

God's Plan of Salvation History

(Note to catechists: Highlight the Plan of God for us (to share in His Life – to be in communion with Him). Be sure to make it clear that this is your story and theirs if they have been baptized and choose to follow Christ. It is through the Sacrament of Baptism that we become a child of God and enter the Church, the Family of God.

- A. We begin with the Blessed Trinity –The Father, Son and Holy Spirit is a Communion of Persons of total, complete, self-giving love.
- B. God created angelic beings (spiritual persons without bodies of a higher intellect than humans) and some chose to rebel.
- C. God created us out of love. Adam and Eve were in complete communion with God.
- D. Adam and Eve were tempted by Satan, a fallen angel who is “the father of lies”. Adam and Eve sinned by disobeying God and were separated from Him through the loss of sanctifying grace within their soul. Each person inherits Original Sin from our first parents. We are born without sanctifying grace within our soul, by which we share in God's Life.
- E. God promised a Savior which was the plan for our salvation – Genesis 3:15.
- F. God began to form the Chosen people beginning with Abraham. To help the people know how to stay close to God, He gave Moses the 10 Commandments. The people tried to follow the 10 Commandments that He gave them but they were too weak because they did not have sanctifying grace. Finally, the people began to understand that they needed a Savior to fix the problem of sin. In Daniel Chapter 3, the story of the Fiery Furnace is a turning point. The prayer by the three young men shows that the people now understand the problem of sin and its effects. The essence of the prayer is: 1) We (the chosen people) are in a mess (away from Israel, no Temple, no sacrifices, etc.) 2) We have done this to ourselves by sin – adoring idols instead of the one, true God. 3) We need God – we need His sanctifying grace within our soul (a share in God's Life) to give us the supernatural strength to be faithful in following God. Now, our ancestors were ready for the Savior because they now knew that they needed Him.
- G. Mary gave her “fiat”, her yes to the Angel Gabriel to be the Mother of Jesus.
- H. The Incarnation is God becoming man. This mystery of Jesus coming to be among us and solving the problem of our separation from God is crucial to the Story. Only Jesus, because He is God, could reunite us with God. Jesus set the foundation of the Church by choosing twelve men, giving them all the secrets of the Kingdom (Matt. 13:11) and instituting the seven sacraments.
- I. Jesus suffered the scourging, crowning with thorns, died, rose from the dead and ascended into Heaven to open the gates of Heaven and forgive us of our sins. This is called the Paschal Mystery which made it possible for us to be reunited with God.
- J. Jesus sent God the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles' and Mary to empower them to begin the Church and dispense the mysteries = to give us the 7 sacraments. We are able to participate in God's Divine Life by receiving sanctifying grace within our soul through the sacraments.
- K. The seven sacraments are Baptism, Reconciliation, Holy Eucharist, Confirmation, Holy Orders, Matrimony and Anointing of the Sick. By being united with God through sanctifying grace in our soul, we have the strength to overcome temptations and reject sin, to live as committed Christians and even to become saints.