

The Bible, God's Story

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Unit 1, Session 1**.

PAGE 3

Saint Jerome translated the entire Bible from Hebrew into Latin. He is the patron saint of librarians.

PAGES 5

An interpretation, or explanation of the Bible, helps us avoid confusion and leads us to a better understanding of God's Word.

PAGE 6

The New Testament is the story of how God the Father revealed himself fully in Jesus, his Son, and in the life of the early Church. It includes 27 books, some of which are letters written by leaders such as Saint Paul. The most important books in the New Testament are the Gospels, which tell about how God revealed himself through the birth, life, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of his Son, Jesus.

PAGE 6

The Holy Spirit inspired the writers of the books of the Bible. Although human beings wrote the Bible, God is the true author. The Holy Spirit guided them in their writing.

PAGE 6 AND 11

The Old Testament tells how God revealed himself to the Hebrew people and how they placed their faith in God. It includes the Books of Genesis and Exodus. Jesus was a Jew and studied the Old Testament.

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PAGE 7

The Church encourages us to read the Bible to learn about God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—to grow in our relationship with him and others, to understand his message of love and forgiveness, and to teach a new generation what the Church believes.

PAGE 7

God has given the authority to interpret the Scriptures to the Catholic Church and the Magisterium—the pope and the bishops teaching together.

PAGE 8

Saint Jerome's Latin translation is called the Vulgate version of the Bible.

PAGE 8

Long ago, nuns and monks in scriptoriums, places where writing took place, made copies of the Bible by hand.

PAGE 11

By reading the Bible, especially the four Gospels, we learn what God has done for us and how we are to help others.

God Creates the World

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Unit 1, Session 2**.

PAGE 14

In the first creation story, God spoke and every part of the universe came into being. God looked at everything he had made and found it very good.

PAGE 15

The Jews were living in exile in Babylon when the first creation story was written. They had been forced to leave their homeland to live in a place where the culture—a group's beliefs, customs, language, and dress—was strange to them. They also faced racism, or mistreatment due to their ethnic origin.

PAGE 15

Babylonian creation stories were filled with images of death and destruction caused by different gods, but in the Jewish creation story, God created the universe calmly with wisdom and love.

PAGE 15

Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini is the patron saint of immigrants.

PAGE 16

When Adam and Eve were tempted and ate the fruit from the forbidden tree, God made them leave the garden.

PAGE 18

When someone is treated unfairly because of his or her gender, it is called sexism.

PAGE 18

The story of Adam and Eve reveals a loving God who created man and woman to be equal, to live in partnership with one another, and to help God take care of the earth.

PAGE 19

God created the human family in his image and likeness and gave us the gift of grace.

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Sin and Salvation

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PAGE 22

God placed Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden and gave them everything they needed. They tended the garden and cared for the animals, and they had each other for companionship.

PAGE 22

God told Adam and Eve that they could not eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, but they disobeyed. This act of disobedience resulted in Original Sin, and henceforth life became more challenging for human beings.

PAGE 23

Cain and Abel, the sons of Adam and Eve, had never known what it was like in the garden. The brothers did not get along, and Cain got so angry one day he killed Abel. This story shows how quickly people began to sin after Adam and Eve disobeyed God.

PAGE 23

When people stop trusting God, they stop trusting each other as well.

PAGES 23 AND 26

The disobedience of Adam and Eve resulted in Original Sin, but God did not give up on people.

PAGE 24

God chose one family who showed love, trust, and obedience—Noah and his family. God told them to build a huge ark and put two of every creature on it. It rained for 40 days and nights, flooding the world.

PAGE 24

To help Noah, God put a rainbow in the sky as a sign of hope. God made a covenant, a commitment or promise, to never again send such a flood.

PAGE 24

In the Penitential Act of Mass, we reflect on our sins and ask for God's mercy. We pray "Lord have mercy" to praise God for his great mercy.

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Abraham Listens to God

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PAGE 30

Abraham and Sarah had been married a long time, but they had no children. One night God told Abraham that he would have as many descendants as there were stars in the sky.

PAGE 30

Three visitors, sent from God, came to Abraham and Sarah. They said that in a year Sarah would have a son. Sarah gave birth to Isaac one year later.

PAGE 31

God told Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac. Killing a firstborn child was common practice among other peoples at the time. Abraham trusted God and obeyed, but a messenger from God appeared and stopped Abraham.

PAGE 31

Abraham and Isaac are listed among the patriarchs, or founders of the Hebrew people, within ancient Israel.

PAGE 31

Patriarchs, along with prophets and other Old Testament figures, are honored as saints by the Church.

PAGE 33

Hope is an important Christian characteristic. We hope because we believe that God is committed to care for us and show us how to live.

PAGE 34

The three visitors to Abraham and his wife and the messenger that stopped Abraham were angels. Angels are God's messengers. They give people the courage to follow God's instructions.

PAGE 32

Ever since God's covenant with Abraham, Abraham's descendants have been known as God's Chosen People. Jesus is one of Abraham's descendants.

PAGE 32

Catholics have customs that tell the world that we are God's people, such as the Sign of the Cross. When we pray the Sign of the Cross, we pray in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

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Celebrating Ordinary Time

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Unit 1, Session 5**.

PAGE 37

Throughout salvation history, God the Father established and renewed his covenant with his people. Especially during Ordinary Time, we honor our covenant with God.

PAGE 37

The Church celebrates Ordinary Time twice during the liturgical year.

PAGE 38

During Ordinary Time, we grow in our faith by developing a deeper understanding of how Jesus wants us to live.

PAGE 38

When we go to Mass on Sundays, we hear a reading from the Gospels. This is the spoken Word of God.

PAGE 39

The Lectionary is the book containing the readings for Mass.

PAGE 39

During Ordinary Time, the first Scripture reading is often about the Hebrews, our ancestors in faith.

PAGE 39

During Ordinary Time, the second Scripture reading describes life in the early Christian communities. In the Gospel we hear about the life and ministry of our Lord Jesus as he reveals the Father to us.

PAGE 39

We trace the Sign of the Cross on our foreheads, mouths, and hearts. We ask God, through his Word, to be in our thoughts, on our lips, and in our hearts.

PAGE 40

We often see symbols for each of the Gospel writers. John is portrayed as a winged eagle because his Gospel focuses on Jesus' divine nature.

PAGE 40

The Gospel writers were Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. They are also known as the Evangelists.

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God Is Faithful

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Unit 2, Session 6**.

PAGE 45

John Neumann established nearly 100 Catholic schools in the United States.

PAGE 45

John Neumann was born in 1811, in Bohemia, now a part of the Czech Republic. His knowledge of eight languages helped him work with New York's immigrants.

PAGE 48

Isaac and Rebekah had two twin sons, Jacob and Esau. The brothers were very competitive and nothing alike.

PAGE 48

Jacob convinced his brother to trade his birthright for a bowl of stew. Jacob then tricked a dying Isaac out of his final blessing. When Esau found out he had been tricked, Jacob had to leave home.

PAGE 49

Jacob was tricked by Laban. He worked seven years for Laban in order to marry his daughter Rachel, but her sister Leah was switched at the last minute. In order to marry Rachel too, Jacob had to work seven more years.

PAGE 49

Jacob's story is a good example of Divine Providence—the way God's wisdom and love influence all he has created.

PAGE 49

God is able to bring about good results from bad choices.

PAGE 49

Eventually God gave Jacob a new name: Israel.

PAGE 50

Jacob is one of Jesus' ancestors. Through the examples of Jesus and his ancestors, such as Abraham and Jacob, we can see that our choices and actions are part of God's plan.

PAGE 52

Sometimes people count on God to get them out of trouble when they deliberately do something wrong. This shows disrespect for God's love and patience.

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Passover and the Eucharist

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Unit 2, Session 7**.

PAGE 56

During a time of terrible famine, Jacob's sons and their families moved to Egypt. Jacob's descendants came to be called Israelites, also known as Hebrews.

PAGE 56

As the Hebrews grew in number, the pharaoh enslaved them. The Hebrews were slaves in Egypt for almost 400 years. God chose Moses, a Hebrew raised by Egyptians, to lead the Hebrew people out of slavery.

PAGE 57

While Moses was in Midian, God appeared to him as a voice coming from a bush. The bush burned, but the flames did not consume it. When Moses asked God's name, he responded, "Yahweh," which means "I am who I am."

PAGE 41

Today God makes his presence known to us through the Holy Spirit.

PAGE 57

When the pharaoh refused to free the slaves, God had to perform many wonders to change his mind. The last of these was the Passover. Today the Jewish people celebrate Passover as a memorial to God for freeing them from slavery.

PAGE 58

God told Moses that on a certain night an angel would travel over Egypt and kill the firstborn child in every family. Moses told each family to kill a lamb and sprinkle its blood on the door so the angel would pass over their house.

PAGE 58

When God created the world, he rested on the seventh day. He commands us to do the same. We call this day the Sabbath.

PAGE 60

The Last Supper was a Passover meal that Jesus shared with his disciples before he was crucified.

PAGE 60

For Catholics, Mass is a memorial of Christ's Passover sacrifice granting us new life.

PAGE 60

The Eucharist strengthens and unites us in a community of faith.

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God Leads His People

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Unit 2, Session 8**.

PAGE 64

The pharaoh released the Israelites because he saw God's incredible power. After hundreds of years of slavery, Moses and the Hebrews began their Exodus.

PAGE 64

The Israelites wandered in the desert for 40 years before they settled in the land of Canaan.

PAGE 64

Because they faced many hardships along the way, the Israelites began to lose their trust in God. They thought they would die in the desert.

PAGE 64

God provided everything the Hebrews needed. When they became hungry, God gave them manna: food that fell from the sky. He provided a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night to guide them along the way.

PAGE 65

The most miraculous events of the Exodus occurred when the Hebrews crossed the Red Sea.

PAGE 65

God told Moses to raise his staff and part the waters to let the Hebrews cross. The second time Moses raised his staff, the waters crashed down and the Egyptian army was destroyed.

PAGE 66

When the Hebrews reached Mount Sinai, God gave Moses the Ten Commandments. God asked the Hebrews if they wanted to be his people.

Being Faithful to God

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Unit 2, Session 9**.

PAGE 72

After the Exodus the Hebrews settled in Canaan and established a kingdom.

PAGE 72

King David united the various tribes under one rule and established Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

PAGE 72

As David's power grew, he became arrogant and used his power to get whatever he wanted. This led him to make several bad decisions.

PAGE 73

David's decisions concerning Bathsheba broke three of God's important commandments. He committed adultery with her, submitted to the temptation of lust, and committed the capital sin of envy.

PAGE 74

David and Ruth both made life-changing decisions with different consequences.

PAGES 73 AND 74

Bathsheba, Ruth, and Naomi were all widows.

PAGE 74

King David would not have been born had it not been for Ruth, who made a choice to care for her mother-in-law. Ruth became the great-grandmother of King David.

PAGE 76

If we make poor choices, we can be forgiven, but we still have to live with the consequences.

PAGE 76

Having freedom of choice, or free will, does not mean we can do anything we please. God reminds us that choice is not only a gift granted to us but also a responsibility.

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Celebrating Advent

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Unit 2, Session 10**.

PAGE 79

God the Father shows us his loving care with the gift of his Son, Jesus, our Savior from sin and death.

PAGE 80

Advent is celebrated with a spirit of reflection, anticipation, and preparation. We reflect on the world as it was before the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

PAGE 80

Whether we were born thousands of years before Jesus' birth or just a few years ago, we are all God's people.

PAGE 81

Readings from Isaiah foretell Jesus' coming. Isaiah compares Jesus' coming to a bud growing from the stump of Jesse, who was David's father.

PAGE 81

During Advent, the altar is draped in violet cloth, and the priest wears violet vestments.

PAGE 81

Images in the stained-glass windows might depict the connection between the time before and after Jesus.

PAGE 82

A Jesse tree is decorated with symbols from the Bible.

PAGE 82

The symbols on a Jesse tree help teach about the Messiah's ancestry. Mary, Joseph, and Jesus appear near the top of a Jesse tree.

PAGE 83

The Church's liturgical year begins on the first Sunday of Advent.

PAGE 83

The Advent season gives us time to prepare our celebration of the birth of Christ, the "Anointed One."

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God's Presence in the Temple

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Unit 3, Session 11**.

PAGE 87

When Constantine became emperor of Rome, he named his mother, Helena, empress of Rome. She used her influence to build churches in holy cities. Under Constantine's rule, the persecution of Christians ended.

PAGE 90

King David had dreamed of building a great temple to honor God. After King David's death, his son Solomon began construction of a temple on Mount Zion, a tall hill in Jerusalem.

PAGE 90

The Ark of the Covenant is said to have held the actual stone tablets with the Ten Commandments that Moses had received on Mount Sinai.

PAGE 90

The Temple was built according to God's instructions. The most sacred room inside the Temple was the Holy of Holies.

PAGE 91

In ancient Judaism, the Temple was an important part of life. Animal sacrifices were a common part of ceremonies.

PAGE 91

Before construction of the Temple, the Hebrews worshiped in a special tent called a tabernacle.

PAGE 92

During his life Jesus had a special respect for the Temple at Jerusalem. For Jesus the Temple was not just a monument to God; it was his Father's house.

PAGE 92

Jesus is the one mediator between God and us, his human family.

PAGE 94

Today we are all the Church because God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—dwells within us. We are called to love others as God loves us. Discrimination can make people feel that they are not good enough for God or that he does not love them.

PAGE 94

The men called to receive the Sacrament of Holy Orders are visible signs of the priesthood in Jesus Christ. Without them, we cannot speak of the Church.

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Psalms, the Prayers of Jesus

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Unit 3, Session 12**.

PAGE 98

The Book of Psalms is a collection of 150 sacred songs and poems that are models for how we can pray. The Liturgy of the Hours includes specific prayers to say at different times of the day.

PAGE 98

When we participate in Mass or other liturgies, we join with other members of the Church in communal prayer. Personal prayers are our own private conversations with God our Father.

PAGE 99

Several books in the Old Testament explore the meaning of life and give us practical advice for every day living. These are known as Wisdom Literature.

PAGE 99

Ecclesiastes is a book that explores the meaning of human existence. The Book of Proverbs contains short, poetic advice for everyday life.

PAGE 99

The Book of Sirach has poetic verses about duty, humility, and the law. Wisdom of Solomon has poetic verses about justice and wisdom.

PAGE 99

The Book of Job is one man's story that explores the meaning of suffering. Song of Songs is a love poem with many meanings.

PAGE 99

Mary, who trusted God with perfect obedience, is called the Seat of Wisdom.

PAGE 100

Jacob sacrificed to protect his sheep, just as God cares for and protects us.

PAGE 100

Psalms 23 presents God as a shepherd with the beginning words "The Lord is my shepherd." It reminds us that God is there to protect us no matter what troubles we may encounter.

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The Mission of the Church

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Unit 3, Session 13**.

PAGE 106

God established the Church as the means of salvation for all. Through Jesus Christ in the Church, we receive forgiveness from our sins and become part of God's family.

PAGE 106

The Church is the sign and instrument of the unity that the Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—has with all humanity.

PAGE 106

The Church, as the People of God, carries out the mission Jesus entrusted to his disciples: proclaim the Good News to all people.

PAGE 107

Abraham and his tribe became God's people, the Hebrews, who were God's presence among all other peoples of the world.

PAGE 107

The People of God are all temples of the Holy Spirit.

PAGE 108

Peter proclaimed Jesus as the Messiah who fulfilled many prophecies of the Old Testament.

PAGE 108

When the crowd asked Peter what they could do, he told them to repent, be baptized, and receive forgiveness for their sins.

PAGE 110

As Catholics, we recognize and respect the value of other religions.

PAGE 110

Many images are used to describe the Church. Among them are the images of the Church as the Bride of Christ, the Temple of the Holy Spirit, and the Body of Christ.

PAGE 110

Muslims—followers of Islam—believe in the one God of Abraham and of his descendants.

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The Marks of the Church

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Unit 3, Session 14**.

PAGE 114

The Nicene Creed is a summary of our Catholic faith in which we identify the four Marks of the Church.

PAGE 114

The four Marks of the Church are that it is one, holy, catholic, and apostolic.

PAGE 114

We believe in one God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—and share in one faith in the one Spirit.

PAGE 114

The Church is holy because the Church lives in union with Jesus Christ—the source of holiness.

PAGE 115

Catholic means “universal.” The mission of the Church is universal because the Church was sent to proclaim Christ to the entire human race.

PAGE 115

The Church is apostolic because it traces its tradition directly from the Apostles. The pope and the bishops are the successors of the Apostles and pastors of the church.

PAGE 115

Mary, the Mother of God, is the greatest example of holiness. Her song of response to God, titled the Magnificat, praises God for the gift of grace.

PAGE 116

The law of God is written upon our hearts, and we are all part of one body with Jesus Christ.

PAGE 118

Many different people and cultures make up the Church. We are united because we worship the same God and receive grace from the same Savior, Jesus Christ.

PAGE 118

God gives each of us different gifts, or virtues, to perform good works.

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Celebrating Christmas

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Unit 3, Session 15**.

PAGE 122

The word *epiphany* means “revelation”—making something known.

PAGE 122

Three Magi were the first to proclaim Jesus as King.

PAGE 123

The Magi were guided to Bethlehem and the infant Jesus by a star.

PAGE 123

During the Christmas season, we hear readings about the birth of Jesus, the Holy Family, and the Epiphany.

PAGE 123

Bright white is the Christmas season’s liturgical color.

PAGE 123

The traditional names of the Magi are Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar.

PAGE 124

The Feast of Epiphany celebrates the announcement of Jesus’ birth and the arrival of the Magi.

PAGE 124

The Magi’s long journey is a symbol of our own journey through life, seeking Jesus.

PAGE 125

On Christmas day we celebrate the Incarnation—the birth of Jesus Christ, true God and true man.

PAGE 125

Christmas is more than just December 25. It is a season of the liturgical year when we celebrate several feasts, including the Feast of the Epiphany.

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Prophets Challenge the People

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Unit 4, Session 16**.

PAGE 129

Through a period of deep reflection, known as discernment, Ignatius of Loyola opened himself to hear God's call. He dedicated the rest of his life to serving others for the glory of God.

PAGE 132

After King Solomon's reign, his kingdom was divided into the smaller kingdoms—Israel to the north and Judah to the south.

PAGE 132

Prophets held a unique role in ancient Jewish society because they spoke for God. They advised kings about how their societies could exist in harmony with God's commandments.

PAGE 132

Amos was a prophet in Israel who spoke against the ways people with wealth treated those who were poor.

PAGE 132

Jeremiah spent his life sharing God's message with the people of Judah. Jeremiah's advice encouraged the exiled Jews in Babylon and urged them to remember that God loved them.

PAGE 132

Jeremiah witnessed the destruction of Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem and marked the beginning of the Babylonian exile.

PAGE 133

Isaiah had a powerful vision of God sitting on an enormous throne. Above God hovered seraphim, six-winged angel guardians.

PAGE 136

Reform continues to be an important part of society today. One of the reasons for this is that the laws of society are not always the same as the moral laws of our faith.

PAGE 136

Dorothy Day cofounded the Catholic Worker Movement, a community of laypeople who serve those in need.

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Prophets Give Hope

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Unit 4, Session 17**.

PAGE 140

The Jewish people of Judah were forced to settle in Babylon during the Babylonian exile, where they were severely mistreated.

PAGE 140

A new prophet, who admired Isaiah, began ministering to the exiled Jews. Known as Second Isaiah, he proclaimed to the people that God still loved them and would lead them back to the Promised Land.

PAGE 141

The Gospel writers used the Old Testament, especially the teachings of Second Isaiah, to help them understand Jesus and his message.

PAGE 141

The Gospel writers teach us that Second Isaiah's message of renewal and hope was fulfilled in the life, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus Christ.

PAGE 141

Luke refers to Isaiah as he tells the story of John the Baptist's ministry and his promise that Jesus the Messiah would come.

PAGE 142

The Gospel of Matthew in the New Testament contains many references to the prophetic books of the Old Testament, especially Isaiah.

PAGE 142

Matthew, speaking mostly to Jews, used their own Scriptures to prove how Jesus had fulfilled prophecies concerning the Messiah.

PAGE 142

The Book of Isaiah was written by different writers in three times and places.

PAGE 143

Psalm 143 is a call to God for strength during difficult times.

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Sacraments of Initiation

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Unit 4, Session 18**.

PAGE 148

In Baptism, we are united with God through the forgiveness of sins and are marked as members of the Church.

PAGE 148

Adults who prepare for Baptism through a period of conversion in which they prepare to receive Christ are called catechumens.

PAGE 148

Each year during the Easter Vigil, the baptismal waters are blessed with words that call to mind the images of water.

PAGE 149

Every time the Eucharist is celebrated, we remember the sacrifice Jesus made for us and for our salvation.

PAGE 149

The Church encourages us to receive the Eucharist every time we attend Mass, especially on Sundays or Holy Days of Obligation.

PAGE 149

Christ, the Eternal High Priest of the New Covenant, acts through the priest to offer the sacrifice of the Eucharist.

PAGE 150

The stone in the center of an arch that holds it together is called a keystone. The Apostles and prophets are the foundation of the household of God, and Jesus is the keystone.

PAGE 150

The Church is built on the teachings of Jesus, the prophets, and the Apostles.

PAGE 152

Through Baptism we receive salvation and a permanent mark, or character, as well as the gift of sanctifying grace.

PAGE 152

At Confirmation we are anointed on the forehead with Chrism—oil blessed for this purpose.

Sacraments of Healing

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Unit 4, Session 19**.

PAGE 156

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick unites a sick person's physical suffering with that of Christ.

PAGE 156

Human life is sacred because God has created each of us with a body and immortal soul destined for eternal life. The Church condemns the practice of euthanasia—ending a person's life just because that person is old or seriously ill.

PAGE 156

During Holy Week the bishop blesses the oil of the catechumens and the oil of the sick.

PAGE 157

In the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation, we receive the healing grace of God's mercy.

PAGE 157

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is the only ordinary means of reconciliation with God and the Church. In this sacrament a person makes a confession to a priest, who offers absolution, conveying God's forgiveness.

PAGE 157

Penance brings us peace, spiritual consolation, renewal of the inner person, and strength for continuing spiritual growth.

PAGE 157

Some people who are saved are not ready to be in God's presence. These souls experience Purgatory, which is the temporary state of final preparation and purification.

PAGE 158

In Jesus' time, people who were ill were kept apart from society and considered unclean. Jesus' ministry cured physical ills and restored the dignity everyone is granted by God.

PAGE 158

Jesus gave his Apostles the authority to heal the sick and perform miracles in his name.

PAGE 160

After receiving absolution, a person must also give restitution by making up for the harm that was done to the person who was hurt. A penance of prayers and good deeds may help a person overcome temptations to sin again.

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Celebrating Lent and Holy Week

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Unit 4 Session 20**.

PAGE 163

During Lent, when we reflect on Jesus' Crucifixion and Death on the Cross, we are led to think about the needs of others.

PAGE 165

During Lent we hear readings about the events that led to Jesus' suffering and Death.

PAGE 164

The Church asks that we fast during Lent by limiting and going without certain foods. We also give up meat every Friday and limit the size of our meals on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

PAGE 165

During Lent the priest's vestments are violet, and the sanctuary decorations are simple and sparse.

PAGE 164

As we pay closer attention to fasting, we become more aware of the struggles that others face each day.

PAGE 165

Lent is a time to remember we are completely reliant on God. We pray and ask God the Father to help us understand all that his Son, Jesus, did for us.

PAGE 165

The fourth Sunday during Lent—Laetare Sunday—marks the halfway point of the season.

PAGE 166

Lent is a time to pray more deeply, make sacrifices such as fasting, and give to people in need.

PAGE 165

During Laetare Sunday, the priest wears rose vestments to remind us that Lent is a joyful season.

PAGE 166

When Jesus faced difficult decisions, he prayed. When we face difficult decisions, we follow Jesus' example by praying for the strength to follow God's will.

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Jesus' Way of Love

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Unit 5 Session 21**.

PAGE 171

Saint Benedict of Palermo was born a slave but gained his freedom at the age of 18 and later became a monk. He is the patron saint of African Americans, and his feast day is April 4.

PAGE 174

To help us live moral lives, God gives us the three Theological Virtues: faith, hope, and charity.

PAGE 174

Faith is the ability to believe in God and to decide to give our lives to him completely by acting for the good of others.

PAGE 174

Hope helps us trust that we have eternal life with God forever in heaven if we live according to Jesus' teachings.

PAGE 175

Charity is the virtue we use to show our love for God. The practice of charity, or love, brings the three Theological Virtues together in perfect harmony.

PAGE 176

Thérèse of Lisieux showed her love for God by making small sacrifices every day. Her story is an inspiring reminder that we can all live as members of God's kingdom.

PAGE 178

A person is canonized when he or she is declared a saint of the Church.

PAGE 178

A Doctor of the Church is someone who gives special guidance to Christians seeking a deeper spiritual life.

Sacraments of Service

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Unit 5 Session 22**.

PAGE 182

A vocation is a way of life to which God calls us so that we can live out the mission of the Church.

PAGE 182

Holy Orders and Matrimony are called the Sacraments at the Service of Communion.

PAGE 182

In marriage a man and a woman enter into a covenant of faithful and fruitful love with God and each other.

PAGE 183

The Sacrament of Holy Orders gives priests the grace and spiritual power to perform sacraments. Through this sacrament, the Holy Spirit imparts a special mark that changes a priest forever, identifying him as one of God's servants.

PAGE 183

The ordained ministry has three levels: deacon, presbyter, and bishop. *Presbyter* is another word for priest.

PAGE 183

The pope is the successor of Saint Peter. The bishops are the successors of the Apostles.

PAGE 183

Charisms are gifts of the Holy Spirit that help members of the Church serve the common good.

PAGE 184

A child, created in God's likeness, must be treated as a human being with the right to life from the moment of conception.

PAGE 187

Although every person is called to the vocation of a holy life, some people are called to holiness through Holy Orders or Matrimony.

ART PRINT SESSION 184

A husband and wife's marriage reflects the union between Christ and the Church, and their covenant cannot be broken.

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Caring for the Earth

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Unit 5 Session 23**.

PAGE 190

Dominion means to control or rule.

PAGE 190

God wants us to uphold the moral law in caring for our natural world.

PAGE 190

Pope Francis has emphasized our moral obligation to exercise our stewardship of the earth for the good of all people.

PAGE 190

Along with dominion, God also gave us responsibility. He entrusted us with the responsibility of caring for his magnificent creation.

PAGE 191

Caring for God's creation requires us to exercise moderation by using only what we need.

PAGE 191

In the Bible there is no division between justice toward people and justice toward the environment. Scriptures speak of the natural world as though it is a person.

PAGE 191

Catholic social teaching emphasize solidarity, dignity, and respect.

PAGE 192

In 1995, Pope John Paul II wrote an encyclical, a letter of instruction to the Church, called *The Gospel of Life*. It teaches us that all life is sacred gift from God.

PAGE 195

By increasing our solidarity with people all over the world, we can work to bring about environmental and social justice.

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Jesus' Call for Justice

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Unit 5 Session 24**.

PAGE 198

Each of us is a part of many communities, both large and small. To make our communities function well, the Holy Spirit calls us to care for one another with respect and tolerance. Jesus Christ brings us together in a community—the Church.

PAGE 199

All people are of equal value in God's eyes.

PAGE 199

Governments should support the basic rights of individuals. Basic rights include the right to religious liberty, the right to life, and the right to be protected from terror and torture.

PAGE 199

As Catholics, we are called to do everything reasonably possible to avoid war because of its evils and injustices.

PAGE 199

The Ten Commandments, which contain the unchanging moral principles of natural law, express the dignity of the human person and allow us to participate in God's wisdom and goodness.

PAGE 200

Saint Patrick was captured and enslaved in Ireland. Never losing his faith, he eventually escaped, became a priest, and forgave those who had enslaved him.

PAGE 200

Patrick later returned to Ireland. He introduced the Celtic tribes to Christianity by establishing monasteries, convents, and parishes and by adapting pagan celebrations to Christian feasts.

PAGE 202

The Letter of James explores the theme of faith and good deeds by explaining that faith without action is meaningless.

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Celebrating Easter

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Unit 5 Session 25**.

PAGE 206

As one family in Jesus, all who have come before us and all who will come after us are saved by his Death, Resurrection, and Ascension.

PAGE 206

God created everyone and everything on earth, and it is our duty to care for it.

PAGE 207

During the Easter Vigil, we hear the story of Jesus' Death and Resurrection, and we look forward to our own resurrection at the end of time.

PAGE 207

White is the liturgical color of the Easter season.

PAGE 207

The word *Pentecost* means "fiftieth" and comes from the Greek language.

PAGE 208

Salvation is the gift of new life in Jesus. Our challenge is to accept this gift by caring for God's creation and one another.

PAGE 208

The Easter Vigil has four parts: the Blessing of the Fire and Preparation of the Candle, the Liturgy of the Word, Baptismal Liturgy, and the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

PAGE 208

During the Liturgy of the Word, the story of God's love for us is proclaimed in the readings of the Old and New Testaments.

PAGE 209

The Easter season begins on Holy Saturday, when we celebrate the Easter Vigil, and ends on Pentecost, when God sent the Holy Spirit to Jesus' disciples.

PAGE 209

During the Easter season, we also celebrate the Feast of the Ascension, the day Jesus ascended into heaven.

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