

Sixth Grade: Lesson 10

The Biblical Roots of the Sacraments

Lesson Objective:

This lesson helps the youth see the historical continuity between the Jewish rituals of the Old Testament and the sacramental life of the Catholic Church. Jesus in His Person and in His actions fulfills the Old Covenant rituals and practices. Helping youth see these connections gives them an appreciation for the way in which God has slowly revealed His plan for humanity and gives deeper meaning to the celebration of the sacraments today.

Learning Outcomes: Students will ...

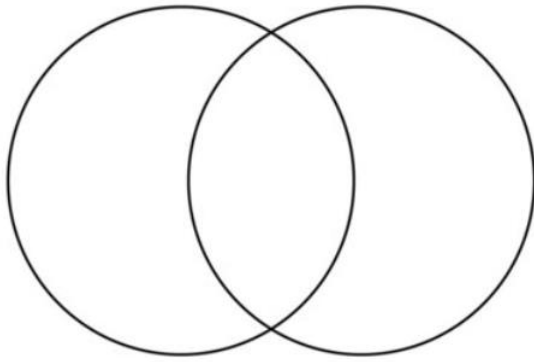
- Understand the importance of regular participation in the Sacraments and reflect upon how Christ is encountered in each Sacrament (CCC 1084-1090, 1440-1442, 1447,1458).
- Give some examples of Old Testament events that prefigure the sacraments (CCC 1217-1222, 1333-1334, 1544).
- Describe some sacramental actions of the Church that originated in Jewish rituals (Exodus 12:1-27, CCC 1150).
- Explain how the covenant between God and each person is nourished by the Sacraments and is present in the sacraments of the Church (CCC 1212, 1217, 1334, 1539-1540, 1611-1612).

Materials Needed:

- Prayer space items, Bible, pencils, colored pencils or crayons
- Copies needed: Catholic rituals rooted in our Jewish Faith, Jewish roots of the Sacraments, Sacred scripture and the Sacraments, The Jewish roots of the Eucharist

As Students Enter Class:

- Pose the follow question: How is the Catholic Faith and the Jewish Faith Similar? Different?
- If you would like, you can draw a Venn Diagram on the board and invites students to fill in their ideas. What is the same goes in the middle; differences on the outside circles.



Beginning of Class:

- Consider praying a different type of prayer, such as the Amina Christi; the link below has a printable copy.
- [Amina-Christi Prayer](#)
- Take time to review the opening question.

Lesson Order	Implementation Ideas
<p>Lesson 10 Video</p>	<p>This video is 1:24 in length.</p> <p>Highlights: Did you try praying the Divine Office this week? Prayer connects you with God and one another. We are also connected through the Sacraments. We have discussed in previous lessons the covenants in the OT and how they build up to Jesus, our everlasting Covenant of the NT. God revealed his plan for humanity, slowly, over the course of salvation history.</p> <p>When we receive the Sacraments, God nourishes us and we become even more connected with Jesus. Growing in knowledge of the OT covenants and their rituals, gives us a fuller appreciation for the way God loves us.</p> <p>The covenants and rituals of the Jewish people set the stage for their fulfillment in Christ in the Seven Sacraments. Today we will also connect our Jewish roots to the Mass, which is our highest form of prayer.</p>
<p>Covenants and the Sacraments Video</p> <p>Please note, there is a lot of heady material in all the videos. I have tried to highlight the main points that our sixth graders need to understand.</p> <p>Keep this in mind that the main ideas of the videos in this lesson are to explain how the worship and actions of the people in the Old Testament compare to the worship and actions we are called</p>	<p>This video is 4:48 and is narrated by a priest. You can stop this video at 4:42 if you wish.</p> <p>The word Covenant comes from Latin, and it means to come together. This is an essential element of our salvation history.</p> <p>The OT references many renewals of covenants and ultimately, we participate in the Mass of the new covenant, the blood of Jesus Christ.</p> <p>This is an irrevocable family bond that we participate in with God. This is not a God who is distant; but one who draws us close.</p> <p>Covenants are ratified by an oath, not a promise. We call up God's power when we say, so help me God. We are incapable of fulfilling our end without God. So, as we are</p>

<p>to follow through Christ in the New Testament. We don't ignore the old; it's still present in our new covenant with Christ.</p> <p>The OT covenants are important because they help us understand the path God chose to roll out for Salvation History. Slow and steady, God moves His people through the desert (both literally and figuratively) and leads us all to HIM through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.</p>	<p>called to enter into a relationship with God, we are to give ourselves to God and he freely gives Himself back to us. God is calling us to grow in this covenant. He is constantly moving throughout the OT to grow and develop this covenant, from the time of Adam to Jesus Christ.</p> <p>We can see that in all of the actions of God in every single covenant, he binds Himself, not for His good, but for our good. He doesn't force Himself upon us; He invites us to join Him.</p>
<p>Biblical Roots of the Mass</p>	<p>This video is 6:38 in length. It is from Ascension Press and explains today's lesson objectives very well. Since there is a great deal of information here, I have tried my best to highlight the points that students need to take away from today's lesson. I suggest you show the entire video and use the notes below as you discuss the content with your students.</p> <p>Highlights:</p> <p>Old Covenant worship of God included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worship • Temple • Liturgy <p>They early Jews believed they were imitating the worship being done in Heaven.</p> <p>From the old covenant to the new covenant we have in Jesus, we move from imitation to participation.</p> <p><u>Imitation to Participation:</u> This is very important for all of us to understand and see how God moves His people throughout salvation history to grow closer to Him.</p>

In Christ, Heaven and Earth are reconciled. Therefore, the new covenant workshop (which is what we are experiencing now), is SHARING in the heavenly liturgy, here on Earth.

In the book of Hebrews in the Bible, we see what the new covenant is all about. It is giving away of the old, and the ushering in of the new, which is the temple of Christ' risen body.

In Matthew 12:6, Christ said: *"I say to you, something greater than the temple is here."* Because of Christ, now, anybody, anywhere can go before the Lord in the blessed sacrament.

Compared to the Old Testament, where there was a veil that served as a cut-off, so to speak. No one could go past the veil, except once a year, the high priest could on Yom Kippur, the day of atonement.

Hebrews 10:20 says: *"By the new and living way He opened for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh."*

Jesus is the new veil, which is his body and blood, that allows us to enter Heaven itself on Earth, through the sacrament of Holy Communion. Again, we move from imitating, to fully participating.

(Many of us take this for granted, or we simply do not fully understand the grace that is given to us by God, through Jesus.)

Another comparison of the old covenant to the new covenant:

Ancient Jews had sacrifices followed by a communal meal. This gives rise to a Messianic banquet. The themes that arise from this hope and expectation, is that the messianic

	<p>banquet would be accompanied by an abundance of wine. It would overcome sin and death and would gather all peoples.</p> <p>Do you see that Jesus is fulfilling this ancient hope of not just Israel, but all of humanity. In the Eucharist, we have Jesus, risen and glorified. We participate in the communal banquet, just like the ancient Jews, every time we go to Mass and receive Holy Communion.</p>
Reflection and Introduction to the Activities	<p>This video is .39 in length.</p> <p>Carla explains the order and purpose of the activities. It is worth watching for yourself and/or showing it to your students since it explains how to use the handouts to help with the activities.</p>
Sacred Scripture Reflection	<p>After reviewing the two handouts, students move to this activity. They will need their Bibles to complete the activity.</p> <p>You could assign two students to work together, each completing one or two of the sacrament reflections and then sharing with the class what they learned.</p> <p>Or have two students work together and complete all the sacrament reflections. Come back together as a group to share what they learned.</p>
Scripture Study: The Jewish Roots of the Eucharist	<p>Time permitting, you can do this activity as well. If you don't have enough time for students to draw and write, it could be done orally as a class discussion.</p>
Closing Prayer	<p>Your choice 😊 Traditional Catholic prayer, prayer of thanksgiving, etc...</p>