

**HS RCIA Lesson 1: Introduction to the Bible & the Catechism of the Catholic Church**

URL: <https://bit.ly/47oaUWj>

**Homework:**

- see handout or go <https://forms.office.com/r/qU71CSJgGS>
- Optional: *Symbolon* video (formed.org): [The Journey: Trinity, Faith & the God Who Is Love](#)

**I. God**

- In the “Our Father” prayer, Jesus asks us to speak to God as “Father”
- Consider the characteristics of God as “Lord/King” and “Father”:

Lord/King characteristics	Father characteristics (see <a href="#">CCC 238</a> )
Implications:	Implications:

- “God is love” ([1John 4:8](#); see [CCC 218-221](#))
- “Fear of God”
  - [Gen 20:11](#): “Abraham answered, ‘I thought there would be no fear of God in this place, and so they would kill me on account of my wife.’”
  - [1 Pet 2:17](#): “Give honor to all, love the community, fear God, honor the king.”
  - [CCC 781](#): “anyone who fears God and does what is right has been acceptable to him”
  - [CCC 1831](#): The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit

**II. Relationship with God**

- see “Man’s Response to God” ([CCC Part One, Chapter Three](#); esp. [CCC 142-152](#))
- Our journey to God: “to know” and “to love” him ([CCC 31](#))
- **God**: “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.” ([Mt 17:5](#); see [Mk 1:11](#))
- **Jesus**: “You have faith in God; have faith also in me.” ([Jn 14:1](#); see [CCC 151](#))
- **Mary**: “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word” ([Lk 1:38](#))

FATHER	SON	HOLY SPIRIT
<p align="center"><i>The Creator</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Gen 1:1</a></li> <li>• See <a href="#">CCC 198, 279</a></li> </ul>	<p align="center">CCC Chapter Two (422)</p> <p align="center"><i>Lord and Savior</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jesus: “God saves”</li> <li>• Christ: “Messiah”</li> </ul>	<p align="center"><i>The Sanctifier</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “ruah” – “the wind”</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “<i>I am who I am</i>” (<a href="#">Ex 3:14</a>; “see fn, “God’s self-existence”; see <a href="#">CCC 203-206</a>)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “<b>child to be born</b>”: <a href="#">Luke 1:35</a></li> <li>• <b>The Word</b>: Jn <a href="#">1:1-5</a> &amp; <a href="#">1:14</a>,</li> <li>• <b>Only Son</b>: Jn <a href="#">3:16-17</a></li> <li>• “<b>My Lord and my God!</b>” (<a href="#">Jn 20:28</a>).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Gen 1:2</a></li> <li>• Pentecost (<a href="#">Acts 2:1-4</a>)</li> <li>• “Who proceeds from the Father and the Son” (Nicene Creed)</li> </ul>
<b>THE TRINITY</b> (see <a href="#">CCC 253</a> )		

- Understanding scripture through the “Two Wings” (Saint Pope John Paul II):
  - *Gift of reason*
  - *Gift of faith*
- Reason:
  - God “can be known with certainty from the created world by the natural light of human reason” ([CCC 36](#))
  - “limited human ways of knowing and thinking” ([CCC 40](#))
- Faith:
  - Faith is a grace ([CCC 153](#))
  - “Faith seeks understanding” ([CCC 158](#))

### III. The Catechism of the Catholic Church

- “Catechism” = “book of instruction”
  - A summary of Catholic Church doctrine (“that which has been taught”)
  - from Greek *katekhein* “to resound, echo”
  - “Promulgated” (officially published) in 1992 under Saint Pope John Paul II
  - Chapter Summaries: “In Brief”

<a href="#">Prologue</a>	<a href="#">Index</a>	<a href="#">Abbreviations</a>	<a href="#">Glossary</a>
<b>PART ONE - THE PROFESSION OF FAITH</b>	Section One: "I Believe" - "We Believe"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revelation &amp; Faith</li> <li>• Man’s desire for &amp; knowledge of God</li> <li>• Man’s response to God</li> </ul>	
	Section Two: The Profession Of The Christian Faith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God’s salvation</li> <li>• The Creeds</li> </ul>	
<b>PART TWO – THE CELEBRATION OF THE CHRISTIAN MYSTERY</b>	Section One: The Sacramental Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paschal Mystery (Age of the Church)</li> <li>• The Church’s Liturgy</li> </ul>	
	Section Two: The Seven Sacraments Of The Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sacred actions of the Church’s liturgy</li> </ul>	
<b>PART THREE- LIFE IN CHRIST</b>	Section One: Man's Vocation: Life In The Spirit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Human dignity &amp; Life in the Spirit</li> <li>• Desire for happiness (Beatitudes)</li> <li>• Freedom and responsibility</li> <li>• Morality &amp; the Virtues</li> <li>• The Human person</li> </ul>	
	Section Two: The Ten Commandments		
<b>PART FOUR – CHRISTIAN PRAYER</b>	Section One: Prayer In The Christian Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Jesus prays”</li> <li>• In the Age of the Church</li> <li>• Types &amp; expressions of prayer</li> </ul>	
	Section Two: The Lord's Prayer: "Our Father!"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Lord’s Prayer = “The summary of the whole Gospel”</li> </ul>	

**“Sacred Scripture” (the Bible)**

- “God is the author of Sacred Scripture” ([CCC 105](#))
  - etymology (see [Glossary #B](#))
- Versions (ex. NRSV)
- A collection of “Books”
  - 73 books, 46 Old Testament (OT)
  - 27 New Testament (NT)
  - OT = God’s chosen people
  - NT = the whole truth

<p><b>Age of the Old Testament</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Israelites (Abrahamic Covenant)</li> <li>• Old Covenant &amp; The Law (Moses)</li> </ul> <p><b>New Covenant (Jesus Christ)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Jn 1:17</a>: “because while the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ”</li> </ul> <p><b>“Age of the Church” or “Age of the Holy Spirit”</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pentecost (<a href="#">CCC 1076</a>), Gentiles, Age of Grace</li> </ul> <p><b>Age of the Kingdom</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Second Coming of Christ (“Rapture”)</li> </ul>
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<b>OLD TESTAMENT (46 books)</b>		
<b>The Pentateuch</b> (“five books”; the Torah for the Jews)	Genesis	Creation Covenant w/ Noah Abraham: the Chosen People
	Exodus	God frees the Jews from slavery
	Leviticus	Instructions from God (YAHWEH)
	Numbers	“In the desert” - history of Jews from Sanai to the Plains of Moab
	Deuteronomy	Sermons by Moses on the Plains of Moab = the “Jewish catechism” Includes the “Shema” referenced by Jesus in See <a href="#">“Mk 12:28-34</a> and informs many prayers, including in Liturgy
<b>Historical Books</b>		Histories and moral stories from experience of the Jews up to the “Return to Zion” after the Babylonian Exile
<b>Wisdom</b>		Teachings, including from Solomon’s speech
<b>Prophets</b>	Especially Isaiah	God speaking through Israel, usually how they've strayed and warning them
<b>NEW TESTAMENT (27 books)</b>		
Gospels	Matthew	Audience: Jews
	Mark	“Peter’s Gospel”
	Luke	Audience: Gentiles
	John	Clarification, addition, summary
Acts	Written by Luke	Chronicle and teachings from after Resurrection
Epistles	Pauline Epistles	By St. Paul Focus on Gentiles and the churches
	Catholic Epistles	Peter, James, John, Jude Teaching, clarification
Revelation	Written by John	“Eschatological” (end times)

- Notes:
  - The *Septuagint* = Greek translation of the Jewish Bible used at time of Christ
  - There are distinct Jewish and Protestant versions that do not accept the Deuterocanonical books of the Catholic Bible, and which were used at the time of Christ

- Sunday readings
  - OT --> Psalms --> Letters & Revelation --> GOSPEL (“Word of the Lord”)
  - Typology helps us understand the connection between OT and NT
    - see Typology handout: <https://bit.ly/3LAH7Bt>
- Understanding Scripture
  - Senses of Scripture:

	<b>Literal</b>	<b>Allegorical</b>	<b>Moral</b>	<b>Anagogical</b>
Good Samaritan ( <a href="#">Lk 10:28-37</a> )	Priest, Levite, Samaritan Oil and wine Inn & Innkeeper	= us in sin = Christ = Baptism/ Confirmation = priesthood/ Church	Beatitudes	“Go and do likewise”
Fig tree <a href="#">Gen 3:7</a>	Adam & Eve & the fig leaf	Sin, guilt	Right v. wrong	Make proper use of God’s gifts
<a href="#">Jn 1:48</a>	Nathaniel under the fig tree	- studying the Torah - symbol of messianic peace ( <a href="#">Mic 4:4</a> ) or: - shade/ fig tree = ignorance/death	Right v. wrong	Be prepared, be aware
<a href="#">Mk 11:13</a>	Jesus was “hungry” Fig tree w leaves & no fruit	- fig trees conserve sugars in the roots before yielding fruit	Right v. wrong	Sin leads yields no or bad fruit
<a href="#">Mk 13:28-31</a>	Jesus explains the fig tree	“summer is near”, “the gates”	God’s Word is forever	Learn from the tree: be ready for the harvest
<a href="#">Lk 21:29-31</a>	Jesus curses the fig tree	“fruits of grace” (spiritually sterile)		

- Authenticity of the Bible
  - see [CCC 390](#) on “How to Read the account of the Fall”
- Saint Paul explains:

*Ever since the creation of the world, his invisible attributes of eternal power and divinity have been able to be understood and perceived in what he has made. As a result, they have no excuse;*

*for although they knew God they did not accord him glory as God or give him thanks. Instead, they became vain in their reasoning, and their senseless minds were darkened.*

*While claiming to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for the likeness of an image of mortal man or of birds or of four-legged animals or of snakes.*

([Rom 1:20-22](#))