



Diocese of Buffalo

Department of Lifelong Faith Formation

A member of the Division for Evangelization and Catechesis

VI. Sacred Scripture

Rationale: The history of the people of Israel is every Christian's history. The major themes of the Old Testament: sin, forgiveness, repentance, and reconciliation are part of the story of every person.

Goal: That students will recognize the story of the people of Israel as the root of their own faith story.

Objectives: To master the background knowledge necessary for students to approach Scripture as an accessible faith source.

To help students gain an understanding of the key themes of the Old Testament which God revealed through the course of the history of Israel.

To recognize in the major themes of the Old Testament the foundation of every person's faith journey.

To explore ways the Old Testament is still relevant and speaking to people today.



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Sacred Scripture*

**(Based upon the Doctrinal Elements of a Curriculum Framework of the Development of Catechetical Materials for Young People of High School Age (2008), p. 31-34)*

Outline	Activities	Critical Reflection
<p>I. Divine Revelation: God Speaks to us</p> <p>A. God’s self-Revelation in words, deeds, covenants (CCC, 50-67)</p> <p>1. Stages of Revelation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Adam & Eve to Noah b. Succeeding covenants: Abraham, Moses, Sinai c. Word made flesh, Jesus Christ <p>B. Transmission of Divine Revelation (CCC, 74-85)</p> <p>1. Message of Christ in Apostolic Tradition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. From Apostles to Bishops b. A Living Tradition and one written in Scripture c. Scripture, Tradition, Magisterium together 	<p>Find descriptions of God in the Old Testament. Create a visual image using various media.</p> <p>Identify three - five events in our national history that have transformed us as a people. Why are these events significant? How do we keep these events alive in our memory and national consciousness?</p>	<p>Create a list of your images of God. Where have these images come from? Has your image of God changed over the years? What is your image of God today? Explain.</p> <p>What is the relationship between the Old and New Testament? How are the two bridged? Does one stand without the other in the Christian tradition?</p> <p>Why is the Old Testament considered revelation? What does it reveal?</p> <p>Literal Interpretation of Scripture is not the Catholic way to interpret Scripture. With this in mind, how should you approach Gn 1-11?</p>



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Sacred Scripture (Page 2)

Outline	Activities	Critical Reflection
<p>C. Sacred Scripture (CCC 101-133, 143)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. God is the author2. Word of God in words of man – literary forms, schools of biblical analysis3. Principles of interpretation4. Canon of Scripture5. Sense of Scripture (literal, spiritual, allegorical, moral, anagogical)6. Role of Scripture in the life of the Church7. How to use the Bible <p>D. Faith is our personal and communal response to Revelation.</p>	<p>Using various translations of the Old Testament, compare the following texts: Ex 3:1-17, Ps 23, and Ecc 3:1-8. which translation do you prefer and why?</p> <p>Define “deutero-canonical” books of the Bible. What are these books?</p> <p>Design and illustrate a prayer card or bookmark using a favorite passage from the Old Testament.</p>	



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Sacred Scripture (Page 3)

Outline	Activities	Critical Reflection
<p>II. Pentateuch/Torah - 1st five books</p> <p>A. Genesis</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. definition and meaning of myth; some stories are not factual but are told to convey religious truth 2. Creation Stories -message of the Creation stories is true and important 3. Abraham - Father of Faith <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abram receives God’s self-revelation and is invited to join in a Covenant with God 4. Isaac, Jacob, Joseph <p>B. Exodus</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Call of Moses 2. Passover and the Exodus the central event in Jewish History 3. Sinai Covenant - Ten Commandments 	<p>Identify three - four myths you have grown up knowing. How did you feel when these myths were dispelled? What did you learn from these myths?</p> <p>Compare the two creation accounts: Gn 1-2:4; Gn 2:5-24. How do they differ? Why are there two accounts of the same story</p> <p>Research Creation stories from other ancient traditions. How are they similar and different from the Genesis stories?</p> <p>Compare and contrast the Passover narrative from Ex 12-17 with the Last Supper and Crucifixion narratives in Mt 26:17 and 27:55</p> <p>Visit a Jewish Synagogue. Does it follow the architectural pattern of the Jerusalem Temple? Locate the Ark of the Covenant and Torah.</p>	<p>What is the purpose of the Creation Stories found in Genesis? What are the main teachings of these stories?</p> <p>Is wisdom valued in our society today? Who are the sages - wisdom figures - in our world? How do we collect and preserve statements of wisdom today? Bring in some examples.</p> <p>With whom have you made covenants, promises, and commitments? How have these agreements affected your life?</p> <p>How do modern people “keep the Sabbath?” Could this be done better? How?</p> <p>Name some of the “false gods” of the 21st century.</p> <p>Read Ex 20:1-17. Discuss a value that is set forth in each commandment. How can you best live these timeless values?</p>



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Sacred Scripture (Page 4)

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<p>C. Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy</p> <p>D. Expansion of Israel’s history</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Further development of Israel’s laws 2. Israel’s liturgical practices <p>III. Joshua and the Era of the Judges</p> <p>A. Book of Joshua, successor of Moses, conquest of Canaan - the Promised Land</p> <p>B. Judges - God’s charismatic leaders rescue Israel from enemy</p> <p>C. Story of Ruth</p>	<p>Find an example of the following literary forms in the Old Testament: legal document, myth, legend, poetry, epic, prophecy, genealogy, sermon, proverb, and glorified history.</p> <p>Read Dt 7, Gn. 17:1-14, Ex 24:3-8, and Ps 89:20-37. What similar aspects of the Covenant are experienced in these passages?</p> <p>Read Dt 5 and Gn 15:1-21. Name one promise that you think God has made to you.</p> <p>Name some people in the Old Testament through whom God made a covenant with humanity. Indicate the sign of each covenant or renewal of the covenant.</p>	<p>How important to Christians is the Jewish record of its religious experience?</p> <p>Discuss a time when you felt “inspired” to do something. What does “inspiration” feel like?</p> <p>Read Ruth 1:16-17. What does Ruth promise? What does she ask for in return? What personal costs are involved in making this kind of promise?</p>



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Sacred Scripture (Page 5)

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<p>IV. Historical Books</p> <p>A. 1 and 2 Samuel</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Samuel anoints first King of Israel – Saul’s problems 2. Saul and David (1Sm 16-31) 3. David as king (2Sm 1-18) <p>B. 1 and 2 Kings</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. David and Solomon ruled an united Israel and Judah 2. Wisdom of Solomon (1Kgs 1-11) 3. Death of Solomon & civil war 4. Elijah – powerful prophet 5. Babylonian exile 6. Remainder of historical books including Chronicles, Tobit, Judith, Esther, and Maccabees 1 & 2. 	<p>Research the Sinai Desert. Share your report with the class.</p> <p>Prepare and celebrate a Seder meal. Explain the symbols used.</p> <p>Why was the Babylonian Exile so important in the development of the Bible?</p> <p>Discuss some of the social problems in the world today that the prophets of the Old Testament would speak out about. Who are some modern day prophets who are speaking about social problems? Identify the issues they are concerned with.</p>	<p>Discuss why David is considered the greatest King of Israel?</p> <p>Reflect on the importance of Jerusalem as the center of the three major western religions – Judaism, Islam, and Christianity.</p> <p>Can you identify examples of the corruption of power in Israel’s history? Is this true of every society? Support your response with examples.</p> <p>Why was the nation of Israel reluctant to have a king? Why did they agree to consider a king? Was the establishment of a monarchy a good thing?</p> <p>What effect did the division of the kingdom have on the nation of Israel? Can you cite any modern day examples of a similar situation?</p>



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Sacred Scripture (Page 6)

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<p>V. Wisdom Books -constitute the rest of the Old Testament books</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Practical guides to human problems and questions 2. Book of Job and the problem of suffering 3. Psalms: prayer of the Church 4. Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, Wisdom and Sirach. <p>VI. Prophets</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Purpose of prophets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Major & minor prophets 2. Isaiah 3. Jeremiah 4. Ezekiel 5. Daniel 6. Others: Hosea, Joel, Amos, etc. 	<p>Read 1 Kgs 3:7-13 in which Solomon prays for a specific gift. What does he pray for? Why? What gifts do you pray for? Write a prayer asking God for a gift you need.</p> <p>Using the Book of Proverbs, find a proverb on any of the following topics: education, wisdom, parents, laziness, poverty, wealth, women, and God.</p> <p>Choose one of the Psalms and rewrite it in modern day language.</p> <p>Choose a Psalm and compare the translation using at least three versions of the Old Testament.</p> <p>Read Ez 1:4-28. Illustrate his vision using various media.</p> <p>Look through the Song of Songs and locate ten similes and/or metaphors.</p>	<p>What religious truths are communicated in the Book of Job?</p> <p>Read Jer 1:4-19, Ez 3:1-15, and 1 Sam 3:1-21. What help did God offer these prophets? If you were Jeremiah, what would you need from God to help you be a prophet?</p> <p>From the past century, who might be considered a prophet and why?</p> <p>Identify a time you spoke out publicly about an injustice. How did you feel before, during, and after this experience?</p> <p>How does God’s self-revelation take place today through the Old Testament?</p> <p>Who were some women of the Old Testament? What were their stories? How are their stories relevant today?</p>



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Sacred Scripture (Page 7)

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<p>VII. Overview of the New Testament</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John B. Acts of the Apostles C. Letters/Epistles D. Revelation E. These twenty-seven books are authoritative for Christian life and faith. <p>VIII. The Gospels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. The word “Gospel” means Good News of salvation from sin and the gift of divine life. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. God’s Old Testament promise fulfilled in the Incarnation, life, teachings, and Paschal Mystery of Jesus Christ. 2. Formation of the Gospels. 3. Matthew, Mark and Luke: Synoptic Gospels 4. John differs in content and approach. 5. Non-canonical Gospels - what they are and why they are not part of the New Testament. 	<p>Brainstorm a list of people whose careers involve working with issues of justice. Invite a person working for social justice to share his/her experience with the class.</p> <p>Select a problem that exists in your community. What actions would a prophet take to address the problem?</p> <p>Imagine you are an Israelite of 2000 years ago. Compose a poem entitled “The Messiah” describing the kind of Messiah you expect to come and save Israel.</p> <p>Read Ps 137. Describe the sentiment of the author. What does this Psalm tell us about the Israelites in exile?</p> <p>Locate Persia on a map of the ancient world. What is this area called today?</p>	<p>How does the political and cultural milieu affect a person’s faith?</p>



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Sacred Scripture (Page 8)

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<p>B. Matthew.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approximate date written and audience. 2. Central message: Kingdom of Heaven, repentance, and focus on the commission of Peter. 3. Great Commission. <p>C. Mark.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Earliest written and shortest. 2. Main theme: discipleship. 3. Passion account is prominent. 4. Divinity of Christ is revealed people’s reactions to actions. <p>C. Luke.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Opens with a focus on Mary’s role in the Infancy narrative. 2. Main theme: mercy for the poor, prayer, the Holy Spirit and concerns for women. 3. Emmaus Story. 	<p>Define Hellenism. Discuss its impact on Jewish life and culture.</p>	<p>Why is Jerusalem so important as a religious center? What is the essence of the conflict that is going on there today? Why are religious conflicts so difficult to resolve?</p> <p>How does the Diaspora still influence the modern Christian and Jewish person? How can you work to eliminate anti-Semitism?</p> <p>Why would the Jewish people look for a “human” messiah during the years immediately before the coming of Christ?</p>



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<p>D. John.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Begins with the Word made flesh who dwells among us.2. Book of seven signs and explanatory discourses.3. Book of Glory.4. I AM statements.5. Priestly prayer of Jesus (Chap. 12-17) <p>IX. Acts of the Apostles</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">A. Revelation of the Holy Spirit.B. The infant Church.C. Stories of PeterD. Stories of Paul. <p>X. The Letters</p> <p>A. The Letter to the Romans</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Longest; provides systematic example of Paul's thinking of the Gospel and God's righteousness that saves all who believe.2. Catechesis on justification and faith.3. Need for preaching the Gospel.	<p>Identify a person who has been a model of faith for you. How has he/she influenced your journey of faith?</p>	



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<p>B. First Letter to the Corinthians</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The early Church. Paul addresses pastoral issues. <p>C. Teachings about the Eucharist, Gifts of the Holy Spirit, and the mystery of the Resurrection.</p> <p>D. The Remaining New Testament Letters</p> <p>E.</p> <p>XI. Book of Revelation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Book is about Christ's in-breaking into history and the world's fight against him and his followers. Meant to encourage the faith of the seven churches – which were subject to persecution. Not intended to be an exact prediction of the future, Apocalyptic language was part of the literary genre of this time and culture. <p>John uses crisis imagery to prophesy final mysterious transformation of the world at the end of history</p>	<p>Read Jer 31:31-34, Rom 2:15-16, 1 Cor 12:27-31, and 2 Cor 3:2-3. How would a law written on people's hearts be different from a law imposed on them by someone else?</p>	<p>Read the following passages and describe the faith Abraham demonstrated in each passage: Gn 12:4, 13:8, 15:6, 22:3, and 9-10.</p> <p>What does each of the following passages imply about women? Gn 1:27, Gn 21:1-2, Ex 15:20-21, and 1 Sam 1:27 - 2:10.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Rev. 2011</p>



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