

God's Plan of Salvation

Lesson Focus | The story of how God prepared mankind for the coming of Jesus and how Jesus redeemed man and restored friendship with God is called salvation history. Unlike history books, which are written from a human perspective by human authors, salvation history is told by the Bible. It is history from God's perspective, and its primary author is the Holy Spirit. Major early figures in salvation history are Abraham, his son Isaac, his grandson Jacob/Israel, and his great-grandson Joseph.

1 | begin

- Pray the Glory Be with your child.
- Begin the lesson with both the Bible and your child's history textbook on the table. Ask what the books have in common. Then ask how they are different.
- Read Genesis 15 aloud.

2 | summarize

Summarize this week's lesson for your child:

Example: *The Bible is in many ways like a history book. It tells us the story of God's plan of salvation. Abraham is one of the key figures in that plan. Unlike your history book, however, it tells us history from God's perspective.*

3 | review

Review this week's lesson by asking your child the following questions:

1. Define salvation history. (*The events in history that tell the story of man's salvation.*)
2. What do we call the kind of agreement made between God and Israel? (*A covenant.*)
3. What is a patriarch, and who are the patriarchs in salvation history? (*A title given to the founding fathers of the Jewish people; Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph.*)
4. What is a prefigurement? (*A person, place, or thing that comes before another person, place, or thing, is similar to what it comes before, and foretells it.*)
5. What did God promise Abraham? (*Many descendants who would become a great nation and live in the Promised Land.*)
6. How did Isaac prefigure Jesus? (*Abraham's near sacrifice of his beloved only son prefigured God the Father's sacrifice of Jesus, his only-begotten Son.*)

References

- Student Textbook: Chapter 4, pp. 31–34
- Sacred Scripture: Gen 12–22; 24–33; 35–37; 39–49
- *Catechism of the Catholic Church*: 51–67, 128–30, 144–46, 705–6, 2573



4 | apply

Help your child apply this week's lesson by asking the following questions:

1. What is your favorite story about the patriarchs? Why?
2. Can you relate to any of the experiences of the patriarchs? Which ones? Why?
3. How can knowing salvation history help you love God and others better?

5 | conclude

- With your child, pray the Our Father.

6 | follow up

During the week, do at least one of the following activities with your child:

1. Memorize Hebrews 12:1.
2. Have your child dramatize or illustrate one of his favorite scenes from Genesis.
3. Ask your child to write out four prayer petitions, one for each of the four patriarchs and each related to that patriarch's story (e.g., a petition asking Abraham for faith, Jacob for endurance, Joseph for trust). Include those petitions in family prayers this week.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.
—Hebrews 12:1

notes
