

A SHORTENED SYLLABUS FOR GRADE 7 RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

INTRODUCTION

The Text Book, Christ, Our Life, Book 6, which Sister Catherine Figueroa, O.S.M., introduced into the Grade 7 Religious Education Curriculum, in about 2004, would require FOUR days of Religious Education per week in order to complete all of it. Presently, Religious Education is allotted only 2 periods per week. Therefore no teacher has ever been able to complete the Syllabus. The Teacher must also use the Teacher's Manual, that comes with the Students' Text Books, SPARINGLY, bearing in mind that a four day per week of Religious Education was prepared for the Course originally, instead of 2 periods per week.

Therefore, as the head of the Religious Education Department, I think it necessary to shorten the syllabus in order to cover more of the Text Book in a shorter space of time. This is a Syllabus, which has not been tested before. It is expected that more changes may become necessary.

UNIT 1: "GOD REVEALS A PLAN OF LOVE"

Lesson # 1: The Bible Reveals God's Saving Love

Specific Objective: At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to briefly describe God's Plan for the world's Salvation as revealed in the Old Testament.

Content (Points To Focus On)

1. God created the people of Israel to be the people through whom His Son, Jesus Christ, would come into the world to save all people from their sins (Gen.12:3; Gal.3:6-8,13-14,16; Students' Text Book, page 8).
2. The Old Testament is the History of God calling a people to be His own people, and preparing them to be the means of bringing the Saviour into the world (Lk.24: 27,44-47; Students' Text Book, Page 10).

Lesson #2: Scripture Is God's Saving Word

Specific Objectives: 1. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to explain what is meant by "all scripture is given by inspiration of God". 2. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to explain why the Bible should be approached differently from other books, which were not given by inspiration of God. 3. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to summarize what is in each category of the Old Testament. 4. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to locate Scripture Passages.

1. "Inspiration of God" from the greek language which the apostle Paul used to write Timothy in 2nd Timothy 3:16, "Theopneustos", literally translated means "God breathed". When we speak, we breathe, for we need air for the sound to come out of the mouth. Compare this with with 2nd Samuel 23: 2-- "The Spirit of the LORD spoke by me, and his Word was in my tongue." "God breathed" means that "God spoke".

2. "Scripture", from the greek language which the apostle Paul used to write Timothy in 2nd Timothy 3: 16, "graphe", literally means "Writing". It is related to the greek word, "grapho", which means "to write". Whatever God spoke to selected persons, they wrote it down.
3. Therefore the "Holy Scriptures" are different from other Writings, since the Messages in the Holy Scriptures did not originate in human minds, and were not written with human wisdom (Num.16: 28; 1st Cor.2:9,10,13).
4. There are different categories of books in the Old Testament: Law, Historical, Prophetic & Wisdom (See Students' Text Book, pages 16-17).
5. To locate any Scripture Passage, the Book is first given, then the Chapter number, and last of all the verse number or numbers (See Students' Text Book, at the top of page 18).

Lesson # 3: "Everything God Created Is Good"

- Specific Objectives:
1. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to describe what God did on each of the days of Creation.
 2. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to explain why we may accept as true what is written in Genesis Chapters 1 and 2 concerning the Creation, even though no human being was there to watch and write down what happened.
 3. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to explain why the Creation Accounts in Genesis Chapters 1 and 2 are in keeping with Scientific Facts instead of Evolution.
 4. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to identify Reli-

1. On the first day, God created the light. On the second day, God created the sky. On the third day, God created the dry land, grass, plants and trees. On the fourth day, God created the sun, the moon and the stars. On the fifth day, God created

gious Truths from the Creation Accounts in Genesis Chapters 1 and 2.

the water creatures and the birds. On the sixth day, God created four-footed animals, crawling creatures, and human beings (See Gen. Chapters 1 & 2).

2. Although no human being was present to watch and to write down how everything came into existence, God made known to Moses, the writer of Genesis, what took place. God, the Creator, knows everything. Therefore we should have faith in Him that even though we did not see for ourselves what happened, we still accept that what God told Moses is true.
3. The Creation presents different forms of life as suddenly being created on the third day, on the fifth day, and on the sixth day. The preserved remains of complex plants and animals, that is, plants and animals with many cells, have been

found in the oldest rocks. These complex plants and animals have no earlier and simple ancestral forms. Therefore Scientific information from the oldest rocks say the same thing that Genesis says, that in the beginning of time, all the complex forms of life suddenly appeared, with no simple form of life developing into a complex form of life over a long period of time.

If Evolution were the way life originated and developed, the earliest rocks should have shown the simplest form of life, and later rocks

should have shown a gradual development into complex forms of life; but it does not. Instead of this, the oldest rocks have the preserved remains of all kinds of complex plants and animals, with no links between the different kinds of complex plants and animals. Therefore Evolution is a Scientific Faith, unsupported by Scientific Fact.

4. Religious Truths found in the Creation Accounts are as follows:

(i) There is only One True God.

(ii) God created all things, so these things are not gods.

(iii) God is good, wise, powerful, orderly, and loving.

(iv) Everything and everyone depends upon God.

(v) God created human beings in His image.

(vi) Men and women have equal importance & value in God's sight.

(vii) God made people masters and managers/ caretakers of creation.

(viii) Things of creation were made to help all people and to bring them joy.

(See Students' Text Book, page 24, at the top of the page)

Lesson # 4: God Offers Love & Mercy

Specific Objectives: 1. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to describe how sin and death entered into the world God had created.
2. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to describe God's Plan to bring Salvation from sin and death through His Son, Jesus Christ.

1. God commanded the first man and the first woman not to eat of the Tree of the knowledge of good and evil, or else they would die. Both the woman and the man sinned against God by eating the forbidden fruit. They were sent away from the Garden of Eden, and were prevented from reentering the Garden to eat of the Tree of Life which had kept them from aging and dying. Now they began the process of aging and dying. Also, the ground was cursed, so that the man would have to work hard to get food to eat from it. The woman would now bear children in a lot more pain. The man, her husband, would have authority over her. (See Gen.3:1-6,16-19,22-24; Students' Text Book, page30)
2. Even though the first man and the first woman had sinned, God still cared about them. He promised that a descendant of the woman would save mankind from sin and death. (Gen.3:15; Students' Text Book, page 30)

N.B. Leave out the stories of Cain & Abel, the Flood, and the Tower of Babel, since the story of Adam and Eve adequately illustrates God's Offer Of Love And Mercy.

Leave out also the fifth lesson in the Students' Text Book, "God Reveals A Plan Of Love", since it is just a review of the previous four lessons.

This is the end of Unit I: "God Reveals A Plan Of Love"

UNIT II: “GOD FORMS A FAMILY OF FAITH”

In this Unit, it is suggested that Lessons 6-9 be combined to form one Lesson, that is, that a summary of how God formed a family of faith, and from that family of faith, a nation with whom He had a special relationship be presented. For matters of continuity with the numbering system from Unit I, this Lesson shall be called **Lesson # 5, “Abraham, Isaac, Jacob & Joseph”**.

Objectives	Content
Specific Objectives: 1. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to define the word “Covenant”.	1. “Covenant” means an “Agreement”.
2. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to identify three promises in the Covenant which God made with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.	2. God made a Covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and their descendants. This Covenant had three basic promises: (i) a numerous nation would come from Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; (ii) this nation would be given the land of Canaan; (iii) a blessing would come to all the nations of the earth through one special descendant in this nation. (See Gen.12:1-3; 22:16-18; 26:1-5; 28:13-14)
3. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to outline how the three promises of the Covenant which God made with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, were fulfilled.	3. The numerous nation which descended from Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, was known as the children of Israel or the Hebrews. (See Ex.1:1-7) This nation later inherited the land of Canaan. (See Ex.3:7-10; Josh.21:43-45) Jesus Christ, a descendant from the children of Israel, later came into the world to bless all the nations of the earth by dying for the sins of everyone, and by rising from the dead, so that those who have the same kind of faith Abraham had, even if they are not natural descendants of Abraham, may be forgiven of sins, and may be counted as God’s people. (See Gal.3:6-9, 13-14, 16, 26-29; Students’ Text Book, “Looking Back at Unit 2”, Page 69)
4. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to summarize how Joseph preserved the lives of Abraham’s descendants in Egypt.	4. Joseph fed Abraham’s descendants. (See p.66, Quest.5)

UNIT III: “GOD GUIDES THE CHOSEN PEOPLE”

In this Unit, there will be a summary of the Text Book’s Lessons 10-16 to form one Lesson. For the sake of continuity with the numbering of the Lesson of the preceding Unit, this Lesson will be called: **Lesson # 6: “God Guides The Chosen People”** .

Specific Objectives

Content

Specific Objectives: 1. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to compare the Passover Festival and Israel’s consequent deliverance from Slavery to the Egyptians, with Jesus Christ as our Passover Sacrifice by which we are delivered from Slavery to Sin.

2. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to compare the Israelites crossing of the Red Sea to safety from the Egyptians with those who are baptized in water to safety from sin.

3. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to identify two purposes of the Law, which God gave through Moses to the children of Israel.

4. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to compare the need which the Israelites had for steadfast faith in God and His Promises, as they journeyed to the Promised Land, with the need that God’s People have today to have steadfast faith in God, so that they may make it to heaven.

5. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to compare the Israelites deliverance from death through God’s promise that if they looked at the bronze serpent they would live, and our deliverance from death through God’s promise that if we look in faith at the death of Jesus on the cross.

6. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to compare the Israelites entrance into the Promised Land with our entrance into the Promised Land of Heaven.

1. The first Passover Festival was the time when God passed over the homes of the Israelites in Egypt, but destroyed the first born of the Egyptians. This led the king of Egypt to order that the Israelites leave Egypt. Jesus’ death on the cross has made it possible for God to pass over us instead of punishing us for our sin. We are also freed from slavery to sin. (Ex.12:12-13,26-27; 1st Cor.5:7)
2. After the Israelites left Egypt, the Egyptians went after them to bring them back into slavery; but God parted the Red Sea, so that the Israelites were able to escape by going through the Red Sea on dry land. Similarly, when we are baptized in water, we escape to safety from sin’s attempt to re-enslave us, so long as we continue to follow Jesus Christ. (Ex.14:21-22,28-31; 1st Cor.10:1-2)
3. At Mount Sinai, God made a Covenant with His People, that if they would obey His Commands, He would protect them, provide for them, give them health and wealth. The Commands were to show them how to be holy as God is holy, and to let them see their sinfulness and their need for Salvation through Jesus Christ. (Lev.19:2; Rom. 3:19-20; Gal.3:24)
4. As the Israelites journeyed in the desert, they faced many hardships: thirst, hunger, war, & discontentment over manna. They did not believe that God would provide for them. They did not believe that God would enable them to defeat the giants of the land. So they refused to enter the Promised Land. Similarly, the Christian life will have trials; and if our faith in God is not steadfast, we will not enter our Heavenly Rest. (Heb.3:6-4:11)
5. On a certain occasion, the Israelites complained about the manna God provided for them. God

sent poisonous snakes among them, and many of them died. When they cried to God for

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mercy, God told Moses to make a bronze snake and to put it on a pole, and to tell those whom the snakes had bitten to look on the bronze snake and they would not die but live. Similarly, those who look in faith to Jesus Christ's death on the cross, will not die, but have eternal life. (Num.21: 4-9; Jn.3:14-15)

6. When Moses died, Joshua took over as the leader of Israel. He brought them into the Promised Land of Canaan, defeated the ungodly nations that lived there, and divided the conquered land to the twelve tribes of Israel. Similarly, Jesus will bring those who faithfully follow Him into the Promised Land of Heaven. (Josh.21:43-45; Jn.14:1-3)
7. For a summary of Unit 3, See "Looking Back at Unit 3" from the Students' Text Book, page 121.

The End Of Unit III: "God Guides The Chosen People"

A Summary Of Unit IV: "God Leads The Chosen People"

In the Students' Text Book, Unit IV consists of Lesson 17: "God Protects the Israelites through Judges", Lesson 18: "The Lord Gives the Israelites Kings", Lesson 19: "God Rules through David and Solomon" and Lesson 20: "God Leads the Chosen People". This Unit will be summarized into one Lesson, **Lesson # 7: "God Leads the Chosen People"**.

Specific Objectives

Specific Objectives: 1. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to summarize God's Salvation of His People through Judges, and how this was a foreshadowing of Salvation through Jesus, His Son.

2. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to identify God's Promise to king David of the coming Messiah or Christ.

Content

1. After Joshua's death and the death of the elders who had outlived Joshua, Israel turned to the gods of the surrounding nations. Whenever they did this, God allowed these nations to rule over Israel and to oppress them. Whenever Israel repented and cried out to God, He raised up Judges from among them to save them from their enemies and to lead them. This was a foreshadowing of the coming Saviour, Jesus, who was to save people from their sins and their enemies and to rule over them. (Judges 2:10-18; Matt.1:21; Lk.1:67-75; Lk.1:31-33)

2. Samuel was the last great Judge of Israel. Since his sons were corrupt Judges, and since all other nations had kings, the nation of Israel asked Samuel to appoint a king to rule over them. As a sign that God had chosen the king, Samuel was told by God to anoint Saul as the first king of Israel. He was known as “the Lord’s Anointed”. Later this term, and another related term, “The Anointed One”, called in Hebrew, “Messiah”, was used of the special Saviour-King who would come to purify Israel and the rest of the world from their sins, save God’s People from their enemies, and rule over the Kingdom of God—the safe, peaceful and happy and eternal Kingdom. Since king Saul was constantly disobedient to God, God chose David, a Shepherd boy, as the new king. He actually began to rule over Israel after king Saul’s death. He was a man after God’s own heart, who did all that God wanted him to do. Whenever he sinned, he confessed his sin, genuinely turned away from his sin, and asked God for His mercy and forgiveness. He expressed his love for God in composing many psalms of praises to God, and prayers for God’s forgiveness. God made a special covenant with David that the Messiah or Christ would come from his own family. David’s son, king Solomon, ruled Israel after king David’s death. He asked God for wisdom to rule Israel in the right way. God made him the wisest human being, other than Christ, who has ever lived. Jesus Christ is a direct descendant of David through Solomon. (2nd Sam.7:11-17; Lk.1:31-33; Students’ Text Book, “Looking Back at Unit 4”, page 149)

The End Of Unit IV: “God Leads The Chosen People”

A Summary Of Unit V: “Prophets Prepare The Way Of The Lord”

This Unit will also be summarized into one Lesson, **Lesson # 8: “Prophets Prepare the Way of the Lord”**.

<u>Specific Objectives</u>	<u>Content</u>
1. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to define the word, “Prophet”.	1. A prophet was a person who received messages from God to speak on God’s behalf. Some prophets were commanded to write down in a book what God had said.
2. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to summarize the messages of the prophets, Elijah, Amos, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and John, the Baptist.	2. Elijah was sent to call Israel back to God, and to turn from the belief in and worship of Baal and Ashtoreth- the main god and goddess of the Canaanites. Amos was a Shepherd who was sent to warn the Government of Israel to turn away from oppressing the poor and needy with high prices of food and clothes, from injustice in the Courts, to warn business people not to sell people less food than what was advertized and not to charge them more money for the less food, and to warn worshippers not to worship false gods, or else the Assyrians were going to take them away from their own land. Isaiah was sent to warn Judah and Jerusalem to stop oppressing the orphans and the widows, to stop shedding innocent blood, and to stop pretending to worship God when their heart was far away from Him. Isaiah also spoke of the coming Messiah, that He would be a descendant of king David, that He would be born of a Virgin, that He would be called “the Mighty God”, that He would do many miracles to help people, that He would preach Good News of Comfort to the oppressed in Israel, be rejected by Israel, be crucified for the sins of others, be buried in a rich man’s tomb, and rise again to life, and be glorified, so that God’s Salvation may be available to both Israel and the other nations of the world. Jeremiah was sent to warn Judah and Jerusalem to stop worshipping false gods, to stop committing adultery, to stop stealing, to stop making promises in God’s Name and not keeping them, to stop committing murder, and to stop pretending to worship God as if that alone could save them from their enemies. If they did not change, God would send

the Babylonians to destroy the temple and the Jews, and to take the survivors away from their own land to Babylon. Yet in Babylon, if they sought God, God would show mercy to them in bringing them back to their own land. He would also send the Messiah, who would save them from their enemies and give them peace and safety. God would also make a New Covenant with them in placing His Laws in their heart, and in forgiving them of their sins and remembering them no more.

Ezekiel was sent to the Jews, who were in captivity in Babylon. He told them to turn back to God so that He may forgive them. He told them that they were in Babylonian Captivity because of their own sins. He told them that He had no pleasure in punishing them. He promised them that one day their Messiah would come and purify them from their sins and rule over them forever in a Kingdom of peace, safety and plenty.

John, the Baptist, was the prophet who was sent immediately before the Messiah, to prepare Israel by calling upon them to repent, to believe in the Messiah, to be baptized in water, and to follow the Messiah when He would show Himself to Israel. John, the Baptist, baptized Jesus, the Messiah, and God anointed the Messiah with the Holy Spirit, and God declared Jesus to be His dear Son, in whom He is well pleased. (1st Pet. 1: 10-11; the Students' Text Book, "Looking Back at Unit 5", page 188)

The End Of Unit V: "Prophets Prepare The Way Of The Lord"

The End Of The Syllabus For Grade 7 Religious Education