

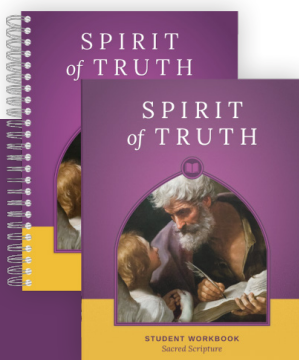
SPIRIT of TRUTH



Grade 6 Sample Unit 1, Lesson 2 and Unit 2, Lesson 5

Included here are two sample lessons from the 6th grade *Spirit of Truth* teacher's guide, followed by the corresponding pages from the 6th grade student workbook.

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Sacred Scripture: The Written Revelation of God

UNIT 1, LESSON 2

Learning Goals

- › God reveals Himself to us through Sacred Scripture (the Bible) and Sacred Tradition.
- › Jesus is the Word of God, and we encounter Him in Scripture.
- › Sacred Scripture is the written record of God's revelation of Himself.
- › Sacred Tradition is the central content of the Christian faith handed on by Jesus to the Apostles and their successors, the bishops.
- › The Magisterium is the teaching authority of the Church.
- › The Church venerates the Word of God as she venerates the Body of Christ.



Connection to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

- › CCC 51
- › CCC 65
- › CCC 77-78
- › CCC 80-82
- › CCC 85
- › CCC 88-90
- › CCC 101-104



Vocabulary

- › Revelation
- › Sacred Scripture/The Bible
- › Sacred Tradition
- › Magisterium
- › Deposit of Faith
- › Word of God

BIBLICAL TOUCHSTONES

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; He has sent me to bring good news to the afflicted, to bind up the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, release to the prisoners, To announce a year of favor from the LORD and a day of vindication by our God.

ISAIAH 61:1-2

And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.

JOHN 1:14

Lesson Plan

Materials

- › God Reveals Himself in His Word
- › Scripture and the Body of Christ
- › Divine Revelation Note-Taking Template
- › “Divine Revelation” Powerpoint
- › The Body of Christ
- › Note cards

DAY ONE

Warm-Up

- Before class, write on each of several note cards the name of a celebrity, a famous athlete, a cartoon character, or a character from a TV show or a movie (for example, Tom Cruise, Bugs Bunny, Iron Man, Taylor Swift, a Minion, and so forth). Distribute a note card to each student, and warn students not to let anyone else see their note cards. The name on the card will be each student’s identity for this game.
- Give students a few minutes to write on the back of their note cards five important clues or characteristics about the person or character on their card.
- Have students stand and find a partner. Without revealing any clues, have students guess who their partner is. Then have them take turns revealing their list of clues one at a time. After each clue is revealed, the student’s partner should guess who he or she is. If a guess is incorrect, the next clue should be revealed. If, after all five clues have been revealed and the identity has not been guessed, students may reveal who they are to their partners.
- After the activity, have students return to their desks and then ask the following questions:
 - › Did anyone guess who their partner was without any clues?
 - › What was it like trying to figure out who your partner was based on the clues?
 - › What was it like to give the clues but not have your identity guessed correctly?
 - › Why were some clues better than others?
 - › What ultimately gave away the identity of your partner?
 - › Do you think it was necessary to give clues to the identities? Why?
 - › How do you think this activity might relate to how we know God?

Activity

- Explain to your students that there are different ways in which we can come to know that God exists, such as through nature or through the use of human reason. But in order to know certain things about God, such as who He is, that He loves us, and that has a plan for our lives, God has to reveal them to us. We cannot come to know such things on our own by thinking about them or by using science and technology. Similarly, the only way students could know

who their partners were in the game they just played was for their partners to reveal themselves. Blindly guessing would get them only so far. Thankfully, God does reveal Himself to us. One of the primary ways God does this is through Scripture, the Bible.

- B. Have students turn to **God Reveals Himself in His Word (page 15)** in their workbooks. Have students work individually to complete the activity on the handout.

Formative Assessment

- A. Review and discuss the answers to **God Reveals Himself in His Word**.
- B. Ask your students to write on their own paper two things that God reveals about Himself to us. Collect their answers at the end of class.

God Reveals Himself in His Word

Directions: Read the Scripture passages below and answer the focus questions. Then respond in writing to the given prompt.

John 1:1-5, 14
 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.

- Who was in the beginning with God and is God Himself?

- What came to be through this person?

- What did the Word become, and what did the Word reveal when He became that?

Luke 4:16-21
 He came to Nazareth, where he had grown up, and went according to his custom into the synagogue on the Sabbath day. He stood up to read and was handed a scroll of the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord." Rolling up the scroll, he handed it back to the attendant and sat down, and the eyes of all in the synagogue looked intently at him. He said to them, "Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing."

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DAY TWO

Warm-Up

- A. Project on the board *Catechism of the Catholic Church* no. 51, which quotes *Dei Verbum* 2, and have a student stand and read it aloud:
- “It pleased God, in his goodness and wisdom, to reveal himself and to make known the mystery of his will. His will was that men should have access to the Father, through Christ, the Word made flesh, in the Holy Spirit, and thus become sharers in the divine nature.”
- B. Ask your students the following questions:
- Why did God reveal Himself? *It pleases Him to do so.*
 - What did God make known? *The mystery of His will.*
 - What was the will of God that He made known? *Men should have access to the Father, through Christ, the Word made flesh, in the Holy Spirit, and thus become sharers in the divine nature.*
- C. Explain that when we say “the mystery of God’s will,” we do not mean an unsolvable puzzle, but rather something that goes beyond our ability to understand on our own. In order for us to know or understand it, it must be shown or revealed to us. Therefore, God’s will for humanity was not a puzzle to solve or something unknowable entirely. Rather, God, the all-powerful Creator of the universe, revealed it to us because it is His will.

Divine Revelation Note-Taking Template

Directions: Read the selection and then fill in the blanks as you listen to your teacher.

In Sacred Scripture, the Church constantly finds her nourishment and her strength, for she welcomes it not as a human word, "but as what it really is, the word of God." "In the sacred books, the Father who is in heaven comes lovingly to meet his children, and talks with them." (CCC 104)

1. God chose to reveal Himself and make known _____.
2. A mystery is a truth that cannot be discovered by _____.
3. God revealed Himself to invite us into _____ with Him.
4. The _____ ensures that God's revelation of Himself will remain _____ and _____ for all time.
5. The Tripod of Truth is made of _____, _____, and the _____.
6. The core content of the Christian faith is found in _____, _____, and _____. Together, these are called _____.
7. Tradition means to _____.
8. Jesus told His Apostles to preach to all the _____, which they and their successors, the _____, have faithfully done for over 2,000 years, under the guidance of the _____.
9. The written record of God's revelation is called _____. It consists of the _____ and the _____ that make up the Bible.

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Activity

- A. Write "Scripture" on the board. Ask your students what other word we call the Scriptures? *The Bible*.
- B. Explain that the *Catechism* says that "in order to reveal Himself to men...God speaks to them in human words" (CCC 101). Scripture is the written record of God's revelation of Himself to humanity. God has made His will known to us through His Word, which we find written in the Bible.
- C. Download the "Divine Revelation" PowerPoint presentation from **SophiaInstituteForTeachers.org**. Have your students turn to **Divine Revelation Note-Taking Template (page 17)**.
- D. Use the PowerPoint to conduct a brief lecture with your students on the sources of divine revelation: Scripture, Tradition, and the Magisterium. Teacher notes are included on the bottom of each slide. Have students complete the note taking template during the lecture.

Formative Assessment

With partners, have students take turns asking each other questions using the note-taking template from **Divine Revelation Note-Taking Template**. Circulate around the room and check on conversations as they occur.

DAY THREE

Warm-Up

- A. Project on the board *Catechism of the Catholic Church* no. 1382, and have a student stand and read it aloud:

"To receive communion is to receive Christ Himself who has offered Himself for us."

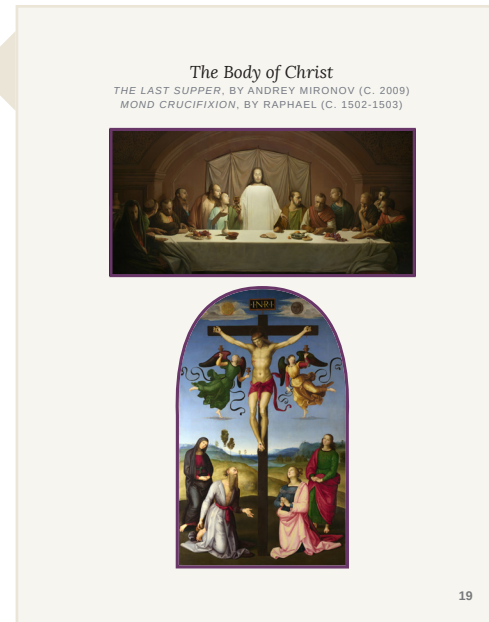
- B. Have students turn to **The Body of Christ (page 19)**. Ask them to take a few minutes to look at the images: *Last Supper* by Andrey Mironov and *Mond Crucifixion* by Raphael.
- C. In pairs or trios, have students respond to the conversation questions on the page that follows.
- D. When students have had time to discuss the questions, review and discuss as a class.

Activity and Assessment

- A. Project on the board *Catechism of the Catholic Church* no. 103, and have a student stand and read it aloud:

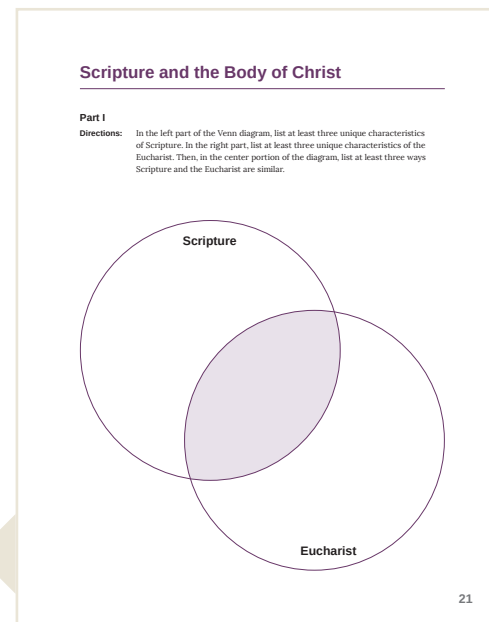
“The Church has always venerated the Scriptures as she venerates the Lord’s Body. She never ceases to present to the faithful the bread of life, taken from the one table of God’s Word and Christ’s Body.”

- B. Ask your students the following questions:
- ▶ What table do you think this *Catechism* quote is referring to? *The altar at Mass.*
 - ▶ What do we receive from the altar? *The Bread of Life, Jesus Himself, in the form of God’s Word and Christ’s Body.*
 - ▶ What is God’s Word? What is Christ’s Body? *Scripture and the Eucharist. We encounter and receive Christ present in both, although in different ways.*
- C. Have your students turn to **Scripture and the Body of Christ (page 21)** and work on the activities individually. They will complete a Venn diagram comparing Scripture and the Eucharist and then create symbols of each that shows how we encounter Jesus through each.
- D. When students have completed their work, review and discuss their responses to the Venn diagram. Draw or project your own blank diagram on the board, fill it in with student answers, and discuss them. Ask for a few volunteers to share and explain the symbols they created.



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Answer Key

1. The Word
2. All things came to be through Him, specifically life.
3. The glory of God

God Reveals Himself in His Word

Directions: Read the Scripture passages below and answer the focus questions. Then respond in writing to the given prompt.

John 1:1-5, 14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.

1. Who was in the beginning with God and is God Himself?

2. What came to be through this person?

3. What did the Word become, and what did the Word reveal when He became that?

Luke 4:16-21

He came to Nazareth, where he had grown up, and went according to his custom into the synagogue on the Sabbath day. He stood up to read and was handed a scroll of the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord." Rolling up the scroll, he handed it back to the attendant and sat down, and the eyes of all in the synagogue looked intently at him. He said to them, "Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing."

Answer Key

4. A scroll from the book of Isaiah.
5. The Spirit anointed Him to bring glad tidings to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord.
6. That the Scripture is fulfilled in the people's hearing of it.

Reflection Question:

God reveals Himself in His word. Jesus Christ is God's one perfect, unsurpassable Word. Jesus, the Word of God, is God and therefore, in Word, God Himself has come to us to reveal His glory. God's promise of salvation, prophesied throughout the Old Testament, is fulfilled in Jesus, the Word of God.

4. What did Jesus read from in the synagogue?

5. What did the Scripture that Jesus read from claim the Spirit of the Lord sent Him to do?

6. What did Jesus claim after reading the Scripture?

Reflection Question

In a well-written five- to seven-sentence paragraph, support the following statement using both of the above Scripture passages:

God reveals Himself in His Word.

Answer Key

1. The mystery of His will
2. Man alone
3. Friendship
4. The Tripod of Truth/whole/complete
5. Sacred Scripture, Sacred Tradition, and the Magisterium
6. Sacred Scripture, dogmas, and doctrines/Sacred Tradition
7. Hand on
8. Gospel message/ bishops/ Holy Spirit
9. cripture/Old Testament/New Testament

Divine Revelation Note-Taking Template

Directions: Read the selection and then fill in the blanks as you listen to your teacher.

In Sacred Scripture, the Church constantly finds her nourishment and her strength, for she welcomes it not as a human word, “but as what it really is, the word of God.” “In the sacred books, the Father who is in heaven comes lovingly to meet his children, and talks with them.” (CCC 104)

1. God chose to reveal Himself and make known _____.
2. A mystery is a truth that cannot be discovered by _____.
3. God revealed Himself to invite us into _____ with Him.
4. The _____ ensures that God’s revelation of Himself will remain _____ and _____ for all time.
5. The Tripod of Truth is made of _____, _____, and the _____.
6. The core content of the Christian faith is found in _____, _____, and _____. Together, these are called _____.
7. Tradition means to _____.
8. Jesus told His Apostles to preach to all the _____, which they and their successors, the _____, have faithfully done for over 2,000 years, under the guidance of the _____.
9. The written record of God’s revelation is called _____. It consists of the _____ and the _____ that make up the Bible.

Answer Key

10. Sacred Scripture

11. Magisterium/
pope/bishops

12. Deposit of Faith

Reflection Questions:

Accept reasoned
answers.

10. Sacred Tradition came before _____.

11. The _____ refers to the authority of the Church to teach in Jesus' name. It also refers to those who possess that authority, the _____ alone, and all of the world's _____ together in union with the pope.

12. Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition together form one Sacred _____, or the whole content of the Christian faith.

These descriptions are not complete, but they help you see how God reveals Himself to us through Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture. We will spend a lot more time studying the written record of God's revelation, the Bible, this year.

Reflection Questions

1. Have you ever read a story from the Bible? Which one? What was it like?

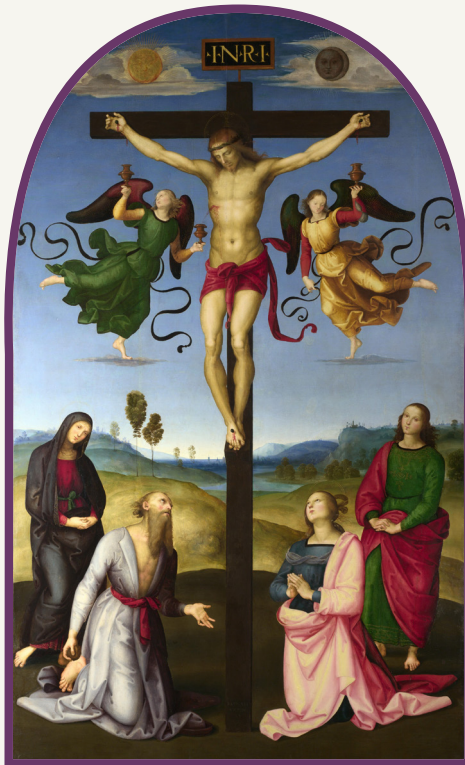
2. How do you think we encounter the Word of God directly in the Bible?

3. Which book of the Bible or biblical character or story are you most interested to learn more about this year? Why?

The Body of Christ

THE LAST SUPPER, BY ANDREY MIRONOV (C. 2009)

MOND CRUCIFIXION, BY RAPHAEL (C. 1502-1503)



Answer Key

1. Answers will vary.
2. The *Last Supper* painting depicts the Last Supper, specifically the moment where Jesus is teaching His Apostles that the chalice is the cup of His Blood which will be shed for them and for all as the New Covenant. The other painting depicts the Crucifixion of Jesus.
3. Jesus and the Apostles are in the *Last Supper* painting. In the *Mond Crucifixion*, to Jesus' left are Mary Magdalene and John the Evangelist, and to Jesus' right are Jesus' Mother and St. Jerome (who was not present at the Crucifixion, but to whom this painting was dedicated) along with some angels.
4. It appears in the *Last Supper* that the only source of light in the painting is Jesus Himself. He is almost glowing. This seems to highlight Jesus' divinity, and, at the moment of the Institution of the Eucharist, Jesus is giving Himself to His disciples, Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity.
5. The angels are collecting the Precious Blood of Jesus as it pours from His wounds on the Cross.
6. Both paintings depict Jesus giving to us His Precious Blood. In both paintings we see not only Jesus' humanity, but His divinity revealed and given to us fully in the Bread of Life, the Eucharist.

The Body of Christ

Directions: Take some time to quietly view and reflect on the art. Then think about the questions below, and discuss them with your classmates.

Conversation Questions

1. What do you first notice about each painting?
2. What is happening in each painting?
3. Who are the figures in each painting?
4. In the *Last Supper* painting, where is the source of light in the painting? What does that tell us about Jesus?
5. In the *Mond Crucifixion* painting, what are the angels doing? Why?
6. How do the two paintings together deepen our understanding of the Eucharist? What do they show us about whom we receive in the Bread of Life?

Answer Key

Scripture

Possible answers include: Written words, authored by human beings, God speaks to us through it, read, tells stories, can be read/received anywhere at any time

The Eucharist

Possible answers include: Appears as bread and wine, is the actual Body and Blood of Jesus, transubstantiated by the Holy Spirit through a priest, eaten and drunk, is received at Mass

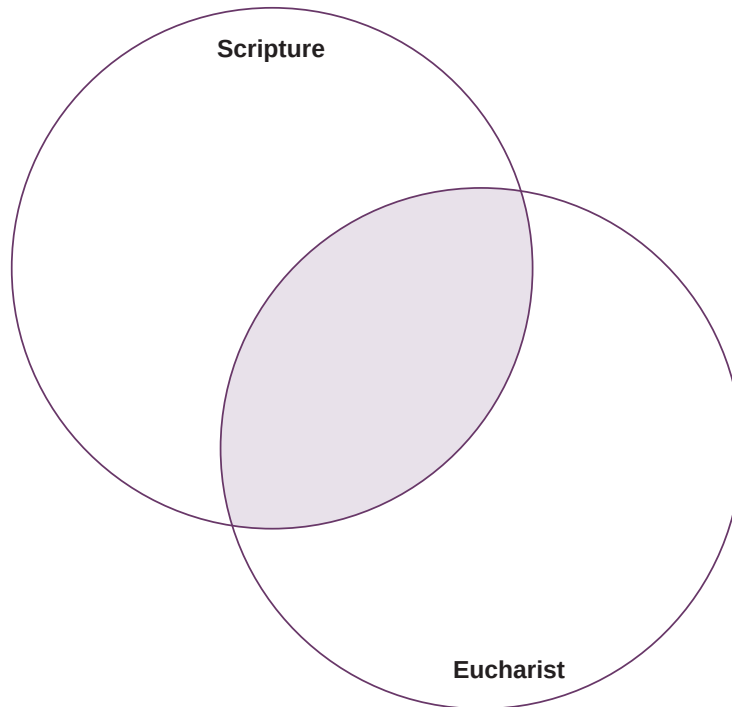
Scripture and the Eucharist

Possible answers include: Both are received at Mass from the “one table,” we encounter Jesus in both, both are venerated by Christians, God is revealed in both, both lead us to salvation.

Scripture and the Body of Christ

Part I

Directions: In the left part of the Venn diagram, list at least three unique characteristics of Scripture. In the right part, list at least three unique characteristics of the Eucharist. Then, in the center portion of the diagram, list at least three ways Scripture and the Eucharist are similar.



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Part II

Directions: In the boxes on the next page, draw a symbol for Scripture and one for the Eucharist to show how we encounter Jesus through each.

Scripture	The Eucharist

Salvation History Is a Love Story between God and His People, Told through the Covenants

UNIT 2, LESSON 5

Learning Goals

- › A covenant is a sacred, permanent bond of family relationship.
- › Covenants are different from contracts in that they involve personal responsibilities, are permanent, are an exchange of persons, and are based on God's Word. Covenant is the central theme of Scripture.
- › Every covenant includes a mediator, a promise, a sign, and a progression.
- › The story of the Christian faith is a love story between God and His people.
- › God never ceases to love us, despite our persistent unfaithfulness.
- › God entered into a series of covenants with mankind to reveal Himself and make known His mercy and love.



Connection to the Catechism of the Catholic Church

- › CCC 51-65
- › CCC 357
- › CCC 781
- › CCC 1612



Vocabulary

- › Covenant
- › Salvation History
- › Mediator
- › Sign
- › Promise
- › Progression

BIBLICAL TOUCHSTONES

Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, [love] is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-8, 13

God said to Noah and to his sons with him: See, I am now establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you: the birds, the tame animals, and all the wild animals that were with you—all that came out of the ark. I will establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all creatures be destroyed by the waters of a flood; there shall not be another flood to devastate the earth.

GENESIS 9:8-11

Lesson Plan

Materials

- Consequences and Relationships
- Contracts vs. Covenants
- The Covenant with Noah
- Salvation History—A Love Story
- God's Covenants and Mercy Chart
- God's Covenants and Mercy Cards

Consequences and Relationships

Directions: Briefly describe what you think the consequence might be for each of the following scenarios.

1. You hire someone to put in new windows and siding on your house. He does a very poor job and causes damage to your home.

2. You accept a new job that will pay you a salary. You fail to show up for work regularly, and when you do show up, you are late and you fail to meet deadlines.

3. A student brings a gun to school and threatens other students.

4. Your parents give you a curfew. You get home two hours late.

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Contracts vs. Covenants

Directions: Complete the chart using the information below, information from your teacher, and your own knowledge.

The Catechism defines mercy as “the loving kindness, compassion, or forbearance shown to one who offends.” Mercy can also be defined as love that keeps on loving even when it is rejected. God has revealed His mercy to us through covenants in salvation history. Covenant comes from the Latin word *convenire*, which means “to come together” or “to agree,” and it is the central theme throughout Scripture. A covenant is a formal and solemn pact or agreement permanently binding two or more parties to responsibilities toward each other.

	Contracts	Covenants
1	Exchange of _____	Exchange of _____
2	Sets up obligations, but they are not _____ obligations.	There are personal responsibilities that flow from a covenant. These responsibilities are based on _____
3	The basis of contractual obligations is _____	Covenants are based on _____
4	Can be dissolved / cannot be dissolved. (circle one)	Can be dissolved / cannot be dissolved. (circle one)

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DAY ONE

Warm-Up

- A. Have students turn to **Consequences and Relationships (page 77)** in their workbooks and respond to the questions on it.
- B. After students have been given a few minutes to complete the worksheet, ask them the following questions:
 - Based on the worksheet, what would you say is the difference between a contract and a covenant?
 - How would you begin to define what a covenant is?
- C. Write the word *covenant* on the board and explain that the word comes from the Latin *convenire*, which means “to come together” or “to agree.” Although this sounds similar to a contract, it is, in fact, very different. Covenant is the central theme throughout Scripture. In a covenant, two or more parties “come together” and form a formal and sacred bond of family relationship that is unbreakable.

Activity

- A. Have students turn to **Contracts vs. Covenants (page 79)** in their workbooks. Instruct your students to use this worksheet as a note-taking template during the lesson.

- B. Draw a T-chart on the board. Label the left side “Contract” and the right side “Covenant.” Ask your students what a contract is like, and record their answers on the “Contract” side of the chart. Ask the following questions:
- ▶ Is a contract an exchange of goods and services or an exchange of persons? *An exchange of goods and services.*
 - ▶ Is a contract made of personal obligations or contractual obligations? *Contractual obligations.*
 - ▶ Are contracts entered into by human promises or by the word of God? *By human promises or agreements.*
 - ▶ Do the relationships established by contracts depend on the conditions being met, or are they permanent? *Contracts depend on conditions and can be broken, but often with consequences.*
- C. Then ask your students what a covenant is like, and record their answers on the “Covenant” side of the chart. Ask the following questions:
- ▶ Is a covenant an exchange of goods and services or an exchange of persons? *An exchange of persons. Each party gives their entire self to the other.*
 - ▶ Is a covenant made of personal obligations or contractual obligations? *A covenant is made of personal responsibilities and mutual obligations. These responsibilities are based on our personal relationship and commitment to the other person.*
 - ▶ Are covenants entered into by human promises or by the word of God? *By the word of God.*
 - ▶ Do the relationships established by covenants depend on conditions being met, or are those relationships permanent? *They are permanent.*

Formative Assessment

- A. Have students turn to **The Covenant with Noah (page 80)** in their workbooks. With a partner, have students read the story of the covenant with Noah and answer the questions at the bottom.
- B. When students have completed the activity, review and discuss the answers.

The Covenant with Noah

Directions: Read Genesis 9:8-17, the story of God’s covenant with Noah, then answer the questions that follow.

God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them: Be fertile and multiply and fill the earth. Fear and dread of you shall come upon all the animals of the earth and all the birds of the air, upon all the creatures that move about on the ground and all the fishes of the sea: into your power they are delivered. Any living creature that moves about shall be yours to eat: I give them all to you as I did the green plants. Only meat with its lifeblood still in it you shall not eat. Indeed for your own lifeblood I will demand an accounting: from every animal I will demand it, and from a human being, each one for the blood of another. I will demand an accounting for human life.

Anyone who sheds the blood of a human being, by a human being shall that one’s blood be shed: For in the image of God have human beings been made. Be fertile, then, and multiply; abound on earth and subdue it.

God said to Noah and to his sons with him: See, I am now establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you:

the birds, the tame animals, and all the wild animals that were with you—all that came out of the ark. I will establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all creatures be destroyed by the waters of a flood; there shall not be another flood to devastate the earth.

God said: This is the sign of the covenant that I am making between me and you and every living creature with you for all ages to come: I set my bow in the clouds to serve as a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth, and the bow appears in the clouds, I will remember my covenant between me and you and every living creature—every mortal being—so that the waters will never again become a flood to destroy every mortal being. When the bow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature—every mortal being that is on earth.

God told Noah: This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and every mortal being that is on earth.

1. Who is the mediator of this covenant? How do you know?

2. What obligations or responsibilities are given in this covenant?

DAY TWO

Warm-Up

- A. Play the song “One Thing Remains (Your Love Never Fails)” by Jesus Culture, found at [Youtube.com/watch?v=6_KXsMCJgBQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6_KXsMCJgBQ). Project the lyrics to the song, if possible. Then ask the following questions:
- How did the song make you feel? *Answers will vary.*
 - What do you think the musicians were singing about? *The steadfastness of God’s love.*
 - What does this song have to do with the story of salvation we find in Scripture? *God’s love never fails us, despite our own failures or unfaithfulness. God always loves us. Jesus paid the debt of sin for us so that we might have eternal life.*
 - Why do you think the name of the song is “One Thing Remains”? *If you could choose a different name for the song, what would you choose? Answers will vary.*
- B. Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, 13 aloud. Ask your students how the song illustrates this Scripture passage. *Love is the greatest of the virtues. It never fails, and it remains when all else has passed. God’s love for us is so much greater than any other kind of love we experience.*

Salvation History: A Love Story

Directions: Read the story of Salvation History, then complete the questions that follow.

The story of the Christian faith is a love story. The main characters are God and His people. Throughout human history God has pursued us. He has revealed Himself to us and made His love known to us. The Catechism of the Catholic Church no. 278 illuminates this mystery: “In the course of its history, Israel was able to discover that God had only one reason to reveal Himself to them, a single motive for choosing them from among all peoples as His special possession: His sheer gratuitous love. And thanks to the prophets, Israel understood that it was again out of love that God never stopped saving them and pardoning their unfaithfulness and sin.” The only reason God does anything is because of His love for us. Like any epic love story, the story of our faith has its ups and downs, but unlike any other human story of love, God is unfailingly faithful to His beloved, us, despite our persistent unfaithfulness.

We encounter this love story first and foremost in Scripture. The Bible is the written record of the story of our salvation. We call this salvation history. God made Himself known in specific ways, to prepare us, His people, for the gift of salvation. Salvation history is the story of God’s saving actions in human history. God entered into a series of covenants with mankind. A covenant is a sacred bond of family relationship. When two parties enter into a covenant, the family relationship that is formed is permanent. It cannot be dissolved.

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Through each covenant, God gradually and in stages, in words and deeds, revealed more of Himself and drew us deeper into relationship with Him. God chose certain mediators, or individuals who represent all those entering into the covenant with God. God first revealed Himself to Adam and Eve, and then continued His self-revelation with Noah and his family. Then God promised great blessings to the world through Abraham’s descendants. God freed His Chosen People from slavery through Moses and established them as a nation and then, under David, as a kingdom. Finally, God fully revealed Himself in Jesus Christ and saved His people from sin.

As God’s relationship with His people progressed, each covenant brought more people into the covenant family. From the original couple, to a faithful family, to a holy tribe, to a chosen nation and later a royal kingdom, culminating in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church, God drew the entire human race to Him.

Each new covenant contained a sign, or an external representation of an internal reality. These signs were taken from human experience, to represent the depth of God’s love present at the heart of each covenant. Marriage between a man and a woman, the Sabbath, the rainbow, circumcision, the Law, Passover, and the Temple all took on greater meaning in their communication of God’s love and mercy.

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Activity

Have students turn to **Salvation History: A Love Story (page 82)** in their workbooks and read the essay and then complete the focus and reflection questions.

Formative Assessment

Review and discuss the answers to the Focus Questions from **Consequences and Relationships**.

DAY THREE

Warm-Up

- A. Review the main ideas of the previous days' lessons. (A covenant is sacred, permanent bond of family relationship. Covenants are different from contracts in that they involve personal responsibilities, are permanent, are an exchange of persons, and are based on God's Word. Covenant is the central theme of Scripture. The story of the Christian faith is a love story between God and His people. God never ceases to love us, despite our persistent unfaithfulness. God entered into a series of covenants with mankind to reveal Himself and make known His mercy and love.)
- B. Allow students to ask any remaining questions about the covenants and salvation history.

Activity

- A. Before class, cut out the various covenant components from **Teacher Resource: God's Covenants and Mercy Cards (page 148 in this guide)**, enough to give one complete set to each group of two or three.
- B. Arrange students in pairs or trios. Ask students to turn to **God's Covenants and Mercy (page 85)** in their workbooks and give each group a complete, shuffled set of cards.
- C. Explain that every covenant has a promise, a mediator, and a sign. Each covenant also signifies a progression or growth in God's family.
- D. Have each group arrange the covenant component cutouts in the proper order. In other words, have them group the correct mediator, promise, sign, and progression together and then put each covenant in the correct order. Then have students record the information in the proper order from the covenant component cutouts on the chart from **God's Covenants and Mercy**.

God's Covenants and Mercy

Directions: Every covenant has a promise, a mediator, and a sign. Each covenant also signifies a progression or growth in God's family. Fill in the following chart by placing the squares you receive in the appropriate space.

Covenant Mediator	Covenant Promise	Covenant Sign	Covenant Progression
Adam			
Noah			
Abraham			

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Assessment

- A. Review and discuss the correct answers to **God's Covenants and Mercy**. Emphasize the connection that God's covenants are a sign of His mercy and love. Even when we break these covenants, God continues to show us love and mercy.
- B. Ask the following questions:
 - ▶ What does each of these covenants communicate about God's love for us? *Accept any reasoned answers.*
 - ▶ How is God's mercy revealed and made known to us more deeply with each covenant? *Accept any reasoned answers.*

Answer Key

1. You may refuse to pay the company. You may take them to court. You will almost certainly find a new company with which to do business. Accept additional reasoned answers.
2. You will get fired. Accept additional reasoned answers.
3. The student will be expelled (and likely arrested). Students may become distracted by the fact that this scenario does not include an actual contact, as is the case in numbers 1 and 2. Remind them that only rarely do our relationships with others involve an actual

paper contract. In this example, there are “unwritten” understandings and expectations among classmates, teachers, administrators, etc. There are also written ones such as school rules, student handbooks, and our system of laws that punish violence. These go beyond a literal contract, but do not rise to the level of the permanently binding covenants in the next two scenarios. Accept additional reasoned answers.

4. Your parents will punish you. You will lose their trust. Accept additional reasoned answers.

Consequences and Relationships

Directions: Briefly describe what you think the consequence might be for each of the following scenarios.

1. You hire someone to put in new windows and siding on your house. He does a very poor job and causes damage to your home.

2. You accept a new job that will pay you a salary. You fail to show up for work regularly, and when you do show up, you are late and you fail to meet deadlines.

3. A student brings a gun to school and threatens other students.

4. Your parents give you a curfew. You get home two hours late.

Answer Key

5. The husband might have to do some extra things around the house to make up for his laziness. He might have to buy his wife some flowers. His wife might avoid speaking to him for a little while to show she is upset and has lost trust in him. She might forgive him because he works hard all week to support them and needs a little downtime, even if he forgot to speak up about that fact before she left. Accept additional reasoned answers.

6. The first three scenarios deal with contractual obligations. The last two deal with relationships and respecting the love and trust of those closest to us.

7. The consequences in the first three scenarios sever the relationships. The contracts become null and void. In the last two they may hurt or damage the relationship but the relationship and mutual obligations do not cease to exist. A parent would not disown his or her child for breaking a rule. If marriage vows are lived seriously and respected, a disagreement would not result in the ending of that relationship.

8. Accept reasoned answers, but students should recognize it is more like the last two scenarios.

5. A wife goes out to run errands for the day and asks her husband to do some things around the house. He agrees. She posts the list of things she needs done on the refrigerator. He spends all day watching sports and relaxing on the couch and doesn't do any of the things on his wife's list.

6. After reflecting on the above scenarios answer the following questions:

7. What are the differences between the first three scenarios and the last two?

8. How do the consequences between the first set and the second set of scenarios differ?

9. What set of scenarios is our relationship with God more like? Explain.

Answer Key

1. Goods and services; Persons
2. Deeply personal; our personal relationship and commitment to the other person
3. Human words and promises; God's Word
4. Can be dissolved; cannot be dissolved

Contracts vs. Covenants

Directions: Complete the chart using the information below, information from your teacher, and your own knowledge.

The *Catechism* defines mercy as “the loving kindness, compassion, or forbearance shown to one who offends.” Mercy can also be defined as love that keeps on loving even when it is rejected. God has revealed His mercy to us through covenants in salvation history. Covenant comes from the Latin word *convenire*, which means “to come together” or “to agree,” and it is the central theme throughout Scripture. A covenant is a formal and solemn pact or agreement permanently binding two or more parties to responsibilities toward each other.

	Contracts	Covenants
1	Exchange of _____.	Exchange of _____.
2	Sets up obligations, but they are not _____ obligations.	There are personal responsibilities that flow from a covenant. These responsibilities are based on _____.
3	The basis of contractual obligations is _____.	Covenants are based on _____.
4	Can be dissolved / cannot be dissolved. (circle one)	Can be dissolved / cannot be dissolved. (circle one)

Answer Key

1. Noah and his sons. We know this because God directly addresses them at the beginning of the story and makes the covenant with them.
2. An accounting for all life. If blood is shed, man is responsible for it, especially human blood, because man is made in the image and likeness of God.

The Covenant with Noah

Directions: Read Genesis 9:8-17, the story of God's covenant with Noah, then answer the questions that follow.

God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them: Be fertile and multiply and fill the earth. Fear and dread of you shall come upon all the animals of the earth and all the birds of the air, upon all the creatures that move about on the ground and all the fishes of the sea; into your power they are delivered. Any living creature that moves about shall be yours to eat; I give them all to you as I did the green plants. Only meat with its lifeblood still in it you shall not eat. Indeed for your own lifeblood I will demand an accounting: from every animal I will demand it, and from a human being, each one for the blood of another, I will demand an accounting for human life.

Anyone who sheds the blood of a human being, by a human being shall that one's blood be shed; For in the image of God have human beings been made. Be fertile, then, and multiply; abound on earth and subdue it.

God said to Noah and to his sons with him: See, I am now establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you:

the birds, the tame animals, and all the wild animals that were with you – all that came out of the ark. I will establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all creatures be destroyed by the waters of a flood; there shall not be another flood to devastate the earth.

God said: This is the sign of the covenant that I am making between me and you and every living creature with you for all ages to come: I set my bow in the clouds to serve as a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth, and the bow appears in the clouds, I will remember my covenant between me and you and every living creature – every mortal being – so that the waters will never again become a flood to destroy every mortal being. When the bow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature – every mortal being that is on earth.

God told Noah: This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and every mortal being that is on earth.

1. Who is the mediator of this covenant? How do you know?

2. What obligations or responsibilities are given in this covenant?

Answer Key

3. God commands Noah and his family to be fertile and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it.
4. God promises never again to destroy all the creatures of the earth by flood.
5. The rainbow.
6. This story directly recalls the covenant God made with Adam and Eve. The command he gave to Noah to be fertile and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it is the same exact command he gave to Adam and Eve. This tells us that the covenant with Noah is something of a re-creation moment, in essence restoring the earth to its condition in the beginning.

3. What commands does God give in this covenant?

4. What does God promise in this covenant?

5. What is the sign of this covenant? _____

6. What other Bible story/covenant does this story remind you of? Why?

Salvation History: A Love Story

Directions: Read the story of Salvation History, then complete the questions that follow.

The story of the Christian faith is a love story. The main characters are God and His people. Throughout human history God has pursued us. He has revealed Himself to us and made His love known to us. *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* no. 218 illuminates this mystery: “In the course of its history, Israel was able to discover that God had only one reason to reveal Himself to them, a single motive for choosing them from among all peoples as His special possession: His sheer gratuitous love. And thanks to the prophets, Israel understood that it was again out of love that God never stopped saving them and pardoning their unfaithfulness and sins.” The only reason God does anything is because of His love for us. Like any epic love story, the story of our faith has its ups and downs. But unlike any other human story of love, God is unfailingly faithful to His beloved, us, despite our persistent unfaithfulness.

We encounter this love story first and foremost in Scripture. The Bible is the written record of the story of our salvation. We call this salvation history. God made Himself known in specific ways, to prepare us, His people, for the gift of salvation. Salvation history is the story of God’s saving actions in human history. God entered into a series of covenants with mankind. A covenant is a sacred bond of family relationship. When two parties enter into a covenant, the family relationship that is formed is permanent. It cannot be dissolved.

Through each covenant, God gradually and in stages, in words and deeds, revealed more of Himself and drew us deeper into relationship with Him. God chose certain mediators, or individuals who represent all those entering into the covenant with God. God first revealed Himself to Adam and Eve, and then continued His self-revelation with Noah and his family. Then God promised great blessings to the world through Abraham’s descendants. God freed His Chosen People from slavery through Moses and established them as a nation and then, under David, as a kingdom. Finally, God fully revealed Himself in Jesus Christ and saved His people from sin.

As God’s relationship with His people progressed, each covenant brought more people into the covenant family. From the original couple, to a faithful family, to a holy tribe, to a chosen nation and later a royal kingdom, culminating in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church, God drew the entire human race to Him.

Each new covenant contained a sign, or an external representation of an internal reality. These signs were taken from human experience, to represent the depth of God’s love present at the heart of each covenant. Marriage between a man and a woman, the Sabbath, the rainbow, circumcision, the Law, Passover, and the Temple all took on greater meaning in their communication of God’s love and mercy.

Answer Key

1. As a love story between God and His people.
2. God revealed Himself, chose a people as His special possession, and saved the human race from sin because of His generous and unconditional love.
3. The story of God's saving actions in human history. Salvation history is enacted through a series of covenants God entered into with mankind.
4. A sacred bond of family relationship.

At the appointed time, God Himself entered into human history by sending His only beloved Son as a man. Jesus, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, was like us in all things but sin. He fully revealed the Father and communicated His grace to us in and through His life and teaching. Jesus performed miracles as signs of God's love and mercy and to announce the coming of the Kingdom of God. And then He offered Himself as a sacrifice for our sins. By His Cross and Resurrection we are set free from sin, our salvation is won, and we are made holy.

Jesus tells us to love one another, saying, "This is my commandment: love one another as I love you." To love as Jesus loved is far from the warm, fuzzy feelings of the modern notion of love. How did Jesus love us? St. John the Evangelist explains: "In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as expiation for our sins." Further, Jesus says, "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." The greatest expression of

love is self-sacrifice, giving oneself as a gift to another.

On the night before He died, Jesus gathered with His Apostles for their last meal together. He took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body" (Matthew 26:26). Similarly, He took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins" (Matthew 26:27-28). The next day, Jesus sacrificed Himself on the Cross, fulfilling His words by His actions. Christ loved us by giving Himself freely and completely to us in an act of mercy.

Rather than being an end to the love story, Christ's Passion, death, Resurrection, and glorification is a new beginning. Through this ultimate, undeserved act of love, each of us is invited to be a son or daughter of God, to receive salvation, and to enter into eternal life with a Father who loves us and has pursued us from the beginning of time.

1. What is the best way to describe the story of the Christian faith? Who is involved in this story?

2. For what reason did God reveal Himself, choose a people as His special possession, and save the entire human race by sending His only Son to die for us?

3. What is salvation history? How is it enacted?

4. What is a covenant? _____

Answer Key

5. God gradually, in stages, and in words and deeds revealed more of Himself and drew us deeper into relationship with Him.

6. A mediator is the individual who represents all those entering into a covenant with God. Two examples are Adam and Noah.

7. A sign is an external representation taken from human experience of an internal reality. Two examples are the Sabbath and the rainbow.

8. Jesus fully revealed the Father to us through His life

and teaching. Jesus announced the coming of the Kingdom of God through His miracles as signs of God's love and mercy. On the Cross, Jesus accomplished the work of salvation and died for our sins, rising from the dead three days later and defeating death.

9. "Love one another as I have loved you." We do this by giving of ourselves to others, laying down our lives.

10. In the Eucharist, Jesus gives Himself to us, Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity.

11. It is the beginning because it is an invitation to be a son or daughter of God, to receive salvation, and to enter into eternal life with a Father who loves us.

5. What did God do through each covenant? _____

6. What is a mediator? Give two examples.

7. What is a sign? Give two examples.

8. What did Jesus fully reveal to us, and how did He do this? What did He announce, and how did He do this? What did He accomplish on the Cross?

9. What is Jesus' commandment to us? How do we do this?

10. How is the Eucharist an example of Christ's love for us?

11. Why is Christ's Passion, death, and Resurrection not an end to the story of the Christian faith, but a beginning?

Reflection Question

On your own paper, describe a time that you felt loved by someone else. How did you know that you were loved? What signs were there of that love? What did you do in response? How is this time similar to or different from the way that God loves us? Why?

God's Covenants and Mercy

Directions: Every covenant has a promise, a mediator, and a sign. Each covenant also signifies a progression or growth in God's family. Fill in the following chart by placing the squares you receive in the appropriate space.

Covenant Mediator	Covenant Promise	Covenant Sign	Covenant Progression
Adam			
Noah			
Abraham			

Card arrangement should reflect the order of cards on the Teacher Resource

Covenant Mediator	Covenant Promise	Covenant Sign	Covenant Progression
Moses			
David			
Jesus			

Card arrangement should reflect the order of cards on the Teacher Resource

God's Covenants and Mercy Cards

Note: Make as many copies of the grid below as you have students. Cut out into cards, and shuffle them. Give one set of cards to each student in order to complete **God's Covenants and Mercy**.

Adam	<p>God called him to share in His blessings in the marriage covenant. When he disobeyed, God mercifully promised to deliver him and his wife from sin by crushing the head of the serpent.</p>	Sabbath	One Holy Couple
Noah	<p>God pledged to keep him and his family safe from the flood and then swore never to wipe out the human family in that way again.</p>	Rainbow	One Holy Family
Abraham	<p>God promised that he would be the father of a host of nations, with descendants as numerous as the stars.</p>	Circumcision	One Holy Tribe

<p>Moses</p>	<p>The Lord used him to lead Israel out of the bondage of slavery in Egypt and pledged to the people through him that they would occupy the promised land of Canaan as their inheritance.</p>	<p>Passover/ The Law</p>	<p>One Holy Nation</p>
<p>David</p>	<p>God made a covenant with him to build a worldwide Kingdom by establishing an everlasting throne with His son.</p>	<p>Throne/ Temple</p>	<p>One Holy Kingdom</p>
<p>Jesus</p>	<p>This covenant fulfills all other covenants and pledges eternal life to all who believe.</p>	<p>The Eucharist</p>	<p>One Holy Catholic Church</p>



Grade 6 Student Workbook Sample Pages

Unit 1, Lesson 2 and Unit 2, Lesson 5

God Reveals Himself in His Word

Directions: Read the Scripture passages below and answer the focus questions. Then respond in writing to the given prompt.

John 1:1-5, 14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.

1. Who was in the beginning with God and is God Himself?

2. What came to be through this person?

3. What did the Word become, and what did the Word reveal when He became that?

Luke 4:16-21

He came to Nazareth, where he had grown up, and went according to his custom into the synagogue on the Sabbath day. He stood up to read and was handed a scroll of the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord." Rolling up the scroll, he handed it back to the attendant and sat down, and the eyes of all in the synagogue looked intently at him. He said to them, "Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing."

4. What did Jesus read from in the synagogue?

5. What did the Scripture that Jesus read from claim the Spirit of the Lord sent Him to do?

6. What did Jesus claim after reading the Scripture?

Reflection Question

In a well-written five- to seven-sentence paragraph, support the following statement using both of the above Scripture passages:

God reveals Himself in His Word.

Divine Revelation Note-Taking Template

Directions: Read the selection and then fill in the blanks as you listen to your teacher.

In Sacred Scripture, the Church constantly finds her nourishment and her strength, for she welcomes it not as a human word, “but as what it really is, the word of God.” “In the sacred books, the Father who is in heaven comes lovingly to meet his children, and talks with them.” (CCC 104)

1. God chose to reveal Himself and make known _____.
2. A mystery is a truth that cannot be discovered by _____.
3. God revealed Himself to invite us into _____ with Him.
4. The _____ ensures that God’s revelation of Himself will remain _____ and _____ for all time.
5. The Tripod of Truth is made of _____, _____, and the _____.
6. The core content of the Christian faith is found in _____, _____, and _____. Together, these are called _____.
7. Tradition means to _____.
8. Jesus told His Apostles to preach to all the _____, which they and their successors, the _____, have faithfully done for over 2,000 years, under the guidance of the _____.
9. The written record of God’s revelation is called _____. It consists of the _____ and the _____ that make up the Bible.

10. Sacred Tradition came before _____.
11. The _____ refers to the authority of the Church to teach in Jesus' name. It also refers to those who possess that authority, the _____ alone, and all of the world's _____ together in union with the pope.
12. Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition together form one Sacred _____, or the whole content of the Christian faith.

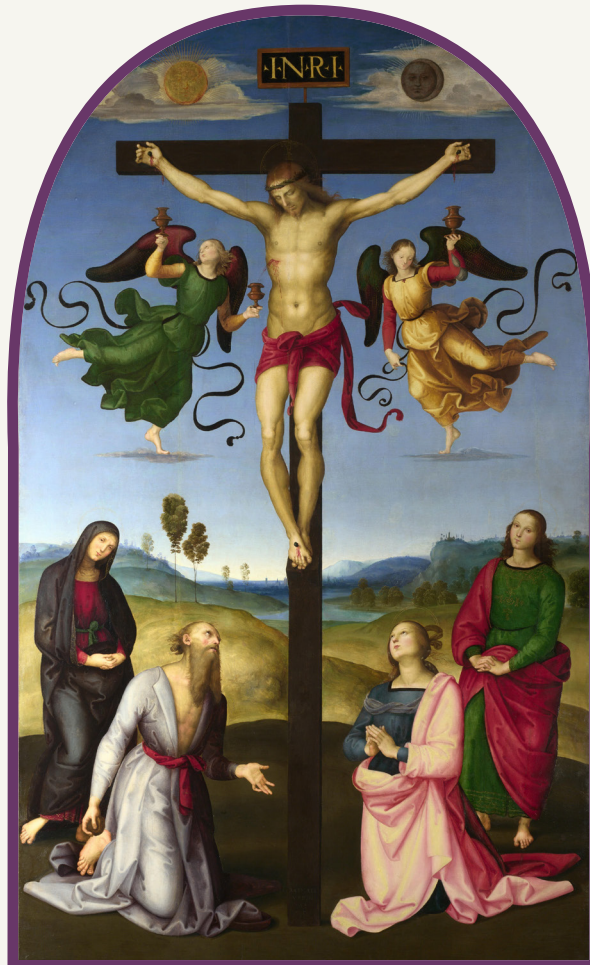
These descriptions are not complete, but they help you see how God reveals Himself to us through Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture. We will spend a lot more time studying the written record of God's revelation, the Bible, this year.

Reflection Questions

1. Have you ever read a story from the Bible? Which one? What was it like?
- _____
- _____
2. How do you think we encounter the Word of God directly in the Bible?
- _____
3. Which book of the Bible or biblical character or story are you most interested to learn more about this year? Why?
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

The Body of Christ

THE LAST SUPPER, BY ANDREY MIRONOV (C. 2009)
MOND CRUCIFIXION, BY RAPHAEL (C. 1502-1503)



The Body of Christ

Directions: Take some time to quietly view and reflect on the art. Then think about the questions below, and discuss them with your classmates.

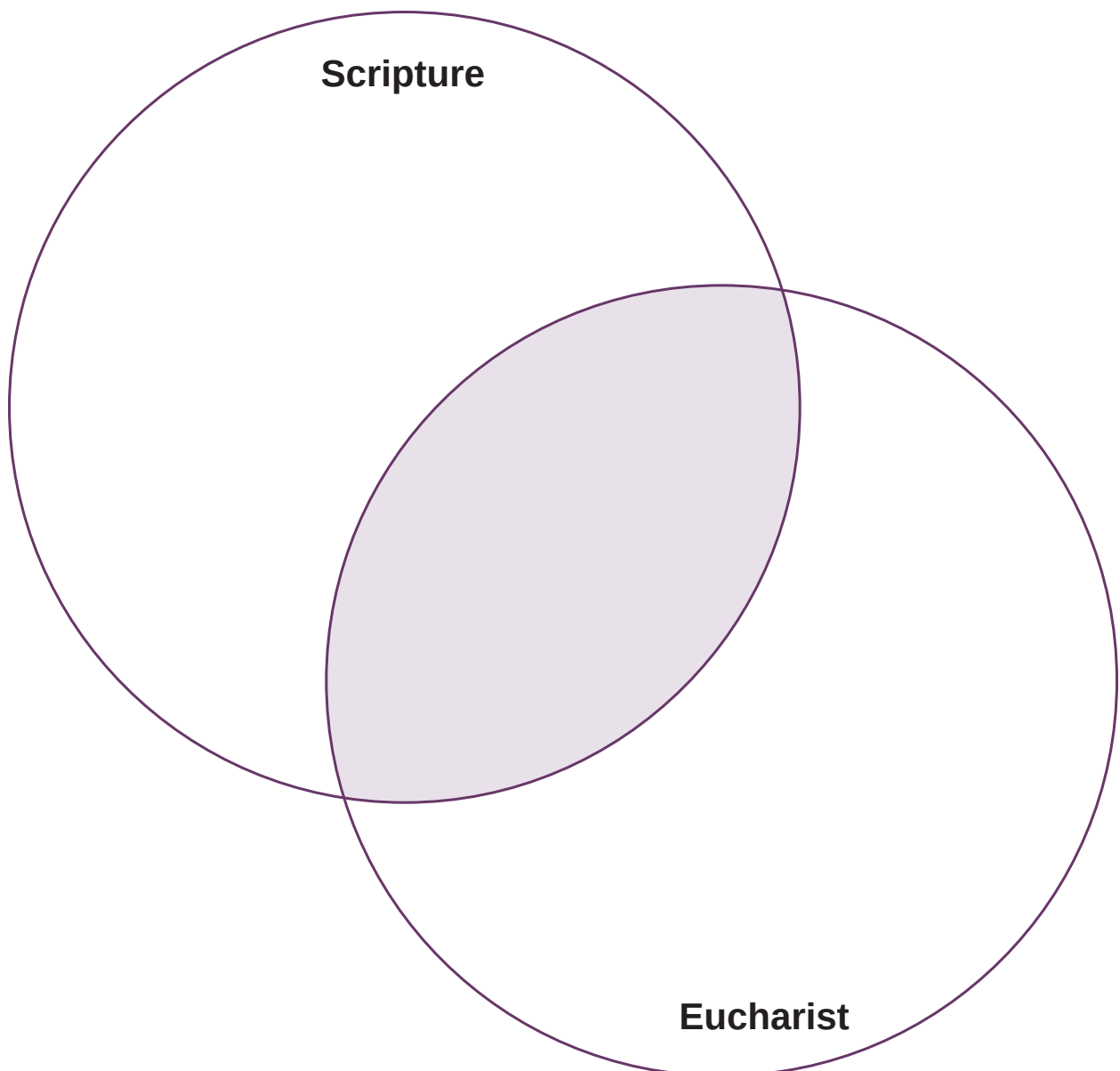
Conversation Questions

1. What do you first notice about each painting?
2. What is happening in each painting?
3. Who are the figures in each painting?
4. In the *Last Supper* painting, where is the source of light in the painting? What does that tell us about Jesus?
5. In the *Mond Crucifixion* painting, what are the angels doing? Why?
6. How do the two paintings together deepen our understanding of the Eucharist? What do they show us about whom we receive in the Bread of Life?

Scripture and the Body of Christ

Part I

Directions: In the left part of the Venn diagram, list at least three unique characteristics of Scripture. In the right part, list at least three unique characteristics of the Eucharist. Then, in the center portion of the diagram, list at least three ways Scripture and the Eucharist are similar.



Part II

Directions: In the boxes on the next page, draw a symbol for Scripture and one for the Eucharist to show how we encounter Jesus through each.

Scripture	The Eucharist

Consequences and Relationships

Directions: Briefly describe what you think the consequence might be for each of the following scenarios.

1. You hire someone to put in new windows and siding on your house. He does a very poor job and causes damage to your home.

2. You accept a new job that will pay you a salary. You fail to show up for work regularly, and when you do show up, you are late and you fail to meet deadlines.

3. A student brings a gun to school and threatens other students.

4. Your parents give you a curfew. You get home two hours late.

5. A wife goes out to run errands for the day and asks her husband to do some things around the house. He agrees. She posts the list of things she needs done on the refrigerator. He spends all day watching sports and relaxing on the couch and doesn't do any of the things on his wife's list.

6. After reflecting on the above scenarios answer the following questions:

7. What are the differences between the first three scenarios and the last two?

8. How do the consequences between the first set and the second set of scenarios differ?

9. What set of scenarios is our relationship with God more like? Explain.

Contracts vs. Covenants

Directions: Complete the chart using the information below, information from your teacher, and your own knowledge.

The *Catechism* defines mercy as “the loving kindness, compassion, or forbearance shown to one who offends.” Mercy can also be defined as love that keeps on loving even when it is rejected. God has revealed His mercy to us through covenants in salvation history. Covenant comes from the Latin word *convenire*, which means “to come together” or “to agree,” and it is the central theme throughout Scripture. A covenant is a formal and solemn pact or agreement permanently binding two or more parties to responsibilities toward each other.

Contracts	Covenants
1 Exchange of _____ .	Exchange of _____ .
2 Sets up obligations, but they are not _____ obligations.	There are personal responsibilities that flow from a covenant. These responsibilities are based on _____ .
3 The basis of contractual obligations is _____ .	Covenants are based on _____ .
4 Can be dissolved / cannot be dissolved. (circle one)	Can be dissolved / cannot be dissolved. (circle one)

The Covenant with Noah

Directions: Read Genesis 9:8-17, the story of God’s covenant with Noah, then answer the questions that follow.

God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them: Be fertile and multiply and fill the earth. Fear and dread of you shall come upon all the animals of the earth and all the birds of the air, upon all the creatures that move about on the ground and all the fishes of the sea; into your power they are delivered. Any living creature that moves about shall be yours to eat; I give them all to you as I did the green plants. Only meat with its lifeblood still in it you shall not eat. Indeed for your own lifeblood I will demand an accounting: from every animal I will demand it, and from a human being, each one for the blood of another, I will demand an accounting for human life.

Anyone who sheds the blood of a human being, by a human being shall that one’s blood be shed; For in the image of God have human beings been made. Be fertile, then, and multiply; abound on earth and subdue it.

God said to Noah and to his sons with him: See, I am now establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you and with every living creature that was with you:

the birds, the tame animals, and all the wild animals that were with you – all that came out of the ark. I will establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all creatures be destroyed by the waters of a flood; there shall not be another flood to devastate the earth.

God said: This is the sign of the covenant that I am making between me and you and every living creature with you for all ages to come: I set my bow in the clouds to serve as a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth, and the bow appears in the clouds, I will remember my covenant between me and you and every living creature – every mortal being – so that the waters will never again become a flood to destroy every mortal being. When the bow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature – every mortal being that is on earth.

God told Noah: This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and every mortal being that is on earth.

1. Who is the mediator of this covenant? How do you know?

2. What obligations or responsibilities are given in this covenant?

3. What commands does God give in this covenant?

4. What does God promise in this covenant?

5. What is the sign of this covenant? _____

6. What other Bible story/covenant does this story remind you of? Why?

Salvation History: A Love Story

Directions: Read the story of Salvation History, then complete the questions that follow.

The story of the Christian faith is a love story. The main characters are God and His people. Throughout human history God has pursued us. He has revealed Himself to us and made His love known to us. *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* no. 218 illuminates this mystery: “In the course of its history, Israel was able to discover that God had only one reason to reveal Himself to them, a single motive for choosing them from among all peoples as His special possession: His sheer gratuitous love. And thanks to the prophets, Israel understood that it was again out of love that God never stopped saving them and pardoning their unfaithfulness and sins.” The only reason God does anything is because of His love for us. Like any epic love story, the story of our faith has its ups and downs. But unlike any other human story of love, God is unfailingly faithful to His beloved, us, despite our persistent unfaithfulness.

We encounter this love story first and foremost in Scripture. The Bible is the written record of the story of our salvation. We call this salvation history. God made Himself known in specific ways, to prepare us, His people, for the gift of salvation. Salvation history is the story of God’s saving actions in human history. God entered into a series of covenants with mankind. A covenant is a sacred bond of family relationship. When two parties enter into a covenant, the family relationship that is formed is permanent. It cannot be dissolved.

Through each covenant, God gradually and in stages, in words and deeds, revealed more of Himself and drew us deeper into relationship with Him. God chose certain mediators, or individuals who represent all those entering into the covenant with God. God first revealed Himself to Adam and Eve, and then continued His self-revelation with Noah and his family. Then God promised great blessings to the world through Abraham’s descendants. God freed His Chosen People from slavery through Moses and established them as a nation and then, under David, as a kingdom. Finally, God fully revealed Himself in Jesus Christ and saved His people from sin.

As God’s relationship with His people progressed, each covenant brought more people into the covenant family. From the original couple, to a faithful family, to a holy tribe, to a chosen nation and later a royal kingdom, culminating in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church, God drew the entire human race to Him.

Each new covenant contained a sign, or an external representation of an internal reality. These signs were taken from human experience, to represent the depth of God’s love present at the heart of each covenant. Marriage between a man and a woman, the Sabbath, the rainbow, circumcision, the Law, Passover, and the Temple all took on greater meaning in their communication of God’s love and mercy.

At the appointed time, God Himself entered into human history by sending His only beloved Son as a man. Jesus, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, was like us in all things but sin. He fully revealed the Father and communicated His grace to us in and through His life and teaching. Jesus performed miracles as signs of God's love and mercy and to announce the coming of the Kingdom of God. And then He offered Himself as a sacrifice for our sins. By His Cross and Resurrection we are set free from sin, our salvation is won, and we are made holy.

Jesus tells us to love one another, saying, "This is my commandment: love one another as I love you." To love as Jesus loved is far from the warm, fuzzy feelings of the modern notion of love. How did Jesus love us? St. John the Evangelist explains: "In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as expiation for our sins." Further, Jesus says, "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." The greatest expression of

love is self-sacrifice, giving oneself as a gift to another.

On the night before He died, Jesus gathered with His Apostles for their last meal together. He took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body" (Matthew 26:26). Similarly, He took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins" (Matthew 26:27-28). The next day, Jesus sacrificed Himself on the Cross, fulfilling His words by His actions. Christ loved us by giving Himself freely and completely to us in an act of mercy.

Rather than being an end to the love story, Christ's Passion, death, Resurrection, and glorification is a new beginning. Through this ultimate, undeserved act of love, each of us is invited to be a son or daughter of God, to receive salvation, and to enter into eternal life with a Father who loves us and has pursued us from the beginning of time.

1. What is the best way to describe the story of the Christian faith? Who is involved in this story?

2. For what reason did God reveal Himself, choose a people as His special possession, and save the entire human race by sending His only Son to die for us?

3. What is salvation history? How is it enacted?

4. What is a covenant? _____

5. What did God do through each covenant? _____

6. What is a mediator? Give two examples.

7. What is a sign? Give two examples.

8. What did Jesus fully reveal to us, and how did He do this? What did He announce, and how did He do this? What did He accomplish on the Cross?

9. What is Jesus' commandment to us? How do we do this?

10. How is the Eucharist an example of Christ's love for us?

11. Why is Christ's Passion, death, and Resurrection not an end to the story of the Christian faith, but a beginning?

Reflection Question

On your own paper, describe a time that you felt loved by someone else. How did you know that you were loved? What signs were there of that love? What did you do in response? How is this time similar to or different from the way that God loves us? Why?

God's Covenants and Mercy

Directions: Every covenant has a promise, a mediator, and a sign. Each covenant also signifies a progression or growth in God's family. Fill in the following chart by placing the squares you receive in the appropriate space.

Covenant Mediator	Covenant Promise	Covenant Sign	Covenant Progression
Adam			
Noah			
Abraham			

Covenant Mediator	Covenant Promise	Covenant Sign	Covenant Progression
Moses			
David			
Jesus			