

A REVISED RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SYLLABUS FOR GRADE 8

INTRODUCTION

Since about 2004, when Sister Catherine Figueroa, O.S.M., introduced the Christ, Our Life, Book 7, into the Grade 8 R.E. Curriculum, no one has been able to finish the Book, for it was written for FOUR days of Religious Education each week, and we have R.E. only 2 periods per week.

It is necessary therefore to choose the most essential topics from the Text Book. It is also necessary to use the Teachers Manual sparingly, for the activities suggested in it are meant to cover 4 out of the 5 days in a School Week.

The theme of the whole Text Book is based on John 14:6, “I am the way, the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father, but by me”.

UNIT 1: “JESUS CHRIST, THE WAY”

Objectives

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Lesson # 1: Jesus, The Son Of God

Specific Objectives: 1. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to define four key words concerning Jesus’ identity and mission.

2. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to describe who Jesus means to them.

Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and the Saviour of the world. “Christ” means “Anointed One”, i.e. a Leader Chosen by God. “Son of God” means that He has all of God, the Father’s Characteristics. “Incarnation” means that He who was with the Father in the beginning, through whom the Father made all things, came into the world with a human body to fully make known who God is. “Saviour” means that He came to rescue all who believe in Him and follow Him, from the harmful effects of sin. (Students’ Text Book, pages 11-12)

Lesson # 2: Jesus The Son Of Man

Specific Objectives: 1. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to define “Son of Man”.

2. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to identify the characteristic which distinguished Jesus from other human beings.

1. “Son of Man” means “a human being” (Students’ Text Book, page 16). It also means the Messiah, who at His final coming, will judge all nations, and welcome the saved from all nations into heaven (Students’

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3. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to explain the importance of accepting Jesus' invitation to becoming his friends.
4. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to describe what Jesus did to make it possible to become his friends.
5. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to describe what must be done to remain his friends.

Lesson # 3: Jesus, The MessiahScripture: A Portrait of Jesus

- Specific Objectives:
1. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to define the word, "Gospel".
 2. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to explain why the Gospel was written.
 3. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to identify and briefly describe the Acts, the

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- Text Book, page 18).
2. Jesus was human like us, except He did not sin (Heb.4:15; Students' Text Book, page 16)
 3. Jesus loves you and wants you to be happy. He wants you to know the joy that comes to those who walk through life with him... Jesus would like you to spend an eternity of happiness with Him. (Jn.15:11; 16:33; 14:1-3)
 4. Jesus died voluntarily out of love for us to make it possible for us to have everlasting life. His death is the greatest demonstration of love and friendship. (Jn.15:13)
 5. To be and to continue to be a friend of Jesus, a person must be obedient to Jesus. (Students' Text Book, page 18, "The Ultimate Test"; Jn.15:14)

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1. "Gospel" means "Good News" that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, who revealed the Father's Love for us and saved us.
2. The Gospel was written to create faith in Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God, and the Saviour of the world, so that people may have eternal life. The Gospel was also

Epistles, and the Book of Revelation.

4. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to willingly read the New Testament to learn more about Jesus Christ.

written to emphasize different aspects of who Jesus is, so that we may have different portraits of Him: Mark's Portrait—Jesus, a man of action and suffering; Matthew's Portrait—Jesus, Teacher and "New Moses"; Luke's Portrait—Jesus, Saviour and Friend of all, for example, sinners, the poor, the women, and Samaritans; and John's Portrait—Jesus, Son of God and Giver of Life.

3. Acts shows how the Good News of Jesus as the Messiah and Saviour spread from Jerusalem, to all Judaea, to Samaria and to the ends of the earth. Acts also shows how the Faith of Christ triumphed over Jewish and Gentile efforts to stop it. (Acts 1:8; 9:15; 5:42; 18:9-11)

The Epistles are Letters to churches and to individual Christians, applying the message of Jesus to daily life.

The Book of Revelation encourages Christians to endure sufferings to the end, as they await the victory of God's Kingdom over all earthly kingdoms, and the glorification of faithful Christians.

4. The reading of the New Testament will create and strengthen faith in Jesus Christ, so that the

reader may become a Christian and remain a faithful follower of Jesus Christ.

Lesson # 4: Jesus, The Son of God and of Mary

General Objective: To examine spiritual truths about Jesus from the Infancy Narratives in the Gospel Accounts.

Specific Objective: At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to describe five spiritual truths about Jesus from the Infancy Narratives in the Gospel Accounts.

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1. Jesus is God by Nature, for Elizabeth called Mary “the Mother of my Lord”, and He was conceived by the Spirit of God, and He is “God with us” who has come to “save” us. (See Lk.1:43,35; Matt.1:20-23)
2. Jesus is human by nature, for He has a human Mother, the Virgin Mary. (See Lk.1: 26-31)
3. Jesus is the Christ/the Messiah, for He descended from King David through a line of kings, He was born in Bethlehem, where the Old Testament Prophet, Micah, predicted that the Christ/Messiah would be born, and He was a “Nazarene”/ “Branch” of David’s Family Tree. (See Matt.1:6-16; 2:1-6,23)
4. He was to bring salvation to all nations by an act which would bring great sorrow to His Mother Mary, and which would help those who believe in Him, but hurt those who reject Him. (See Lk.2:30-31,34-35)

5. He would glorify God, the Father, in Heaven, and bring peace on earth between God and sinful people, and eventually peace among all people who inherit the Kingdom of God. (See Lk.2:13-14)

Lesson # 5 (N.B. This is Lesson # 6 in the Students' Text Book): Jesus, the Christ—The Mission Of Jesus

Specific Objectives:

1. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to define the word, "Christ" or "Messiah".
2. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to explain three other meanings connected with the word, "Christ" or "Messiah".
3. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to describe five ways in which John, the Baptizer, prepared the way for Jesus' Mission.
4. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to explain the purpose of Jesus' forty days of fasting and prayer after His baptism.
5. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to explain three characteristics of Jesus' Kingdom, which are brought out in the temptations of Jesus.

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1. "Christ" or "Messiah" means "Anointed One".
2. Since "Prophets", "Priests" & "Kings" were anointed with olive oil, three meanings connected "Anointed One" are (i) "Prophet", (ii) "Priest" & (iii) "King". As a Prophet, Jesus delivered the Good News that the Father wanted to be made known; as a Priest, Jesus offered the sacrifice of His own body on the cross, & intercedes with God that He may forgive us of our sins; as a King, Jesus has the greatest power and authority.
3. John, the Baptizer, prepared for Jesus' Mission in five ways:
 - (i) he proclaimed to Israel that the Kingdom of God was near.
 - (ii) he called on Israel to repent of their sins.
 - (iii) he called on Israel to confess their sins.
 - (iv) he baptized many Israelites in water.
 - (v) he baptized Jesus in the Jordan River, at which time The Holy Spirit, in the form

of a dove, anointed Him as the Christ or Messiah and gave Him the power to begin His Mission, and God publicly declared Jesus to be His Dear Son.

4. Jesus further prepared Himself for His Mission by fasting and praying for forty days in the desert of Judea.

5. Jesus' victory over the temptations show three characteristics of Jesus' Kingdom:

(i) Jesus' Kingdom was not based on material goods.

(ii) Jesus' Kingdom was not based on magic tricks.

(iii) Jesus' Kingdom was not based on military power.

Lesson # 6 (N.B. This is Lesson # 7 in the Students' Text Book): Jesus, The Master, The Apostles And Other Followers

Specific Objectives: 1. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to define the word "disciple". 2. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to identify six characteristics of a "disciple of Jesus" from Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. 3. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to define the word "apostle". 4. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to apply the definition of "apostle" to the twelve men Jesus chose and sent out. 5. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to explain why every apostle of Jesus Christ was a disciple, but not every disciple was an apostle of Jesus Christ. 6. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to identify six steps to personally be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

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1. A disciple is a "student" who is taught and trained by a teacher to follow the way of life of the teacher. (Lk.6:40)
2. There are six characteristics of a disciple of Jesus from Matthew, Mark, Luke and John: (i) a disciple of Jesus does the will of God, the Father, that is, whatever God wants and commands us to do. (Matt.7:21) (ii) a disciple of Jesus humbles himself or herself as a little child does. (Matt.18:3-4) (iii) a disciple of Jesus serves other people and does not try to exalt himself or herself over others in pride. (Mk.10:43-44) (iv) a disciple of Jesus denies himself, that is, says "no" to whatever he or she wants to do, which is against God's will/wishes, takes up the cross of patiently suffering

for doing what God wants, and follows Jesus' example of obedience to God, the Father. (Lk.9:23-24) (v) A disciple of Jesus puts obedience to God above all his or her material possessions or desires for material possessions. (Lk.14:33) (vi) A disciple of Jesus loves others to the extent that Christ loves them, that is, even more than they love themselves. (Jn.13:35)

3. An "apostle" was a person chosen by Jesus Christ and "sent out" to preach the gospel, to heal the sick, to cast out demons, to raise the dead, and to establish the church of Jesus Christ throughout the world, and to oversee the church. (Matt.10:1-8; 28:16-20)
4. Every apostle of Jesus Christ was a disciple, but not every disciple of Jesus Christ was an apostle, for not all disciples were chosen and sent out by Jesus Christ personally and given the power and authority to the extent which the apostles had been given. (Lk.6:12-13)
5. To become a disciple of Jesus Christ, I need to hear the good news of God's forgiveness through Jesus Christ's death for my sins, His burial, and resurrection. I also need to believe in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God, turn from my sins and let Jesus rule my life, confess Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God, be baptized into Jesus Christ, & be faithful. (Acts 8:26-39)

UNIT II: “JESUS CHRIST, THE TRUTH”

Lesson #7 (This is Lesson # 10 in the Students’ Text Book): Jesus, the Storyteller—Parables: Stories Jesus Told

Specific Objectives

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| <p>1. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to define the word, “parable”.</p> | <p>1. A parable is a comparison between something from life on the earth and a truth or truths about the Kingdom of God.</p> |
| <p>2. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to explain why Jesus told certain parables: the parable of the sower, the parable of the prodigal son, the parable of the good Samaritan, the parable of the unforgiving Servant, the parable of the Talents, and the parable of the Ten Virgins.</p> | <p>2. Jesus told the parable of the sower, since there were people in the audience, like the Pharisees, who had already made up their minds not to believe in Him, no matter what He might say and do. Jesus told the parable of the prodigal son, since the Pharisees and the Teachers of the Law were criticizing him for accepting sinners and eating with them. Jesus told the parable of the good Samaritan, since a Teacher of the Law did not know that a neighbour was not only a friend or a fellow-Jew, but an enemy, such as a Samaritan. Jesus told the parable of the unforgiving servant to teach the apostle Peter that he should always be willing to forgive others. Jesus told the parable of the Ten Virgins to teach His disciples that they should always be spiritually ready for His coming and the final judgment.</p> |
| <p>3. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to apply the above-mentioned parables to their lives.</p> | <p>3. The parable of the sower teaches that we should have a receptive and an obedient heart to the word of God, so that we may be saved in the kingdom of God. The parable of the prodigal son teaches that God rejoices when even one sinner repents and returns to Him. The parable of the good Samaritan teaches that your neighbour whom you should love as yourself, includes your enemies. The parable of the unforgiving servant teaches that we should always be willing to forgive someone who offends you. The parable of the Talents teaches that we should obey Jesus Christ to the best of our different abilities, and when He comes, those who</p> |

have been faithful to Him, will be rewarded with greater responsibilities in the Kingdom of Heaven. The parable of the Ten Virgins teaches that we always be spiritually ready so that the Lord's return may not catch us unprepared.

Lesson #8 (This is Lesson # 11 in the Students' Text Book):
Jesus, the Miracle Worker—Miracles: Signs Jesus Worked.

Specific Objectives

1. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to give three shades of meaning of the word "miracle" as used in the Bible.
2. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to use five stories of Jesus' miracles and explain what truths about Him each miracle teaches.
3. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to identify what was needed in order for Jesus to perform a miracle.

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1. In Christ, Our Life, Book 7, "Glossary" , page 203, a "miracle" is: (i) "an act of divine power", "a wonder outside the laws of nature", (iii) "through which God gives a sign to his people".
2. Five Miracle Stories which teach us truths about Jesus:
 - (i) "Turning Water Into Wine" teaches that Jesus has power over nature (See John 2:1-11).
 - (ii) "Healing a Paralyzed Man" teaches that Jesus has power to forgive sins, is God by Nature or Characteristics, and has power over sickness (See Mark 2: 1-12).
 - (iii) "Stilling a Storm" teaches that Jesus has power over the forces of nature, i.e. over the wind and the waves of the lake (See Mark 4:35-41).
 - (iv) "Freeing a Demon-Possessed Man of a 'Legion' of Demons" teaches that Jesus has power and authority over Satan, and that the power of God and of God's Kingdom was present to destroy Satan's rule over people (See Mark 5:1-20; compare Luke 11:20).
 - (v) "Raising the Daughter of Jairus From The Dead" teaches that Jesus has power over death (See Mark 5:21-43).
3. Jesus usually performed miracles when he saw that the people who came to him for help, had faith that He could help them (See Mark.2:5; contrast it with Mark 6:5-6). If we have faith, and it is in keeping with God's will for our lives, we may ask God for help Through His Son, Jesus Christ, and He will help us (See

Matt.17:20). See also Students' Text Book, pages 79-86.

UNIT III: "JESUS, THE LIFE"

This is the third and final Unit. In the Text Book, there are many Lessons, "Jesus the King—Jesus' Kingdom of Justice and Truth"; "Jesus the Light of the world—The Beatitudes"; & "The Sacred Heart—Jesus' Kingdom of Love. Time does not permit to go into these important Lessons. Therefore in keeping with the original meaning of "Jesus, The Life", as the One who died on the cross and arose from the dead, so that we may have everlasting life, we will look at two Lessons: "Jesus Died On The Cross" and "Jesus Was Raised From The Dead".

Lesson # 9: Jesus Died On The Cross

Specific Objectives

1. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to identify three prophecies of Jesus' death in the Old Testament Scriptures.
2. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to explain the importance of Jesus' death to us.

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1. Psalm 22:16 says "they pierced my hands and my feet". Isaiah 53:5 says "he was wounded/ pierced through for our transgressions..." Zechariah 12:10 says "they shall look upon me whom they have pierced..."
2. Jesus' death brings God's forgiveness, peace with God, friendship with God, union with God, the power to live the way God wants us to live, deliverance hell, and a place in the Kingdom of God forever (See Matt.26:28; Rom.5:10; 1st Jn.4:10,12; Rom. 8:3-4; 1st Thess.5:9-10).

Lesson # 10: Jesus Was Raised From The Dead

Specific Objectives

1. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to identify three prophecies of Jesus' resurrection from the dead in the Old Testament Scriptures.
2. At the end of this lesson, the students should be able to explain the importance of Jesus' resurrection to us.

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1. Ps.16:10 says "thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption". Isa.53:10 says "...when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin...he shall prolong his days..." Hos.6:2 says "...in the third day he will raise us up, and we will live in his sight".
2. Jesus' resurrection brings the power to live a new life of service to God in doing what He commands,

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it brings the hope of our resurrection from the dead, and it brings the hope of eternal life in the Kingdom of God (See Rom.8:11-13; 1st Cor.15:42-55).

The End Of Unit III: Jesus, The Life

The End Of The Grade 8 Religious Education Syllabus