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OCIA Precatechumenate Lesson Plans 31-42



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God Saves His People

David and Goliath

The Church's Good News: The Infinite Love of God

God created all things out of love and to share in relationship with Him and with each other. God's love is personal, proven, merciful, and offered.

Psalm 18:1-2, 28-30

God is creator of all that is and lovingly provides for His creatures. God desires to reveal Himself to each of His children and to invite him or her into intimate friendship.

Man is created in God's own image and likeness, meaning that he is able to know, to love, and to be merciful. God has a special plan for each person's life to bring him or her happiness and to bring happiness to those around them.

God also created man with the gift of freedom and the capacity to make choices. Man can use this capacity to live in relationship with God who is all-loving, or he can use his freedom for selfish ambition, even at the expense of others.

Man always finds himself in need of God. Each person has the gift of his mind and heart where God speaks to man and directs him or her toward the good. God has given us the gift of His Word and His only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to help us form our minds and hearts to live according to the good for which God intends and to hear the Lord speak to us.

God is Mighty to Save

Read the account of how God saved the people of Israel through the faith of David when their nation was being invaded by the Philistine army.

I Samuel 17:1-50

The nation of Israel was small and somewhat powerless in the face of its enemies. The Israelites relied solely on God's providence for their safety. God promised the Israelites He would make them into a great nation in the promised land of Canaan in order to commune with them and to bless all surrounding nations.



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The Philistines rejected God's rule and sought to destroy the Israelites. The Philistines were a ruthless and conquering nation.

The Philistines practiced idol worship that twisted the good and caused harm to them and to the nations around them.

The Lord never delights in death, He rather comes to the aid to those who are vulnerable and most at risk of danger.

David had little to place his confidence in other than his faith in the goodness of the Lord. David believed in God's faithfulness and that God would fulfill His promise to always provide for the nation of Israel.

By His faith, David defeated Goliath as a youth and bore witness to both God's fidelity and God's might.

Faith in Jesus Christ Brings Salvation

God desires to live in communion with His children and always respects our freedom. Each person has the capacity to either accept or reject God's offer of relationship.

God chooses no sides and shows no favoritism. God calls some individuals to walk especially close with Him, such as the nation of Israel or the Apostles, but it is always for the sake making His name known and His love accessible to all people.

Read this account of Jesus healing a sick man in response to a Centurion's faith and then Jesus' invitation to all nations to communion with God.

Matt 8:5-13

The Centurion who approached Jesus was from a nation other than Israel and was familiar with God from the witness of the Jewish people.

The Centurion came to Jesus in faith and addressed Him as "Lord," knowing of His divinity based on the mighty works of Jesus in His public ministry.

The Centurion exhibited great faith in the Lordship of Jesus, trusting beyond what his eyes could see.



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Faith is what allows a person to enter into relationship with God. God offers the gift of faith to each person, and every person has the capacity to exercise this gift. No matter what has happened in a person's life or whatever difficult circumstance a person might find him or herself in, God always extends an invitation to believe and commune with Him through faith.

When Jesus, God's only begotten Son, took on flesh by being born of the Virgin Mary, He lived as a child of Israel. Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promise to bless all nations through God's special relationship with Israel.

Jesus now ushers in the reality of the Universal Church in which all may walk intimately with the Lord and live by His commands.

Would you like to make an act of faith in Jesus and journey towards communion with the Catholic Church?

Lord Jesus, I confess that I have done wrong and failed to do right.

I ask you to be my savior, my guide, and my friend.

I invite your Holy Spirit to enlighten my mind and transform my heart.

I ask for your help to be obedient to You and live in communion with your Church.

I here and now answer your call to follow you.

Amen.



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God Abides with His People

The Kingdom of David

The Church's Good News: The Infinite Love of God

God created all things out of love and to share in relationship with Him and with each other. God's love is personal, proven, merciful, and offered.

Psalm 18:1-2, 28-30

God is creator of all that is and lovingly provides for His creatures. God desires to reveal Himself to each of His children and to invite us into intimate friendship.

Man is created in God's own image and likeness, meaning that he is able to know, to love, and to be merciful. God has a special plan for each person's life to bring them happiness and to bring happiness to those around them.

God also created man with the gift of freedom and the capacity to make choices. Man can use this capacity to live in relationship with God who is all-loving, or he can use his freedom for selfish ambition, even at the expense of others.

Man always finds himself in need of God. Each person has the gift of his or her mind and heart where God speaks and helps steer them to do the good.

No matter how much each of us strives, we always fall short of the good we ought to do. We can even find ourselves hurting others and many experience hurt from others. We need God's help to live the life of happiness He intends for us.

God's Abiding and Steadfast Love

Read the account of how God promises to provide for all nations by His special relationship with David and the Israelites.

II Samuel 7

God rose up David, a humble shepherd, from his youth to lead the nation of Israel with purity, gentleness, and might.

When God established the nation of Israel, He chose the smallest and least powerful people to walk closely with Him and to be a light for all nations.



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Many nations tried to wipe out the nation of Israel, and God faithfully came to their aid and granted them victory over their enemies.

David walked by faith and sought to glorify God over himself.

When David sought to construct a permanent and spectacular temple out of thanksgiving to God for His loving provision, God instead revealed His own desire to build David a house and pour out His blessing on all peoples through David's family line.

God even promised that one of David's descendants would be His own Son. This is Jesus Christ, God Incarnate, born of the Virgin Mary.

God showed David that while some of his of his offspring would sin and fall away from God's commands, God would never abandon His promise to remain faithful and bless the Israelite nation.

Jesus Christ as Emmanuel, "God with Us"

God is good and desires to lavish His blessings on His children. God has made each person free and with the capacity to accept relationship with God or to reject God's offer of relationship.

Man's first parents, Adam and Eve, fell into temptation and chose to follow their own will for selfish ambition instead of participate in God's plan for blessing for them for all of creation.

Each person experiences the consequences of the rejection of God by our first parents, and struggles with the tendency to seek power, pleasure, possessions, and prestige as his or her ultimate good instead of at service to the good. This is called sin. Sin harms both the one who commits the sin and others around the one who commits sin.

God gave the gift of His law in the Ten Commandments (next page) to show man how he is made and the way to a life of inner tranquility and happiness.

When a person breaks one of the commandments, he or she commits sin. Sin greatly offends God because it harms the creation He has lovingly made.

God Himself, Jesus Christ, came to abide with man when He took on flesh and was born of the Virgin Mary. Jesus Christ lived a life of healing, teaching, and personal relationship in order to offer man mercy, supernatural help, and a model of holiness. Jesus Christ offers freedom from sin.



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Ten Commandments

1. I am the Lord your God: You shall not have strange Gods before me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.
4. Honor your father and mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

Read this account of the birth of Jesus.

Matt 2:1-12

Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary in the town of Bethlehem, the city of David.

God revealed to the wise men from the East His plan was being fulfilled to bring all people into unity through the humble kingship of His Son. All who follow Jesus Christ live in this unity.

Jesus first came to man as a babe and in poverty. Jesus united Himself to the sufferings of each person and revealed that God is full of compassion and love.

Jesus Christ did not come to condemn the world, but to save the world through His life, death, Resurrection, and sending of the Holy Spirit.

The wise men from the East came searching for a king, which sparked jealousy in King Herod.

God is a provident Father and protected Jesus, Mary, Joseph, and the Wise Men from the wrath of Herod by instructing the Magi to return home a different way.



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Would you like to accept Jesus' invitation of relationship and journey towards communion with the Catholic Church?

Lord Jesus, I confess that I have done wrong and failed to do right.

I ask you to be my savior, my guide, and my friend.

I invite your Holy Spirit to enlighten my mind and transform my heart.

I ask for your help to be obedient to You and live in communion with your Church.

I here and now answer your call to follow you.

Amen.



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The God of Merciful Love

David's Repentance

The Church's Good News: The Infinite Love of God

God created all things out of love and to share in relationship with Him and with each other. God's love is personal, proven, merciful, and offered.

Psalm 145:13, 17-18

God is creator of all that is and lovingly provides for His creatures. God desires to reveal Himself to each of His children and to invite him or her into intimate friendship.

Man is created in God's own image and likeness, meaning that he is able to know, to love, and to be merciful. God has a special plan for each person's life to bring them happiness and to bring happiness to those around them.

God also created man with the gift of freedom and the capacity to make choices. Man can use this capacity to live in relationship with God who is all-loving, or he can use his freedom for selfish ambition, even at the expense of others.

Each person has the gift of his or her mind and heart where God speaks and helps steer them to do the good. No matter how much each of us strives, we always fall short of the good we ought to do. We can even find ourselves hurting others and many experience hurt from others.

Man always finds himself in need of God.

Repentance and God's Mercy

Read the account of how God chastises His servant David when he falls into sin.

II Samuel 11:1-17, 26-12; 12:7-9, 15-25

God rose up David, a humble shepherd, from his youth to lead the nation of Israel with purity, gentleness, and might.

God protected Israel, a small and powerless nation, from their enemies when David led his people with faith and acted in obedience to God's loving plan.

David sought to glorify God over himself and had a close relationship with God, who always provided for him.



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In this account, we read how David fell into temptation and committed sin. Sin always does great harm to the person who sins and also those around him or her.

God always defends the vulnerable and no person is above God's laws, which are meant to lead man into a state of happiness.

When David was confronted by the prophet Nathan about his sin, David repented and grieved over his sin. The Lord forgave David and, in his humility, accepted God's forgiveness and began to love those around him anew.

God never tires of forgiving sins and offering mercy.

The Invitation of Jesus

Sin greatly offends God because it harms the creation He has lovingly made. God Himself took on flesh and came and suffered in order to offer man mercy, supernatural help, a model of holiness, and freedom from sin.

Jesus Christ, God Incarnate, came not to condemn the world, but to save the world.

Read this account of Jesus inviting His disciples to follow Him.

Matt 4:17-22

Jesus Christ desires all to be free of sin and live a life of happiness.

Jesus Christ offers each person intimate friendship and lovingly accompanies him or her to a place that is free of sin.

Jesus invites each of us to follow Him and, step by step, be conformed to His image and live the plan of holiness and happiness God intends for us.



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Would you like to accept Jesus' invitation to follow Him and towards communion with the Catholic Church?

Lord Jesus, I confess that I have done wrong and failed to do right.

I ask you to be my savior, my guide, and my friend.

I invite your Holy Spirit to enlighten my mind and transform my heart.

I ask for your help to be obedient to You and live in communion with your Church.

I here and now answer your call to follow you.

Amen.



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God's Wisdom and Mercy

King Solomon

The Church's Good News: The Infinite Love of God

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Psalm 145:8-10

God is creator of all that is and lovingly provides for His creatures. God desires to reveal Himself to each of His children and invite him or her into intimate friendship.

Man is created in God's own image and likeness, meaning that he is able to know, to love, and to be merciful.

God has a special plan for each person's life to bring them happiness and to bring happiness to those around them.

Man has the capacity to wonder, to ask questions, and direct his actions toward an ultimate goal. When man orders the affairs of his life toward the most noble end, this is called this wisdom.

Wisdom leads to happiness and God desires to bestow wisdom on all of His children.

God's commands allow a person to begin living according to God's wisdom which leads to peace and joy.

God's Blessing

Read the account of how God blesses David's son, Solomon, with wisdom.

I Kings 3:3-15

God rose up David, a humble shepherd, from his youth to lead the nation of Israel with purity, gentleness, and might.

After David died, his son Solomon succeeded him as king of Israel and desired to imitate his father's love for God.



God desired to lavish His blessing on Solomon through good gifts.

Solomon loved God and desired to be like God. Solomon asked for the gift of wisdom so that he could intimately know God, the source of all wisdom, and bless the people he was appointed to serve.

This revealed Solomon's deep friendship with the Lord who is Himself self-giving love.

The Wisdom and Mercy of Jesus Christ

God created man with the gift of freedom and the capacity to make choices. Man can use this capacity to live in relationship with God who is all-loving, or he can use his freedom for selfish ambition, even at the expense of others.

Each person has the gift of his or her mind and heart which helps steer them to do the good.

No matter how much each of us strives, we always fall short of the good we ought to do. We can even find ourselves hurting others and many experience hurt from others.

God gave man the gift of the Ten Commandments to help him begin living according to the way he is made, and to love both himself and his neighbor. Living by the commandments is the beginning of wisdom.

Ten Commandments

1. I am the Lord your God: You shall not have strange Gods before me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.
4. Honor your father and mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

Read this account of Jesus demonstrating His love and His wisdom.

John 8:2-11



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Jesus Christ desires all to be free of sin and live a life of happiness.

Jesus Christ came to save the world and not to condemn the world, which conflicted with the self-righteousness of the Pharisees.

The Pharisees sought to condemn and punish evil, as opposed to offer mercy and heal the one who fell into sin.

Jesus showed both His mercy and His love in His response to the Pharisees. In His wisdom, Jesus rose above the rigid view of the Pharisees, and was able to reconcile God's love, justice, and mercy in His compassion toward the woman caught in adultery.

God hates sin because it does harm to His children. God always loves each person who falls into sin and God never stops desiring their good.

Jesus had mercy on the woman and invited her to live according to the way God intends and cautioned her not to remove herself from God's plan of blessing again.

Would you like to accept God's mercy and journey towards the moral life?

Lord Jesus, I confess that I have done wrong and failed to do right.

I ask you to be my savior, my guide, and my friend.

I invite your Holy Spirit to enlighten my mind and transform my heart.

I ask for your help to be obedient to You and live in communion with your Church.

I here and now answer your call to follow you.

Amen.



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God's Gift of Salvation

King Hezekiah

The Church's Good News: The Infinite Love of God

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Psalm 18:1-2, 28-30

God is creator of all that is and lovingly provides for His creatures. God desires to reveal Himself to each of His children and invite him or her into intimate friendship.

The human person is created in God's own image and likeness, meaning that he or she is able to know, to love, and to be merciful. God has a special plan for each person's life to bring him or her happiness and to bring happiness to those around them.

God also created persons with the gift of freedom and the capacity to make choices. People can use this capacity to live in relationship with God who is all-loving, or they can use their freedom for selfish ambition, even at the expense of others.

Man always finds himself in need of God. Each person has the gift of his or her mind and heart where God speaks to them and directs him or her toward the good. God has given us the gift of His Word and His only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to help us form our minds and hearts to live according to the good for which God intends, and to hear the Lord speak to us.

God Saves His People

Read the account of how God saves His people through the faith of King Hezekiah. King Hezekiah succeeded several kings of Israel who abandoned the ways of God and removed themselves from God's blessing. Hezekiah returned to the Lord and asked God to deliver their nation at the threat of annihilation by the Assyrian army.

II Kings 18:1-8, 13-16, 18:28-19:7, 19:14-19, 19:29-37

Hezekiah chose to return to the Lord after several generations of kings who abandoned God's providential plan for the Jewish people.



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The Jews, at the example of their former kings, had turned to the violent practices of the surrounding nations.

Hezekiah worked to return Judah to the Lord and live once again according to God's ways.

The King of Assyria sought to overtake Judah and wipe out all worship of the God of Israel. King Sennacherib's messenger Rabshakeh, tried to shake the faith of the Jewish people and even taunted them with the words of their own promise from the Lord - that he would bring them to a land full of produce and honey.

King Hezekiah, in utter poverty, pleaded with the Lord for His redemption. Because of Hezekiah's faith, the Lord delivered the Jewish nation from being overtaken by the nation of Assyria.

King Sennacherib's rebellion against the Lord ended with his own death and also the death of many in his army.

Salvation in Jesus Christ

Just as God saved the people of Judah from annihilation at the hand of the Assyrian nation, Jesus Christ rescues all who receive His gift of Salvation from painful separation from God.

Read this account of Jesus giving His life for our Salvation.

Luke 23:24-25, 32-38, 44-49

Jesus Christ desires all to be free of sin and live a life of happiness in union with God.

When a person falls into sin, he or she greatly offends God because they are causing harm to themselves and to others, distorting the way they were lovingly intended to live.

Jesus Christ descended from heaven and took on flesh by being born of the Virgin Mary. Jesus came in order to establish intimate friendship between God and all persons, to atone for each person's sins, and to give each person supernatural help (grace). Grace enables a person to live according to God's ways by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus Christ took on the sins of all mankind and as He was crucified, reconciling people with God.

At the moment when those He came to save here putting Him to death, Jesus prayed, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."



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Jesus offers us forgiveness for our sins and gives us an example of forgiving our enemies.

Jesus loved His own until the end. Jesus rose from the dead and sent the Holy Spirit to dwell in the hearts of all those who believe in Him and desire to follow Him.

Would you like to accept God's gift of Salvation and receive the Holy Spirit in Baptism?

Lord Jesus, I confess that I have done wrong and failed to do right.

I ask you to be my savior, my guide, and my friend.

I invite your Holy Spirit to enlighten my mind and transform my heart.

I ask for your help to be obedient to You and live in communion with your Church.

I here and now answer your call to follow you.

Amen.



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God's Plan of Happiness

The Prophet Isaiah

The Church's Good News: The Infinite Love of God

God created all things out of love and to share in relationship with Him and with each other. God's love is personal, proven, merciful, and offered.

Psalm 139:1-3

God is creator of all that is and lovingly provides for each of His creatures. God desires to reveal Himself to each of His children and to invite him or her into intimate friendship.

Man is created in God's own image and likeness, meaning that he is able to know, to love, and to be merciful. God has a special plan for each person's life to bring him or her happiness and to bring happiness to those around them.

God created the entire world in harmony and without conflict. Man has free will and the capacity to act out of love to help those around him. Each person also has the freedom to serve him or herself at the expense of others. This is called sin.

Each person always finds him or herself in need of God. Each of us has the gift of our mind and heart where God speaks to us and directs us toward the good. God has given the gift of His Word and His only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to help us form our minds and hearts to live according to the good for which God intends, and to hear the Lord speak to us.

God Has a Special Call for Your Life

Read the account of how God revealed Himself to Isaiah and cleansed him from his sin. Isaiah, out of love for the Lord, gives himself to participate in God's plan to call back the people of Judah after they had forgotten the Lord.

Isaiah 6:1-8

Isaiah was blessed to see God in a vision. The Lord desires to enter into intimate friendship with each of His children and reveal Himself.

When Isaiah saw the Lord, the angels were crying out "holy, holy, holy." Holiness comes from God alone and it is a word that describes transcendence, perfection, and self-giving love.



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When Isaiah witnessed the power, goodness, and majesty of God, he was acutely aware of his own sinful condition and shortcomings.

God used a burning coal to cleanse Isaiah. This image shows how God's pure and perfect love can be difficult to bear in our state of sin, but always cleanses us and expands our capacity for love and relationship.

God invited Isaiah to participate in His plan to call back the people of Judah to relationship with Him. Out of love for God and love for neighbor, Isaiah gave himself to the Lord to help carry out this mission and be a prophet who proclaims God's word.

New Life in Jesus Christ

God created the world with goodness and beauty and intended for man to participate in His care for creation.

Adam and Eve, our first parents, fell into temptation and chose to follow their own will instead of trust God and live in obedience to Him.

Sin greatly offends God since it is destructive to both the individual who sins and to those around the person who sins. God is compassionate and full of mercy. God gives of Himself to heal man from his sins.

God sent His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to take on flesh and enter into man's experience though without sin. Jesus Christ came in order to reveal the love and mercy of God, to give man a model of holiness, and to be the atonement for man's sins.

Read this account of Jesus rising from the dead after He was crucified, and of His offering each of His followers new life.

Matthew 28:1-10, 16-20

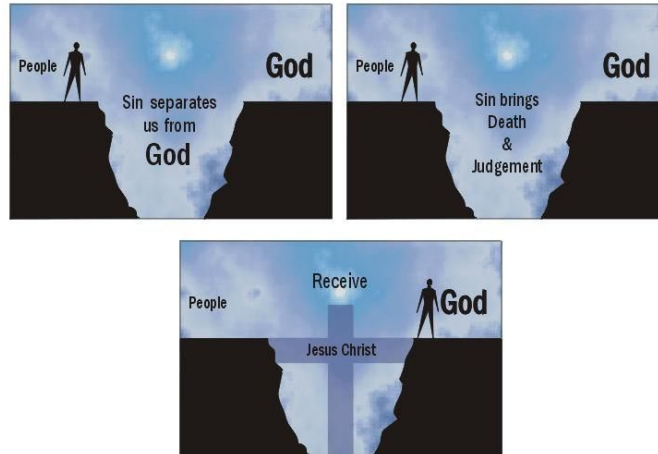
Jesus Christ desires all to be free of sin and to live a life of happiness in union with God.

Jesus offers us forgiveness for our sins and gives us an example of forgiving our enemies. By His crucifixion, death, and rising from the dead, Jesus reconciles all who believe in Him and follow Him with God. Life with God is the happiness every human heart longs for.



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When He rose from the dead, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to dwell in the hearts of all those who believe in Him and desire to follow Him. Jesus offers us a new life of Resurrection, by which we enter into heaven and where we will never again be separated from God.

By accepting God's gift of Salvation and receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit, God provides grace to each person in order for him or her to be transformed into the likeness of Jesus Christ.

Would you like to accept God's gift of Salvation and journey towards Baptism?

Lord Jesus, I confess that I have done wrong and failed to do right.

I ask you to be my savior, my guide, and my friend.

I invite your Holy Spirit to enlighten my mind and transform my heart.

I ask for your help to be obedient to You and live in communion with your Church.

I here and now answer your call to follow you.

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The Lord Cares for the Poor

Elijah and the Poor Widow

The Church's Good News: The Infinite Love of God

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Psalm 145:8-9, 14-15

God is creator of all that is and lovingly provides for His creatures. God desires to reveal Himself to each of His children and invite him or her into intimate friendship.

God desires to lavish blessings on His children and invites each to commune with Him and to live according to His loving plan.

God created the human person with the gift of freedom and the capacity to make choices. Each person can use this capacity to live in relationship with God who is all-loving, or he or she can use this freedom for selfish ambition, even at the expense of others.

Each person is created in God's own image and likeness, meaning that they are able to know, to love, and to be merciful.

People always find themselves in need of God. Each person needs God to provide for his or her physical needs, and also to enlighten his or her mind and heart to live according to way they are lovingly designed.

No matter how much each of us strives, we always fall short of the good we are intended to do, and can even find ourselves hurting others and experiencing hurt from others. This is called sin and it harms both the person who sins those around the person who sins.

God never stops coming to the aid of those who fall into sin, and God Himself provides a path of reconciliation between people and God and between people and their neighbor.

God Provides for those in Need

Read the account of how God, in His providence, met the needs of the prophet Elijah and of a poor widow during a period of drought.

I Kings 17:1-16



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The Nation of Judah forsook the Lord's ways and fell into lawlessness. They removed themselves from God's blessing and suffered from a drought as the result.

God sent Elijah the prophet to warn the people of Judah of the approaching drought and to lead them back into relationship with God.

God miraculously provided for Elijah during the time of drought and famine by bringing him to a stream and supplying him food.

Once Elijah's source of water dried up, the Lord sent Him to a widow who was about to run out of food for her and her son. The Lord miraculously fed Elijah, the woman, and her household as they participated in His plan through their faith and obedience.

Friendship with Jesus Christ

God created the world with goodness and beauty and intended for man to participate in His care for creation.

Adam and Eve, our first parents, fell into temptation and chose to follow their own will instead of trust God and live in obedience to Him. This was the first occasion of sin.

Sin greatly offends God since it is destructive to both the individual who sins and to those around the person who sins. God is compassionate and full of mercy and desires to heal man from his sinful state.

God sent His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to take on flesh and enter into man's experience in order to redeem man from his sin.

Read this account of Jesus offering Himself for our reconciliation with the Father.

Luke 22:14-26

Jesus Christ desires all to be free of sin and to live a life of happiness in union with God.

Jesus Christ took on the sins of all people and submitted to death on a cross. He provides all people with a model of forgiveness and shows each person that God holds nothing back in loving him or her. The self-offering of Jesus on the cross reconciles all who love and believe in Him with God.

In the Last Supper, Jesus makes His sacrifice present so that all who follow Him may receive Him and accept God's free gift of Salvation.



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On the third day after His crucifixion, Jesus rose from the dead and sent the Holy Spirit to dwell in the hearts of all those who believe in Him and desire to follow Him. Jesus offers us a new life of Resurrection by which we can enter into heaven and never again be separated from God.

We accept this gift of Salvation and live in relationship with God by:

1. Repenting of our sins
2. Receiving God's gift of grace (supernatural help)
3. Receiving Baptism where our sins are washed away, we become adopted children of God, and receive the indwelling of the Holy Spirit
4. Remaining in Communion with the Church

At the Last Supper, Jesus gifted His Apostles with friendship and gave them grace to pass this relationship and supernatural help to all generations and to all peoples in an unbroken line.

Through our ordained ministers, we are able to "touch God" in the Sacraments the same way His followers did 2000 years ago, and now with universality.

Jesus touches us through sacramentally ordained ministers:

- In Baptism as He cleanses us from sin and gives us the Holy Spirit
- In Confirmation as He strengthens and matures the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us
- In the Eucharist as He intimately unites Himself to us
- In Reconciliation as He forgives us
- In Anointing of the Sick as He heals us spiritually and physically
- In Matrimony as He reveals His love to us and sanctifies us

Would you like to accept God's gift of Salvation and journey towards Baptism?

Lord Jesus, I confess that I have done wrong and failed to do right.

I ask you to be my savior, my guide, and my friend.

I invite your Holy Spirit to enlighten my mind and transform my heart.

I ask for your help to be obedient to You and live in communion with your Church.

I here and now answer your call to follow you.

Amen.



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God Heals the Sick

Elisha and Naaman

The Church's Good News: The Infinite Love of God

God created all things out of love and to share in relationship with Him and with each other. God's love is personal, proven, merciful, and offered.

Psalm 104:24-28

God is creator of all that is and lovingly provides for His creatures. God desires to reveal Himself to each of His children and invite him or her into intimate friendship.

God desires to lavish blessings on His children and invites each to commune with Him and live according to His loving plan.

God created the human person with the gift of freedom and the capacity to make choices. Each person can use this capacity to live in relationship with God who is all-loving, or a person can use this freedom to reject God and live for selfish ambition, even at the expense of others.

When a person separates him or herself from God, they cut themselves off from God's blessing.

Adam and Eve, our first parents, fell into temptation and chose to follow their own will instead of trust God and live in obedience to Him.

This was the first sin. Sin greatly offends God since it is destructive to both the individual who sins and to those around the person who sins. God is compassionate and full of mercy and desire to heal those who have separated themselves from Him.

God Offers Healing to Each of His Children

Read the account of how Naaman the Syrian heard about the Lord's goodness from an Israelite, then sought healing from the Lord.

2 Kings 5:1-16

Naaman was from Syria, a nation that often opposed Israel and rejected God's ways.

When Naaman heard the young woman's testimony of God's goodness, he, in humility, sought to learn about the God of the Israelite people.



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Naaman was surprised that instead of a mighty deed, Elisha commanded him to make an act of faith and bathe in a stream of Israel.

This action seemed foolish to Naaman, and he intended to reject the prophet's word. Naaman eventually gave God's word a chance and acted according to how he had been commanded by the prophet.

Naaman was completely healed of his leprosy and, in response, promised to be always faithful to the God of Israel.

God offers Healing Through Faith in Jesus Christ

Jesus came to abide with mankind as a babe, born of the Virgin Mary. God offered Himself in the Incarnation in order to reestablish relationship with all people, to atone for the sins of each person, and to give all who follow Him the gift of the Holy Spirit.

God gives us supernatural help (grace) in the Holy Spirit, and no person can be saved without God's help.

Jesus Christ paid the price for man's sins by dying on the cross. When He was being crucified, Jesus prayed "Father forgive them for they know not what they do." Jesus gives an example of forgiveness and understanding to imitate.

In His Resurrection from the dead, Jesus offers all who believe in Him new life. Jesus ascended into Heaven and sent the Holy Spirit to dwell within our hearts and give us grace to conform our lives to be like the life of Jesus Christ.

Read this account of Jesus's Resurrection and offer of new life.

Matt 28:1-10, 16-20

Jesus Christ desires all to be free of sin and live a life of happiness in union with God.

Jesus commanded His disciples to go to all the world and bring His presence and His message.

Each person is invited to make an act of faith in Jesus Christ and receive His Sacramental presence through these ordained ministers. God reveals Himself to us and changes us through these Sacraments received in faith.



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Jesus touches all who receive His Sacraments through ordained ministers:

- In Baptism as He cleanses us from sin and gives us the Holy Spirit
- In Confirmation as He strengthens and matures the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us
- In the Eucharist as He intimately unites Himself to us
- In Reconciliation as He forgives us
- In Anointing of the Sick as He heals us spiritually and physically
- In Matrimony as He reveals His love to us and sanctifies us

Would you like to accept God's gift of Salvation and journey towards the Sacrament of Baptism?

Lord Jesus, I confess that I have done wrong and failed to do right.

I ask you to be my savior, my guide, and my friend.

I invite your Holy Spirit to enlighten my mind and transform my heart.

I ask for your help to be obedient to You and live in communion with your Church.

I here and now answer your call to follow you.

Amen.



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God's Steadfast Love

Nehemiah Rebuilds the Walls of Jerusalem

The Church's Good News: The Infinite Love of God

God created all persons out of love and to share in relationship with Him and with each other. God's love is personal, proven, merciful, and offered.

Psalm 104:24-28

Out of love, God created all that is, similar to how a couple who falls in love desires to get married and have children.

God lovingly provides for all of His creatures. God desires to reveal Himself to each of His children and invite him or her into intimate friendship.

God desires to lavish blessings on His children and invites each to commune with Him and live according to His loving plan.

God created man with the gift of freedom and the capacity to make choices. Man can use this capacity to live in relationship with God who is all-loving, or he can use his freedom to reject God and live for selfish ambition, even at the expense of others.

When Man separates himself from God, he cuts himself off from God's blessing.

Adam and Eve, our first parents, fell into temptation and chose to follow their own will instead of trust God and live in obedience to Him.

This was the first sin. Sin greatly offends God since it is destructive to both the individual who sins and to those around the person who sins. God is compassionate and full of mercy and desires to heal those who have separated themselves from God.

God's Steadfast Love

The Nation of Judah abandoned God's ways and separated themselves from the Lord's blessing.

The people were taken captive by the Babylonian Empire and the city of Jerusalem was destroyed.



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Nehemiah, a man from Judah brought into service of the King, remained steadfast in his love and obedience to God while exiled.

The king he served grew to love Nehemiah, and allowed him to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the city.

The Jewish people faced great danger as they worked to rebuild the wall around the city of Jerusalem, and the Lord protected them from harm.

Once the people rebuilt the city, they returned to the ways of the Lord.

Read this account of the people in the rebuilt Jerusalem turning back to the laws of God and repenting of their sins.

Nehemiah 8:9-12, Chapter 9

When the Jewish people heard the book of the law of Moses read to them, they wept out of sorrow for rejecting the God who loved them and always provided for them.

Nehemiah reminded them of the Lord's mercy and invited them to return anew to the ways the Lord.

Nehemiah led the people in a prayer of repentance, in which he recalled the faithful and loving works of God their Father, and how the Jewish people rejected His love out of their own selfish ambition.

God is faithful and never abandons His people. The Jewish people returned to their covenant love with God and began anew.

Faith in Jesus Christ Casts out Fear

Jesus came to man as a babe, born of the Virgin Mary. God offered Himself to all people in the Incarnation in order to reestablish personal relationship, to atone for their sins, and to give each person the gift of the Holy Spirit, who provides God's supernatural help (grace).

Jesus Christ paid the price for each person's sins by dying on the cross. When He was being crucified, Jesus prayed "Father forgive them for they know not what they do." Jesus gives us an example of forgiveness and understanding for all to imitate.

Jesus is the fulfillment of the city of Jerusalem. He is our way of abiding with God and living in relationship with God.



Read this account of Jesus coming to the disciples walking on the sea, in the midst of a storm.

Matt 14:22-33

Jesus came to the disciples in the midst of a storm, when they felt most in danger of death.

Jesus reassured the disciples that as long as He is present, they experience a safety that surpasses what is natural.

Peter, in an act of faith, asked to come to Jesus in a supernatural way, a way above what is natural. Similarly, Jesus invites each of His followers to receive His gift of salvation and walk by faith.

Jesus offers us the gift of the Church, with its commandments and precepts that allow us to walk with Him and abide with God.

Ten Commandments

1. I am the Lord your God: You shall not have strange Gods before me.
2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.
3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.
4. Honor your father and mother.
5. You shall not kill.
6. You shall not commit adultery.
7. You shall not steal.
8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
9. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife.
10. You shall not covet your neighbor's goods.

Five Precepts of the Church

1. You shall attend Mass on Sundays and on holy days of obligation and rest from servile labor.
2. You shall confess your sins at least once a year.
3. You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter time.
4. You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church.
5. You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church. This means giving of our time, talent and treasure to help the Church.



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While living by God's commandments and precepts can at time be difficult, they lead to interior peace and fulfillment. God intended the human heart for happiness, and this happiness is only found in living in relationship with God through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Would you like to receive God's gift of Salvation and journey towards the Christian Moral Life?

Lord Jesus, I confess that I have done wrong and failed to do right.

I ask you to be my savior, my guide, and my friend.

I invite your Holy Spirit to enlighten my mind and transform my heart.

I ask for your help to be obedient to You and to live in communion with your Church.

I here and now answer your call to follow you.

Amen.



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God's Personal Call

Queen Esther

The Church's Good News: The Infinite Love of God

God created all things out of love and to share in relationship with Him and with each other. God's love is personal, proven, merciful, and offered.

Psalm 18:1-2, 28-30

God is creator of all that is and lovingly provides for His creatures. God desires to reveal Himself to each of His children and to invite him or her into intimate friendship.

God desires to lavish blessings on His children and invites each to commune with Him and to live according to His loving plan.

God created the human person with the gift of freedom and the capacity to make choices. Each person can use this capacity to live in relationship with God who is all-loving, or he or she can use this freedom to reject God and live for selfish ambition, even at the expense of others.

When a person separates him or herself from God, they cut themselves off from God's blessing.

Adam and Eve, our first parents, fell into temptation and chose to follow their own will instead of trust God and live in obedience to Him.

This was the first sin. Sin greatly offends God since it is destructive to both the individual who sins and to those around the person who sins. God is compassionate and full of mercy and desires to heal those who have separated themselves from God.

God's Protection and Personal Call

God chose the Jewish people to live in special relationship with Him in order to bless them and bring blessing to all nations around them.

God chose Israel because they were a small and poor nation. God always gives preferential love to the poor.

God revealed His law to the Israelite nation to bring them to a place of close friendship with Himself and to bring them happiness.



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The Jewish people lived in God's blessing, then eventually abandoned the Lord and chose to pursue power, pleasure, possessions, and prestige as their final end instead of as a part of God's loving plan.

When the Jewish people removed themselves from God's blessing, they eventually became subject to the nation of Persia, who threatened their safety.

Read this account of the faith of Mordecai and the Jewish Queen Esther, who brought salvation to God's people.

Esther 3:1-11, Ch 4, 5:1-4, Ch 7

Mordecai was a man of great faith who refused to give the Persian prince Haman honor that belongs to God alone.

In response, Haman's pride led him to develop a plot to destroy God's vulnerable people living in exile.

The King of Persia, Ahasuerus, had fallen in love the Jewish woman Esther and made her queen.

Esther chose to use this gift and position from God not for her own welfare, but to do what she could to save her people, even if it meant risking her life.

God blessed Esther and through her revealed the goodness of His providence. God in His loving plan desires to bless His children with happiness and use them as agents to bring others happiness.

Through Queen Esther's courage and willingness to risk her life for the sake of others, the Jewish people received the means to defend themselves from their enemies and were saved from extinction.

Jesus Christ Offers Salvation

Jesus came to man as a babe, born of the Virgin Mary. God offered Himself to all persons in the Incarnation in order to reestablish the personal relationship ruptured by sin.

In His life, death, and Resurrection, Jesus atoned for each person's sins and offers the gift of the Holy Spirit who provides God's supernatural help (grace) to all who receive Him.



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Jesus Christ paid the price for man's sins by dying on the cross. When He was being crucified, Jesus prayed "Father forgive them for they know not what they do." Jesus gives us an example of forgiveness and understanding to imitate.

Jesus is the fulfillment of God's relationship with the Jewish people. Believing in Jesus, loving Jesus, and obeying Jesus is our way of abiding with God and living in relationship with Him.

Read this account of the Blessed Virgin Mary standing at the Cross as Jesus gave His life to for the Salvation of all people.

John 19:17-30

As Jesus gave His life for each person's salvation, He invited His virgin mother to participate in this great sacrifice.

Mary stood at the foot of the cross in faith, uniting her heart to the heart of Jesus as He took on the sins of all the whole world. Mary offered her Son to God for her own salvation and for the salvation of others, confident that God in His goodness would never allow evil to triumph.

Jesus rose from the dead on the third day after his crucifixion and offers all of His followers new life if they believe in Him and receive the Holy Spirit.

We accept this gift of Salvation and new life by:

1. Repenting of our sins
2. Receiving God's gift of grace (supernatural help)
3. Receiving Baptism where our sins are washed away, we become adopted children of God, and receive the indwelling of the Holy Spirit
4. Remaining in Communion with the Church

Would you like to accept God's gift of Salvation and journey towards new life in the Holy Spirit?

Lord Jesus, I confess that I have done wrong and failed to do right.

I ask you to be my savior, my guide, and my friend.

I invite your Holy Spirit to enlighten my mind and transform my heart.

I ask for your help to be obedient to You and to live in communion with your Church.

I here and now answer your call to follow you.

Amen.



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God's Salvation

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego

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God's Saving Love

God chose the Jewish people to live in special relationship with Him in order to bless them and bring blessing to all surrounding nations.

God chose Israel because they were a small and poor nation. God always gives preferential love to the poor.

God revealed His law to the Israelite nation in order to bring them to a place of close friendship with Himself and to bring them happiness.



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The Jewish people lived in God's blessing, then eventually abandoned the Lord and chose to pursue power, pleasure, possessions, and prestige as final ends instead of as gifts from God and as part of His loving plan.

The Jewish people removed themselves from God's blessing and were overtaken by the Babylonian Empire, who tried to prevent them from living according to God's revealed law.

Read this account of the faith of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and how God came to their aid.

Daniel Ch 3

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to give a created idol worship that belongs to God alone.

King Nebuchadnezzar sought to destroy them for their faith in God and for their refusal to submit to his oppression.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego made an act of faith and worship in the one true God and chose to follow Him regardless of the result.

God preserved Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the red-hot flame of the furnace, and sent an angel to reveal His loving and protecting presence.

King Nebuchadnezzar witnessed the power of God and made known to his kingdom the truth and goodness of the ways of Israel.

Jesus came to offer personal relationship and Salvation from sin.

Jesus came to man as a babe, born of the Virgin Mary. God offered Himself to mankind in the Incarnation in order to reestablish personal relationship, to atone for each person's sins, and to give him or her the gift of the Holy Spirit who offers God's supernatural help (grace).

Jesus Christ paid the price for man's sins by dying on the cross. When He was being crucified, Jesus prayed "Father forgive them for they know not what they do." Jesus gives us an example of forgiveness and understanding to imitate.

Read this account of Jesus revealing His glory and His gift of Salvation.

Matthew 17:1-13



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God reveals Himself as transcendent, all-powerful, and all-good. When the disciples saw Jesus reveal His Divinity, they felt afraid.

People in Scripture often feel fear when coming in contact with God's might because they become keenly aware of their own vulnerability and the times they may have failed.

God, in His holiness, demands perfect love. Sin is what is contrary to love and it greatly offends God since it causes harm to the person who sins and to the people around the person who sins.

Jesus, in His mercy, chose to take on flesh and enter into man's state in order to reconcile him back to God.

The disciples at the moment of the Transfiguration, saw Jesus as he truly is – fully God and fully man.

Jesus told the disciples not to be afraid because He came to save each person by His dying, rising from the dead, ascending into heaven, and offering new life in the Holy Spirit.

All who believe in Jesus, love Jesus, accept God's gift of salvation, and live in obedience to the Church enter into this new life.

Would you like to make an act of faith in Jesus and journey toward new life?

Lord Jesus, I confess that I have done wrong and failed to do right.

I ask you to be my savior, my guide, and my friend.

I invite your Holy Spirit to enlighten my mind and transform my heart.

I ask for your help to be obedient to You and live in communion with your Church.

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God's Salvation

Daniel and the Lion's Den

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God's Saving Love

God chose the Jewish people to live in special relationship with Him in order to bless them and bring blessing to all surrounding nations.

God chose Israel because they were a small and poor nation. God always gives preferential love to the poor.

God revealed His law to the Israelite nation in order to bring them to a place of close friendship with Himself and to bring them happiness.



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The Jewish people lived in God's blessing, then eventually abandoned the Lord and chose to pursue power, pleasure, possessions, and prestige as final ends instead of as a part of God's loving plan.

The Jewish removed themselves from God's blessing and were overtaken by the Babylon and Persian Empires, who tried to prevent them from living in relationship with God.

Read this account of the faith of Daniel and how God rescued him from death.

Daniel 6:1-23

Daniel was a man of faith and sought to obey God's law and remain in relationship with Him. Because of this, Daniel was wise among all those in Persia who served King Darius.

Out of jealousy, the other ranking officials sought to kill Daniel in order to grow in their own prestige. They knew of Daniel's virtue and faithfulness to God, so they sought to present their own king as a deity in order to trap Daniel.

When Daniel was informed that his worship of the one true God has been banned, he abandoned Himself into God's hands knowing God is all-good, all-powerful, and all-loving. Daniel would rather make an enemy of a powerful earthly king, than turn away from God and remove himself from His blessing.

Darius had grown to love Daniel because of the wisdom he saw in him and was grieved to discover his own ego had put Daniel in danger of death.

Daniel trusted in God's providence and submitted to the earthly consequences for his fidelity. The Lord miraculously saved Daniel and rose him up in the midst of violent beasts. Because of Daniel's fidelity and trust, many came to believe in the God of Israel and enter into His blessing.

Jesus came to offer personal relationship and Salvation from sin.

Jesus came to the human race as a babe, born of the Virgin Mary. God offered Himself to all people in the Incarnation in order to reestablish personal relationship, to atone for each person's sins, and to give him or her the gift of the Holy Spirit who offers God's supernatural help (grace).

Jesus Christ paid the price for each person's sins by dying on the cross. When He was being crucified, Jesus prayed "Father forgive them for they know not what they do." Jesus gives us an example of forgiveness and understanding to imitate.



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Read this account of Jesus rising from the dead after submitting to the hatred of His enemies. Jesus had fully manifested His power before His crucifixion and revealed that it was to atone for man's sins that he became obedient to death.

Luke 24:1-12, 36-49

Jesus Christ offers each of His followers forgiveness and peace.

In His Resurrection, He invites each of us to a new life of holiness where we can be fashioned into the image of our loving, compassionate, and merciful God.

Jesus offers the gift of the Holy Spirit who dwells within us and begins to transform our hearts, minds, and actions to those of Jesus Christ.

All those who become followers of Jesus through Baptism, become part of the Mystical Body of Christ and participate in bringing about the mission of Jesus Christ on earth.

We enter into the Mystical Body of Christ by:

1. Repenting of our sins
2. Receiving God's gift of grace (supernatural help)
3. Receiving Baptism where our sins are washed away, we become adopted children of God, and receive the indwelling of the Holy Spirit
4. Remaining in Communion with the Church

Would you like to receive God's gift of the Holy Spirit and journey toward communion with the Church?

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