

ALIVE IN CHRIST

GRADE 6

The Word of God in the Old Testament

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Our Sunday Visitor

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God's Faithfulness

Let Us Pray

Leader: Faithful God, lead us to faith and deeper faith.

“Praise the LORD, all you nations!

Extol him, all you peoples!

His mercy for us is strong;

the faithfulness of the LORD is forever.

Hallelujah!” **Psalm 117:1-2**

All: Lord of all faithfulness, increase our faith. Help us to be strong enough to depend on you. Amen.

Scripture

May the God of peace himself make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will also accomplish it. **1 Thessalonians 5:23-24**

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What Do You Wonder?

- Does the depth of your faith depend on you or on God?
- To you, what is the greatest sign of God's faithfulness?

Humans Turn From God

How does God respond to human disobedience?

As we mature, we learn that all actions have consequences. When we choose sinful things we harm ourselves, others, and our relationship with God. Here is the account of the first time people were tempted by Satan, the enemy of God and his People, and acted selfishly. It is from the Book of Genesis.



Scripture

The First Sin

Life in the Garden of Eden was perfect. No one wanted to change a thing until the day the serpent spoke to Eve. The serpent was clever and wanted to make trouble. He asked the woman about the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. She explained that just touching it meant death. The serpent disagreed. "If you eat from the tree," he told her, "you will be like God." Despite God's warning, the woman ate the fruit and also gave some to Adam to eat. **Based on Genesis 3:1-6**

The man and the woman had chosen not to obey God. Their relationship with God was broken. Their disobedience also broke the relationship between God and all other humans who were to come into existence. Because of their actions, there would be hard labor, pain, and death in the world.



Underline what happened as a result of Adam and Eve eating the fruit of the tree. Then discuss what "forbidden fruit" people still eat today.



God Makes a Covenant

The Bible continues to tell the story of the effect of sin and evil in the world. The man and woman remained outside the garden. They had two sons, Cain and Abel. Cain was a farmer, and his brother Abel was a shepherd. Both made offerings to God, but only Abel's offering pleased God. Abel gave his best sheep to God, but Cain gave only poor products from his field. When God told Cain not to be resentful toward his brother, Cain did not listen. In his anger and jealousy, he killed Abel.

Still, God never stopped loving humans, even when they sinned. In the following passage, we learn how God made a **covenant**, or solemn agreement, with humans. God has always remained faithful to his covenant. His **faithfulness** is forever.

Catholic Faith Words

covenant a sacred promise or agreement between God and humans

faithfulness the loyalty and steadfastness that God shows to all humans, even when they sin. God's offer of friendship is never withdrawn.

Scripture

The Great Flood

As more people were born, sin continued. God was grieved with humans because of so much evil. He decided to destroy all creatures in a great flood. But Noah was a righteous man. So Noah, his family, and a certain number of creatures were brought to safety in an ark. After the flood, God made a covenant, a solemn, sacred agreement joining God and humans together. His covenant was with Noah and all of creation. As a sign of the covenant, God set a rainbow in the sky. It was a sign of his promise that he would never again destroy the earth with a flood.

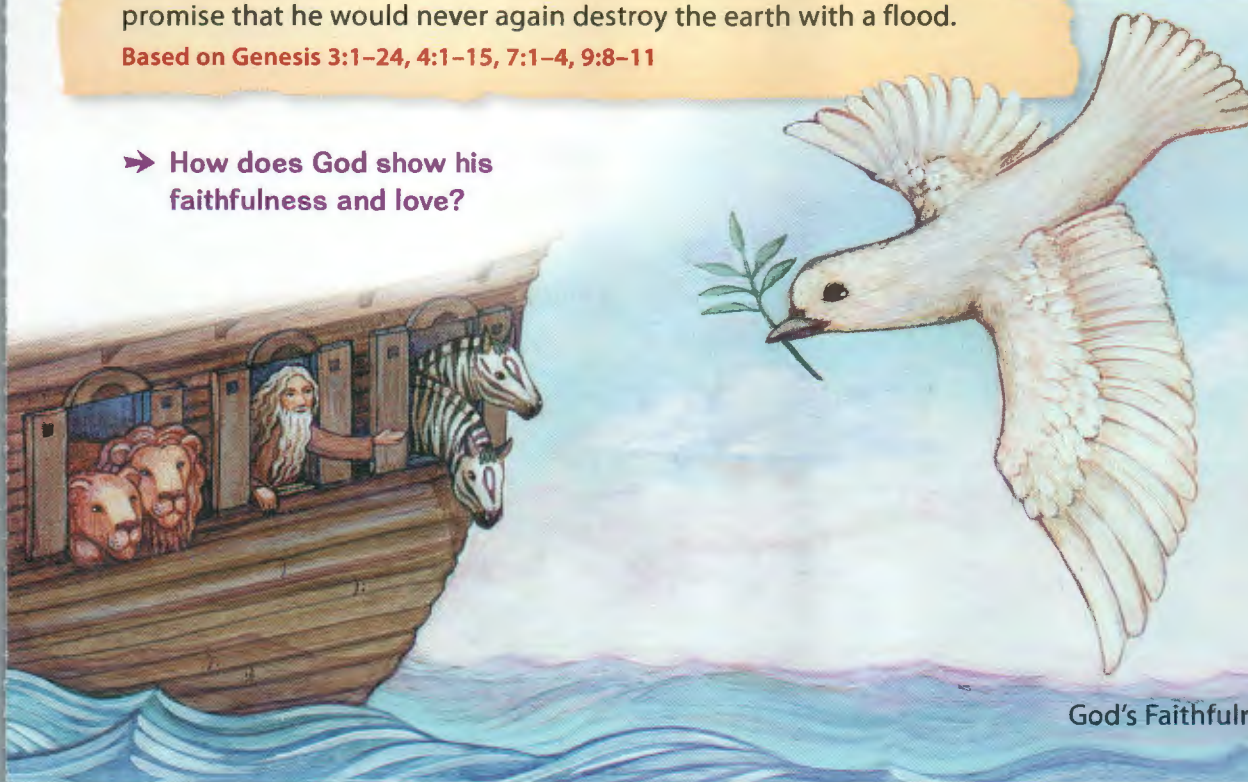
Based on Genesis 3:1–24, 4:1–15, 7:1–4, 9:8–11

Share Your Faith

Reflect Think about God's actions or characteristics that show you his faithfulness to you.

Share With a partner, use two letters of the word *faithful* to begin a word or phrase that states an action or characteristic of God that shows his friendship with you.

➔ How does God show his faithfulness and love?



Sin and God's Faithfulness

Who is the "New Adam"?

The Book of Genesis gives yet another account of how humans sinned and became separated from one another.

Catholic Faith Words

Original Sin the sin of our first parents, Adam and Eve, which led to the sinful condition of the human race from its beginning

temptation an attraction to sin, those actions and omissions that go against right reason and against God's law

new Adam a title for Jesus. By his obedience to the Father, and willingness to give his life, Jesus made amends for Adam's disobedience, overcame sin, and brought us eternal life.

Scripture

The Tower of Babel

In the beginning, everyone spoke the same language. Noah's descendants settled in a beautiful valley. There they decided to build a city and a tower that would reach to the sky. They did this because they were filled with pride and wanted to display their power.

God saw what the people were doing and made their languages different so that no one could understand what anyone else was saying. The place became known as Babel, because it was there that people spoke without being understood. Then God scattered the people all over Earth, and they were unable to communicate with one another because of their different languages. **Based on Genesis 11:1-9**

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Free Will

When our first parents, Adam and Eve, disobeyed God, they committed **Original Sin**. Because of their free choice to do wrong, all humans are born with Original Sin. The tendency to sin, as well as suffering and death, are part of the human experience. The **temptation** to sin is part of being human. With God's help, you can overcome temptation.

➔ **What is one temptation that young people your age face today?**



The New Covenant

Through their disobedience, Adam and Eve brought sin and death into the world. Time after time, God's people broke their covenant with him. But an ever-faithful God made a new covenant with humans.

God the Father fully revealed himself and his faithfulness by sending his own Son to teach us and save us. Jesus Christ is the Father's most complete and perfect revelation of his love for his people. The covenant that God made with Noah and with his chosen People, the Israelites, pointed toward Jesus and is fulfilled in him.

The New Adam

Jesus is called the "**new Adam**." Jesus makes amends for the disobedience of Adam. Jesus conquered sin and brought everlasting life. When you were baptized, Jesus, through his Passion, Death, and Resurrection, freed you from Original Sin and brought you into new life, the very life of God.



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Connect Your Faith

What Have You Learned? Explain one thing you have learned about God the Father through the life, Death, and Resurrection of his Son.

Our Catholic Life

How can you grow in faithfulness?

The statement “God is faithful” has several meanings. First, it means that God honors the covenant that he made with his People; God is loyal. It also means that God is reliable. You can trust what he says. When so much around you is changing and uncertain, only God offers you complete security and certainty.

It is important for others to know that they can count on you. Here are some ways to help you know that you are following God’s example of faithfulness.



Add your own examples in the empty bubbles.

You remain loyal to a friend who you know is right, even though your loyalty may cause you to be unpopular.

You believe and act in ways that follow Jesus’ example, even though this may result in your being misunderstood and teased.

You place God at the center of your life and keep your heart and mind focused on him.

You tell the truth.

You can be trusted with important responsibilities.

You keep your promises.

People of Faith

July 7

Blessed Peter To Rot, 1912–1945

Blessed Peter To Rot was born on the island of Papua, New Guinea. His parents were among the region's first Catholics. Peter went to Saint Paul's Mission School to become a catechist. Soon, he was a recognized leader and was assigned to the mission in his own village. When the Japanese invaded the island, they forbade Christian worship and all religious gatherings. Blessed Peter was faithful to the Church, even though he was often punished. Finally, he was arrested for practicing his faith. He was put in prison, but he continued to be faithful to God even though he knew he would die because of it.



Discuss: How can you show your faithfulness to God today?



Learn more about Blessed Peter at aliveinchrist.osv.com

Live Your Faith

Explain one way that someone you admire has modeled his or her faithfulness in God.

If you were doing an internet search on these traits, what key words would you enter?

faithfulness and

How would your family describe your faithfulness?



 Let Us Pray

Litany of Forgiveness

This litany of forgiveness helps us to reflect on our lives through the eyes of God's constant faithfulness and love. God always believes in us.

Gather and begin with the Sign of the Cross.

Leader: Sometimes life can be confusing. We suffer the consequences of our choices, and we sometimes bear the consequences of others' choices. Yet, one truth is constant. **Based on Psalm 139**

All: Our God is a compassionate God, always loving us.

Reader 1: Am I too bossy? Do I have to be the center of attention?

All: God is always faithful; God is compassionate and near.

Reader 2: Do I take my family for granted? Do I show them respect?

All: God is always faithful; God is compassionate and near.

Reader 3: Does peer pressure influence many of my decisions? Are my friendships helping me to grow?

All: God is always faithful; God is compassionate and near.

Reader 4: Do I take time to pray? Is Jesus' name important to me?

All: God is always faithful; God is compassionate and near.

Reader 5: Is my school and environment a better place because of me?

All: God is always faithful; God is compassionate and near.

Sit quietly for a time of reflection.

Leader: Loving God, help us to always look to you for hope.

All: God is always faithful; God is compassionate and near.



Sing "You Are Near"

YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

This chapter teaches that, despite Original Sin and the ongoing struggle of humans tempted to sin, God establishes and remains faithful to his covenant, promising to always love and be there for us.

Scripture



Read **1 Thessalonians 5:23–24** to find out about God's faithfulness.

Catholics Believe

- God fully revealed his faithfulness to humans by sending his only Son, Jesus, to conquer sin and bring everlasting life.
- Humans have the ability to live in friendship with God.

To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #396–411, 1468, 1730 at usccb.org.

People of Faith

This week, your child learned about Blessed Peter To Rot, a mission leader and native of New Guinea, who was martyred by Japanese invaders in 1945.

CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

How They Understand God's Promises and Faithfulness

Keeping one's word is likely very important to your child. Children this age have often developed close friendships based on trust and loyalty. Their emerging understanding of the literary device of foreshadowing helps them to see the ways in which God reveals himself and his plan over time, and how God is faithful to his covenants.



CONSIDER THIS >>>

As a parent, we love our children more than we imagined possible. How do we end each day loving them even more?

An early childhood teacher once said, "With the birth of our first child we learn the depth of our love. When our second is born we learn the breadth of our love." Children come to understand the unconditional love of God by experiencing the unconditional love of a parent. As Catholics, we know that "through the stories of creation in Chapters 1 and 2 of Genesis, God reveals himself as the Creator of all that exists, showing particularly a tender love for the high point of his creation, man and woman" (*USCCA*, p. 56).

LET'S TALK >>>

- Ask your child to explain what God's covenant is.
- Talk about some ways in which your family or close friends have demonstrated faithfulness.

LET'S PRAY >>>



Dear God, help us to follow Blessed Peter's example of leadership and love by living as your faithful servants. Amen.



For a multimedia glossary of Catholic Faith Words, Sunday readings, seasonal and Saint resources, and chapter activities go to aliveinchrist.osv.com.

Chapter 3 Review

A Work with Words Fill in the circle next to the correct answer.

- Sin has been present in the world since Adam and Eve chose to _____.
 - resist temptation
 - disobey God
 - name the animals
 - leave the Garden of Eden
- Cain killed his brother, Abel, because Cain _____.
 - thought his parents favored Abel
 - felt anger and jealousy
 - thought Abel was a bad brother
 - believed Abel had more sheep
- The sacred agreement that God made with Noah is called a _____.
 - rainbow
 - trust
 - miracle
 - covenant
- God the Father revealed himself fully by _____.
 - sending his Son, Jesus
 - saving Noah from the flood
 - giving the Ten Commandments
 - creating all things
- As the new _____, Jesus conquers sin and brings us everlasting life.
 - Adam
 - Noah
 - Abel
 - Moses
- The covenant God made with the Israelites pointed toward _____.
 - Noah
 - Jesus
 - Adam
 - David
- Our first parents disobedience to God led to _____, the sinful condition of the whole human race.
 - perfection
 - Original Holiness
 - Original Sin
 - purity
- God confused the speech of Noah's descendants at _____.
 - Eden
 - Jerusalem
 - Babel
 - Bethlehem
- As an offering to God, Abel offered the best of his _____.
 - farm products
 - sheep
 - camels
 - cattle
- Eve ate the fruit from the tree of _____.
 - happiness
 - life
 - blessing
 - knowledge

