

Thematic Units - Seventh Grade

The Big Picture: Jesus died and rose to save us.

Seventh Grade consists of two modules: Christian morality and Jesus and discipleship. The first module will help lay the foundation for a discussion about living a moral life and give the students information about the Church's guidance in moral decision-making. The second module will give a survey of the life of Jesus as it is told to us in the gospels, and also pose the challenge of discipleship to the students. Is following Jesus, and letting that govern the choices in their lives, a decision that they are ready to make?

Notes:

- **SWBAT = "Student will be able to..."**
- The standards are numbered according to where they are placed in the curriculum. This is an organizational guide and you can ignore it.
- **Red is review of material which was previously taught.**
- **Green indicates preview of items which will be taught and reinforced in subsequent years.**
- **Blue indicates suggestions of topics / strategies / supplemental material which have been tested and used successfully.**

- Texts and other materials used in this year are:
Bible
Catholic Connections Handbook
Ablaze: Stories of Daring Teen Saints

I.C.5.a.C2 Students will know the stories of the following saints and connect them to the following aspects of the Christian life:

- ▶ Dominic Savio - providing a good example for one's friends and companions.
- ▶ Chiara Luce - living out the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- ▶ Alphonsa - choosing Christ and one's vocation
- ▶ Pedro Calungsod - sharing the life of Christ with others

Prayer and Spirituality through the year - How do I grow closer to Jesus in prayer?

Prayer is integrated throughout the year.

Goals and themes:

Becoming a independent person of prayer, who can pray through the day using the methods taught over the previous years.

Learning to meditate on Scripture, using Ignatian mediation.

Use the story of Chiara Luce in *Ablaze* to illustrate the effects of a life of prayer on a Christian.

Standards:

I.B.4.a.C2 SWBAT pray, using the following psalms: 62, 148, 86

- I.B.4.b.C2** SWBAT utilize Ignatian meditation (imaginative prayer) with the stories of the Gospels.
- IV.B.a.C2 SWBAT evaluate how Jesus is a model for prayer. (§ 2599-2615)
- IV.B.b.C2 SWBAT express how the Our Father sums up what Jesus taught and how he lived. (§ 2761-2764)
- IV.B.c.C2 SWBAT analyze each of the seven petitions in the Our Father and how they are a model for how and for what we should pray. (§ 2803 ff)
- IV.B.d.C2 SWBAT understand that the Holy Spirit teaches us how to pray. (§ 2650, 2652)
- IV.B.e.C2 SWBAT give examples of the ideal that Christians should pray always; prayer is a necessity of Christian life. (§ 2757)
- IV.A.a.C2 SWBAT conclude that even private prayer is joined with the whole church, since we are all connected by our baptism and through the Holy Spirit. (§ 2655)
- IV.B.1.a.C2 SWBAT relate how God is able to help us in moral decisions if we ask for help. (§ 1692, 1695-1696, 2822-2827)
- IV.B.2.a.C2 SWBAT memorize the prayer *Come Holy Spirit*.

Unit one - What does it mean to believe, to be a person of faith and a disciple?

Goals and themes:

- Review the meaning of discipleship and establish this theme as the context for the year
- Explore what it means to be a person of faith
- Establish that faith is the ground for how we live our lives
- Use the story of Alphonsa in *Ablaze* to illustrate how deciding to be a disciple is a life-changing experience.

Standards for this unit:

- I.A.6.e.C2 SWBAT debate the importance of the "existential questions" - who are we and why are we here? (§ 27, 30-35)
- I.A.2.a.C2 SWBAT describe God as a being whose very self is love, and this is expressed in the relationships between the Father, Son and Spirit. God chooses to share that love with us. (§ 221)
- I.A.6.a.C2 SWBAT discriminate between faith and religion. (§ 26, 28-29)
- I.A.6.b.C2 SWBAT express that *faith* as both a relationship with God and as freely choosing to believe what has been revealed by God. (§ 150)
- I.A.1.a.C2 SWBAT discriminate that revelation is gradual, and that God is revealed in word and deed. (§ 53)
- I.A.1.b.C2 SWBAT articulate that God's reveals himself and his love for us, while remaining a mystery. (§ 206)
- I.A.4.I.C2 SWBAT defend that in all of his life Jesus presents himself as our model who invites us to become his disciples and follow him. (§ 520)

- I.A.4.m.C2 SWBAT interpret what it means to follow Jesus in today's society.
I.A.4.n.C2 SWBAT give concrete examples of discipleship.

Unit two - What do we believe about Jesus?

Goals and themes:

In depth exploration of one of the Gospels (usually Mark or Luke)
Familiarity with the other three Gospels and the teachings about Jesus found in the New Testament
Being able to articulate the central importance of Jesus as Lord to our faith as Catholics
Use the story of Pedro Calungsod in *Ablaze* to illustrate the impetus to share one's faith in Christ.

Standards for this unit:

- I.A.1.c.C2 SWBAT communicate that we depend upon Scripture and Tradition as sources of revelation. (§ 81-82)
I.A.1.d.C2 SWBAT understand that the teaching authority of the church ultimately determines the interpretation of Scripture. (§ 85)
I.A.1.e.C2 SWBAT express how all members of the church have the responsibility to help pass on the revelation on which we base our faith. (§ 91)
I.B.1.a.C2 SWBAT describe that Catholics accept the Old and New Testaments as equally the Word of God. (§ 123)
I.B.1.b.C2 SWBAT explain that God inspired the human authors of the Bible. (§ 106)
I.B.1.c.C2 SWBAT communicate that God speaks to us in Scripture in a human way. The authors were bound by their time and culture. (§ 109)
I.B.1.d.C2 SWBAT assess that in order to understand Scripture correctly, we must take into account the time, place, intention and attitudes of the writers. (§ 110)
- I.A.4.a.C2 SWBAT describe why Jesus is the ultimate sign of God's grace. (§ 456-460)
I.A.4.b.C2 SWBAT communicate that since humanity is under the influence of original sin, all are in need of the salvation offered in Jesus. (§ 422-682)
I.A.4.c.C2 SWBAT know that in Hebrew, Jesus means "God saves." (§ 430)
I.A.4.d.C2 SWBAT know that the word "Christ" comes from the Greek translation of the Hebrew Messiah, which means, "anointed." (§ 436)
I.A.4.e.C2 SWBAT describe how that the Old Testament suggests, and the New Testament reveals, the work of the Son and Spirit. (§ 292)
I.A.4.f.C2 SWBAT appraise the importance of Jesus in human history.
I.A.4.g.C2 SWBAT define the word incarnation. (§ 461-463)
I.A.4.h.C2 SWBAT express the following teachings about Jesus:
- ▶ Truly God and truly human (§ 469)
 - ▶ The second person in the Trinity (§ 468)
 - ▶ Co-eternal with God (§ 423-424)
 - ▶ His death redeemed humanity (§ 599-605)
 - ▶ He rose from the dead (§ 638-646)
 - ▶ He remains present with the church (§ 669)

- I.A.4.i.C2 SWBAT explain that by giving to Jesus the divine title “Lord,” the Church has affirmed from its beginning that the power, honor, and glory due to God the Father are due to Jesus. (§ 449)
- I.A.4.j.C2 SWBAT define the word redemption, and express how we are the redeemed. (§ 602-603, 605)
- I.A.4.k.C2 SWBAT argue that Christ did not live his life for himself but for us, from his incarnation to his death and resurrection. (§ 519)
- I.A.4.o.C2 SWBAT compare what it means to call Mary the mother of Jesus and the mother of God. (§ 495)
- I.A.4.p.C2 SWBAT discuss that Jesus’ mission was to begin the Reign of God, fulfilling God’s will. (§ 541)
- I.A.4.q.C2 SWBAT describe that everyone is called to enter the kingdom, especially the poor and lowly and sinners. (§ 543-545)
- I.A.4.r.C2 SWBAT discuss that Jesus did not come to abolish all evils here on earth, but to free us from the gravest slavery, sin, which interferes with our vocation as God’s children and causes all forms of human slavery. (§ 549)
- I.A.4.s.C2 SWBAT defend the Christian belief that Jesus conquered sin and death through his own death and resurrection. (§ 601)
- I.B.3.a.C2 SWBAT describe how the synoptics (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) follow the same basic outline, and that John is written in a different format.
- I.B.3.b.C2 SWBAT differentiate between the focus and themes of each gospel.
- I.B.3.c.C2 SWBAT read one Gospel in depth, and compare it to the general themes of the other three.
- ▶ [Use Six Weeks with the Bible - Luke](#)
- I.B.3.d.C2 SWBAT identify passages in Scripture which tell about Jesus as the Messiah:
- ▶ Isaiah 42:1-7
 - ▶ Matthew 16:13-20
 - ▶ John 1:1-14
- I.B.3.e.C2 SWBAT examine passages in Scripture which describe the incarnation, especially Philippians 2:5-11.
- I.B.3.f.C2 SWBAT describe the social and political situation in Palestine during Jesus' lifetime.
- I.B.3.g.C2 SWBAT compare Jesus' mission to Jewish expectations of the Messiah.
- I.B.3.h.C2 SWBAT to provide an outline of Jesus' life and mission.
- I.B.3.i.C2 SWBAT compare Jesus' teaching was similar to traditional Jewish teaching and ethics.
- I.B.3.j.C2 SWBAT compare and contrast Jesus' teaching when it departs from traditional Jewish teaching.
- I.B.3.k.C2 SWBAT to give examples of parables by telling them in their own words.
- I.B.3.l.C2 SWBAT describe how Jesus used the parables.
- I.B.3.m.C2 SWBAT explain that Jesus’ death was not the fault of all Jews at the time, nor of any Jews who have lived since that time. The Jewish leaders were against him and the Romans executed him. (§ 597)
- I.B.3.n.C2 SWBAT explain why Jesus was crucified in terms of the contemporary political situation.
- I.B.3.o.C2 SWBAT recount the Passion in their own words.
- I.B.3.p.C2 SWBAT tell the Resurrection narratives in their own words.

- I.B.3.q.C2 SWBAT describe how women disciples were the first messengers of the resurrection, particularly Mary Magdalene. (§ 641)
- I.B.3.r.C2 SWBAT conclude that the disciples came to believe in the Resurrection because of the empty tomb and their encounter with the Risen Jesus. (§ 640, 641)
- I.B.3.s.C2 SWBAT explain that Christ's Resurrection was not a return to earthly life. In his risen body he passes from the state of death to another life beyond time and space. (§ 646)
- I.B.3.t.C2 SWBAT list at least five of the letters in the Christian Scriptures.
- I.C.1.a.C2 SWBAT explain that it is the mission of the Church is to evangelize all peoples. (§ 848, 849)

Unit three - What is the life of a disciple?

Goals and themes:

A review of the Commandments, Beatitudes and virtues

A deeper understanding of the demands of discipleship in the life a Christian

An appreciation for the integrity of church teaching, particularly with regards to life issues and human sexuality.

The capacity to integrate one's prayer life with one's moral behavior.

Use the story of Dominic Savio in *Ablaze* to illustrate the capacity to provide a good example to one's peers.

Standards for this unit:

- I.A.3.a.C2 SWBAT understand that God is always present to his creation at every moment and upholds and sustains creation, always enabling us to fulfill God's purpose for our existence. (§ 301)
- I.A.3.b.C2 SWBAT recognize that we were created by God in a state of original holiness and justice; we were created to be in harmony with ourselves, others, and creation. (§ 374-376)
- I.A.3.c.C2 SWBAT articulate what is meant by original sin and the effects that it has had on humanity. (§ 388, 389)
- I.A.3.d.C2 SWBAT recognize that original sin is a deprivation of original holiness and justice; human nature has been wounded but not totally corrupted. (§ 405)
- I.A.3.e.C2 SWBAT discuss that God is in no way the cause of moral evil in the world. He permits it, however, because he respects the freedom of his creatures and, mysteriously, knows how to derive good from it. (311)
- I.A.3.f.C2 SWBAT illustrate how sin is present throughout human history. (§ 386)
- I.A.3.h.C2 SWBAT explain all people sin, but if we accept responsibility for our sins, God will forgive us. (§ 1847)
- I.A.4.t.C2 SWBAT articulate that the Good News of Jesus is about God's mercy to sinners.(§ 1846)
- I.A.4.u.C2 SWBAT illustrate how God calls each one of us to work with God and to help bring about God's Reign. (§ 307)
- I.A.5.a.C2 SWBAT examine the call to holiness for all Christians, in any state or walk of life. (§ 2013)

- I.A.6.c.C2 SWBAT define the word *grace* and explain that God is the source of grace in human life. (§ 1996-1997, 1999-2000, 2005)
- I.A.6.d.C2 SWBAT give examples of the ways that we open ourselves to or close ourselves to God's grace. (§ 2001-2004)
- I.B.1.a.C2 SWBAT locate the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5
- I.B.3.a.C2 SWBAT to locate the Beatitudes in Matthew 5.
- III.A.1.a.C2 SWBAT discuss what it means to live a moral life in light of the Gospels.
- III.A.1.b.C2 SWBAT recall that Jesus gave us two great commandments: the love of God and the love of neighbor. (§ 2055)
- III.A.1.c.C2 SWBAT describe and give examples of a moral decision making process based on the idea of discipleship. (§ 1691-1696,1698)
- III.A.1.d.C2 SWBAT give examples of how living the virtues can help one to live a moral life. (§ 1805-1811)
- III.A.1.e.C2 SWBAT give examples of how using the gifts of the Holy Spirit can help one to live a moral life. (§ 1830-1831)
- III.A.2.a.C2 SWBAT discriminate between what goes into a sound moral decision versus a poor one. (§ 1755-1756,1786-1789, 1790-91)
- III.A.2.b.C2 SWBAT categorize and give examples of what constitutes a sinful choice. (§ 1849-1850, 1854-1860)
- III.A.2.c.C2 SWBAT critique how current choices that they make have an effect in their lives.
- III.A.2.d.C2 SWBAT understand that no sin is completely personal or private. All sin has a social dimension. (§ 1868, 1869)
- III.A.2.e.C2 SWBAT classify acts are always wrong, no matter how good the end or intention. (§ 1755, 1756)
- III.A.2.f.C2 SWBAT know that the capital sins are pride, greed, envy, anger, lust, gluttony and laziness. SWBAT to describe why these are harmful to the Christian life. (§ 1866)
- III.A.2.g.C2 SWBAT illustrate the role of conscience in the life of a Christian. (§ 1776-1779, 1781-1782, 1783-1784)
- III.A.2.h.C2 SWBAT describe what goes into the formation of a sound conscience: knowing the natural law, the guidance of the church, seeking the will of God in prayer.
- III.B.a.C2 SWBAT defend the need for and role of law in human life. (§ 1954-1960,1961ff, 1965ff)
- III.B.b.C2 SWBAT list and describe in their own words each of the Ten Commandments.
- III.B.c.C2 SWBAT categorize the commandments into those pertaining to God and to humans.
- III.B.d.C2 SWBAT communicate what respect and reverence for God entails. (§ 2884-2085, 2142-2144)
- III.B.e.C2 SWBAT the concept of idolatry - putting anything in the place of God. (§ 2113)
- III.B.f.C2 SWBAT defend why it is important for Christians to gather to worship on Sundays. (§ 2169-2170, 2174, 2177)
- III.B.g.C2 SWBAT express what reverence for and obedience to parents entails. (§ 2204-2206, 2214-2218)
- III.B.h.C2 SWBAT illustrate that the fourth commandment also covers respect for other kinds of authority, including teachers and government. (§ 2234)

- III.B.i.C2 SWBAT understand the church teaches that all human life is holy and must be respected. (§ 1701-1706, 2261-2262)
- III.B.j.C2 SWBAT defend the Catholic teaching that prohibits any creation of an embryo which may be destroyed, for example in *in vitro* fertilization, therapeutic cloning or for purposes of experimentation.
- III.B.k.C2 SWBAT defend the Catholic teaching that prohibits direct abortion, euthanasia, murder, and capital punishment. (§ 2268-2270,2277, 2266-2267)
- III.B.l.C2 SWBAT communicate the importance of respect for the truth. (§ 2467, 2469-2470, 2476, 2480-2485)
- III.B.m.C2 SWBAT communicate the importance of respecting and preserving the reputations of others. (§ 2477-2479)
- III.B.n.C2 SWBAT discuss why envy and jealousy can harm the human spirit. (§ 2538-2540)
- III.B.o.C2 SWBAT communicate the meaning of each Beatitude in his/her own words.
- III.B.p.C2 SWBAT explain how the life of a disciple is based upon the Beatitudes.
- III.B.q.C2 SWBAT list the precepts of the church and to explain why each one helps us in the Christian life. (§ 2041-2043)
- III.C.a.C2 SWBAT argue that respect for the dignity and rights of others means that Christians must work to make sure that these are guaranteed for all people. (§ 1905-1912, 2419-2420, 2424,2426)
- III.C.b.C2 SWBAT understand that the political decisions of Christians cannot be separated from their faith lives. (§ 2238-2242)
- III.C.1.a.C2 SWBAT recognize justice with regards to property - to respect the property of others and the rights of all to the basic necessities of life. (§ 2407-2409, 2426-2434)
- III.C.1.b.C2 SWBAT interpret that since Christians are joined to Christ, who had special concern for the poor, that to serve the poor and to work for economic justice is part of our faith. (§ 786, 2444)
- III.C.1.c.C2 SWBAT defend that it is the responsibility of the richer nations and people to help make possible the development of poorer nations and people. (§ 2437-2439)
- III.C.1.d.C2 SWBAT propose ways that they can make a significant contribution (in their current situation) to others in need.
- III.C.2.a.C2 SWBAT conclude while legitimate defense is permitted, that Christians should work for peace and to avoid war. (§ 2263-2264, 2302-2311)
- III.C.2.b.C2 SWBAT express how political choices lead to peace and to conflict.
- III.C.2.c.C2 SWBAT propose an appropriate model for resolving conflicts peacefully.
- III.C.3.a.C2 SWBAT illustrate how we are called to be good stewards of the earth's resources. (§ 2415)
- III.C.3.b.C2 SWBAT communicate that while every person has a right to private property, the material resources of the earth are for the common good. (§ 2403)
- III.C.3.c.C2 SWBAT argue that we have been given responsibility for creation, however we must respect the integrity of creation and preserve it for future generations. (§ 2415)
- III.D.a.C2 SWBAT integrate into their lives the following about the church's teaching on sexuality morality:

- ▶ The importance of sexuality in the life of each person (§ 2332-2333)
 - ▶ The inherent goodness of sexuality (§ 2331)
 - ▶ Men and women are created equal (§ 2334-2335)
 - ▶ The importance of fidelity in relationships (§ 2364-2365, 2380-2381)
 - ▶ **The importance of permanence and commitment in relationships (§ 1612-1617)**
 - ▶ **Respect for the feelings and bodies of others (§ 2273,2284, 2338)**
 - ▶ All baptized persons are expected to lead a chaste life, according to their state in life. (§ 2348)
 - ▶ The importance of sex in marriage - sexual intimacy in building a relationship (§ 2360-2363)
 - ▶ Why the church believes that sexual relationships are reserved for marriage (§ 2362-2363)
 - ▶ The relationship between sex and procreation (§ 2366-2367)
- III.D.b.C2 SWBAT compare and contrast that the church teaches that homosexual acts, as distinguished from homosexual tendencies, are contrary to the natural law. (§ 2357)
- III.D.c.C2 SWBAT discuss that every sign of discrimination against homosexuals should be avoided. (§ 2358)
- III.D.d.C2 SWBAT communicate boundaries in sexual expression and how they can be maintained before marriage.