

Lesson 1-Level 1

Revelation

Purpose: Presentation of the *Catholic Youth Bible*

Understanding of Scripture

Concepts of revelation through examples of daily life.

Define Revelation in faith.

Identify reason and Scripture as sources of Revelation.

Read creation stories in the Bible.

Session at a Glance

7:00p.m. - Welcome and Introductions

7:15p.m. - Opening Prayer: Presentation of the *Catholic Youth Bible*
(See separate prayer sheet)

7:30p.m. - Understanding Scripture

Concepts of Revelation through examples of daily life.

Definition: Revelation in Faith.

8:15p.m. Creation from Genesis

8:30p.m. - Closing Prayer – Psalm 148: 1-5 (Psalm verses praising God for creation)

I. Understanding Scripture

Catechist: discuss the following with the youth.

That the Bible is familiar to them. (Used at Mass, studied in former classes, perhaps read at home. Have the youth recall some stories they know from the Bible.)

That for Christians it is a sacred text with two major parts the OT and NT.

That for the Jews, the OT is a sacred text.

For a Christian, the study and reading of the Bible and praying with the Bible is life-long.

That the Church teaches us:

- The Holy Spirit inspired the human authors and they were able to write a Biblical book which really had God as the author. (CCC 105,135)
- Since God inspired the biblical writers, he is the author of Scripture so we can call the Bible the Word of God. (CCC 105-106, 136)
- Because God is the author of Scripture, all the religious truths that God intends to reveal to us are true; this truth of the scripture is known as inerrancy. (CCC 107).

Catechist: discuss briefly how the Bible came to be

For both the OT and the NT, before the written text, there were oral passing on stories relating to God and his people and what Jesus said and did while on earth. (CCC 76, 126)

The witnesses to Christ's resurrection began to write down these oral stories.

Between 51 A.D. until approximately 100 A.D. Paul and the Evangelists, Mark, Matthew, Luke and John wrote about Jesus and his message of salvation.

Perhaps some of the above section “Understanding Scripture” could be woven into the opening prayer: Presentation of the Catholic Youth Bible.

II. Concept of revelation in daily life

Catechist: discuss the following with the youth.

How light (flashlight, sunlight, etc.) reveals what is in the darkness.

How clouds dissipate revealing the sun.

How the cover of a magazine reveals hints of what may be inside.

Lead into a further discussion with the following. . .

Think about persons: in your home, neighborhood, school. . .

Who reveals kindness to you?

Who is a just person?

Who shines out to you as a person of peace?

Summary: We recognize goodness and virtue in our world revealed in people.

III. How did God reveal himself to human beings? Definition of Revelation in faith

Catechist: Explain Revelation to the youth using the following as a guide. . .

We know many things about God. Where did we learn these things?

The explanation of Revelation from the Catechism of the Catholic Church. #50.

By natural reason man can know God with certainty, on the basis of his works.

But there is another order of knowledge, which man cannot possibly arrive at by his own powers: the order of divine revelation. Through an utterly free decision, God has revealed himself and given himself to man. This he does by revealing the Mystery, his plan of loving goodness, formed from all eternity in Christ, for the benefit of all men. God has fully revealed this plan by sending us his beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. CCC #50

God our creator, out of love for us, revealed many things that told us about God and the plan he had for human beings. God did not reveal these things all at once but gradually. In the first book of the Bible, Genesis, God revealed the truth of only one God who is responsible for creation. It is important for the youth to understand the definition of Revelation (CCC#50) which tells us that some revealed truths can come to us by our reason, e.g. creation . Others, we know only because God has revealed them to us. God's Revelation is fully revealed by sending us his beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

IV. Catechist: Have the youth read the creation of the world and human beings by God in Genesis 1:1---2:4.

On page 6 (**same page in all editions**) of the *Catholic Youth Bible* read

In the Beginning explaining that the world did not come together by chance.

Also, on page 6, read **Did You Know?**- explaining that the creation story is not literal but a symbolic or mythic story of creation.

So strong, however, was this belief, that God was the origin of the universe, that the *Apostles' Creed* written centuries later and prayed today, begins: "I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. . ."

Have the youth read Genesis 2:5-9. These passages give another account of creation and show different authorship denoting the gathering of oral traditions and stories from various tribes.

NB: *Creation is a hot topic today among Christians and should be given adequate time for discussion. Collect stories from newspapers and magazines.*

Below is a web site that may be helpful as background for the catechist:

Creationism: What is a Catholic to Do- by Michael D. Guinan (Catholic Update)
www.americancatholic.org/Newsletters/CU/ac1007.asp

Also below, is a newspaper article for the catechist, giving Pope Benedict XVI's words on the topic:

COLOGNE, Germany (CNS) -- Pope Benedict XVI has said that he sees no conflict between faith and science in the exploration of the universe's development, but he has criticized those who see evolution as an explanation for everything. The remarks, made in a discussion he hosted at Castle Gondolfo, south of Rome, with some of his former students in September last year, have been published in a German book titled "Schoepfung und Evolution" ("Creation and Evolution"). The book was published April 11 by the Sankt Ulrich Verlag publishing house. The students have met annually since 1978 with their former doctoral supervisor, but this is the first time they have published the lectures and discussions. During the discussion, the pope said it was not a matter of "deciding either in favor of a creationism, which out of principle excludes science from its considerations, or in favor of a theory of evolution, which underplays its own gaps and refuses to see questions which go beyond the methodological possibilities of natural science." What was important, he said, was "the interplay of different dimensions of reason, an interplay which opens up into the road to faith."

V. Closing Prayer: Prepare a Handout of Psalm 148: 1-5, praising God for Creation. Pray the Psalm together. Ask the youth to take the handout home and pray the Psalm verses during the week.

OUTCOMES

Outcome statements denote what the youth will be able to understand and communicate upon completion of Lesson 1.

- definition of Revelation
- reason alone can reveal to us some things about God, e.g., creation

- God reveals himself to us through the Sacred Scriptures
- Jesus Christ is the perfect revelation of God