

Story of Salvation

1. God, who is infinitely perfect and happy in himself, freely created man to make him **share his own goodness and love** (CCC 1).
2. Originally, we were united with God (on the vertical level) and experienced harmony within the human family (on the horizontal level). **Humanity was the united family** of God reflecting the unity of God himself (CCC 376).
3. Man and woman sinned, disobeying God and refusing to give themselves in love (CCC 397–398).
4. This **sin broke our relationship with God** and broke the harmony between man and woman (CCC 396).
5. This Original Sin also brought death into the world and wounded our human nature, leaving us with an inclination toward sin, called concupiscence (CCC 400, 404–405).
6. God sent his Son Jesus **Christ to die for our sins**, offering on our behalf the perfect gift of love that restores us to the Father, and to send the Holy Spirit to fill us with his very life (CCC 457–460).
7. Jesus established the universal “Catholic” Church to gather the broken family of man into the united family of God (CCC 830).
8. The **Catholic Church passes on the teachings of Christ** and, through the sacraments, dispenses the graces he won for us on the Cross to enable us to live like Christ on earth and with him forever in Heaven (CCC 774–776, 849).

Class Questions:

1. Dr. Sri talks about the story of salvation and how this story plays a role in each of our lives. What does it mean that “our modern world has lost its story,” and why does that matter?
2. Consistent throughout salvation history are covenants. How does entering into a covenant “define the relationship” between God and his people?
3. In the video we were reminded that we all have an inclination toward sin. As St. Paul says in Romans 7:15, “For I do not do what I want, but I do what I hate.” Recall sometime in the last week when you didn’t do something that you knew you should or did something that you knew you shouldn’t. Ask God to help you make a better choice the next time a similar circumstance arises.

Action Plan:

1. Now is your time to enter the story of salvation. What might you be putting off with regard to your faith? Is God asking you to do something right now? If you have been reluctant or afraid to commit your life to Jesus, spend some time writing about the reasons why. Are you afraid of what your friends or members of your family might say? Pray with the father who asked Jesus to cure his son: “Lord, I believe. Help my disbelief!”
2. List two or three roles that you play in your life, such as parent, worker, or friend. Now consider what would happen if you don’t live those relationships well. Who would suffer? What wouldn’t be accomplished? Say a prayer of gratitude that you have been, in the words of Psalm 139:14, “fearfully and wonderfully made” and ask God for the grace to help you fulfill your responsibilities with the people and missions he has entrusted to you.

Further Reading:

Created in the image of God: CCC 356–358 Before the Fall: CCC 376–379 Original sin: CCC 396–405 The gift of Jesus: CCC 457–460 The Catholic Church: CCC 830–848 Sending of the Holy Spirit: CCC 731–737 The Last Judgment: CCC 1038–1041 OTHER RESOURCES: United States Catholic Catechism for Adults, Chapters 6–10 Catholicism