28

GOAL(S):

- To learn what is meant by the Bible is the inspired word of God
- To identify the two main parts of the Bible
- To introduce the term Covenant
- To explore the First Story of Creation
- To encourage families to pray the Rosary together at their home altars.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ,
We entrust our family to You and ask for Your blessing and protection. We love You Lord Jesus with all our hearts and we ask that You help our family become more like the Holy Family. Help us to be kind, loving, and patient with one another. Give us all the grace we need to become saints and Your faithful disciples.
Amen.

MATERIALS

- Baseball cap
- Sun glasses
- Magnifying glass,
- [Creation coloring sheet](#) for younger children to color

ICE BREAKER

1. Families sit in a circle and the catechist chooses one person in each family to start the game.
2. That person smiles their widest, biggest, cheesiest smile at everyone else in the circle, trying to make them laugh. However, they must be silent, and cannot make faces or be silly, all they can do is smile.
3. For every person in the group who laughs at their smile, they receive one point.
4. After they have smiled at everyone in the group, they "wipe" the smile off their face with their hand and "pass" the smile to the next person in the circle. Adapted from www.teachstarter.com



TEACH

1. Hook/Question

Who wrote the Bible?

Watch Video: *Tweeting with God, Did God write the Bible Himself?*



2. Introduce Topic

The Bible is the inspired word of God.



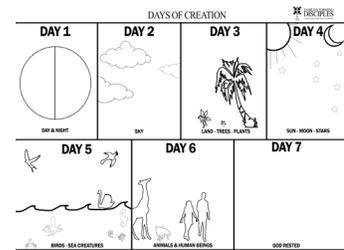
3. CONTENT

Review: The Bible is the inspired word of God, but what does that mean? The (Miriam-Webster) Dictionary defines the word “inspire” as: *to move or guide by divine influence*. We believe that the Holy Spirit inspired or moved various people at different times in history to write down what God had placed in their hearts and revealed in history. No, God did not write the Bible with His own hand; rather He worked through the hearts, minds and hands of each author to write the story of God’s family.

Explain: Let’s take a look at our bibles. The Bible is divided into two major parts. Open your bibles to find the two parts.

Ask: What are those parts called? Answer: Old Testament and New Testament

Consider having younger children begin coloring their “Creation coloring page,” (see materials list) while the lesson is being taught, so children may follow along with each day as it is read.



Explain: The word Testament means Covenant or an Agreement/Promise.

In ancient times, a covenant was a very serious promise or agreement, similar to a legal contract but more solemn and significant. So the Old Testament means the Old Covenant or the Old Promise, and the New Testament means the New Covenant or the New Promise. This year we are going to learn about the very important covenants God made with His people in the Bible and how God makes covenants/promises with you and me today when we receive the sacraments.

Explain: God put clues or signs in the Old Testament that give us hints about what will happen in the New Testament when Jesus comes to save us, forming the New Covenant. We will have to put on our bible detective hats and keep our eyes open for these signs.



CONTENT CONTINUED

Ask: Does anyone know what the very first story in the Bible is about?

Answer: Creation

Explain: The Bible begins with two stories of creation and there is a lot for us to learn from both of these stories. Let's open our bibles and begin reading the First Story of Creation in Genesis 1.

Read: Gen 1:1-2

Ask: Who was present in the beginning, before creation?

Answer: GOD

Ask: How do these two verses describe the earth?

Answer: formless wasteland &/or CHAOS

Explain: God will speak in this story, and when He does, His word will create! First, He creates out of nothing. God is eternal, with no beginning and no end. Everything else has a beginning. God then creates order and beauty out of the chaos and darkness. This is what He does in our lives too. When we invite God into our lives and live according to his laws, we are always happier and have God's peace in our hearts.

Going Deeper: Some translations speak of a "mighty wind" over the waters. In Hebrew, the word is ruah, meaning wind or spirit/breath of God. This is why other translations speak of the Spirit of God (the Holy Spirit) hovering over the waters. The Church sees here an early reference to the Trinity: God (the Father), His Word (the Son), and His Spirit (the Holy Spirit).

Clue: Listen and look at what happens every time the Bible says, "God said".

Read: Gen 1:3-5

Ask: What did God create on the first day?

Answer: First, LIGHT; then, Day and Night &/or TIME.



At the very beginning God created light. Early Christians understood this to include the creation of the angels. As we pray in the Creed at Mass, God is "maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible."

Read: Gen 1:6-8

Ask: What did God create on the second day?

Answer: Sky &/or SPACE

Explain: So God created time and space on the first two days.

Read: Gen 1:9-13

Ask: What did God create on the third day?

Answer: Answers will vary

Explain: God created a HOME for MAN and filled the home with good things he would need. This shows how much God loves, cares and abundantly provides for us as we live in the world He created!



Read: Gen 1:14-19

Ask: What did God create on the fourth day?

Answer: The sun to govern the day and the moon to govern the night and the stars.

Ask: What is God doing for us when He creates these?

Answer: He gives us **times for work, play and rest for healthy living.**

Psalm 147:4

*"He determines the number of the stars;
He calls them each by name."*

Read: Gen 1:20-23

Ask: What did God create on the fifth day?

Answer: God filled the sky and water with all kinds of living creatures.

Read: Gen 1:24-25

Ask: What was the first thing God created on the sixth day?

Answer: Wild animals, creeping things

Read: Gen 1:26

Ask: Did God create man first or last?

Explain: Man was created last because of all God's visible creatures, human beings are the greatest; God saved the best for last.

Jeremiah 1:5

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."

Read: Gen 1:27

Ask: What is special about God creating us (mankind)?

Answer: We are made in God's image (in **the image of God**).

Explain: People are created in the image of God, which makes us different from every other visible creature. We are in the divine image both through our souls and our bodies (since each of us is a body and a soul together). The divine image gives profound dignity to every human being, regardless of race, creed, color, ability. We have this high dignity forever, for our entire lives, from womb to tomb and into eternal life.

Ask: What else is mentioned about God creating human beings?

Answer: He created them **male and female** (in His image).

Explain: So, both male and female are created in the image of God and have equal dignity. And, right at the beginning of creation, God formed the family (which becomes clearer in the second creation story).



Bible Detective

Catechist can use props such as a baseball cap, sun glasses, magnifying glass, etc. to highlight the bible detective concept.

Ask: What happened every time we read the words, "God said" in the First Story of Creation?

Answer: Whatever God said came into being; He created it through His word.

Ask: What did He see after He made each creation?

Answer: He saw how good it was.

Explain: That is what God sees when He looks at you. You are His creation and when He sees you, He sees how good you are.

Read: Gen 1:28-Gen 2:3

Ask: What did God give man?

Answer: Dominion over all God's creatures.

Explain: When God gave dominion over all the creatures to man, it meant that they belonged to the man. However, dominion comes with the responsibility to care for them.

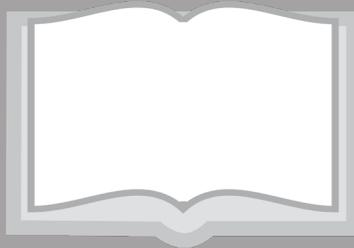
4. FAMILY CONVERSATION

- Many saints like St. Francis of Assisi loved being outdoors in nature because it reminded them of God. Is there a place that you have been to that reminds you of God's presence?
 - God gave human beings dominion over the earth. How does your family enjoy what God has created? How does your family care for his creation?
- a. First model by answering the questions and sharing from your life experiences
 - b. Small Group Family sharing
 - c. Allow for Large Group Sharing

5. MISSION

First, Introduce Mission Activity

Mission Activities are to be done at home during Week 2 and to be shared at the gathering of families on Week 3.



Last, Model for the Families

Show them your home altar and tell them about the rosary you have placed there, as well as the picture of a special person you would like to pray for at the Week 3 gathering

Second, Explain Activity

Remind the families:

- a. This is the month of the Rosary, so place your family rosary and/or picture or statue of Mary on your home altar next to your family bible.
- b. On November 1st, All Saints Day, we celebrate and show God that we are grateful for the saints who are in Heaven and for all the help they give us.
- c. Watch one or both of the videos on Week 2's Family Guide
- d. On November 2nd, All Souls Day, we pray for our loved ones who have died as well as for all those who are in Purgatory waiting for us to pray for them, so they too can go to Heaven and finally be with God forever!
- e. Find a picture of a family member or friend of the family who has died that you would like us all to pray for during Week 3 and on All Soul's Day, or draw a picture of that person if you don't have a photo. Place the photo or picture on your home altar. (This can be the same person that you prayed for last year, or you can add as many people as you want.)
- f. Be ready to share about who the person is, and why he/she is important to your family. Also, did that special person have a favorite saint? Do you have a favorite saint? Why is that saint your favorite?
- g. Gather around your prayer altar as a family. Take a moment to be silent with God together, and say a prayer for your family member or family friend, and for one another. Then end by praying a decade of the Rosary together.
- h. Read the Second Story of Creation from Genesis 2:4-25.

6. REVIEW & CLOSE IN PRAYER

Optional prayer: Lord God, we thank You for the gift of Your inspired word in Sacred Scripture. We thank You for the gift and goodness of creation. Help us live according to Your word. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.

Or: Glory be...

SUPPORTING QUOTES FROM CHURCH DOCUMENTS

Catechism of the Catholic Church, nos. 282 & 288:

Catechesis on creation is of major importance. It concerns the very foundations of human and Christian life: for it makes explicit the response of the Christian faith to the basic question that men of all times have asked themselves: "Where do we come from?" "Where are we going?" "What is our origin?" "What is our end?" "Where does everything that exists come from and where is it going?" The two questions, the first about the origin and the second about the end, are inseparable. They are decisive for the meaning and orientation of our life and actions.

Thus the revelation of creation is inseparable from the revelation and forging of the covenant of the one God with his People. Creation is revealed as the first step towards this covenant, the first and universal witness to God's all-powerful love.

Pope Francis, Encyclical *Laudato Si'* (2015), no. 65:

In the first creation account in the Book of Genesis, God's plan includes creating humanity. After the creation of man and woman, "God saw everything that he had made, and behold it was *very good*" (*Gen* 1:31). The Bible teaches that every man and woman is created out of love and made in God's image and likeness (cf. *Gen* 1:26). This shows us the immense dignity of each person, "who is not just something, but someone. He is capable of self-knowledge, of self-possession and of freely giving himself and entering into communion with other persons". Saint John Paul II stated that the special love of the Creator for each human being "confers upon him or her an infinite dignity".