Tracing Our Roots

GRADE 8

CHAPTER 2 Study Guide

Keep these ideas in mind as you study ***Chapter 2****.*

Salvation history is the story of God's loving relationship with his people. It is the story of God's redeeming love and the response of others to that love throughout history. It is also the story of your response to God's love.

Page **13**

Abraham, our father in faith, was the person with whom God made a special promise known as a *covenant.* Through Abraham, God called the Jewish people to be his own. God showed his care for these people by revealing to them the divine name, *Yahweh.*

Page **14**

Sacred Tradition is the lived faith of the Church. It consists of beliefs that have been passed down by word, custom, and example. *Tradition* in this sense is written with a capital *T* to distinguish it from ordinary tradition.

Page **15**

The story of our spiritual heritage is found in the Bible, our sacred writings. Scripture is the written record of God's love for us. It has two main parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament.

Page **15**

Both Christians and the Jewish people revere the Old Testament as God's inspired word to us. The Old Testament describes God's relationship with the Jewish people before Jesus came.

Page **15**

The New Testament consists of 27 books that reveal to us the life and message of Jesus Christ. They also describe the beginning and growth of his Church.

Page **15**

God freed us from sin and death through the Paschal Mystery—the suffering, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus. Jesus made it possible for us to share in his eternal life and glorify God in all that we do.

Page **15**

When we were in the state of sin, God moved us to a state of grace so that we can be holy and righteous like God. This act of God is called *justification.*

Page **15**

People who have died and are in Purgatory belong to the Church, even though they are not ready to meet God face-to-face. They are being purified from the effects of sin so that they can be wholly united with God.

Page **16**

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