

Make-Up Packet for Day 1

of our 2020 Elementary Summer Religion Program

Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Church † Erath, Louisiana

Our 2020 Elementary Summer Religion Program was cancelled due to the Covid Pandemic. Elementary families are encouraged to read through these make-up packets with their children.

This year's theme: Digging into Scripture

Theme song: "God with Us"

(You Tube link to theme song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0DkoPQTHBic>)

Bible Stories for Day 1:

- **Announcement of John the Baptist's birth** (Luke 1:5-25)

For the benefit of those who may not have quick access to a Bible, the following Scripture passage is quoted and/or paraphrased from Luke 1:26-38 in the New American Bible (Revised Edition) released in 2011:

Several months before Jesus was born, there was a Jewish priest named Zechariah. His wife's name was Elizabeth. Both of them were good and honorable in the eyes of God, observing all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord extremely well, but they had never had any children because Elizabeth was barren and, by this time, both of them were quite old.

One day, when Zechariah was serving as priest in the **temple** (*Jewish church*), according to the practice of the priestly service, he was chosen by lot to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to burn **incense** (*a spice or other substance burned for its sweet smell*), and while the large group of the people were praying outside of the temple at the hour of the incense offering, an angel of the Lord appeared to him inside the temple, standing near the altar of incense. Zechariah was frightened, but the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, because your prayer has been heard. Your wife, Elizabeth, will bear you a son, and you shall name him John. You will have plenty of joy and happiness, and many people will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of God. He will not drink wine or strong drinks and will be filled with the Holy Spirit—even from his mother's womb . . . He will turn many of the children of **Israel** (*God's chosen people*) to the Lord, their God . . . He will prepare a people fit for the Lord." A bit confused and not understanding how all of this would happen, Zechariah asked, "How shall I know this? My wife and I are old." The angel said, "I am **Gabriel** (*one of God's archangels*). I was sent to speak to you and to announce this good news to you, but since you've doubted my word, you will be speechless and unable to talk until the day these things happen—at their proper time."

Outside the temple, the people were waiting for Zechariah and they were amazed that he stayed longer than usual in the sanctuary. When he came out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary! He made gestures to them, but he could not speak! When his days of service at the temple were completed, he went home.

After this time, his wife Elizabeth conceived, and she went into seclusion for five months, saying, "The Lord has now found the right time to take away my **disgrace** (*shame*) before others." (*People who lived at that time thought a woman was a "disgrace" if she didn't have any children.*)

- **Announcement of Jesus' birth** (Luke 1:26-38)

For the benefit of those who may not have quick access to a Bible, the following Scripture passage is quoted and/or paraphrased from Luke 1:26-38 in the New American Bible (Revised Edition) released in 2011:

Gabriel, the Archangel (*the same angel who was sent to speak with Zechariah a few months earlier*), was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth. There, he appeared to Mary, a young girl who was **betrothed** (*engaged*) to a man named Joseph. Gabriel said, “Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you.” (*We should recognize those words! We repeat similar words every time we pray the “Hail Mary” prayer!*) She didn’t understand what Gabriel was saying and wondered what his greeting meant. Then Gabriel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High . . . Of His kingdom there will be no end.” When Mary asked, “How can this happen?,” the angel replied, “The Holy Spirit will visit you . . . Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age! This is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God.” Mary said, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

(We should all strive to be more like Mary. Although she had some concerns about the things the angel was telling her, she did not hesitate to allow God’s Will to be done in her life.)

Today’s Catechism Lessons: Students in Grades 2-5 should have already received these textbooks. If necessary, they may borrow a textbook from our office. If a Grade 1 student doesn’t have access to a blue/white textbook yet (possibly from an older sibling or friend), he/she may borrow one from our office. *(Students typically receive/use their blue/white First Communion textbooks in Sacramental Prep classes in Grade 2 and bring them home just before receiving the Sacrament of Eucharist (Holy Communion). The red/white textbook is usually distributed to students in Grade 3 Sunday Sessions.)*

Grade	Textbook	Please read and discuss these lessons:
1	Blue/white F.C. textbook	Lesson 1 (God Made Us)
2	Blue/white F.C. textbook	Lesson 1 (God Made Us)
3	Red/white B.C. textbook	Lesson 1 (The Purpose of Man’s Existence) Lesson 2 (God and His Perfections)
4	Red/white B.C. textbook	Quick review of lessons read in last year’s summer program; re-read the “ opening explanations ” of: Lesson 1 (The Purpose of Man’s Existence), Lesson 4 (Creation and the Angels), Lesson 5 (The Creation and the Fall of Man), and Lesson 6 (Actual Sin)
5	Red/white B.C. textbook	Lesson 23 (The Sacraments)

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Thank you for taking time to work through this packet with your child!

Please **sign** the **next** page of this packet to indicate that Day 1’s work has been made up

and **mail or deliver** it to Mrs. Frances at our church office.

She will make the necessary notes on your child’s attendance record and will file the signature sheet in your family’s registration folder.

Please complete this page and return it to our Church Parish Office as soon as possible so Mrs. Frances can update our records to indicate that you have helped your child read/discuss the Bible stories and Catechism lessons that would have been introduced and discussed on **Day 1** of our 2020 Summer Religion Program.

My child, _____, in **2019-20** grade level _____, and I have read and discussed the enclosed Bible stories and catechism lesson(s) for **Day 1** of our 2020 Elementary Summer Religion Program.

Parent/Guardian's Printed Name

Parent/Guardian's Signature

Date

Optional family activity:

Because this summer's theme was going to focus on the life of Jesus in the New Testament, when your schedule permits, please make an effort to visit **FORMED.org** to view, at least, the **first** of three animated episodes of *The Witness Trilogy*:

- *God with Us* (1:28:34)
- *The Messengers: The Birth of the Early Church* (1:10:45)
- *To Every Nation* (1:09:45)

All three episodes are recommended for ages 7+. Obviously, each episode is more than one hour long. You'll be able to start/stop the videos at any point and return to them when your schedule permits. Pop some popcorn, sit as a family, and enjoy an animated movie depicting the life of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

- **Disclosure:** Three scenes, in particular, may be a bit confusing and/or distressing for some children: a few seconds depicting Judas hanging from a tree at 1:08:34, a few seconds of Jesus being scourged at the pillar at 1:10:10, and approximately 40 seconds depicting the crucifixion of Jesus beginning at 1:15:17. A few years ago, when we previewed a very similar animated movie (*Jesus: He Lived Among Us* by the same production company), our pastor (at the time) reminded us that this is the truth of what happened during Christ's Passion and gave us permission to use the video "with a fair warning to the children." As we did in 2015, we suggest that, if/when children feel uncomfortable with any images, they should simply close their eyes and listen for a while rather than watch.

NOTES to help parents find these videos on FORMED.org:

- As long as our church parish continues to pay for the parish subscription to **FORMED.org**, access to most of its Catholic resources will be **free** to our parishioners. (Some associated titles are for rent/purchase.) Parents and/or children may find other videos, talks, eBooks, documentaries, and/or movies about the saints that will interest them! Visit www.formed.org and use our **zip code** to find the name and address of our church parish. After entering your name and email address to create a simple profile, you will probably have to check your email for a link to finish the "sign in" process for the first couple of viewings, but at some point, clicking on the "sign in" button should immediately display a "Start Watching" button.
- Once you have access to FORMED's home page, scroll down to find the "Kids" stripe, then use the right arrow at the right edge of the screen to find *The Witness Trilogy* (or scroll through the other stripes to find something that may interest you and/or your child)!