

Make-Up Packet for Day 7 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

This year's theme song: "God with Us"

(You Tube link to theme song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0DkoPQTHB1c>)

Bible Stories for Day 7:

- **The Samaritan Women at the Well** (John 4:4-42)

For the benefit of those who may not have quick access to a Bible, the following Scripture passage is quoted and/or paraphrased from John 4:4-42 in the New American Bible (Revised Edition) released in 2011:

Background information first:

- In Jesus' time, there were no cars, buses, trains, or planes. Everyone walked to their destinations, or, if they were fortunate enough to own an animal, may have had a donkey to ride.
- Samaritans didn't believe in God, our Father. They weren't familiar with or follow God's **Ten Commandments** and were used to living without many rules. As a result, they were often unpleasant, self-centered, and sometimes, mean and cruel. Because of an unpleasant history between the Samaritans and the Jews, the Jews did their best to avoid traveling through Samaria, often adding days to their journey as they traveled (walked) around Samaria, the large area of land located between Nazareth and Jerusalem.
- The men in Jesus' time didn't speak directly to women in public. Men spoke to/with men. (That custom still exists today in some Middle Eastern countries.)
- Last summer, we learned about Jesse and his 12 sons. During those lessons, we focused most of our attention on his second-to-last son, Joseph (not the same Joseph who married Mary, the mother of Jesus). Because Joseph's brothers were jealous of him, Joseph was thrown into a deep pit, sold into slavery, became a great leader in the land of Egypt, and, before revealing his true identity to his brothers, saved his father and brothers (and their families) from a severe famine in their homeland, the land of Canaan. The plot of land that Jacob later gave to Joseph is located in Samaria near the town of Sychar, the same area where the "Woman at the Well" lived. This area was also home to "Jacob's well," the well where the townsfolk drew water.

One day, Jesus and his disciples traveled through a Samaritan town called Sychar. Tired from their journey, Jesus sat at Jacob's well. While His disciples went into town to buy food, a Samaritan woman stopped at the well to draw water. Jesus said, "Give me a drink." Shocked that a man—a Jewish man—was speaking to her, the Samaritan woman asked, "How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" Referring to Himself as He spoke, Jesus answered, "If you knew the gift of God and Who is speaking to you, you would have asked Him for 'living water' and He would have given it to you." Now, she didn't recognize who Jesus was, but she did notice that He didn't even have a bucket with Him. The woman said, "Sir, you don't have a bucket and the well is deep. Where would you get this 'living water'? Are you greater than Jacob, our forefather, who drank from this well many years ago, and drew water for his flocks, and gave the well to us, his descendents?"

Knowing that she wouldn't believe or understand what He was about to say, Jesus replied, "Everyone who drinks this water will, at some point, become thirsty again. Whoever drinks the

‘**living water**’ I shall give will never thirst. The water I shall give will become a spring of water leading to eternal life.”

Thinking that she would never have to come to the well again to draw water, the woman said, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.” To help her understand who He really was, Jesus told her a few personal details about her life: He told her that she had been married five times and the man she was with now wasn’t her husband. Surprised that He knew those facts about her life, she said, “Sir, I can see that you are a **prophet** (*a man chosen by God to speak God’s truth to others*)! Our ancestors worshipped on a mountain, but your people (*the Jews*) say that Jerusalem is the place to worship.” Jesus said, “Believe me, woman, the day is coming when you will worship the Father—not on a mountain or in Jerusalem. You people (*the Samaritans*) worship what you do not understand. We (*Jews*) worship what we understand, because God’s salvation is from the Jews.” The woman replied, “I know that the **Messiah** (*the promised Lord and Savior*) is coming and, when He comes, He will tell us everything.” Jesus said, “I am He, the One who is speaking with you.”

At that moment, His disciples returned and were amazed that Jesus had been speaking with a woman, but none of them questioned Him about His actions. The woman left her water jar near the well and went into town, saying to the people, “Come and see a man who told me everything I have done! Could he possibly be the Messiah?” Many Samaritans followed her back to Jesus so they could hear what He would say and teach. They invited Him to stay with them, so He stayed there for two days.

Many Samaritans began to believe in Jesus because of the testimony of the Woman at the Well: “He told me everything I have done!” Many more Samaritans began to say, “We no longer believe because of your word, but we have heard for ourselves, and we know that He is truly the Savior of the world.”

QUESTION: Do you believe in Jesus just because someone has told you about Him, His life, and His tremendous sacrifice to help us or have you come to believe in Him because you have heard and/or witnessed some unexplainable, good things that have happened in your life (or someone else’s life)?

- **Although His disciples didn’t realize it at the time, Jesus Christ gave us Seven Sacraments to help us remain close to Him!**

Even though you weren’t alive 2,000 years ago (when Jesus was alive), do you believe that Jesus was able to heal people from their illnesses? Do you believe the things He taught? Believing the things that Jesus said and did without actually being there to hear or see it is called having **faith** (*believing something without seeing it or having evidence to prove it*). When we have faith in Jesus Christ, we should be willing to follow His teachings!

It’s been almost 2,000 years since Jesus Christ died on the cross, rose from the dead, sent the Holy Spirit to be with His apostles (*and us*) just to give us the opportunity to prepare our souls to live in Heaven with Him, God our Father, and the Holy Spirit for all **eternity** (*forever and ever*). However, once we reach the appropriate ages, we can still receive and meet Him “in person” through the **Seven Sacraments**.

Our First Communion (blue/white) textbook tells us that a **sacrament** is an outward **sign** (*something we can see and touch*), **instituted** (*set into action*) by Jesus Christ to give **grace** (*God’s life and love within our souls*). In a very special way, He lives within us through the **Seven Sacraments**.

- **Three Sacraments of Initiation**

- ◆ **Baptism:** We become adopted children of God! Our parents promise to raise us in the Catholic faith and also promise to help us grow to love and respect God, our neighbors, and ourselves.

- ♦ **Confirmation:** We become soldiers for Christ. Many people incorrectly think that Confirmation is a “graduation” from religious education. Actually, when we receive the **Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit** during the Confirmation rite, we receive the necessary “tools” that will help us begin the next phase of our faith journey: asking tough/deep questions about our faith, defending our faith when necessary, living a Christian lifestyle, and more!
- ♦ **Eucharist (Communion):** After we reach the appropriate age and go through proper preparation, we receive the Body and Blood, soul and divinity of Jesus Christ into our bodies every time we receive Holy Communion! Our bodies become “**living tabernacles**” where Jesus can share all of His wonderful characteristics (gentleness, kindness, humility, merciful love, unconditional love, generosity, and more) with us. *(Reminder: The **tabernacle** in the church is a sturdy, locked, sacred cabinet where the Body of Christ is stored between Masses. After receiving Holy Communion, we should be willing to “lock” Jesus up in our “living tabernacle” to protect Him from all sorts of things that God wouldn’t want us to say, hear, or do. In other words, we should protect Him from our own sinful ways.*
- **Two Sacraments of Healing**
 - ♦ **Reconciliation (Confession):** When we are truly sorry for the sins we confess in the Sacrament of Confession, we receive God’s **absolution** (*forgiveness*). Because we are human, our selfish nature will cause us to struggle with sins—the same sins and/or different sins—again in the future, but we should return to Confession often to keep our souls free of sin and filled with as much **grace** (*God’s life and love*) as possible!
 - ♦ **Anointing of the Sick:** While this sacrament does not promise a complete healing from illness, it does provide an extra “dose” of **grace** (*God’s life and love*) and a sense of peace for the person who is ill and, as we all know, peace often brings a sense of joy and sometimes leads to improved health, even if it’s just for a moment. *(If possible, the ill patient may also have the opportunity to receive the **Sacrament of Confession**, preparing his/her soul for whatever may happen next.)* At the same time, the family and friends of the patient often receive a similar sense of peace knowing that their family member/friend has been anointed with God’s grace in their time of need.
- **Two Sacraments of Vocation**
 - ♦ **Matrimony:** Marriage between a baptized man and a baptized woman is intended for the purpose of creating life, raising a family, and supporting each other on their journey to eternal salvation. While a wedding is just one day in a person’s life, marriage is meant to last a lifetime! *(Obviously, we should put much more thought and effort into every day of a lifetime of marriage than we put into the plans for the day of a wedding!)*
 - **NOTE to parents and other adults:** If you or anyone you know are/is divorced and is interested in discussing the possibility of a **Declaration of Nullity** (formerly known as an “**annulment**”), please make an appointment to speak with a Catholic priest! Although the priest must inquire about personal details of the lives of the divorced couple in order to determine whether the marriage in a Catholic Church was, indeed, **sacramental**, he will be able to guide the interested persons through the necessary paperwork if circumstances meet the appropriate criteria. It can be a lengthy process, but in the Diocese of Lafayette, it has always been **free of charge**, and is definitely worth the effort considering the possible outcome: to be able to receive the Sacraments once again and be a good role model for children in your/their family!
 - ♦ **Holy Orders:** After “feeling” a sincere “tug” on their hearts/thoughts to pursue a deeper relationship with the Blessed Trinity and led by the Holy Spirit through years of

preparation and study, men may be ordained into the **priesthood** or the **permanent diaconate**, serving Catholic Church parishes for the rest of their lives (or until they are old enough to retire or if poor health causes them to retire).

- **NOTE:** While women are not allowed to serve as priests or deacons in the Catholic faith, they may feel “called” to enter religious life as a **nun** or **sister** in a religious order or may choose the life of a **consecrated virgin** (*making an informed decision to live a life of purity and chastity and never marry, working throughout her life in her chosen field of work and “belonging” only to Christ and His church.*)

IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER: Every time we receive a sacrament, we receive an extra “dose” of God’s **grace!** (Sometimes we receive extra “gifts” from the Holy Spirit as well!) We should make an effort to receive the **Sacraments**—especially **Confession** and **Communion**—often so we can keep our soul filled with God’s grace, leaving no space in our soul for sin. When our soul is filled with grace, we have less desire to commit sin! Unfortunately, one sin often leads to another sin and another sin and another sin, etc. Fortunately, Jesus gave us a Sacrament (Confession) to help us with that problem. Let’s make good use of it—often!

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 7 (Jesus Opens Heaven for Us)
2	Blue/white F.C. textbook	Lesson 8 (Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation)
3	Red/white B.C. textbook	Lesson 10 (The Virtues and Gifts of the Holy Spirit)
4	Red/white B.C. textbook	Lesson 19 (The Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Commandments of God)
5	Red/white B.C. textbook	Lesson 34 (Anointing of the Sick and Holy Orders); NOTE: “Extreme Unction” is now called “Anointing of the Sick” and can be received often (before surgeries and other medical procedures throughout our life as well as periodically during our elderly years).

Dear Parent/Guardian:

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

Please **sign** the **next** page of this packet
as proof that Day 7’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 7** 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 7** 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)!