



Year 6: Spring 1

Branch 3: Galilee to Jerusalem

Notes for teachers from the RED: In the next three branches, pupils will study the Gospel of St John. In this Gospel, St John presents Jesus as the Messiah who reveals his kingdom through seven signs. In the Bible, the number seven indicates perfection. St John emphasises Jesus' divinity through his seven 'I am' statements that are reminders of the revelation of God as 'I am' to Moses in the burning bush (Exodus 3:14). In this branch, pupils will explore the seven signs of John's Gospel and one of Jesus' 'I am' statements. Below is a brief outline of the seven signs or miracles.

1. The Wedding at Cana (John 2:1-12) Jesus turns water into wine. He can transform created elements - links with the Eucharist.
2. Healing of the official's son (John 4:46-54) Jesus heals with a word, his words have power, he is the Word of God. Links with the prologue John 1:1-2.
3. Healing the man at Bethesda (John 5:1-15) Jesus heals on the Sabbath; he is Lord of the Sabbath. However, the man does not recognise that Jesus has healed him and goes to speak to the authorities. Links with spiritual blindness and seeing Jesus as the Messiah.
4. Feeding of the Five Thousand (John 6:5-14) Jesus feeds the people as the Israelites were fed by manna in the desert. Links with the Eucharist.
5. Jesus walks on water (John 6:16-24) Jesus is the new Moses; as Moses led the people across the Red Sea, Jesus leads the way to the Kingdom of God.
6. Healing of the man born blind (John 9:1-7) Links with healing the man at Bethesda. In this miracle, the man recognises Jesus, and he sees physically and spiritually experiencing conversion and healing.
7. The raising of Lazarus (John 11:1-45) Jesus is the way to eternal life. Martha, his sister, experiences conversion, recognising Jesus as 'the Christ, the Son of God', and then Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead. This miracle that prompts the authorities to act against Jesus and the events of Holy Week follow.

Unlike the other Gospels, St John's Gospel only tells of these seven miraculous signs. Each one points to a greater truth about Jesus' divine nature. In the seven 'I am' statements Jesus explains his identity in beautiful poetic terms. It is suggested pupils explore either the 'I am the bread of life' (John 6:35) statement which follows the feeding of the five thousand, or the 'I am the Resurrection' statement, which is part of the story of Lazarus.

Through the Celebrate lens, pupils will consider the purpose of the seven sacraments. In this branch, they will not explore each sacrament in detail rather explore the purpose of sacraments as part of a life in Christ. By age ten, they will be able to notice sacraments that happen once in a lifetime and mark a particular point of encounter with God and those that form part of a Catholic's ongoing sacramental life. Each of St John's seven signs does not point directly to a sacrament though they do link with the sacramental imagination.

Key vocabulary

Cana, Bethesda, Lazarus, sacraments

CCC links	RED links	Lesson	Learning Objectives & Catholic Social Teaching (CST) Principles	Key scripture, prayers, hymns, etc...	Suggested pupil outcome / linked activities / Greater Depth (GD) questions	Key vocabulary for the lesson
Wedding at Cana CCC 1613, 2618 Miracles as signs of the Kingdom of	Focus 1: Hear 📖					
		Lesson 1	LO: To explore the story of The Wedding at Cana and its deeper spiritual meaning CST Principle: Human Dignity - Mary's intercession shows God values all needs.	John 2:1-12 (The Wedding at Cana)	Retell the story through freeze frames. Write a diary entry from the perspective of the steward. Discuss the symbolic meaning of water into wine. GD question: How does Mary's role in this story reflect her faith and trust in Jesus?	miracle, intercession, dignity, steward, spiritual, sign, faith, trust, transformation, sacrament

<p>God CCC 547-549</p> <p>Scripture CCC 105-108, 115, 136-137, 139, 141</p> <p>Mary 2618</p> <p>Sacraments YC 172-174 CCC 1084, 1129, 1146 - 1152, 1210</p>	Lesson 2	<p>LO: To recognise Jesus' healing of the official's son as a call to faith</p> <p>CST Principle: Solidarity and Peace - Jesus' healing brings unity and hope.</p>	John 4:46-54 (Healing the official's son)	<p>Debate: Was the official's faith the key to the miracle? Create a storyboard showing key moments. Write a letter from the official to his family after the healing.</p> <p>GD question: How does the healing story encourage faith and trust in God today?</p>	healing, faith, peace, solidarity, miracle, official, son, trust, hope, unity	
	Lesson 3	<p>LO: To understand the spiritual meaning of Jesus healing the man at Bethesda</p> <p>CST Principle: Preferential Option for the Poor - Jesus shows care for the marginalised.</p>	John 5:1-9 (Healing at Bethesda)	<p>Draw and annotate an illustration of the pool of Bethesda. Write a newspaper report on the healing. Discuss why Jesus chose this man.</p> <p>GD question: Why do you think Jesus asked, "Do you want to be well?"</p>	Bethesda, healing, marginalization, poor, faith, miracle, option, choice, hope, trust	
	Focus 2: Believe †					
	Lesson 4	<p>LO: To know the sacraments of initiation and understand their significance</p> <p>CST Principle: Community and Participation - Sacraments unite the Church community.</p>	Acts 2:38-41 (Baptism and the early Church)	<p>Create a fact file about the sacraments of initiation. Match symbols (e.g., water, oil, bread) to their sacrament. Role-play a baptism ceremony.</p> <p>GD question: How do the sacraments of initiation prepare us to be part of the Church community?</p>	Baptism, Eucharist, confirmation, initiation, community, faith, symbols, Church, sacrament, participation	
	Lesson 5	<p>LO: To explore the role of deacons, priests and bishops in sacramental celebrations</p> <p>CST Principle: Human Dignity - All vocations are valuable in God's plan.</p>	1 Timothy 3:1-13 (Qualifications for leaders in the Church)	<p>Research and present on the role of a parish priest. Design a poster explaining the roles in sacramental celebrations.</p> <p>GD question: How does a priest's role reflect Jesus' example of service?</p>	priest, bishop, deacon, vocation, service, dignity, sacrament, Eucharist, leader, celebration	
	Lesson 6	<p>LO: To explain how scripture often carries deeper spiritual meaning</p> <p>CST Principle: Solidarity and Peace - Scripture unites us in shared faith and understanding.</p>	<p>John 6:15-21 (Walking on Water)</p> <p>John 9:1-41 (Healing the Blind Man)</p> <p>John 11:1-57 (Raising of Lazarus)</p>	<p>Explore each miracle individually:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walking on Water (John 6:15-21): Discuss what this miracle reveals about Jesus' power over nature and His ability to bring peace to troubled situations. What does it teach us about faith? Healing the Blind Man (John 9:1-41): Discuss the spiritual significance of physical blindness versus spiritual blindness. What does this miracle teach about spiritual insight and seeing the truth of God's plan? Raising of Lazarus (John 11:1-57): Discuss the deeper meaning of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. What does this tell us about Jesus' power over life and death? How does it show God's care and compassion for those in mourning? <p>Group work: Divide the class into groups, each focusing on one of the miracles. Ask each group to present their findings and explain the deeper meaning of their assigned miracle.</p> <p>Create a "miracle chart": Have students create a chart where they list each miracle, explain its literal meaning, and then provide a deeper spiritual interpretation.</p> <p>Reflection: Ask students to write a reflection on how these miracles help us understand Jesus' mission and His relationship with God the Father.</p>	miracle, provision, faith, peace, blindness, insight, resurrection, life, compassion, power	

				GD question: How does each of these miracles reveal something about Jesus' identity and His mission on earth? How can we apply their deeper meanings to our lives today?	
Focus 3: Celebrate 📖🕯️					
	Lesson 7	LO: To consider why the Church teaches that sacraments are 'meeting points with God' CST Principle: Solidarity and Peace - Sacraments strengthen our relationship with God and others.	Matthew 18:20 (For where two or three are gathered in my name)	Discuss why sacraments are described as "visible signs of God's presence". Create artwork showing how sacraments connect us with God. Write a paragraph explaining why sacraments are important to the Church. GD question: Why might someone disagree with the Church's view on sacraments?	sacraments, presence, God, peace, sign, meeting, Church, connection, relationship, unity
	Lesson 8	LO: To understand the symbolic meaning of the miraculous feeding of the 5000 CST Principle: Preferential Option for the Poor - Jesus provides for those in need.	John 6:1-14 (Feeding of the 5000)	Create a comic strip of the miracle. Write a reflection on how this story inspires us to share. Research how the Church helps people in need today. GD question: How does this miracle teach us about God's abundance and care?	miracle, feeding, sharing, poor, abundance, need, compassion, sign, option, provision
Focus 4: Live ❤️					
	Lesson 9	LO: To explain how sacraments are celebrated in the local parish community CST Principle: Community and Participation - Sacraments connect us as a faith community.	1 Corinthians 12:12-27 (The Body of Christ)	Interview a parishioner about their experience of sacraments. Write a diary entry from someone attending a sacrament for the first time. Create a map of parish life centered on sacraments. GD question: Why are some sacraments celebrated more frequently than others?	sacraments, parish, community, faith, celebration, connection, baptism, Eucharist, participation, Church
	Lesson 10	LO: To interpret how the 'I am' statements reveal Jesus' identity CST Principle: Care for Creation - Jesus' teachings guide us to care for the world.	John 6:35 (I am the Bread of Life) or John 11:25 (I am the Resurrection and the Life)	Create a mind map linking an 'I am' statement to Jesus' mission. Write a reflection on what Jesus as "bread of life" means for the world today. GD question: How do the 'I am' statements challenge us to live as Jesus taught?	Jesus, identity, 'I am', mission, bread, life, resurrection, creation, care, guide
	Lesson 11	LO: To recognise how artistic representations of miracles symbolise faith CST Principle: Community and Participation - Art strengthens shared expressions of faith.		Analyze and compare two artworks of a chosen miracle. Create your own artwork inspired by a miracle. Write a critique explaining how an artist captures the miracle's meaning. GD question: How can art help us understand the deeper meaning of scripture?	miracle, symbol, faith, representation, scripture, meaning, community, participation, expression
	Lesson 12	LO: To appreciate that scripture can speak to people differently CST Principle: Human Dignity - Everyone's personal experience of scripture is valid.	John 9:1-12 (Healing of the Blind Man)	Discuss how different people interpret the healing of the blind man. Write a reflection on how scripture speaks to you personally. Create a role-play showing different perspectives on a miracle. GD question: Why do people's experiences of scripture vary, and why is this important?	scripture, experience, interpretation, dignity, personal, healing, meaning, miracle, understanding, faith