

Activity Booklet



BREAK THROUGH!

**THE BIBLE FOR
YOUNG CATHOLICS**



saint mary's press

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Introduction

Breakthrough! The Bible for Young Catholics is filled with features to help introduce your middle school youth to the riches of Scripture. A key feature is the eighty full-color art pieces interspersed throughout *Breakthrough!* Created by Odessa Sawyer, a respected artist for young-adult fiction, these art pieces focus on key events and people in Scripture. Forty of the pieces focus on key Old and New Testament events, and the other forty focus on key Old and New Testament people. Those depicting people are accompanied by imaginative conversations unpacking the roles these people played in God's plan of salvation.

This activity booklet contains activity pages for forty-seven of these art pieces to help your young people explore the big picture of salvation history. You have permission to duplicate these activity pages for use with young people in your parish or school. We have provided three different types of activity pages to help you meet the needs of the diverse learners in your classrooms and groups. Here are descriptions and suggested uses for the three types of pages.

Journal Activity Pages

The journal pages provide an opportunity for the young people to explore the meaning of the art and stories using their own words and images. Each journal page has three prompts.

1. The first prompt is to reflect on the art piece and the feeling or attitude the artist was trying to convey.
2. The second prompt is to reflect on the meaning of the biblical event or the biblical person's life after reading the indicated Scripture passage.
3. The third prompt, at the bottom of the page, is to make a connection between their life and the biblical person or event.

When young people are part of the meaning-making process, their ability to understand and own the Bible's stories is enhanced. Use these pages to have your middle schoolers journal about the meaning of a biblical person or event before you discuss the meaning together. You will find that the young people will bring much more to the conversation.

Puzzle Activity Pages

The puzzle pages are knowledge focused. They provide a variety of paper-and-pencil activities—crosswords, math problems, activity sequencing, word challenges—that your middle schoolers can use to master key facts. In order to solve the puzzles, your young people will need *Breakthrough! The Bible for Young Catholics* to look up the Scripture verses listed on each puzzle. This will help them to not only learn about the person or event but also to practice the important skill of locating Bible books and passages.

You can also use the puzzles as an assessment after your study of the person or event. Just have your middle schoolers attempt to complete the puzzle without using the Bible to look up the answers. The answers to all the puzzle activities are located at the back of this booklet.

Interactive Activity Pages

The interactive pages are meant to be fun and engage the young people's creativity. These pages require cutting and coloring, and the resulting objects are for use in displays, games, challenges, and spontaneous reenactments. You can use these pages in many ways to create a learning experience that fits your group and meeting space. Be sure to help your middle schoolers understand the connection between the experience you create and the particular biblical person or event.

Here are a few tips for using the interactive pages:

- These pages work best if they are copied on to heavy stock, 11-by-17-inch paper. You may want to purchase a ream of this paper from an office supply store to use throughout the year.
- Some of these pages have complex instructions. Try out the activity yourself before the session so you can assist any young people who might be struggling.
- Consider using a wall, shelf, or piece of string to display a sample of each interactive activity as your young people complete them. As you add to this display throughout the year, you will be creating a symbolic "time line" of the people and events you have studied.

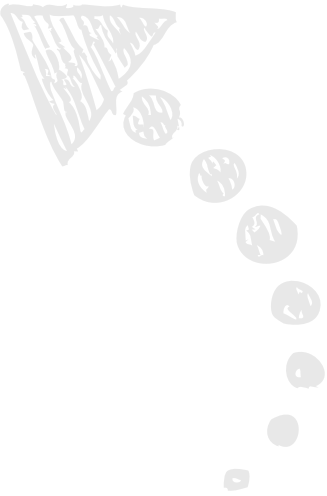
Creating a Lesson

You can easily use these activity pages as a supplement to an existing curriculum or program. When your program references one of these biblical persons or events, use one or more of the activity pages to help your middle schoolers understand the person or event more deeply.

You can also use the three types of activity pages to create your own lessons, providing an in-depth study of each biblical person and event. A 90-minute lesson might look something like this:

1. Start with *Breakthrough!* and the puzzle activity page. Have the young people complete the puzzle by looking up the indicated Bible passages, either independently or in pairs. After 15 or 20 minutes, go over the answers together, reviewing the facts they discovered about the person or event.
2. Next use *Breakthrough!* and the journal activity page to have the young people explore the significance of these facts. Start by having them look at the art on the *Breakthrough!* page (page number identified on the journal page) and ask them what they notice. Then read together the Scripture passage identified on the journal page. Also read the biblical person's interview, if there is one. Then have the young people journal on the first two journaling prompts using words or images. When they are finished, have them share their journal responses in an appropriate way. Build on their responses to summarize the significance of that person or event in God's plan of salvation.
3. Then use the interactive activity page to further explore the significance of the person or event. Offer assistance as needed. When finished, have the young people share their work. Discuss with them how the interactive activity connects to the biblical person or event and also to their own lives.
4. Last, have the young people return to the journal activity page and respond to the "Go Deeper" question at the bottom of the page. They can use the back of the journal page for this. If you are in an academic setting, this could be used as an assessment and the young people could hand in their journal pages for your review.

As an alternative to this process, you could begin with step 2 and have the young people complete the puzzle activity page at the end of the lesson as another type of assessment.



Old Testament



The Beauty of Creation

**GOD CREATES THE
WORLD IN SIX DAYS
AND RESTS FOR ONE!**

**READ THE STORY
OF CREATION IN
GENESIS, CHAPTER 1.**

Having dominion means we are called to care for
the earth and all its creatures.

What are the emotions on the faces of
Adam and Eve, and why did the artist
portray them that way?



**LOOK AT THE ART
ON PAGE 19.**

Good is a word used repeatedly in the
Creation story. What message do you believe
God is sending us by repeating that word?
What do you see as “good” about our world?

GO DEEPER: Write or draw about a time you experienced wanting to find a good friend or companion.

THE BEAUTY OF CREATION

Look at the salvation history time line in the front of *Breakthrough!* It gives a big-picture view of salvation history. In the spaces below, create your own big picture of salvation history by drawing an event that occurred during each time period. Write a brief caption for each drawing.

PRIMEVAL HISTORY CREATION–2000 BC	PATRIARCHS 2000 BC–1700 BC
EGYPT AND THE EXODUS 1700 BC–1250 BC	SETTLING THE PROMISED LAND 1250 BC–1050 BC
KINGDOMS OF JUDAH AND ISRAEL 1050 BC–587 BC	EXILE AND RETURN 587 BC–AD 1
LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST AD 1–AD 33	EARLY CHRISTIAN CHURCH AD 33–AD 100



New Testament



Jesus Resists Temptation

**CHALLENGED FOR FORTY
DAYS AND NIGHTS, JESUS
LEAVES VICTORIOUS!**

Based on the art, what is the devil
trying to tempt Jesus to do?

**READ ABOUT THE
TEMPTATION OF JESUS
IN MATTHEW 4:1-11.**



**LOOK AT THE ART
ON PAGE 1561.**

In this passage, Jesus says, "One does
not live by bread alone" (verse 4).
What do you think this means?

GO DEEPER: Write or draw about a time you experienced being tempted to do something wrong.

JESUS RESISTS TEMPTATION

Read the Bible passages indicated below. These passages are about Jesus' Baptism, his temptations, and his teachings on avoiding temptation. Rearrange the groupings of letters to create a sentence that reveals a fact about Jesus' temptations.

Mark 1:9–11

PL	GOD	H H	WIT	EAS	WAS	IS
HE	SA	SON,	JE	ID	SUS	ED

Matthew 4:1–11

GOD'	RDS	TO L	EED	WE N	I V E	S WO
------	-----	------	-----	------	-------	------

Mark 8:31–33

PECT	PETE	D EX	R DI	DERS	T GO	T UN
WHA	TAND	SUS	ED O	F JE	D NO	

Mark 9:42–47

T LE	WE S	S IN	ID T	HAT	THER	AD O
IN	JESU	HOUL	S SA	D NO	TO S	

Mark 10:35–45

EOPL	RE P	RULY	AT A	GRE	O SE	RE T
E WH	LE W	HO A	OTHE	RS	RVE	PEOP

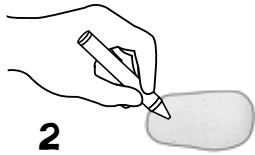
JESUS RESISTS TEMPTATION

1



Cut out all the shapes.

2



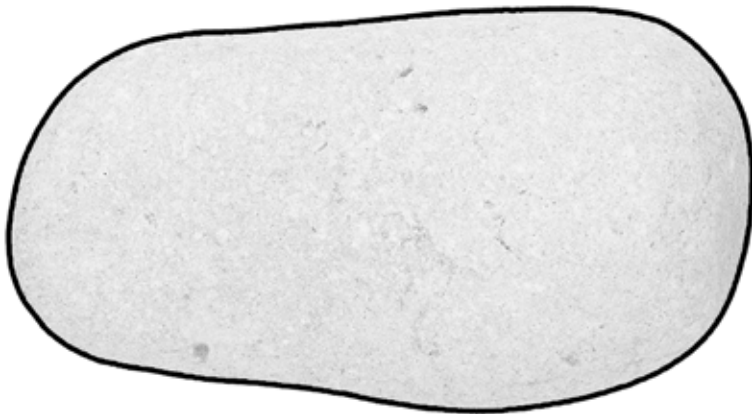
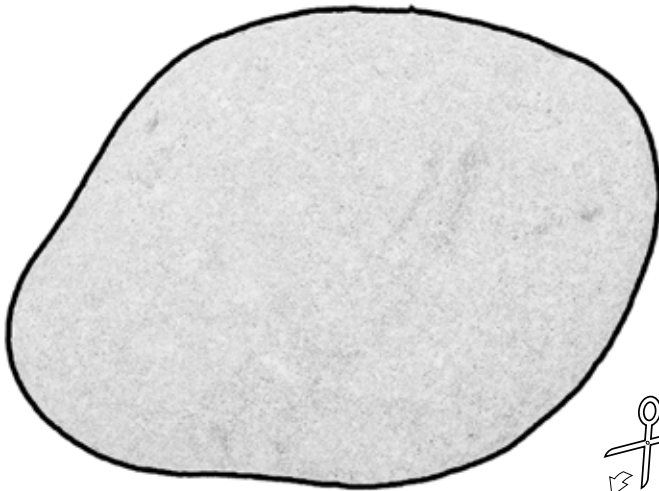
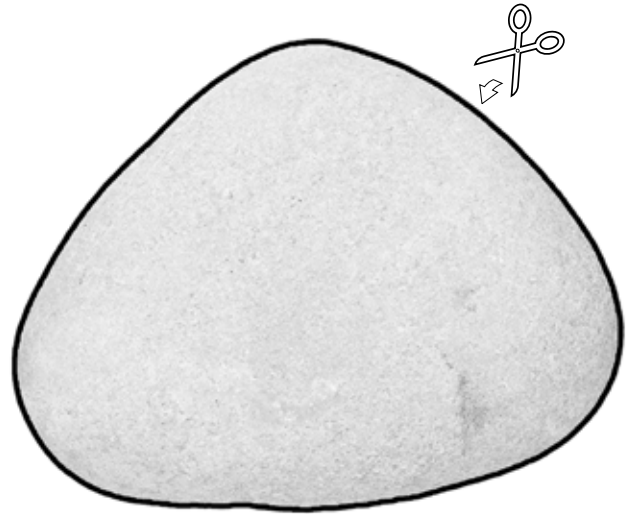
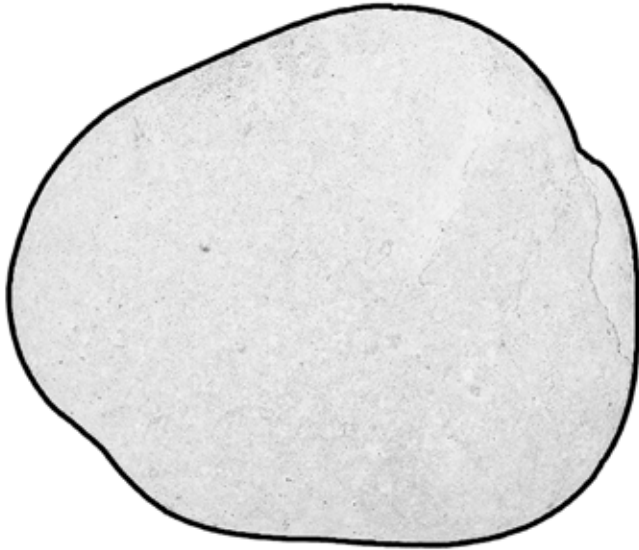
Consider the things that tempt you the most. Use crayons or markers to doodle on each stone an image that reminds you of these temptations.

3



Think and pray about your feelings surrounding these temptations. How will you resist them? Continue doodling about how you might resist.

CUT HERE



JESUS WAS TEMPTED IN THE DESERT. HE WAS HUNGRY, AND THE DEVIL TOLD HIM TO USE HIS POWER TO TURN STONES INTO BREAD. HE RESISTED. HOW WILL YOU RESIST TEMPTATION?