

Lesson Plan, Grade 5 - Chapter 7

November 05 2025

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Preparation

Lesson Plan

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Activity Master

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Catechist Background

Doctrinal Content

- The word *Incarnation* means “coming into flesh.” It is the mystery that the Son of God became man in order to save all people. (CCC, 461)
- The name *Jesus* means “God saves.” Jesus is the Savior who came into the world to save all people lost through sin and lead them back to God his Father. (CCC, 430)
- God created all people in his image and likeness with free will, a soul, and the ability to love. (CCC, 41, 355)

- We are given God's very life and the help to be a living image of Christ every day. (CCC, 1877)

Catechist Background

"Then God said: Let us make human beings in our image, after our likeness."—Genesis 1:26

Reflect How does the knowledge that you are made in God's own image affect your choices and actions?

The scriptural creation story points out that God created humans "in his image" (Genesis 1:27). What a wonderful message that is! Certainly it is true that as a result of Original Sin, humans fall short of what God intended us to be. Yet, with the certainty of faith, we are inspired with hope and challenged with the vision of what is possible. What is the source of that hope and challenge?

The Good News of the Gospel is that Jesus the Son, the second Person of the Trinity, took it upon himself to restore to humans the image of God in which they were created. He did this by assuming a human nature in the Incarnation. In the person of Jesus Christ, human nature was united with the divine nature that the Son possessed from all eternity. Thanks to this union, human nature recovered its true shape and splendor. Jesus Christ, "true God and true man," is the perfect image of God, the image as it was always meant to be. And what's more, Jesus won for us the chance not only to be beings created in God's image, but sons and daughters of God the Father. Consequently, the task of baptized Christians in this life is to be reshaped by cooperating with divine grace to resemble this perfect image. The question that each of us is called to ask often is "Am I a faithful image of God to others today?"

Reflect How can you help the children in your care see God's image in themselves and in others?

Catechist's Prayer

God of all, you made me in your image and likeness. Thank you for making me the way you did and for bringing into my life people who remind me of your love and care. Amen.

Invite

Catechist Edition Instruction

Invite

Let Us Pray

Invite the children to gather in the prayer space and make the Sign of the Cross. Pray aloud the leader's prayer. Invite the children to pray aloud the Psalm after you.

Have the children move out of the prayer space and back to their seats.

Say: Today's reading tells us that we are made in the image of God. Think what that says about the way we are to treat others and ourselves. Think about the importance of our actions. What do they tell others about who God is?

Scripture

Guide the children through the process of Scripture reflection.

- Invite them to close their eyes, be still, and open their minds and hearts to what God is saying to

them in this passage.

- Proclaim the Scripture.
- Maintain several moments of silence.
- Ask: What did you hear God say to you today?
- Invite volunteers to share.

What Do You Wonder?

Say: God created you and all people in his image and likeness. When you care for others, you reflect God's image.

Invite the children to respond to the questions. Ask what else they might wonder about being made in God's image.

Catechist Tips: Titles of Jesus

Help the children understand that New Testament titles for Jesus focus on his unique relationship with God, the Father.

- Emmanuel is Hebrew for "God with us."
- Son of God, when capitalized, emphasizes Jesus' role as the Second Person of the Trinity.
- Messiah is Hebrew for "anointed one," or "called for a special purpose."

Catechist Tips: Jesus

The Church teaches that Jesus was both fully divine and fully human. We profess that belief every time we recite the Creed. The Church's teaching on the Incarnation states clearly that the Son of God took on our human nature to save us. (CCC 461) Belief in the truth that Jesus is both fully human and fully divine is the distinctive hallmark of the Christian faith. (CCC 463)

Say: **Today we begin our unit on Jesus. When I say the name *Jesus* what word, phrase or image comes into your mind or imagination?** (Write the children's responses on the board or on chart paper; accept all reasonable responses)

Look at all the things we came up with! Now, think about this: (Write the following sentence on the board or on chart paper: *Jesus Christ is both human and divine. This sentence describes one of the basic truths of the Catholic Church, the **Incarnation*** (Write the word *Incarnation* on the board or on chart paper.) **Let's look back at your words. Which of these words describes Jesus as human and which describes him as God? Which side did we fall more on? Human? Divine?**

The leaders of the early Church wanted people to know and understand that Jesus was both: equally human and divine. Guided by the Holy Spirit, they decided to use the word *Incarnation* to explain the truth. Let's look at the word. It comes from two Latin words *in* and *carne* which mean *in* and *flesh*. The Incarnation describes the doctrine that Jesus is God in the flesh. Jesus was both God and human.

Discover

Catechist Edition Instruction

Discover (1)

Objectives

- Recognize Jesus as King and note that wise people still seek him.

Honoring God

Ask: What gifts do the Magi bring to Jesus?

- Most of the children will probably remember these from having heard the Christmas story.
- Point out the photos on page 123 to confirm the answers to the question.
- Invite the children to share anything else they know or have heard about the Magi.

Tell the children that they are going to be reading a Scripture passage about wise leaders looking for signs of God.

- Explain that Matthew 2:1-12 is about the three Magi, also known as the Wise Men, who visited the newborn Jesus.
- Read aloud the first sentence on the page.

Scripture

Invite several volunteers to each read aloud a paragraph of the Scripture story, which runs across pages 122 and 123.

- Have each child stand as he or she proclaims their section of this passage.
- Encourage them all to read the story with feeling.

The Visit of the Magi, continued

When the children have finished reading aloud the Scripture story, ask the questions at the end.

- Discuss possible answers with the group.
- Encourage the children to research, at home, gold, frankincense, and myrrh to find out more about these gifts that were presented to Jesus. They can bring back the information they found to share at a future session.

Activity

Have the children choose partners for the activity.

- Read aloud the Share Your Faith directions.
- Help the children think about some examples of good things they have done.
- Allow time for partners to share their good works or "gifts" with one another.

Quick Review

The Magi were not Jews, yet they recognized Jesus as King. God's message of salvation is intended for everyone.

Discover (2)

Objectives

- Define the mystery that the Son of God took on a human nature in order to save all people as the Incarnation.
- Recognize Jesus as the fullness of God's Revelation.
- Explore how we are created in the image of God and how we can be a living image of Christ every day.

In His Image and Likeness

Ask the children the question at the top of the student page.

- Discuss as a group.

Arrange the children into four groups.

- Each group will silently read one paragraph and identify the most important idea.
- Have group members share their ideas with the class. **1: Jesus came for all people; 2: Incarnation means "coming into flesh"; 3: Jesus is fully Divine and fully human; 4: Jesus means "God saves."**

Ask: What are some things you have learned about God through the teachings of Jesus?

- Encourage group discussion.

If time allows, direct the children to page 325 of Our Catholic Tradition to read the *Angelus*, a prayer honoring the Incarnation.

Work with Words

Have four volunteers each read aloud one of the definitions from the Catholic Faith Words box.

God's Image in You

Invite the children to silently read this section.

- Ask: How do people you know show that they are made in God's image?
- To help the children understand how others show the image of God, draw their attention to the photographs on the page.

Signs of God's Love

Invite the children to continue silently reading the text.

► Music Option: As the children read, play "Jesus Is Our Friend," downloaded from **aliveinchrist.osv.com**.

- ★ Have the children underline one thing they have done this week to be signs of God's love.
- Ask volunteers to share the words that they underlined.

Activity

Read aloud the directions.

- Allow time for the children to write their answers.
- Invite volunteers to share what they are doing to show they are following Jesus and living as a sign of God's love.

Quick Review

The Son of God took on a human nature to save all people. Jesus is the fullness of God's Revelation. We were created in God's image and should be a living image of Christ.

Catechist Tips: Epiphany

On Epiphany Sunday, which is the Sunday between January 2 and January 8, the Western Church recalls how the Magi visited Jesus and became the first Gentiles to worship him as a King.

- This event was traditionally celebrated on January 6 in both the Western Church and the Eastern Church.
- In many countries, Epiphany is the day on which people exchange gifts.

Catechist Tips: Messiah

The chorus “For unto us a child is born” from Handel’s Messiah is a musical setting of the passage from Isaiah that lists the titles of the Messiah.

- Play a recording of this chorus for the children, asking them to listen for and list the titles.

Challenge the children to create their own musical or rhythmic setting for this passage.

Catechist Tips: Story

The Gift of the Magi by O Henry (this story can be found online at www.online-literature.com)

In place of doing the play *The Magi*, read *The Gift of the Magi* by O Henry. In preparation for the reading, invite them to share their memories of the story of the three wise men. Then read *The Gift of the Magi* and discuss it.

Chapter 7 Activity Master

Name _____

Date _____

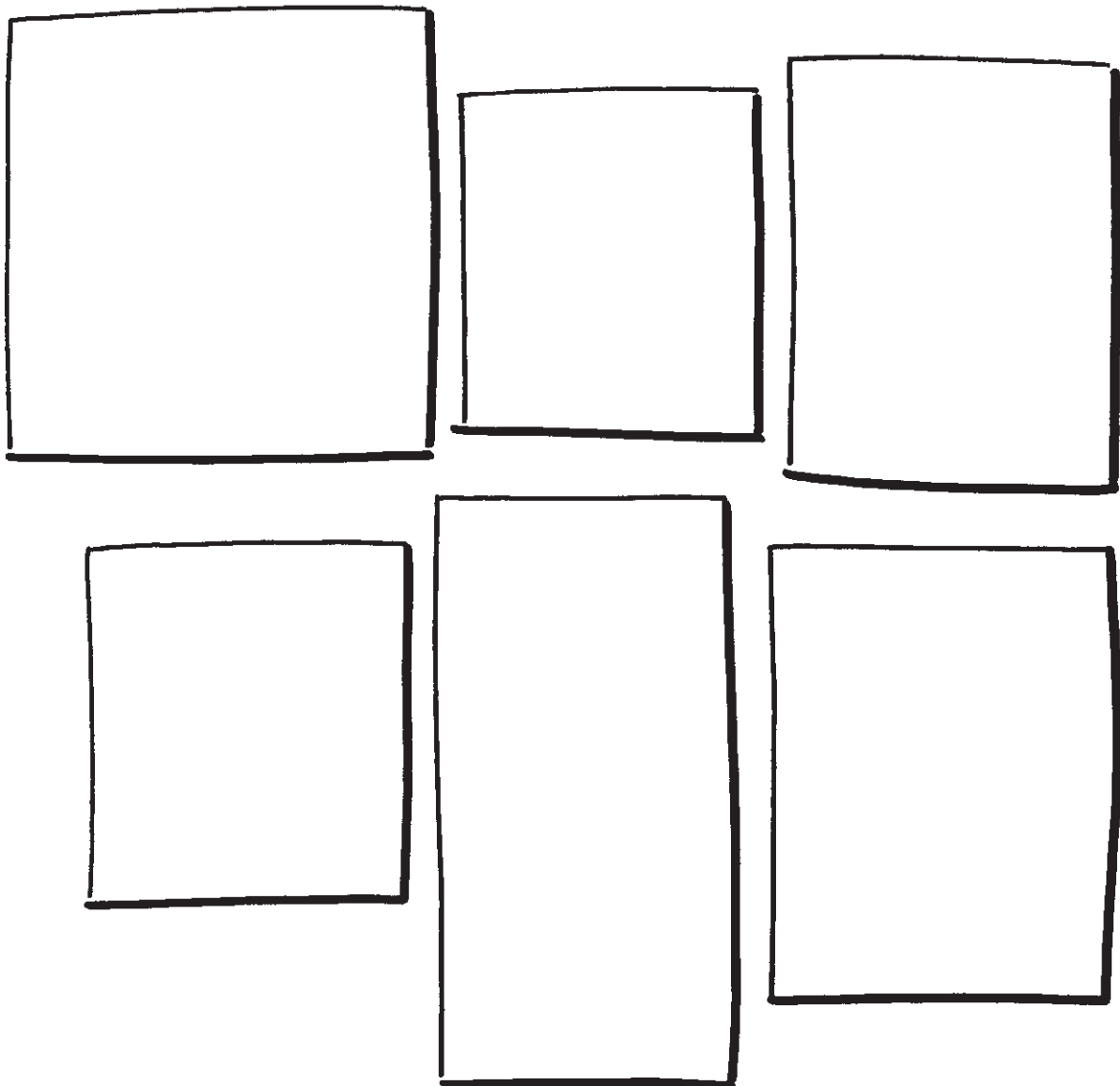
Cartoon Strip

Retell one of the stories about Jesus' birth by drawing a cartoon strip in the boxes below.

If you need help remembering the details of your story, look them up in a Bible.

(See Matthew 1—2 or Luke 2.)

The Story of _____



© Our Sunday Visitor

Name _____ Date _____

Complete each sentence with the correct term from the Word Bank. Not all terms will be used.

1. The God-given freedom and ability to make choices is known as _____.
2. The story of the _____ shows that Jesus' message of salvation is for all people.
3. The mystery of how the Son of God took on a human nature is called the _____.
4. Jesus' name means "God saves" or "_____."
5. The _____ is the spiritual part of a human that lives forever.

Word Bank

.....

Savior

Magi

free will

Incarnation

Annunciation

soul

Circle *True* if a statement is true, and circle *False* if a statement is false. Correct any false statements.

6. The word *salvation* means "coming into flesh." **True/False**

7. Jesus is both fully king and fully human. **True/False**

8. The Magi's gift of gold is a symbol of Jesus' kingship. **True/False**

Write a brief response to each question.

9. Name one title for Jesus, and explain what it teaches us about who God is.

10. What is one way that you can be a sign of God's love to the world?

Lesson Plan, Grade 5 - Chapter 8

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- Catechist Tips: Stories and Faith
- Catechist Tips: Kingdom of God
- Chapter Story: A Good Story

Discover

- Catechist Edition Instruction
- Catechist Tips: Parables
- Catechist Tips: Familiarize the Setting
- Catechist Tips: God's Kingdom Is Like...

Preparation

Lesson Plan

File: G5_C8_LP.pdf

Activity Master

File: G5_C8_AM.pdf

Chapter Test

File: G5_C8_Test.pdf

Catechist Background

Doctrinal Content

- The Kingdom of God is God's reign of peace, justice, and love that exists in Heaven, but has not yet come in its fullness on Earth. (CCC, 2816, 2819)
- Jesus preached and taught parables to help his followers understand the meaning of the Kingdom, which Christ made present but is not yet complete until he comes again. (CCC, 546)
- Jesus performed miracles that showed God's Kingdom was being established. (CCC, 547)

- Jesus' words and actions, and his presence in the Seven Sacraments teach about the need for conversion in our own lives. (CCC, 1127, 1129)

Catechist Background

"[Jesus] went around all of Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and curing every disease and illness among the people."—Matthew 4:23

Reflect How do you proclaim the Gospel of the Kingdom in your personal life?

The Gospels show that the "Kingdom of God" was the primary theme of Jesus' public preaching, but Jesus himself spoke of the Kingdom as a "mystery"—a supernatural reality hard to describe in human words. (See Mark 4:11.) For this reason, Jesus used stories to convey to his hearers what the Kingdom was like. Nearly everything Jesus said about the Kingdom was expressed in the form of a parable.

A parable teaches a lesson through a story. Jesus' parables taught the people that the Kingdom of God was something more than the restored monarchy for which many Jews of the time hoped. The Kingdom was and is God's love and power acting to heal, forgive, and free people. That power is available to Christians today.

The Kingdom is both present and future. During his ministry, Jesus repeatedly proclaimed that the Kingdom had already arrived in him. The Kingdom continued as a small community of faithful followers of Jesus. The Church is "the seed and beginning of the Kingdom" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 764); but the Kingdom needs time to grow, just as a mustard seed needs time to become a leafy plant and yeast needs time to leaven dough. God's Kingdom will be fully manifest only in the future, when Christ comes again in glory. That is why Jesus taught his disciples to pray for the coming of the Kingdom.

Reflect Which signs of the Kingdom are a priority for you?

Catechist's Prayer

Holy Spirit, you strengthen me with your gifts. May I learn to depend on your guidance in my life. Help me find the gift of your joy in everyday things. Amen.

Invite

Catechist Edition Instruction

Invite

Let Us Pray

Invite the children to gather in the prayer space and make the Sign of the Cross. Pray the leader's prayer and proclaim the Psalm verse. Have the children return to their seats.

Say: Jesus' mission on Earth was to announce the presence and the coming in fullness of God's Kingdom. Jesus called people to change their lives and to believe the Good News of God's great love. Today's reading announces the beginning of Jesus' mission.

Scripture

Guide the children through the process of Scripture reflection.

- Invite them to close their eyes, be still, and open their minds and hearts to what God is saying to them in this passage.
- Proclaim the Scripture.
- Maintain several moments of silence.
- Ask: What did you hear God say to you today?
- Invite volunteers to share.

What Do You Wonder?

Say: Jesus used parables to teach people about God's Kingdom. He also cured the sick, forgave sinners, and welcomed outcasts to show that God's Kingdom was open to everyone.

Invite the children to respond to the questions. Ask what else they might wonder about the Kingdom of God.

Catechist Tips: Stories and Faith

In many cultures, teachers have used parables to convey religious insights.

- Parables are pithy and easy to remember.
- They also explore truths about spiritual matters that might otherwise be missed.
- The parables of the Kingdom that Jesus told include Matthew 13:24-30, 33, 44-46; 18:23-35; 20:1-16; and Mark 4:26-29, 30-32.

Catechist Tips: Kingdom of God

The Church teaches that the proclamation of the Kingdom of God was the central focus of Jesus' preaching. Jesus, himself, through his Death on the Cross and his Resurrection, accomplished the coming of God's Kingdom. (CCC 541-542). The Kingdom of God is a mystery that we cannot fully understand with human intelligence. It is a mystery. We get hints of it in the stories (parables) of Jesus and in his healing and forgiving actions which we are called to continue.

Today we are going to talk about proclaiming the Kingdom of God. Let's take a look at one of the Catholic Faith Words for this chapter.

Direct the children to turn to page 132. Ask a volunteer to read aloud the definition of *Kingdom of God*. Discuss the description:

What do you think the signs of the Kingdom of God are today? Where is there justice, love and peace? Why do you think we believe the Kingdom is present but not yet? What role can we play in proclaiming the Kingdom? Where can we be more loving, just, and peacemaking?

Explain that Jesus told people about the Kingdom by using stories called parables which they will be learning about today and also by performing miracles which helped people actually see and feel what God's Kingdom is like. It is a Kingdom of healing and forgiveness.

Chapter Story: A Good Story

Use this story after the opening prayer, before explaining the Good News of God's Kingdom.

- Have the children share their favorite types of stories with a partner. Discuss what makes a good book hard to put down.
- Ask the group to come up with other ways of sharing messages.
- After connection various story messages with the message of God's Kingdom, transition back to the lesson instruction.

A Good Story

Jonathan walked into the living room to find KJ sprawled on the couch with a book. "Want to watch some TV?"

"Nah," KJ replied without looking up. "I'm reading."

Jonathan looked over at the book in his brother's hands. "Haven't you read that one before?"

"Yeah," KJ said, "but it's one of my favorites. It's a really good story with lots of action and some pretty cool characters."

"I don't get it," Jonathan said. "How can you read a book when you already know the ending?"

"You do the same thing with the movies you watch over and over," KJ explained. "It's kind of a bonus to know it has a good ending. But I get to enjoy the rest of the story all over again."

Discover

Catechist Edition Instruction

Discover (1)

Objectives

- Describe the Kingdom of God as God's rule of peace, justice, and love that exists in Heaven, but has not yet come in its fullness on Earth.
- Apply the parables to images of the Kingdom of God.

The Power of Stories

Ask: How did Jesus teach about the Kingdom of God?

- List responses on the board or on chart paper.

Ask a proficient reader to read aloud the two paragraphs in this section.

- Discuss why Jesus used stories and what people did after they had heard Jesus speak.
- Allow volunteers to answer the question at the bottom of the student page.

Work With Words

Ask volunteers to define, in their own words, the Kingdom of God.

- After a brief discussion, read aloud the definition from the Catholic Faith Words box.
- Explain to the children that the definition will become clearer after they read some of the text in this chapter.
- You might also want to review the definition of the word parable on page 133.

Parables as Examples

Read aloud the text.

Scripture

Direct the children to close their eyes while you proclaim the Scripture and to open them when you finish.

- Ask: Who is the sower? What do the seeds represent?
 - Write the children's responses on the board or on chart paper.
 - Encourage the children to discuss how their answers relate to the artwork on pages 132-133.
 - On the board or on chart paper, draw the graphic organizer, leaving the right column blank. Ask each child to copy the organizer and to fill in the right column with information from the reading.
 - Distribute Bibles. Refer the children to Jesus' explanation of the parable. (See Luke 8:11-15.)
- Music Option: As the children work, play "Seek Ye First," downloaded from **aliveinchrist.osv.com**.

Activity

Read aloud the directions for the activity, allow time for sketching and partner discussion.

Quick Review

God's rule of peace, justice, and love are evident in his Kingdom. Jesus used parables to convey messages about God's Kingdom using images from everyday life.

Discover (2)

Objectives

- Recognize that Jesus performed miracles that showed God's Kingdom was being established.
- Realize, through Jesus' words and actions, the need for conversion in our lives.

Signs and Wonders

Invite a volunteer to read the question at the top of the page.

- Elicit responses from the rest of the group.

Ask three volunteers to each read aloud one of the paragraphs.

- Ask the children how they can help the Kingdom of God become more present in the world. **loving others, behaving justly, and being peacemakers**

★ Have them underline ways that Jesus proclaimed the Kingdom.

To delve deeper into this topic, have the children turn to page 310 in the Our Catholic Tradition section of their books to read "Everlasting Life."

Work with Words

Draw the children's attention to the Catholic Faith Words feature.

- Read aloud the definitions.
- Point out that Jesus worked miracles to help us see the presence of the Kingdom of God.
- Tell the children that conversion involves change and that people who experience conversion change their behavior.

The Grace to Change

Invite the children to silently read the text.

- Ask the children to circle the words that explain how Jesus continues to perform signs and wonders today. **Possible responses: through the Church, the Sacraments, the community, and the Holy Spirit**

► Music Option: While the children work, play "Act Justly," or "Raise Your Voice for Justice," downloaded from aliveinchrist.osv.com.

Activity

Ask a volunteer to read aloud the directions for the Connect Your Faith activity.

- Allow time for children to write their answers in the heart-shaped space.
- Ask volunteers to share which stories helped them the most.

Quick Review

Jesus cured the sick, forgave sinners, and welcomed outcasts in order to show that God's Kingdom was being established now and was open to everyone. God calls us to experience conversion to draw closer to him and his Kingdom.

Catechist Tips: Parables

Jesus' parables usually feature people with whom a rural audience would have been acquainted—landlords, stewards, farmers, and shepherds.

- Parables are meant to challenge the worldview of the audience.
- Knowing how Jesus' hearers would have expected familiar figures to act can help students grasp a parable's meaning.

Catechist Tips: Familiarize the Setting

Urban or suburban fifth-graders may have real difficulty relating to the agricultural worldview of parables.

- Have the children suggest alternatives for the characters and settings of the parables.
- Workers in the vineyard could be factory workers or day laborers, and the road to Jericho could be a subway or an interstate highway.

Catechist Tips: God's Kingdom Is Like...

Set several types of art materials on a table. Organize a large group into pairs. Tell the children that in the next few minutes each pair is to come up with its own *story or image* of what God's Kingdom is like. Direct their attention to the supplies on the table. Encourage them to use images, ideas, and symbols. Tell them they can use visual arts or write a poem, skit, or story.

Afterward, have a few volunteers share their creations with the group. Discuss why there are so many ideas of what God's Kingdom is like?

Chapter 8 Activity Master

Name _____

Date _____

The Kingdom of God

Below are two of Jesus' parables. Both use comparisons to describe the growth of God's Kingdom in the world. On the lines provided, write your understanding of what each parable says about the manner in which the Kingdom grows. Then, using colored pencils or markers, illustrate one of the parables.

[Jesus] said, "What is the kingdom of God like? To what can I compare it? It is like a mustard seed that a person took and planted in the garden. When it was fully grown, it became a large bush and 'the birds of the sky dwelt in its branches'" (Luke 13:18–19).

What does the parable mean?

[Jesus] said, "To what shall I compare the kingdom of God? It is like yeast that a woman took and mixed [in] with three measures of wheat flour until the whole batch of dough was leavened" (Luke 13:20–21).

What does the parable mean?

Name _____

Date _____

Find the word defined in Column B by unscrambling the letters in Column A.

Column A

1. CREMLIA _____

2. GNIDKMO FO ODG

3. NESOCIVNRO _____

4. LASAEPRB _____

Column B

- a. an event that cannot be explain by science because it happened by the power of God
- b. Stories that use comparisons to teach something
- c. the continual process of becoming the people God intends us to be through change and growth
- d. God's Reign of love, justice, and peace

Circle the letter of the choice that best completes each sentence.

5. _____ is a response to God's love and forgiveness.

- a. Contrition
- b. Conversion
- c. Catechism

6. Jesus invited people into the Kingdom of God through his _____.

- a. stories and signs
- b. speeches and debates
- c. writing and letters

7. Jesus showed how to enter his Kingdom through _____.

- a. walking on water
- b. cleansing the leper
- c. the Parable of the Sower

8. The Sacraments give us _____ and change how we relate to God.

- a. love
- b. faith
- c. grace

Write a brief response to each of the following questions.

9. To understand the message of a parable, what point(s) might you look for?

10. What is one way you have experienced conversion?
