

# Lesson Plan

## Objectives

## Process

## Materials

### Invite, 10 minutes

**God Is Faithful** Page 63

-  **Psalm 89:2–3** Pray the opening prayer.
-  **Hebrews 10:16–17, 23** Reflect prayerfully on the Word.
  - Discuss What Do You Wonder questions.

 **Optional Activity**  
Chapter Poem:  
“A Very Bad Day”

### Discover, 35 minutes

**The First Sin** Pages 64–65

- Discuss how death, suffering, ignorance, and the inclination to sin all came into the world as a result of Original Sin
- Understand that God always remains faithful and promises salvation, desiring humans to be free and faithful to him

**A Sacred Promise** Pages 66–67

- Describe a covenant as a sacred promise or agreement between God and humans
- Appreciate that God called Abraham, and because of his belief and trust in God, God established a covenant with him

- **Catholic Faith Words** Original Sin, salvation
-  **Genesis 3** Proclaim “In the Garden.”
  - Discuss God’s faithfulness to Noah.
  - ★ Underline what happened because of Original Sin.
- **Share Your Faith Activity** Identify examples of the effects of Original Sin in the world and how God wants us to act in those situations.

- **Catholic Faith Words** covenant, faithful
- Introduce God’s covenant with Abram.
-  **Genesis 12:5–8; 15:1–5, 18; 17:5–9, 15; 21:1–3** Proclaim “Abram’s Call and Journey,” and “God’s Promise.”
  - Explain God’s covenant with Abraham.
- **Connect Your Faith Activity** Name how to show faithfulness to God.

- pencils
- **Optional Activity**  
Review the story of Noah

- pencils
- highlighter markers, 2 for each child
- index cards

### Live, 15 minutes

**Our Catholic Life** Pages 68–69

**Covenant Prayer** Page 70

- Discuss patience when we ask God for help and guidance.
- ★ Write about a time when you asked God for help.
- **People of Faith** Learn about Saint Bridget of Sweden.
- **Live Your Faith Activity** Circle actions that describe how to follow God’s example.
- Reflect on how you have been faithful to God.
-  Rehearse “God Keeps His Promises.”
- Follow the order of prayer.

- pencils
- **Optional Activity**  
Being Faithful
- Activity Master 2 (Page 63E)

 Download “God Keeps His Promises.”

**Family + Faith** Page 71

Point out that the Catholic Families page provides chapter highlights, information on how fourth graders understand faith concepts, and family prayer.

**Chapter Review** Page 72

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# God Is Faithful

## Preparation for the Session

**Turn to Page 71,**  
the Family + Faith page.

**Read** the **Consider This** feature. What thoughts or reactions do you have to the opening question?

In this chapter you will help your child to:

- Discuss how death, suffering, ignorance and the inclination to sin all came into the world as a result of Original Sin
- Understand that God always remains faithful and promises salvation, desiring humans to be free and faithful to him
- Describe a covenant as a sacred promise or agreement between God and humans
- Appreciate that God called Abraham, and because of his belief in and trust in God, God established a covenant with him

**Parents, Consider This:** *The stories in Genesis before Abraham convey important religious truths rather than historical events. The story of Adam and Eve shows how sin affects relationships with God. Biblical accounts emphasize that it was humans' choice, not God's, that changed humanity's initial relationship with God. Help your child understand that sin is a choice against God's plan for her/him, a choice against her/his own happiness. Sin ruptures our relationship with God and causes pain in our lives.*

**Read** these other sections on the Family + Faith Page.

- *Your Child Learned.* This highlights some of the content of Sacred Scripture and Tradition in the chapter.
- *Children At This Age.* This will help you to understand how your child processes and learns at this developmental level.



**Let's Sing:** These songs connect the session topics and can be downloaded from [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com).

- God Keeps His Promises
- God of Abraham

## INVITE: Encountering God in His Word

**Turn to Page 63,**  
God Is Faithful

After gathering the supplies that you will need, find a quiet place to be with your child. This is a sacred time—a time when you will be present to each other and to the Lord. You may want to light a candle as you begin.



**Let Us Pray** Invite your child to make the Sign of the Cross. Read aloud the Psalm verse from the book. Help your child to respond.

**Explain** that God always loves us, even when we sin.

**Say:** God is forever faithful. Even if our belief in God wavers, he continues to believe in us.



**Guide** your child through the Preparing for God’s Word Ritual you learned in the Introduction Session or play Track 1 of the *Songs of Scripture* CD.

- Proclaim God’s Word in the Parchment Paper box on the page.
- Maintain several moments of silence.
- Ask: What did you hear God say to you today?

Now, look at the *What Do You Wonder?* box.

**Say:** Faith is a gift. It is a gift not only to treasure but also to practice and share.

**Have** your child read the questions in the box and respond. Prompt what else they might wonder about God’s faithfulness.

### DISCOVER: Learning God’s Truth

**Turn to Page 64,**  
The First Sin

**Direct** your child’s attention to the stained glass window and read the caption.

**Read** the first paragraph aloud and have your child underline the first five books of the Bible.

**Open** your Bible and after exploring the table of contents, let your child find the title page of each of the books.



**Proclaim** the Scripture, “In the Garden.”

**Ask:** How did life change for Adam and Eve after they sinned? *(They felt ashamed; everything got harder; they had to leave the garden and work; jealousy, sadness, fighting and death entered the world.)*

**Have** your child read the definitions in the Catholic Faith Words box and add those definitions to their vocabulary cards.

**Turn to Page 65,**  
Consequences

**Direct** your child to read the first two paragraphs.



**Read** and complete the gold-star activity.

**Ask** your child to recall a bad decision that she/he has made and to recall the consequences of that decision. *(She gossiped about a friend and the friend doesn’t trust her anymore. He made fun of others on his team who are not as talented as he is so the coach benched him.)*

**Emphasize** that while God always love us, sin is always harmful to ourselves and others and the consequences remain.

**Turn to Page 66,**  
A Sacred Promise

**Tell** your child that you are now going to explore the story of Abram.

**Read** the definition for the Catholic Faith Word covenant. Explain that in the Scripture you are going to read, God makes a covenant with Abram.



**Proclaim** God's Word in the Parchment Paper boxes.

- Give your child a pen and a pencil. Tell your child that as she/he reads, you want her/him to underline in pencil the words of Abram and circle in pen the words of God.

**Parents, Consider This:** *Faithfulness, constancy, and fidelity all describe the most important and treasured hallmarks of any loving relationship. Spiritual writers suggest that coming to know and experience God's tender faithfulness for us is the life-long challenge of our spiritual journey. Each time you pick your child up from an activity, each night you sit with him/her doing homework, you are helping your child "taste" the faithfulness of God.*

**Give** your child a sheet of paper and ask her/him to draw 3 or 4 large stars. You do the same. Inside each star, both of you write one thing you believe God wants for you. Share what you wrote.

**Turn to Page 67,**  
God's Covenant  
With Abraham

**Have** your child read the definitions of covenant and faithful in the Catholic Faith Words box. Make two definition cards, one for each word.

**Read** the first two paragraphs. Emphasize that God made and kept promises.

**Ask:** How were Abraham and Sarah faithful to God? *(They trusted God and his promises; they obeyed his laws; they made loving choices; they followed his call.)*

**Tell** your child that Abraham and Sarah's story is important to people of many faiths. Have them read the last paragraph to learn why.

**Emphasize** the two movements of our life of faith—God reveals himself to us and made us free to respond to his invitation, to be faithful to him.

**Ask** your child, "How did Jesus remain faithful to his Father?" *(He lived out the Father's will to save us through his life, Death, and Resurrection.)*

**Read** the caption of the picture and discuss where the Tabernacle that holds the Blessed Sacrament, the Eucharist, is in your parish Church.

Now would be a great opportunity to listen to "God of Abraham" from the *Songs of Scripture* CD. Make sure you play it in your car this week as you go from stop to stop!

## LIVE: Living Our Faith

**Turn to Page 68,**  
Our Catholic Life

**Read** the opening paragraph aloud.

**Ask** your child, “Do you trust that God will answer your prayers?”

**Have** your child silently read the next two paragraphs.

**Parents, Consider This:** *It is important to help your child understand that prayer is not magic. When we pray we are not trying to manipulate the will of God to suit our will. Prayer, rather, is entering into the mystery of God’s tender love for us and our capacity to trust that he wills what will make us truly happy—total union with him. Your child will best learn how to pray by hearing you pray for God’s will to be done in your life. Family prayer is critical in shaping a child’s understanding of God.*

**Emphasize** the importance of being faithful in prayer. God does answer our prayers. However, the answer might not come as quickly as we would like or the answer may not be what we had expected.

Now, read the story aloud together.

**Ask:** How did God help Jessica? (God helped her to see a way to earn what she wanted.)

**Point out** the activity directions and ask your child to write about his/her own experience. Remind your child that God gives us everything we need to live and be happy.

**Turn to Page 69,**  
People of Faith

**Read** the paragraph about Saint Bridget of Sweden.

- Share your reactions to the information.
- Talk about a time when you waited for God to answer a prayer.

### Activity

**Read** the directions for the Live Your Faith activity. Have your child complete the activity.

**Share** with your child your hope that he/she would act as a loyal and trustworthy person. Ask your child how your family can help him/her to remain faithful to God’s invitation to have a relationship with him.

**Turn to Page 71,**  
Family + Faith Page and  
conclude with the Let’s  
Pray prayer on this page.

**Parents, Consider This:** *It’s important to form our children in the common language of prayer. We encourage you to pray the Hail Mary (see Page 321) during your night prayer this week.*



To access and send an eAssessment to your child, go to the Student and Family section of [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com).