

Lesson 9—Level I Revelation

NB: Lesson 9, The Paschal Mystery, will require two sessions. The material is in its entirety in this lesson. What is not taught in Lesson 9 will be the content for Lesson 10.

Purpose: The Paschal Mystery is the Source of our Redemption.
This mystery is the passion and death of Jesus, his Resurrection, his Ascension and the sending of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

Session at a Glance:

- 7:00 p.m. Welcome
- 7:15 p.m. Suggested Opening Prayer: *The Catholic Youth Bible*, Reverse side of Presentation Page, at the beginning of the Bible – Pray It
- 7:30 p.m. The Paschal Mystery-Source of our Redemption is the passion and death of Jesus, the Resurrection of Jesus, the Ascension of Jesus
- 8:15 p.m. The sending of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost
- 8:30 p.m. Closing Prayer: *The Catholic Youth Bible*, Live It- Send Us Your Spirit (p.1428 NAB (same in all editions), NRSV p.1283 (2005 edition p. 1267)

Opening Prayer: *The Catholic Youth Bible*: Second Page (same page in NAB and NRSV). This is a prayer to the Holy Trinity. Suggest :one youth say the prayer to “Lord God”, another youth say the prayer to “Jesus” and all the youth join in the prayer to the “Holy Spirit.”

Catechist: The life of Jesus Christ was the unfolding of the story of the Redemption of humanity. This unfolding reached its pinnacle in the Paschal Mystery that is, the Passion and death of Jesus, the Resurrection of Jesus, the Ascension of Jesus and the sending of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

I. The Paschal Mystery

Set the scene for these holy events by referring the youth to Map 6 in the back of *The Catholic Youth Bible*. Study places on the map as indicated by the boxes and arrows. Point out Jerusalem as the geographical focus for this lesson. Recall that Jerusalem, in the time of Jesus, was called a holy city because of the presence of the Temple. The temple was the place where Jews worshipped God and offered sacrifice to him. First built in great splendor by King Solomon, the temple at the time of Jesus was the third temple, this one built by King Herod the Great. It was to this temple that Mary and Joseph presented the infant Jesus to God, and where Jesus, at 12 years of age, was found by Mary and Joseph teaching the rabbis and scholars. (CCC 583-586)

Shortly before his passion and death, Jesus entered Jerusalem triumphantly which we celebrate on Palm Sunday. In Jerusalem, at this time, he gave us his Body and Blood in the Eucharist and told us to continue to remember him through the Sacrament of the Eucharist. (CCC 611, 1337-1344)

Use with the youth: Pray It-The Eucharist (p. 1390 NAB same in all editions), NRSV p. 1255 (2005 p. 1237).

Passion and Death:

(Mark: Chapter 14 verse 32 through Chapter 15. Use the headings in the Gospel of Mark for the events of the Passion and Death. Alternate youth reading or the catechist summarizing a particular event. An alternate method would be to assign two youth (or more) to an event and have them study in a group and then present their understanding to the entire group. Whatever method is used, it would be helpful to make a list of the events on the chalk board or a chart pad.) Not all of these events will require the same amount of time to teach/explain.

Events of the Passion and Death in the Gospel of Mark:

- *The Agony in the Garden*
- *The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus*
- *Jesus Before the Sanhedrin*
- *Peter's Denial of Jesus*
- *Jesus Before Pilate*
- *The Sentence of Death*
- *Mockery by the Soldiers*
- *The Way of the Cross*
- *The Crucifixion*
- *The Death of Jesus*
- *The Burial of Jesus*

Resurrection and Ascension

(The same methods suggested above may be used for this section. Some of the events below lend themselves to dramatization e.g., Jesus and Thomas. Resurrection appearances alternate between the Gospel of John and the Gospel of Luke.)

Events of the Resurrection and Ascension:

- *The Resurrection of Jesus (John 20:1-10)*
- *Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene (John 20:11-18)*
- *The Walk to Emmaus (Luke:24:13-35)*
- *Jesus Appears to the Disciples (Luke 24:36-43)*
- *Jesus and Thomas (John: 20:24-29)*
- *The Ascension of Jesus (Luke: 24:50-53; Acts of the Apostles 1:6-11)*

II. Sending of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost

Catechist: Read: Acts of the Apostles 1:11. Discuss the Pentecost event from Acts.

Next, point out the following:

Jesus promised to be with us forever (Matthew 28:20)

The sending of the Holy Spirit is part of that promise.

The Holy Spirit strengthened the Disciples of Jesus to be witnesses and spread the Gospel.

The same Holy Spirit strengthens you to be witnesses for the Gospel by your behavior (in speech and action) wherever you may be (home, school, neighborhood, parish, mall, at sports events, etc.)

Catechist: If the youth are preparing for Confirmation in Grade 10 or have already received the sacrament discuss the special coming of the Holy Spirit in the sacrament.

III. Revelation in the Paschal Mystery

Catechist: The Paschal mystery is an awesome wonder of our faith. It is not easily captured in words. The Church, however, through her Tradition and study of the Scriptures teaches the faithful what is revealed in the Paschal Mystery. The following are for your study. Simplify, combine, summarize these points of revelation for the youth.

“Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures” (1Cor 15:3; CCC 619).

The redemption won by Christ consists in this, that he came “to give his life as a ransom for many” (Mt.20:28).

The Paschal mystery has two aspects: by his death, Christ liberates us from sin; by his Resurrection, he opens for us the way to a new life. (CCC 654).

The Resurrection is an historical event involving Christ’s physical body testified to by those who saw the risen Jesus and verified by the empty tomb.

The Resurrection is a transcendent event in which Jesus is no longer bound by space and time. It is not a resuscitation or a return to earthly life

Christ’s Resurrection is a confirmation of Jesus’ divinity and of his words and teaching (CCC 651, 653)

Christ’s Resurrection is a fulfillment of the promises in the Old Testament and of Jesus’ earthly promises (CCC 652)

The Ascension marks the entrance of Jesus’ humanity into heaven (CCC 659)

Jesus promised to be with us forever (Mt. 28:20); the sending of the Holy Spirit is part of that promise.

Where Jesus has gone, we hope to follow; Mary’s Assumption into heaven, body and soul, is an anticipation of the resurrection of others who will follow. (CCC 974)

In the Apostles’ Creed and the Nicene Creed we profess what Jesus won for us: the Resurrection of the body and life everlasting.

**IV Closing Prayer: *The Catholic Youth Bible*, Live It- Send Us Your Spirit
(p.1428 NAB same in all editions), NRSV p.1283 (2005 p. 1267).**

Divide the group into two sides, ask one of the youth to read the introductory paragraph then have one side read the first prayer to Jesus and the other side read the second prayer to Jesus. The entire group reads the final prayer to Jesus.

OUTCOMES

Outcome statements denote what the youth will be able to understand and communicate upon completion of Lesson 9

- Jesus redeemed us by his death on the cross.
- The Resurrection of Jesus was a true event in history.
- In the Apostles Creed and the Nicene Creed, we profess that we believe in the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. These things Christ won for us through his death and Resurrection.
- Jesus promised to be with us forever; the sending of the Holy Spirit is part of that promise.