

Lesson Plan for Lesson 7

The Promise of a Messiah

Preparation and Supplies

- Study chapter 7, “The Promise of a Messiah,” in the handbook.
- Gather newsprint and markers for each group of three or four.
- Create on the classroom whiteboard or on newsprint two different sets of group rules: a set of rules to follow at your meetings as a group and a set of very different rules, rules that might lead to confusion and chaos.

Pray It! (5 minutes)

Tell the participants that class will begin with a portion of a hymn that is sung during the Easter Vigil, called the Exsultet, and that it illustrates how God’s goodness can even come out of evil. **Ask** a volunteer to read the prayer in the Pray It! “O Happy Fault!” on page 81 in the handbook. After the prayer is read, say the following:

Leader: Thank you, God, for your love and forgiveness. Please make some good come even from our sins. We ask this in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Study It! (35 to 45 minutes, depending on your class length)

A. God’s Promise to Adam and Eve

1. **Invite** volunteers to share some examples of unfaithfulness that have played out publicly in the news and the consequences suffered as a result of the unfaithfulness. **Be prepared** with some examples of your own. **Lead** a brief discussion on the topic.
2. **Direct** the participants to read the chapter introduction and the section “God’s Promise to Adam and Eve,” on pages 73–75 in the handbook. The content covers point 1 on the handout “Lesson 7 Summary” (Document #: TX003372).
3. **(Optional) Ask** the participants to reflect on a time when they were hurt by someone’s unfaithful behavior. Pose the following questions:
 - How did you respond?
 - Were you able to remain faithful and loving in your response to that person’s unfaithfulness?



B. The Old Testament Covenants

1. **Invite** the participants to write a list of things they do as a sign of their commitment to and relationship with God. **Ask** them to also list the things they count on God to provide in their relationship. **Invite** volunteers to share what they have written.
2. **Direct** the participants to read the section “The Old Testament Covenants,” on pages 75–80 in the handbook. The content covers points 2 through 8 on the handout “Lesson 7 Summary.”
3. **(Optional) Invite** questions and observations on the content. You might also invite the participants to write a covenant with God specifically naming several actions or attitudes that they listed at the beginning of this section.

C. Prophecies of a Messiah

Direct the participants to read the section “Prophecies of a Messiah,” on pages 80–82 in the handbook. The content covers point 9 on the handout “Lesson 7 Summary.”

Note: If you are running short on time, you may wish to just briefly summarize this section of the handbook.

Live It! (15 to 20 minutes)

1. **Direct** the young people to form groups of three or four. **Provide** each group with two sheets of newsprint and a few markers. **Point out** to the groups the two lists of rules you wrote on the whiteboard or on newsprint—one set that illustrates the rules that govern your meetings as a group and the other a very different set of rules. **Tell** the participants that they are going to creatively describe, through words or artwork, a classroom scene for each list of rules.

Present the following directions to the groups:

- On your sheets of newsprint, describe or illustrate the classroom scene for each list of rules.
- Include and illustrate both the positive and the negative results of each set of rules.

2. **Invite** the groups to share their work with the large group. You may choose to have the groups post their work around the room for everyone to see.

Ask the participants the following questions:

- How does this learning activity illustrate salvation history?
- How are the scenes in your drawings similar to the trouble the Israelites got themselves into when they didn’t trust in God, versus their success when they were faithful to God and “the rules”?

3. **Share** the following comments in your own words:

- The covenants that God makes with Israel communicate the love God has for humanity and his desire to restore our communion with him, and point us to the Paschal Mystery—the redemption of all humanity through Christ’s Passion, death, Resurrection, and Ascension.
- In the covenant with Moses, God gives Moses a set of laws, summarized in the Ten Commandments, which the Israelites must follow as an important sign of faithfulness to the covenant.



- This Law, also called the Mosaic Law or the Old Law, has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ, who is the New Law. Through these laws, God teaches his Chosen People how to be in right relationship with him and with one another. The Old Law is a step in God's plan for restoring our original holiness and justice.

Optional Activity: Use the handout "Covenant" (Document #: TX003373) to have the young people research the various covenants in Scripture.

Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

Following any announcements, **direct** the young people to find the "Act of Hope," on page 448 in the handbook. **Pray** It! together, and close with the Sign of the Cross.

