

Senses of Scripture Activity Cards:

This activity works best when students work in pairs.

First, **review with students the four senses of Scripture.**

From [Catholics United for the Faith](#):

1. Literal Sense: “[T]he meaning conveyed by the words of Scripture” (Catechism, no. 116), the actual event, person, thing described in the biblical text. The literal sense gives rise to the following three “spiritual senses.”

2. Allegorical Sense: How those things, events, or persons in the literal sense point to Christ and the Paschal Mystery.

3. Moral Sense: How the literal sense points to the Christian life in the Church.

4. Anagogical Sense: How the literal sense points to the Christian’s heavenly destiny and the last things.

(read more at http://www.cuf.org/faithfacts/details_view.asp?ffID=129)

Next, distribute Bibles and worksheets (separate handout) to the students. Each worksheet contains selected verses in Scripture. **Working in pairs, the students should read each selection from Scripture and summarize it.**

When the students have read and summarized all of the verses on the sheet, they may begin analyzing the passages. Have the cards from the table below printed out on cardstock (you may want 3 or 4 sets on different colors of cardstock, to make sorting them easier). **A representative from each pair should come receive a card from you, and then the partners should decide which passage it relates to and which of the four senses of Scripture it refers to.**

When the pair of students has completed a card, one representative should come back to you to show you their finished work and to receive a new card.

Continue until all of the cards have been completed by several pairs of students, then review as a whole class.

Each passage describes something that actually occurred - the Spirit of God moved over the waters.	The description of the original creation of the world foreshadows the new creation we become through the sacrament of baptism.
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<p>Just as creation was "baptized" into existence, so we must be baptized in order to become a new creation in Jesus Christ.</p>	<p>In this baptismal (re)generation, God adopts us as his child, a beloved son or daughter in whom he is well-pleased, and brings us into union with him. From the very beginning, even before God formed man, God always intended created man to be in unity with him, and he accomplishes this unity through baptism.</p>
<p>The temple was the actual building that once stood in Jerusalem. There, the Israelite priests offered sacrifice, the people worshipped, and God dwelt in the Holy of Holies.</p>	<p>The temple points to Jesus, Who said He was the true temple which would be destroyed and raised up in three days (Jn. 2:19-21). Just as the Jerusalem temple was the place of sacrifice for the Jews, so does Jesus' body house the everlasting sacrifice on Calvary for all humanity.</p>
<p>For a Christian, the body is "a temple of the Holy Spirit" (1 Cor. 6:19). Just as the temple contained the awesome presence of God, so do the bodies of Christians hold the presence of the Holy Spirit by virtue of their Baptism.</p>	<p>The Jerusalem temple finds meaning in the heavenly sanctuary, where God will dwell among us in our eternal home, as described in Book of Revelation (e.g., Rev. 21:22).</p>
<p>In this rich scriptural passage, Elijah stands for Christ. He builds the altar upon the foundation of the twelve tribes (apostles). The wood on the altar represents the wood of the Cross; the bull represents the sacrificial offering Christ made of himself. The four jars of water represent the four Gospels, and the water itself represents the washing of baptism. The fire of the Lord is the consuming fire of God's love, which transforms the very substance of the elements offered on the altar until all is taken up in God.</p>	<p>This complete acceptance of the sacrifice, together with the punishment meted out to the prophets of Baal, is a foretaste of the end-times, when Jesus will return to judge each according to his works.</p>

<p>I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea, and all of them were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. All ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they drank from a spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was the Christ.</p> <p>Yet God was not pleased with most of them, for they were struck down in the desert.</p>	<p>These things happened as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil things, as they did. And do not become idolaters, as some of them did, as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel."</p> <p>Let us not indulge in immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell within a single day. Let us not test Christ as some of them did, and suffered death by serpents.</p>
<p>Do not grumble as some of them did, and suffered death by the destroyer.</p> <p>These things happened to them as an example, and they have been written down as a warning to us, upon whom the end of the ages has come.</p>	<p>The outflow of blood and water has a natural explanation. Probably the water was an accumulation of liquid in the lungs due to Jesus' intense sufferings.</p>
<p>"Here was opened wide the door of life, from which the sacraments of the Church have flowed out, without which there is no entering unto life which is true life....O death, by which the dead come back to life! Is there anything purer than this blood, any wound more healing!" - St. Augustine</p>	<p>"Let us be slow to judge. Each one sees things from his own point of view, and with his own mind, with all its limitations, through eyes that are often dimmed and clouded by passion...Of what little worth are the judgments of men! Don't judge without sifting your judgment in prayer." - Blessed Josemaria Escriva</p>
<p>"It was not the ointment that the Lord loved, but the affection; it was the woman's faith that pleased him, her humility. And you also, if you desire grace, increase your love." - St. Ambrose</p>	