

Name _____

Unit 1 Reading Guide

Old Testament: United with God, Separated by Sin

Chapter 1: God's Original Plan

Article 1: The Fullness of Creation

1. His [God's] saving plan is ultimately fulfilled through the _____, death, _____, and _____ of Jesus Christ—the Paschal Mystery.
2. God created the world as a place of beauty, goodness, and _____. However, _____ has marred God's intent, and brought ugliness, division, and _____ into the world.
3. The _____ of all _____ reflects the goodness and glory of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
4. Creation is certainly one way that _____ connects _____ and Earth. But creation is not limited to what we can see, _____, taste, _____, and touch; it also includes everything in the universe that we _____.
5. What are some things that fit into the "invisible" category? _____, _____, _____, and _____ are "invisible" things.
6. _____ are spiritual creatures with intelligence and _____. The word *angel* means "_____" and describes their role: angels are the _____ and _____ of God.
7. Another way God connects Heaven and Earth is through each of _____.! Every human being is a union of both the _____ and the _____ worlds. We are _____, but we are made in the _____ and _____ of God.
8. Human beings are made for _____, that is, for intimate relationship. We see this most fully reflected in _____. Husband and wife become _____ through their deep _____, a love that mirrors the love God has for all his _____.

Article 2: Creation Accounts: The Literary Form

1. Through the _____, God communicates his revealed _____. The Bible conveys the truth, which "_____ wants to _____ through the _____ for our _____" (CCC, number 137). In some of the Bible's _____, like the first eleven chapters of Genesis, this takes the form of _____ or _____ stories.
2. These first chapters of Genesis are _____, meaning they cover a time before humans kept a _____ record of the events in their lives. These chapters reveal _____ that complement the truth revealed through science and history.



3. _____ is a literary form that uses symbolic images, _____, and _____ to point to a deeper truth. _____ can teach us _____ truths, but it is not meant to be _____ or _____ accurate.
4. It's important to remember that the biblical accounts are _____. Inspired by the _____, the _____ authors used their skills and talents to express these truths using the literary form of _____.
5. The _____ accounts of Genesis uniquely express the truths that God wants us to know for our _____. Among others, these truths include that there is only _____ God, that God is _____, and that humans are given the gift of free will.
6. This was God's plan: _____, all of creation, and _____, living in complete peace and harmony with one another. This is what is called the state of _____ and _____.
7. The second _____ of Genesis teaches us that God created us to be _____ and to live united with him and with _____. Though each one of us is different, we were made to live in _____ with one another.

Article 3: You Can't Un-Ring That Bell

1. In Genesis, chapter 3, Adam and Eve also chose to believe a lie and ate from the tree of the _____ of _____ and _____. This was a bell that _____ could not un-ring. They had crossed a line into a forbidden territory that profoundly affected their experience of the world; the way they _____ to God and to _____ was forever changed.
2. _____ is the study of the _____ or causes of things. For example, ancient cultures around the world have employed folk stories to explain all sorts of things, including _____, geological _____, the origins of _____ or _____ occurrences, the name of a _____, and even why bears have such short tails.
3. The purpose of these [etiologicals] was not to give a _____ or _____ explanation. Rather they are creative _____ used by the human authors to convey a _____ truth that was inspired by the _____: how sin leads to _____ and how sin brings isolation, causes pain and suffering, disrupts our harmony with nature, and leads us away from _____ and _____.
4. Why is it wrong for humans to separate from _____ and from _____? Acknowledging differences and _____ in our everyday experience is not necessarily bad. It is good to know _____ from _____ and to know that it is _____ to help others and wrong to harm them.
5. The problem comes when sin distorts our _____ to see clearly. Sometimes we see the _____ through our small, self-centered viewpoint. _____ causes us to focus on _____, making us feel better or more entitled, creating _____ that can be destructive to our relationship with God and _____.
6. _____ is the sin of the first human beings, who disobeyed God's _____ by choosing to follow their own _____. They lost their _____ and became subject to _____. Since then, we have suffered from its consequences.



7. Human beings have _____. We live in a specific place and time and, far from being _____, our views are often tainted by a culture that is marked by _____. Knowing this, we should always be cautious of believing we can come to the _____ on our own power.

Article 4: The Wages of Sin

1. Not all _____ leads to a physical _____, but it certainly can slowly chip away at our _____ life. The _____, the biblical Revelation about the origins of sin and evil in the world, shows the consequences of our _____.
2. The consequences of sin, humanity's loss of _____ and _____, are communicated through the _____ elements of the second _____ account.
3. _____ separates and disrupts the _____ that God intended. Just as a _____ death separates _____ and _____, a spiritual death separates us from _____ and one another.
4. God did not create _____ and is not the _____ of it. God created humans to love _____ and _____, and in order to love, we must have the capability to *choose* to love. Because we were made in _____ image, we have the gift of _____.

Article 5: The Cycle of Sin Begins

1. The origin of sin is _____ in the account of Adam and Eve in Genesis, chapter 3, but the story does not end there. Their disobedient act against _____ sets in motion a _____ of _____. That sinful inheritance, _____, leads to _____, the _____ of human beings to be _____ to sin.
2. The influence of _____ does not _____ Cain to commit this grave sin (murdering his brother). God's _____ to Cain is that he has a _____; he can "rule over it." God has confidence in humanity's _____ to overcome temptation.
3. Because of _____, we all suffer from _____. Certainly, _____ behavior can be learned from others, but _____ is much more perplexing than this.
4. In general, it is good to focus on the _____ of who we are and what we do. It is important to understand that all of us—without exception—are made in the _____ and are infinitely loved by _____. Yet it would be wrong to ignore the source of _____ and _____ in our world.
5. _____ is not only the act committed by our earliest ancestors; it is also the _____ into which every person who has ever lived on the planet is born, with the exception of Jesus and his mother, Mary.
6. We are _____ of our ancestors' personal sin, because we did not commit it. Nonetheless, we have _____ this sinful _____ as a _____ of their sin.
7. Yet there are _____ for which entire communities can be held _____. These can come in the form of a _____. Even if an individual were against these laws, each _____ of the community is responsible for working toward their end.



Chapter 2: Bound to God: The Covenants

Article 6: Ending the Cycle

1. The Easter Vigil is the liturgy celebrated on _____, the night before _____. It celebrates the coming of the _____ into the world. It's also the time when adults and older children are received into the Church through the Sacraments of Baptism, the _____, and _____.
2. The [Easter Vigil] _____ usually begins outside, then everyone in the congregation processes into a darkened church holding candles lit from the _____. These candles represent Christ's light, which ends the darkness of _____ and _____.
3. After everyone has entered the church, the _____ or _____ offers up a hymn of praise called the Easter _____, or the _____.
4. A _____ is a statement that seems illogical or contradicts itself. Nonetheless, it expresses a _____. Some of Jesus' teachings are _____.
5. In the New Testament, Jesus teaches that not all suffering is a _____ for (or a consequence of) _____. In fact, he goes in the opposite direction, implying that the blind man's _____ provides an opportunity for _____ healing _____ and love to be revealed.

Article 7: The Promise

1. Like a loving _____, no matter what we do, God's love for us never _____. Scripture tells us that "God is _____" (1 John 4:8). Love is who God is, so for him to quit loving us, he would have to _____ being _____!
2. Even though our sins bring _____ and _____ to us and to one another and certainly do not please him, they still play no _____ when it comes to his _____. There is nothing we can do to make God _____ of _____ with us.
3. In one verse of this chapter (Genesis 3), there is also an announcement that God will be victorious over _____ and _____. The verse is called the _____. *Proto* means "_____ " or "the earliest form of." *Evangelium*, means "_____." So _____ refers to the "first announcement of the good news," or first gospel.
4. In the account of God's punishment of the _____, we are allowed a glimpse of the first announcement of the "_____ " of the coming of Jesus Christ. The snake is only able to strike at the _____ and inflict injury (_____), whereas the woman's offspring (_____) will strike at the snake's _____, a more powerful blow that could bring an end to the life of the snake (_____).
5. The _____ is an early foreshadowing of the _____, that Christ will ultimately conquer sin and death.

Article 8: Covenant: A Relationship and a Remedy

1. Recall that a covenant is a _____ between human beings or between _____ and _____ in which mutual commitments are made. Through the _____, God established a _____ with his people. Though sin brings about division, the _____ are the ties that bind us to God.



2. In the Old Testament, the Hebrew term most often used to express a covenant is _____, which originally meant a shackle or a _____. This helps us understand that _____ were a means of binding God with his people.
3. The Hebrew phrase sometimes used for establishing a covenant is *karat berith*, which would mean “to _____ a _____.” *Cutting* refers to some physical elements in the _____ used by ancient peoples for establishing a _____.
4. Covenants also establish _____, with mutually understood and agreed-upon _____. Like in any relationship, the actions of people in a _____ are guided by their _____.
5. When a covenant is established between _____, each person usually makes _____ . Sometimes the commitments are different, especially in the case of _____ with _____.
6. In these situations, _____ takes on the role of leader and _____, while we _____ to being faithful and _____. This is not because God wants to _____ us, but rather it is because he is _____ and loves us.
7. Through _____, God begins to _____ humanity to a state of _____—that is, a proper relationship between _____ and himself. The _____ established by some of the covenants aid in this process of _____. Sin is _____ God’s Law and therefore _____ our relationship with God; _____ covenant _____ does the opposite.
8. God established and _____ throughout _____ history. He started with Adam and Eve and also formed _____ with Noah, Abraham and Sarah, Moses, and King David. His covenantal _____ was ultimately _____ with _____, who was the fulfillment of the _____ and mediator of the _____.

Article 9: The Covenants with Noah and Abraham

1. In the Old Testament we can find events and people that seem to _____ the work of _____. _____ is the study of God’s work in the Old Testament as a _____ of what he accomplished through _____. _____ shows us the unity of God’s plan in both the _____ and _____.
2. Christians read the _____ in the light of our _____ in _____. We recognize that the Old Testament can help us better understand the meaning of the _____.
3. In the covenant with _____, there is a sense that God is reestablishing the _____ and _____ that he originally intended for _____. There is a _____ nature to it.
4. Directly after God makes this _____, Noah’s descendants multiply to become all the nations of the world. This is a way of saying that God’s _____ with Noah now extends to all the _____ of the _____ and will remain so as long as the world lasts. This _____ Christ’s outreach to the _____, in which Jesus will “gather into one the dispersed children of God” (John 11:52).



5. The exclusive relationship _____ was establishing with _____ would eventually lead to the realization that there was only _____ God. This is the beginning of _____, the religious truth that is the _____ of many of the world's great religions today.
6. God's _____ with Abraham is not so much a _____ to enforce loyalty as it is an ever-deepening _____ of _____ and _____. This _____, however, is not just for the good of Abraham and his and Sarah's descendants, but also for all _____.

Article 10: The Covenants with Moses and David

1. To better understand the biblical writing about the _____ that God established with his _____, it is helpful to look at the _____ and _____ that people in the ancient Near East created with one another.
2. There were two types of treaties:
- _____ treaties were established between two parties of _____ status.
 - _____ treaties were established between _____ parties in which the _____ power _____ a _____ party to cooperate.
3. The treaties tended to have many of the following elements in their format:
- *The* _____ names the powerful king and offers his titles.
 - *The* _____ identifies the kind acts of the great king and provides the reasoning for the vassal nation to obey.
 - *The* _____ list the specific duties the vassal nation must perform.
 - *The* _____ explains where the treaty can be found, as well as when public readings will occur.
 - *The* _____ often consists of the gods of the two countries.
 - *The* _____ name the penalties if the treaty is not honored and the promises assured if the treaty is honored.
4. The _____ teaches us that Yahweh is clearly the true King of Israel. Like a _____ treaty, the Sinai Covenant is conditional, but the benefits of this _____ are unique! God describes the _____ as his "treasured possession" (Exodus 19:5). They are a _____ set aside for himself. God's great love for his people is expressed through the _____.
5. Sometimes the perception of God's portrayal in the _____ is slanted toward an image of an _____ and _____ deity, but this is an incomplete picture. When he reestablishes the _____ with the _____ through Moses, the Lord characterizes himself as a _____ and _____ God.
6. The Hebrew word _____ best characterizes God's role in the covenantal relationship. God's *hesed* is an _____ and _____ love that is always _____, no matter what the circumstances are.



7. God's love is expressed in the _____. The Law encouraged the _____ to avoid _____, and in doing so, prepared them to receive the one _____ and true _____, Jesus Christ.
8. The _____ was a conditional agreement. There were _____ that both God and the _____ had to obey, and if they did not, there were _____. Unlike that covenant, God's _____ with _____ is _____ and unconditional. God makes a promise and there is _____ David has to agree to do.
9. Even though this is an _____ promise, King David is still bound by _____ and there are still _____ for the sinful actions of David and his descendants. But with the _____, God chooses to emphasize the _____ and _____ nature of the covenant—the _____ on earth will take the most righteous and obedient of David's descendants—_____.

Chapter 3: Pointing toward Christ's Sacrifice

Article 11: The Past: A Glimpse into the Future

1. The Old Testament _____ what will be _____ in the New Testament: the _____. The Paschal Mystery refers to the work of _____ accomplished by Jesus Christ through his _____, _____, _____, and _____.
2. Events in the Old Testament often offer us previews of the events that occur in the _____. One of the first prefigurings of the Paschal Mystery is the account of the _____ of _____. As part of God's _____ with Abraham, God promises Abraham many _____.
3. Time passes, and Abraham and Sarah are getting quite old and are still _____. Finally, the miraculous happens. Sarah, who is well past her child-bearing years, give birth to a beloved _____, _____. God is _____ in keeping his _____!
4. Years pass, and everything seems good. Then, unexpectedly, another test is required. God asks _____ to do something that does not make sense: offer up his _____ as a _____ to the Lord.
5. God had assured _____ that he would have many _____, and _____ is his only _____. In order to follow _____, Abraham is prepared to lose what _____ has _____ him. He trusts God enough to give up the son he loves.
6. The account of _____ preparing to _____ Isaac is a signpost that points toward the _____ of Jesus Christ. It is easy to see how the _____ of _____ offers a _____ of the events of the _____ when Jesus Christ, the beloved Son of the Father, _____ his own sacrificial death.

Article 12: The Lamb of God

1. Most years, as Christians are celebrating the _____ of Jesus Christ in their _____, Jewish people around the world are celebrating _____. Passover celebrates the _____ of the Chosen People from bondage in _____, paving the way for the _____ from Egypt to the _____ Land.



2. In the Jewish _____ celebration, we can find the roots of our own _____. Many of the _____, _____, and _____ of this ancient Jewish ritual are the roots of the _____.
3. In the _____ Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke—Jesus celebrates a meal called the _____ just before his death. The _____ takes place during a _____ meal with his Apostles. During this meal, Jesus establishes a new _____ by offering his own _____ and _____ in the Eucharist.
4. In the Gospel of _____, the Last Supper occurs *before* the _____ celebrations. Jesus is sentenced to death at the same time the _____ are being _____, making an even more powerful connection between Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and the sacrifice of the _____.
5. Since the first sin of _____ and _____, humanity has been enslaved by _____ and _____. Through their disobedience, sin _____ us and _____ us from God and _____. Now Jesus' obedient _____ unites _____ and humanity and frees us from the slavery of sin.
6. We call this tendency toward sin _____. As a result of _____, all humanity is afflicted with this _____, even after our _____. Knowing and believing that we are united in the _____ and _____ of Jesus Christ, we are freed from the slavery of sin.
7. During the _____, the _____ and _____ that was used in the original Passover now become the true _____ and _____ of Christ. When we consume the _____, we are accepting _____ into our bodies and into our lives. The _____ strengthens us against _____, against the slavery of _____.

Article 13: Carrying the Sins of Others

1. _____ Sin and our _____ sin have damaged our _____ with God. When we recognize our part in causing this _____, it is natural to feel _____ and _____. The Good News is that Jesus Christ's _____ offers us the _____ and _____ needed to _____ our relationship. He has carried the burden of _____ for all of humanity.
2. Guilt is not a bad thing, but it doesn't feel good. Still, it is an _____ element of the human experience—it is our _____ way of telling us that we have done something wrong.
3. The _____ of _____ and _____ offers us the opportunity to admit our _____ and receive God's _____. Long before Catholics ever went to _____, the Israelites had a yearly ritual in which the community was able to purge their guilt, called _____, or the _____ of _____. _____ refers to reparation or payment for _____ or _____, and _____ with God.
4. On Yom Kippur, the _____ would lay both hands on the head of a _____ and confess all of the sins and trespasses of the Israelites. In this holy ritual, the community _____ and takes _____ for their sins.
5. The Jewish holy day of Yom Kippur _____ the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Like the _____ who carried the sins of the _____ so they could be _____, the Son of God bore the burden of our sins so that _____ could find the _____ of eternal _____.



Article 14: Love Requires Sacrifice

1. Love requires _____, so much so that we can confidently say that there is no love without _____. Love, also called “_____,” is the _____ by which we love God above all things. Out of that love of God, we also love our _____ as _____.
2. The instructions for the different types of ritual sacrifices the Israelites made at the Temple are detailed in the Book of _____. There are directions for both _____ and _____ sacrifices, as well as for different types of situations such as _____ sacrifices and _____.
3. Most important, _____ were signs of _____ and _____ to God. This love requires that we give the _____ that _____, as illustrated by Abel’s sacrifice. What the actual gift is will depend on the _____. Love is not a _____. It is offering *your* _____ to God and others.
4. Just as the _____ offered in the _____ were made as signs of _____ and _____ to God, Christ’s _____ on the _____ was a sign of God’s _____ and _____ to us. The Temple sacrifices _____ the ultimate _____ of Jesus Christ.
5. [Jesus] is the “_____” who lived as God had originally intended for all of _____ to live. His complete obedience to the Father modeled for us _____ to following _____.
6. Jesus’ _____ is a sign of his _____ as the Son of God, _____ that is expressed through his obedience to the Father.

Article 15: The Prophets: Hints of the Coming Messiah

1. In the Old Testament, the _____ were often mistreated and sometimes even _____ for doing the right thing. Their _____ and _____ pointed toward the coming Messiah, _____, who suffered a similar fate.
2. The Old Testament _____ call to be _____ to God and act _____ hints at what God had planned for the _____ of _____. Jesus fit very comfortably into the tradition of the Jewish _____, but there was one major difference. The prophets were _____ of God’s _____, and Jesus *was* _____—in the flesh.
3. Some prophets performed outrageous _____ to get people’s attention so that they might hear God’s _____. In his _____ role, Jesus also carried out a few tactics aimed at _____ the people to their _____.
4. [Jesus] condemned _____ religious leaders and declared that _____ and _____ would enter Heaven before them. In perhaps his most powerful _____, Jesus flipped over the tables of the money-changers and drove them out of the _____ to reclaim it as God’s.
5. God’s _____ were threatening because they _____ the _____, and the _____ meant that people had to let go of their _____ way of life. Calling for _____ angered people because _____ can be difficult and painful. Instead of changing, they chose to _____ the ones calling for change. The same was true for _____.



6. Jesus preached a _____ that valued _____ and _____ over ritual purity. Jesus often criticized the leaders for their _____ and treatment of the _____ and _____. Ultimately, Jesus was accused of _____ by the _____, the Jewish supreme council, and sentenced to _____.
7. The message of the prophets was not only about _____ and _____. Many also proclaimed _____ for the _____. They told of a coming messiah, a Hebrew word meaning “_____.” This _____ hope was their belief that a _____, sent by God, would come to protect and unite Israel, and lead the nation to freedom.

The scriptural quotations on this reading guide are taken from the *New American Bible, revised edition* © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. All Rights Reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the copyright owner.

The excerpts on this reading guide marked CCC are from the English translation of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* for use in the United States of America, second edition. Copyright © 1994 by the United States Catholic Conference, Inc.—Libreria Editrice Vaticana (LEV). English translation of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church: Modifications from the Editio Typica* copyright © 1997 by the United States Catholic Conference, Inc.—LEV.

