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# God Shows His Love and Mercy

## LESSON FOCUS

### Emphasis

God is a living being who has a mind and a will. God thinks and chooses. God chose freely to create out of His goodness. God did not have to create the angels, the world, or people.

Angels are living beings who are made in God's image. They are persons. Angels have minds and wills—they think and choose. Angels should act like God because they are like Him.

We (humans) are living beings who are made in God's image. We are persons. We have minds and wills; we think and choose. We should act like God because we are like Him.

We are like the angels because we are made in God's image. However, we are also different from the angels. We have bodies, and the angels do not. We need food to grow and to sustain our bodies. Angels do not. The angels know more about God than we do.

Animals are living. They have bodies and can move around. They need food to sustain their bodies. We are different from the animals because animals are not persons. Animals have brains, but they do not have minds and wills. They cannot think and choose. Animals are not images of God.

### Correspondence to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

Catechesis on creation: CCC 282–89

Creation: Work of the Holy Trinity: CCC 290–92, 316

Dignity of the human person: CCC 1700–1712

Equality and difference between man and woman in creation: CCC 369–73, 383

Heaven: CCC 1023–29, 1053

Man as body and soul: CCC 362–68, 382

Man in paradise: CCC 374–79, 384

Mystery of creation: CCC 295–301, 317–18, 320

The world as created for the glory of God: CCC 293–94, 319

### Vocabulary

**image:** reflection

**mind:** what we think with

**will:** what we make choices with; what we love with

**person:** someone who has a mind and a will

**human person:** someone who is created in the image of God with a mind, a will, and a body

### Concepts of Faith

**Who are you?**

*I am an image of God.*

**How are we different from the rest of God's creations?**

*We are made in the image of God. We are human persons with minds, wills, and bodies.*

**Why did God make us?**

*God made us to show His goodness, and to allow us to know, love, and serve Him so that we can be happy here on earth and forever in Heaven.*

# LESSON 1: GOD SHARES HIS GOODNESS

Plants are living. We are different from the plants because the plants are not persons. The plants need sun and water to grow, but they do not move around. Plants do not have minds and wills. Plants are not images of God.

We are different from rocks because rocks are not persons. Rocks are not living. They are not images of God.

All the material things that God has created are gifts to us. God created us as individuals. He gave us each special talents. We use these talents to take care of God's creation. We are acting as images of God when we take care of God's gifts: for example, when we take care of the animals, plants, and earth. Thus we make others happy and ourselves happy.

## LESSON PRESENTATION

### Preparation

Set up a sacred space (see general instructions in the Introduction). Display pictures of God's creations. Open the Bible to Genesis 1:1–31, 2:18–23. Begin with the prayer Glory Be:

*Glory be to the Father,  
and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and ever shall be, world without end. Amen*

### Proclamation

We are made in the image of God. We are human persons with minds, wills, and bodies.

## LESSON EXPLANATION

God did not have to create the angels, the world, or people. Why did God create everything? God freely chose to create out of His goodness.

**Ask:** What is the first thing you do when something good happens? *You tell someone.*

(CCC 279–82, 315)

Suggest that our happiest moments are shared with others. This is love. Explain that because God is so good, He wanted to share His goodness. So He created the angels, the world, and us. This is how He shared His love.

(CCC 335–57,  
380–81)

God created everything. He made us in the image of Himself. Because we are made in His image, we are able to think (mind), to choose (will), and to love. We are created to act like God. When we show love through the good things we say and do, we act like God.

## Review Questions

**1. Did God have to create us?**

*No, God did not have to create us.*

**2. Why did God create us?**

*God created us to show His goodness, and to allow us to know, love, and serve Him so that we can be happy here on earth and forever in Heaven.*

**3. How are we different from the animals, plants, and rocks that God created?**

*We are made in His image; so we are able to think, to choose, and to love.*

**4. What kinds of things can you think about or choose?**

*(What you eat, what you wear, what game you play, whom you play with, how you treat someone, etc.)*

## SCRIPTURE STORY: Creation and Adam and Eve

Based on Genesis 1:1–31  
and 2:18–23

In the beginning there was only God. Then God made everything from His love.

God made the angels to share Heaven with Him. The angels are persons, like us, with minds to think and wills to make choices. The angels do not have bodies, so we cannot see them.

Before God made the world, there was only darkness. Then God said, "Let there be light." He called the light day and the darkness night.

God made the blue sky. He made all the waters of the lakes, rivers, and oceans. He made the water to be in some places and the dry land to be in other places.

God covered the land with soft green grass and the trees with fruit. He made many kinds of flowers.

God made the sun to shine during the day and the moon and the stars to shine at night.

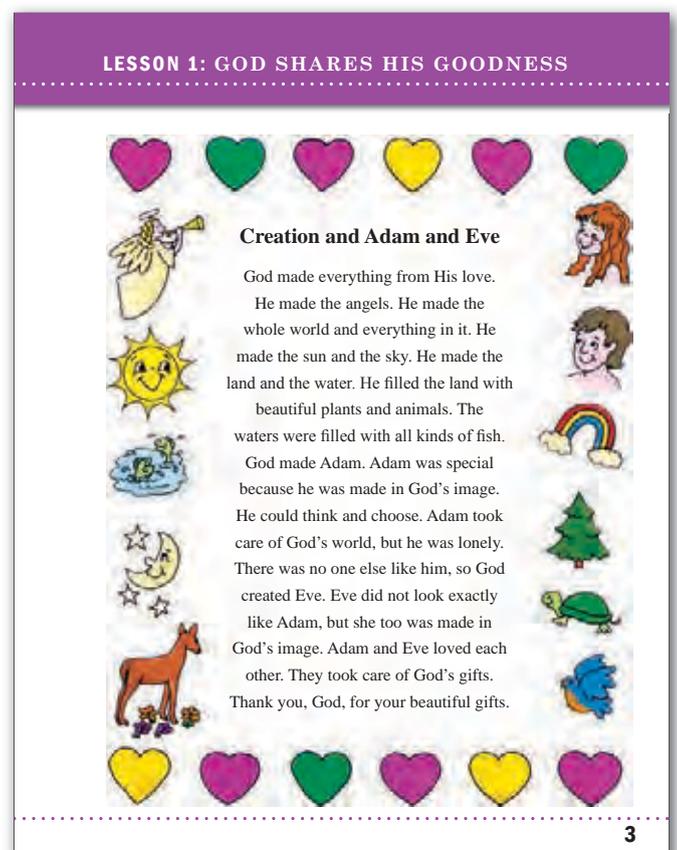
He filled the waters with fish and all kinds of swimming creatures. God filled the sky with birds, butterflies, and every creature that flies.

God made every kind of animal: tame and wild, big and small. God made them all.

God looked at everything He had made and was pleased. Then God made Adam, the first man. Adam was special because he was made in the image of God. Adam did not look like God, but he could do what God does. God loves and works, and Adam could love and work like God. He could also share God's life.

God had some work for Adam to do. All the animals that God had made needed names. God asked Adam to name them. Adam obeyed God because he loved God very much. Adam looked at all the animals as he was naming them and saw that he was different from them. Adam knew he was special. He could think and make choices, but the animals could not. He could act like God, but the animals could not. Only Adam was made in the image of God. Only Adam was a person.

*Have the students read page 3 in their workbook.*



# LESSON 1: GOD SHARES HIS GOODNESS

Adam loved God and took care of God's world, but Adam was very lonely. There was no one like himself that Adam could love. He was the only person God made with a body. The angels were persons, but they did not have bodies. The animals had bodies, but they were not persons. Poor Adam was very lonesome!

God knew it was not good for Adam to be alone so He made the first woman. Her name was Eve. Eve did not look exactly like Adam, but she was made in the image of God, just like Adam. She was a person, too. Adam and Eve could love each other with a God-like love. They lived as a human family.

God told them that He had made the whole world and everything in it for Adam and Eve. He gave them all kinds of plants for food and all kinds of animals. God put Adam and Eve in charge of all the things in the world. God looked at all He made and saw it was very good, and He was pleased.

God is with us always. He has given us life, the whole world, and everything in the world because He loves us. Every plant and animal, star and lake we see should remind us of God our Creator. Those who remind us most of God are persons, because they are images of God. We should love God and thank Him for everything He has made.

## Review Questions

- 1. Who made the world and everything in it?**  
*God made the world and everything in it.*
- 2. Who were the first man and first woman God made?**  
*Adam was the first man and Eve was the first woman.*
- 3. How were Adam and Eve different from the animals?**  
*They were made in the image of God: they could think and make choices; they were persons.*
- 4. What could Adam and Eve do that God does?**  
*Adam and Eve could love and work.*

## ENHANCING THE LESSON • LESSON EXPLANATION PART 2

We are created to act like God, in His image. We are alive; we can think, love, and choose.

## Review Questions

- 1. Are rocks images of God?**  
*No.*
- 2. Why not?**  
*Rocks are not living, and they are not persons. Rocks cannot think and love.*
- 3. Are plants images of God?**  
*No.*
- 4. Why not?**  
*Plants cannot think and love. They are alive, but they are not persons.*
- 5. Are animals images of God?**  
*No, animals do not have minds or wills, and they are not persons.*
- 6. How are the angels like us?**  
*They are persons with minds to think and wills to make choices.*
- 7. How are the angels different from us?**  
*Angels know more about God. They have no bodies.*
- 8. We are made in God's image. How do we act to show we are images of God?**  
*We obey our parents; we treat others kindly; we love others, etc.*

# LESSON 1: GOD SHARES HIS GOODNESS

As images of God we should think and choose as God does. Others should see us as images of God in the things we say and do.

**Ask:** Whom do you admire? (Give the children time to answer.)

**Do you ever pretend to be like the person you admire?** (Accept all appropriate answers.)

**If we admire Jesus, we will want to act like Him. If we act like Jesus, how do we act?** (Accept all appropriate answers.)

When we are acting like Jesus, we are acting as images of God. When we choose to act like Jesus, we can pretend that we are walking hand in hand with Him. (Explain that we cannot really hold Jesus' hand the way we hold a friend's hand.)

## Activity

Have students remove the paper-doll page and the page with the reflection poem, pages 7 and 9, from their workbooks. Have each child color one doll as himself or herself and put his or her name across the chest. Color the other doll as Jesus, writing His name on the chest. Write, "When I walk hand in hand with Jesus and do what He does, I'm acting as an image of God." Glue the poem and the paper dolls onto a piece of 12" x 18" construction paper.

*Have the students read and complete page 5 in their workbook.*

## LESSON 1: GOD SHARES HIS GOODNESS

When God made the world and everything in it, He made us special. God made us in His own image! We have minds and wills so we can think and choose like God. We do not look like God, but we can act like God.

What do you think and wonder about?

*Directions: Draw a picture of something you think or wonder about.*



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### Materials needed:

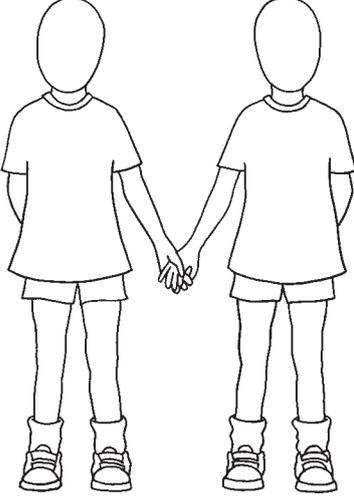
children's workbook pages 7 and 9  
white paper  
crayons  
scissors  
glue  
12" x 18" construction paper

# LESSON 1: GOD SHARES HIS GOODNESS

Have the students read and complete page 7 and 9 in their workbooks.

LESSON 1: GOD SHARES HIS GOODNESS

Directions: Color one doll to look like you and write your name across the chest. Color the other doll as Jesus and write His name on the chest. Write "When I walk hand in hand with Jesus, and do what He does, I am acting as an image of God." Cut the dolls and saying off of the page and glue them onto construction paper.



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LESSON 1: GOD SHARES HIS GOODNESS

**A Reflection**

You made me in Your image, God.  
What does this really mean?  
It means in everything I do  
You should be seen.

You made me with a mind to think,  
and a will so I can choose,  
to know and love and serve You, Lord;  
I'm made to act like You.

To be happy and do Your will on earth  
You created me,  
that one day I can live with You  
in Heaven happily.

You gave me eyes to see Your world  
and ears to hear Your voice.  
Help me listen to You, Lord,  
each time I make a choice.

For when I act the way I should  
in all I say and do,  
I am who You made me, God,  
I am an image of You.

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## Optional Activity

To show what it is like when we are not acting as God's images, take an extra paper doll pattern and cut the two dolls apart. Hold them at a distance. Explain that we are separated from Jesus when we do not act as images of God.

## LIVING THE LESSON • APPLICATION

**Ask:** How would you have created the world? (Give children time to discuss this question.)

When God made the animals, He created them together. We were created individually. When God made us, we were made as individuals with special talents. We should use these talents in order to love and serve others. When we love and serve others, we are loving and serving God. We are acting like Jesus. We are living a good life on earth, and this goodness helps us come to Heaven someday.

(CCC 358, 2415–18, 2456–57)

It is our job to take care of the things God has given us. We cannot use other people, but we can use our talents and other things God has given us to make ourselves and others happy.

We should be glad God created us individually as images of Himself.

**Ask:** How do you use your talents? (Accept appropriate answers.)

How do you use your talents to love and to serve others?

How does this make you happy?

# LESSON 1: GOD SHARES HIS GOODNESS

Have the students read and complete pages 11 and 12 in their workbooks.

## LESSON 1: GOD SHARES HIS GOODNESS

God gave us each a will. That means that we can make choices. What kinds of choices do you make each day?

Directions: Draw a picture of something you made a choice about today.

When we make right choices and do and say good things, we act as Jesus taught us, and other people can see God in our actions. We are images of God.

### VOCABULARY WORDS:

**Image:** A reflection.

**Mind:** What we think with.

**Will:** What we make choices with.

**Person:** Someone who has a mind and a will.

**Human Person:** Someone who is created in the image of God with a mind, a will, and a body.

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## LESSON 1: GOD SHARES HIS GOODNESS

Directions: Circle the pictures in which a person is using his or her talent(s) to make someone happy and is acting as an image of God.



12

## CELEBRATION

### Prayer

*My God, I give You today all that I think and do and say.  
I'll work and laugh, have fun and play.  
Jesus be with me all through this day.  
Help me shine like the sun. Let me be good to everyone.  
I believe in You. I hope in You. I love You.  
Amen.*

## ACTIVITIES

### Family Project

Have the children take a piece of paper home. As a family activity, have each family member draw on this piece of paper a small picture showing how he or she uses his or her special talents to make others happy. They may title their pictures: "Our family, acting as images of God".

### Creation Mural

Cut a piece of butcher-block paper long enough to hang on a wall inside or outside the classroom. Write the title "God Created Everything" at the top of the paper. Divide students into groups. One group colors the sky, the grass, rocks, and the water. One group draws angels, one group draws trees and plants, one group draws animals, and one group draws people.

#### Materials needed:

butcher-block paper  
construction paper (white and other colors)  
crayons or colored chalk  
scissors

Remind the students that God made us, the world, and everything in the world. God is good and wants to share His goodness.

### Read a Story

*God's Amazing Creatures and Me*, Helen and Paul Haidle, Master Books, 2000.

*God's Greatest Gift*, Deborah Burch, Zoe Life Publishing, 2007.

*The Wonderful Story of Creation*, Magdalena Kim, F.S.P., Sagebrush Education Resources, 2002.

*God Made It For You! The Story of Creation*, Charles Lehmann and Kathleen Kemly, Concordia Publishing House, 2007.

*The Color of Me*, Linda L. McDunn, Liturgical Press, 2004.

*Weemicks: You Are Mine*, Max Lucado, Crossway Books & Bibles, 2001.

*God, Who Are The Angels?*, Peggy Olds, VirTru Powers, 2006.

*God, Tell Me About Creation?*, Peggy Olds, VirTru Powers, 2006.

*Angels Watching Over Me*, Lynn Hodges, Zonderkidz, 2012.

*Angels Among Us*, Leena Lans, Erdman Books, 2007.

*The Real Story of the Creation*, Paul Maier, Concordia Publishing House, 2007.

*The Creation Story for Children*, Helen Haidle, Master Books, 2009.

### Sing a Song

*Creation, Sing a Story*, Standard Publishing, 2006.

## LESSON FOCUS

### Emphasis

God made us in His image with minds and wills. Since we have wills, we may choose to love God and to obey Him. God did not want us to be like robots; He wanted us to choose freely to love Him. God knew that because He gave us wills, there would be a possibility that we might sin—choose to do something we know is wrong, and not act as images of God.

(CCC 55–58,  
399–400, 402–9,  
416–19)

We cannot love God without grace. God created Adam and Eve with grace and freedom. Adam and Eve committed the first sin, called Original Sin. Adam and Eve lost their ability to share naturally in God's life (grace) when they sinned. They could not return God's love as they had before. They could no longer always act as they should. Adam and Eve had hurt their relationship with God and could no longer live in the Garden of Eden.

God did not stop loving Adam and Eve because they had sinned, nor did He abandon them. God continued to love and to care for them, but Adam and Eve had a weaker love for God. God provided for Adam and Eve, though they had to work very hard for the things God had always given them before they sinned. God showed

### Correspondence to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

Definition of sin: CCC 1849–51, 1871

Forgiveness: CCC 2839–45, 2862

God is love: CCC 218–21, 231

Grace: CCC 1996–2005, 2021–24

Mercy and sin: CCC 1846–48

Morality of human acts: CCC 1749–56, 1757–61

Reality of sin: CCC 385–87, 413

### Vocabulary

**obey:** choosing to do what someone in charge asks us to do

**grace:** the gift of God's life that He shares with persons

**sin:** choosing to do something we know is wrong, and not acting as images of God

**mercy:** showing kindness and compassion; drawing good from evil

**temptation:** something that makes a wrong choice look good

**ark:** the boat that Noah was instructed to build by God

### Concepts of Faith

**What did Adam and Eve lose because of Original Sin?**

*Adam and Eve lost grace.*

**Did God stop loving Adam and Eve and leave them all alone?**

*No, God continued to love and to care for them, but the love between God and Adam and Eve was weaker. God gave them clothes and promised them He would send a Savior.*

**Why does God give us wills?**

*God does not want us to be like robots, but wants us to choose freely to love Him.*

**What is sin?**

*Sin is choosing to do something we know is wrong, and not acting as images of God.*

# LESSON 2: GOD ALWAYS LOVES US

Adam and Eve's descendants His constant love and mercy, preparing them for the Savior He had promised to send. The Savior would show us who we are and how we should act as images of God; He would return God's love and help us return God's love.

All people have the effects of Original Sin (except Christ and Mary). We have a tendency toward sin. It is hard for us to act as we should. Adam and Eve experienced the consequences of their sin. They also experienced God's constant love and mercy. We, too, experience some consequences of our sins, as well as God's love and mercy.

## LESSON PRESENTATION

### Preparation

Set up a sacred space (see general instructions in the Introduction). Begin the lesson with the following prayer, introduced in Lesson 1:

*My God,  
I give You today all that I think and do and say.  
I'll work and laugh, have fun and play.  
Jesus be with me all through this day.  
Help me shine like the sun. Let me be good to everyone.  
I believe in You. I hope in You. I love You. Amen.*

### Proclamation

Sin is choosing to do something we know is wrong, and not acting as images of God.

## LESSON EXPLANATION

God made us with wills. We can make choices.

**Ask:** What kind of choices have you made today? (Give children time to share the choices they made.)

We can make right or wrong choices. Adam and Eve had choices they could make. Adam and Eve made a wrong choice. Adam and Eve's first wrong choice is called Original Sin.

**Ask:** What is the difference between temptation and sin?

*An example of temptation: You really want some stickers. You see a package of stickers on your classmate's desk. Your classmate is out of the room. You think about ways that you could take the stickers. You think of reasons that make it seem alright to take the stickers. But you don't take them.*

(CCC 1849–51,  
1871)

*An example of sin: You actually take that package of stickers from your classmate's desk. You tell everyone that the stickers are yours.*

## SCRIPTURE STORY: Adam and Eve Disobey God

Based on Genesis 3

Adam and Eve were not like any of God's other creations on earth. They were persons like the angels. But Adam and Eve had bodies and the angels did not. Adam and Eve were special because they were persons with bodies. They were made in the image of God. They could act like God in all they thought, said, and did.

Adam and Eve lived in a beautiful garden called the Garden of Eden. God made the garden because He loved Adam and Eve. God had given Adam and Eve everything they needed, especially grace, so they could live forever with Him. Adam and Eve shared food, water, sunshine, and happiness. Best of all, Adam and Eve could live as a human family in God's love.

God told Adam and Eve that they could not eat the fruit from the tree that was in the middle of the garden. God said they could eat from every tree in the garden except the one in the middle. God told Adam and Eve that if they ate from this tree, they would not be able to live with God.

Adam and Eve listened to God. They were happy in the garden. They loved God, obeyed Him, and acted like Him in all they thought, said, and did, until one day a snake came and spoke to Eve. The snake was really the devil. The devil was not like Adam and Eve because he did not act as an image of God. He wanted to trick or deceive Eve.

"Did God say that you shall not eat of any tree of the garden?", the devil asked.

"No", Eve answered. "God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'"

"But that is not true", the devil lied. "You will not die. God only told you that because He does not want you to be as wise and powerful as He is."

Eve knew the devil was lying. Adam and Eve knew that God had asked them not to eat the fruit from the tree. Eve picked a fruit from the middle tree. First she tasted the fruit, and then she took the fruit to Adam.

Adam tasted the fruit as Eve had asked. Suddenly, Adam and Eve felt ashamed. They knew they had done something wrong. They had not done as God had asked. They had not loved Him as they should have. They had disobeyed God.

Adam and Eve tried to hide from God, but God called to them. "Where are you?", God asked.

"We know You will not be pleased with us", they said. "We have disobeyed You."

God knew what they had done. Adam and Eve had hurt the friendship they shared with God. They had disobeyed God. This sin of Adam and Eve's was the first sin. We call it Original Sin.

Adam and Eve lost grace. Without this share in God's life, they could not live with Him. Adam and Eve could not return God's love. Adam and Eve could no longer always act as they should. Adam and Eve could no longer live in the Garden of Eden. Adam and Eve would have to work very hard for their home and their food. They would suffer from the cold and get sick. God still loved Adam and Eve, but the love between them and God was weaker. He gave them clothes made from skins to wear as a sign that He cared for them and for all people. God promised Adam and Eve and us that He would send a Savior who would show us who we are and how we should act as images of God. The Savior would return God's love and help us return God's love.

## Review Questions

**1. Where did Adam and Eve live?**

*Adam and Eve lived in the Garden of Eden.*

**2. What did God ask Adam and Eve not to do?**

*God asked them not to eat fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the middle of the garden.*

**3. Who lied to Eve?**

*The devil in the form of a snake lied to Eve.*

**4. What happened when Adam and Eve disobeyed God?**

*They could no longer live in the Garden of Eden and would have to work hard for everything God had given them.*

**5. What did Adam and Eve lose because of their sin?**

*Adam and Eve lost grace. They could not return God's love. Adam and Eve could no longer always act as they should.*

**6. What do we call Adam and Eve's first sin?**

*We call Adam and Eve's first sin Original Sin.*

**7. What did God promise Adam and Eve?**

*God promised He would send a Savior.*

*Have the students read page 13 and complete page 14 in their workbooks.*

### LESSON 2: GOD ALWAYS LOVES US

#### Adam and Eve Disobey God

Adam and Eve lived in a beautiful place called the Garden of Eden. God gave Adam and Eve everything they needed to live forever with Him. God asked Adam and Eve not to eat the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden. If they did they could not live with Him forever. Adam and Eve loved and obeyed God and were very happy.

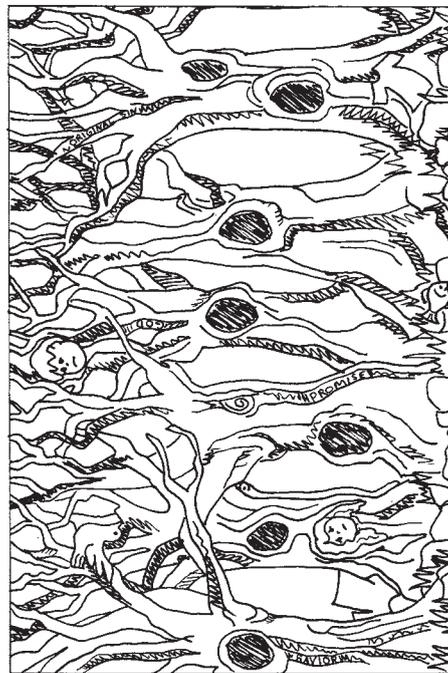
One day, the devil lied to Adam and Eve. Adam and Eve disobeyed God. This sin is called "Original Sin".

Adam and Eve lost God's life, grace. They could not always act the way they should. Adam and Eve left the Garden of Eden. They had to work very hard for their home and their food. They would suffer from the cold and get sick.

God still loved Adam and Eve very much. God gave them warm clothes to wear. God promised Adam and Eve that He would send a Savior who would show all people who they were and how to act. The Savior would return God's love and show us how to return God's love.

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### LESSON 2: GOD ALWAYS LOVES US



Directions: Can you find these hidden pictures?

apple, snake, garments, bird, snail, Adam's and Eve's sad faces, fish  
Original Sin, promise, Savior, God

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## ENHANCING THE LESSON • LESSON EXPLANATION PART 2

(CCC 270, 277)

Even though Adam and Eve had sinned, God still loved and cared for them and all their children. God always showed them His love and mercy.

(CCC 410–12,  
420–21)

The people had to wait a long time for the Savior whom God had promised to send. This was not always easy for them. But God was always there to help them. Through His acts of mercy and of love, God was preparing the people for the Savior who would show them who they were and how to act. The Savior would return God's love and help them return God's love.

**Note to the teacher:** If you can read only one story, you may want to read the story about Moses, because Moses will be discussed in Lesson 9, "We Love God".

## SCRIPTURE STORY: Tower of Babel

Based on Genesis 11:1–9

At one time, all the people on earth spoke one language. Some people lived in an area called Babylon. They said, "Let's build a city. It will be the greatest city ever. We will build a tower in the center of the city, so high that it will reach Heaven. It will be known all over the universe."

So they made bricks and more bricks. They used the bricks to make the tower higher and higher. As the tower was becoming taller, the people became very proud. They began to brag that they could reach Heaven by climbing the stairs on the tower. God was watching all the activity. God thought, "These men think they can do anything. They think that they are greater than I am. They are forgetting how to love Me and other people." The people found it difficult not to make wrong choices because of Original Sin.

God wanted to show the people that they were making a wrong choice. God could have destroyed the people and the city, but because of His love and His mercy, He had a better plan. He reached out, and suddenly each person began to talk in a different language. The people could no longer understand each other. It became difficult to work together, and soon the work on the tower stopped. Because they could not talk to each other, people began to move away from the tower, which they now called Babel. The tower soon stood empty.

God showed His love and mercy by not destroying the city and its people. God helped them understand who He was, and that He should be the most important Person in their lives. He reminded the people that they should love Him.

## Review Questions

**1. What were the people trying to build?**

*They were trying to build a tower that would be so high that it would reach Heaven.*

**2. Who would know about this tower?**

*The people hoped that people all over the universe would know about the tower.*

**3. God knew that the people were making a wrong choice. What did He do to remind them to come back to Him?**

*God reached out, and suddenly each person began to speak a different language.*

**4. God showed His love and mercy by not destroying the people and the city. As images of God, we need to try to show love and mercy. How can we show other people love and mercy?**

*We may show love and mercy by making up with someone who has hurt us, being patient with someone, helping someone who cannot do something very well, asking for help from someone else, accepting other people's help, etc.*

## SCRIPTURE STORY: Moses Leads the People

Based on Exodus 3–40

At one time, God's chosen people were slaves in Egypt. They were called the Israelites. The Israelites were being punished by the pharaoh of Egypt because they loved God. God chose a special man named Moses to help the Israelites in Egypt. God said, "Moses, I want you to help My people leave Egypt. Do not be afraid. I will be with you always. I will give you the help you need." Moses listened to God and chose to do what He asked. Again and again, Moses begged the pharaoh to free the slaves, and finally the pharaoh agreed.

Moses and his people began a long journey to the land God had promised them. As they began their journey, the pharaoh suddenly changed his mind. He decided he did not want the Israelites to leave his country. The pharaoh sent his army out to capture the Israelites and to bring them back. However, as God had promised, He was always there to help the Israelites. When Moses arrived at the Red Sea, God told Moses to lift up his walking stick and hold it over the water. When Moses did this, the sea parted so that Moses and the people were able to get across on dry land. Then the water flowed back and covered the dry path, so that the pharaoh's army could not catch them.

So that they would not get lost, God went in front of the group as a cloud during the day and as a tower of fire at night. God made sure they had enough to eat each day. God gave them manna, a bread that came from Heaven. Even though they were in the desert, God made sure they had enough to drink. One day, God told Moses to climb to the top of a mountain. The next morning, Moses climbed the mountain. God gave Moses the Ten Commandments. The Commandments tell us how God acts and how we should act as images of God. The Ten Commandments were written on two tablets of stone.

While Moses was listening to God, the people grew impatient and they complained. They thought maybe God had forgotten about them. The people said, "Let's make an idol, a calf of gold, and that will be our god." So they melted all their gold jewelry and made a statue of a calf. God saw all of this, and He sent Moses back down the mountain. When Moses saw the golden calf, he was angry. He smashed the two tablets on which the Ten Commandments were written and shattered the golden calf.

The people understood that Moses had really been talking to God, and they were sorry for making a golden calf. Moses reminded them of everything God had already done for them. Moses said he would tell God that they were sorry. So Moses went back up the mountain. God forgave the people and once again He wrote the Ten Commandments on two stone tablets. When Moses climbed down the mountain, the chosen people continued their journey to the promised land. God still led them and fed them. However, the people, at times, distrusted God and would complain. Because of their lack of trust, they wandered for forty years before they reached the promised land. God loved His people very much. He wanted to give them the opportunity to love Him. God showed that He cared for them by leading them to the promised land. He did not abandon them or destroy them. They wandered a long time, but God still made sure they had enough to eat and to drink.

## Review Questions

**1. What did God ask Moses to do?**

*God asked Moses to help lead the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt.*

**2. Did Moses obey God?**

*Yes.*

**3. How did God protect the people?**

*God led them, parted the Red Sea, and gave them food and water.*

**4. Why did Moses climb the mountain?**

*God asked Moses to climb the mountain. While Moses was on the mountain, he talked to God and received the Ten Commandments.*

**5. What did the people do that was wrong and that hurt the love between them and God?**

*The people complained and became impatient. They made a golden calf to replace God.*

**6. How did God show that He still cared about the people?**

*God did not abandon them or destroy them. He still led them to the promised land, even though they wandered a long time.*

## SCRIPTURE STORY: Noah

Based on Genesis 6:5–9:17

At one time, the earth was filled with people. Very few of them were acting as images of God. But, Noah was acting as an image of God. One day, God spoke to Noah. “Noah, I want you to build a large ark. It must be big enough for you, your family, and two of every kind of animal and creature. Soon a flood will cover the earth because people are not acting as images of God. But I will keep you safe in the ark.” Building the ark was not easy, but Noah obeyed God. Together Noah and his family worked very hard. Sometimes people would stop and laugh at them. They told Noah that he did not need to build an ark. The people invited Noah and his family to stop building and have fun. But, Noah and his family did not stop working.

Noah and his family told the people that they were doing what God wanted them to do. They said that God knew what was best. Noah and his family believed what God told them. When the ark was finished and the shelves filled with food, Noah led two of every kind of animal and creature inside. Then Noah and his family climbed inside. Soon it began to rain. It rained for forty days and forty nights. The water rose higher and higher until the highest mountain was covered with water. God kept Noah and his family safe from the flood in the ark that God told Noah to build.

At last the rain stopped. Noah opened a window of the ark and sent out a dove. When the dove returned, it was carrying a branch from an olive tree. Noah knew that soon all the water would be gone. God sent a great wind to dry up all the water. Then God told Noah to come out. The door of the boat opened, and all the animals were set free. Noah and his family thanked God for keeping them safe. Then a beautiful rainbow appeared. The rainbow was a sign of God’s love. God promised that a flood would never again cover the whole earth. The rainbow was a reminder of this promise.

There was a flood because people were not acting as images of God. However, God did not let all mankind and everything He had created be destroyed. Rather, God saved Noah and his family, and two of every kind of animal and creature.

# LESSON 2: GOD ALWAYS LOVES US

## Review Questions

**1. What did God ask Noah to do?**

*God asked Noah to build an ark.*

**2. Why did He choose Noah?**

*He asked because Noah acted as an image of God.*

**3. Who came on the ark?**

*Noah, his family, and two of every kind of animal were on the ark.*

**4. Of what was the rainbow a sign?**

*The rainbow was a sign of God's love and a reminder that another flood would never again cover the earth.*

**5. How did God show mercy?**

*God did not let all mankind and all He had created be destroyed. Rather, God saved Noah and his family, and two of every kind of animal and creature.*

## LIVING THE LESSON • APPLICATION

When God created us, He could have made us without free wills. But then we would have been like robots.

**Ask:** **What does a robot do? Does a robot make choices?** (Allow children to discuss.)

(CCC 388–90,  
396–400, 415)

If we were like robots, we would not be images of God with minds and wills. We would not be able to think or to choose. God freely loves us and wants us to choose freely to love Him. Because of Adam and Eve's first sin, it is harder for us to love and to act as images of God. Sometimes our emotions, such as anger, jealous feelings, and hurt feelings, tempt us to make a wrong choice. We can still choose to do what is right, but it is not always easy to choose what is right because we are weakened by Original Sin.

God the Father is loving and good. He sent us a Savior, Jesus, who is God the Son, to show us who we are and how we are to act, to return God's love, and to help us return God's love. God the Holy Spirit also helps us to live as better images of God and be happy here on earth. We can pray and ask God to help us make a right choice when we feel like making a wrong choice. He will always help us. But no one is perfect. If we do choose to do something we know is wrong, God still loves us just as He still loved Adam and Eve after they sinned. But we should say we are sorry to God.

# LESSON 2: GOD ALWAYS LOVES US

Have the students read and complete pages 15 and 16 in their workbooks.

## LESSON 2: GOD ALWAYS LOVES US

We are not robots. We have wills and are able to love.

*Directions: Draw a picture of a robot.*

God always shows love and mercy. As images of God, we should try to show love and mercy.

*Directions: Draw a picture of how you have shown love and mercy.*

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## LESSON 2: GOD ALWAYS LOVES US

We have wills and sometimes we are tempted to do what is wrong. When we know something is wrong and choose to do it anyway, this is a sin. God still loves us, even when we sin. God always forgives us and helps us to do what is right.

*Directions: Can you find these words?*

ORIGINAL SIN	TEMPTATION	CHOICES
GRACE	MERCY	SIN
E	C	J
K	H	D
T	O	P
X	I	C
W	C	J
T	E	M
X	S	F
S	P	M
B	I	V
Z	Y	Q
L	S	O
L	Q	K
W	G	C
E	K	C
I	Q	L
U	X	V

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## CELEBRATION

### Prayer

God created angels. He gave each of us a guardian angel to help guide us while we are on earth. Let us conclude our lesson with the Guardian Angel Prayer, asking our guardian angel to guide us and to help us make the right choices.

*Angel of God,  
my guardian dear,  
to whom God's love commits me here,  
ever this day be at my side,  
to light and guard, to rule and guide.  
Amen.*

## ACTIVITIES

### Build a Robot

Each student creates a robot using materials such as those listed above. Display the robots on a table in the hallway or classroom.

Remind the students that robots cannot make choices. A robot can do only what it is programmed to do. Students might copy the following verse to put with the robot display:

*I have a little robot; it can do many, many things.  
I can make it walk and talk; I can even make it sing!  
But it cannot make choices, and cannot think or love.  
Only persons have minds and wills.  
We are made by God above.*

#### Materials needed:

cardboard tubes  
pipe cleaners  
construction paper  
stiff foam balls  
cotton balls  
printing paper

Remind the students that we are made in the image of God with minds to think and wills to make choices.

### Watch a DVD

*My Little Angels—Original Sin*, EWTN, 1997.  
*Bugtime Adventure: Construction Woes*, Vision Video, 2007.  
*The Greatest Adventure Stories from the Bible, Moses*, Turner Entertainment, 2006.  
*The Greatest Adventure Stories from the Bible, Noah's Ark*, Turner Entertainment, 2006.  
*Stories To Remember: Noah's Ark*, Lightyear Video, 2003.  
*Hermie and the High Seas*, Max Lucado, Hermie and Friends Series #11, Thomas Nelson, 2008.  
*Great Bible Stories: Children Heroes of the Bible, The Story of Moses*, Gateway Films, 2003.

### Read a Story

*Noah's 2-by-2 Adventure*, Carol Wedeven, Arch Books, Concordia Publishing House, 1997.  
*Hurry Up, Noah Happy Day Books*, Patricia Mahany, Standard Publishing, 2005.  
*God Always Cares, Happy Day Books*, Amy Beveridge, Standard Publishing, 2010.  
*Moses and the Bronze Snake*, Greg Hyatt, Arch Books, Concordia Publishing House, 2008.  
*Moses' Dry Feet*, Joan Curren, Arch Books, Concordia Publishing House, 1998.  
*The Fall into Sin*, Nancy Sanders, Arch Books, Concordia Publishing House, 2003.  
*The True Story of Noah's Ark*, Tom Dooley, Master Books, 2003.  
*Noah's Ark*, Jerry Pinkney, Chronicle Books, 2002.



## Jesus Comes for Us



## LESSON FOCUS

### Emphasis

(CCC 410–12,  
420–21)

After Adam and Eve committed the Original Sin, they lost their share of God’s life (grace), and they could not return God’s love as they had before they had sinned. They could no longer always act as they should, and they could no longer live in the Garden of Eden.

### Correspondence to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

Christ: at the heart of catechesis: CCC 426–29

Holy Family as model of the domestic Church:  
CCC 1655–58, 1666

Jesus: the only Son of God: CCC 441–45, 454

Jesus as our Teacher and Model of holiness:  
CCC 468–69, 516, 519–21, 561

Jesus’ mission of Salvation: CCC 456–60

Preparation for Christ’s coming: CCC 522–24

Titles and symbols of the Holy Spirit: CCC 691–701

### Vocabulary

**temptation:** something that makes a wrong choice look good

**prophet:** a messenger chosen and sent by God to speak in His name

**fasting:** to eat less food than usual; to go without your favorite foods for a period of time

**Holy Family:** Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

**Sacrament:** (1) A physical sign (2) given to us by Jesus (3) through which Jesus meets us and (4) gives us grace.

**sin:** Choosing to do something we know is wrong, and not acting as images of God.

### Concepts of Faith

#### Who is Jesus?

*Jesus is God the Son who became man. He is both God and man. He is the Savior who was promised to Adam and Eve.*

#### Why did God the Son become man?

*Jesus became man to show us who we are and how we should act as images of God, to return God’s love, and to help us return God’s love.*

#### How did Jesus show His love for Mary and Joseph?

*Jesus obeyed Mary and Joseph.*

#### Who did John the Baptist baptize?

*John the Baptist baptized Jesus and people who wanted to change their ways.*

#### Why was Jesus baptized?

*Jesus was baptized to show us how important it is for us to receive the Sacrament of Baptism that Jesus gave to us.*

#### Why did Jesus go into the desert for forty days?

*Jesus went into the desert to prepare for His work of saving us.*

#### What were the three temptations of Jesus in the desert?

*The three temptations were:*

1. *to turn stones into bread,*
2. *to jump off the rooftop and let the angels protect Him,*
3. *and to adore the devil.*

#### What were Jesus’ responses to these temptations?

*Jesus responded by telling the devil:*

1. *People need more than just food to eat. People should act as images of God.*
2. *God should not be tested because God always loves and cares for us and tells us the truth.*
3. *Only God should be adored. Satan is not God and is not worthy of adoration.*

# LESSON 3: JESUS, OUR EXAMPLE

God promised Adam and Eve He would send a Savior. Jesus Christ, God the Son, is our Savior. He is the perfect image of God the Father. God the Son became man to show us who we are and how we should act as images of God, to return God's love, and to help us return God's love.

As a child, Jesus showed His love for God the Father by choosing to do what God the Father asked. Jesus loved and obeyed Mary and Joseph. Jesus loved and cared for others as He grew in wisdom and age, and prepared for the time when He would begin the work He would do as an adult. When Jesus was about thirty years old, He was ready to begin His work of saving us. Jesus went to the Jordan River to be baptized by John the Baptist. This was not the same as the Baptism we receive today. Jesus had not given people the Sacraments yet. Jesus did not need to be baptized, because He did not have Original Sin and its effects, and He never had personal sin. Yet, Jesus traveled a great distance to be baptized. Jesus came to show us what we should do and how we should act as images of God. By being baptized, Jesus showed us how important it is for us to receive the Sacrament of Baptism that He gave to us.

Jesus also went into the desert to pray in order to prepare for His ministry. In the desert, the devil tempted Jesus. The devil used the same lies that he had used to tempt Adam and Eve. First, the devil wanted Jesus to use His power as God the Son to change stones into bread. Jesus told the devil that "Man shall not live on bread alone, but by every word which proceeds from the mouth of God." Jesus was saying that although our lives depend on food (bread), they depend to a greater degree on acting as images of God.

Second, the devil wanted Jesus to throw Himself off the temple roof. The devil said that God the Father had promised to send angels to protect Jesus from all injury. Satan gave Jesus two choices: jump off the roof or admit that God the Father lied when He promised to send angels to protect Jesus from all harm. Obviously, neither choice was acceptable. Jesus solved the false dilemma posed by Satan by providing a third choice. He told Satan that God the Father should not be tested because He does not lie.

**(CCC 566)** Third, the devil offered Jesus all the riches of the world if Jesus would adore the devil. But Jesus told Satan that God alone should be adored; and, since Satan is not God, he is not worthy of adoration. Jesus rejected Satan's lies and revealed God as Truth. The devil left Jesus, and angels came and waited on Him.

## LESSON PRESENTATION

### Preparation

Set up a sacred space (see general instructions in the Introduction). Display a picture of the Holy Family. Pray the following prayer, introduced in Lesson 1:

*My God,  
I give You today all that I think and do and say.  
I'll work and laugh, have fun and play.  
Jesus be with me all through this day.  
Help me shine like the sun. Let me be good to everyone.  
I believe in You. I hope in You. I love You.  
Amen.*

### Proclamation

Jesus became man to show us who we are and how we should act as images of God, to return God's love, and to help us return God's love.

## LESSON EXPLANATION

(CCC 422–29)

God promised Adam and Eve a Savior. Jesus is our Savior. Jesus is God the Son. Jesus, God the Son, is the perfect image of God the Father. God the Son became man to show us who we are and how we should act as images of God, to return God's love, and to help us return God's love.

We know the story of Jesus' birth.

**Ask:** Do you remember where Jesus was born? *He was born in Bethlehem.*

**Was Jesus born in a nice, clean hospital?** *No, He was born in a stable.*

**Note to the teacher:** This is an imagined day. This is not a historical event. It is an attempt to depict what a day might have been like.

We know that when Jesus, Mary, and Joseph left Bethlehem, they lived in Egypt for a while. Then they traveled back to Nazareth, where Jesus grew up.

**Ask:** What do you think Jesus did while He was growing up? (Accept all appropriate answers.)

Let us go back almost two thousand years and imagine with a day in the life of the Holy Family, when Jesus was seven years old.

## STORY OF FAITH: Doing the Right Thing

"Jesus, it's time to get up", Mary called. "Will You please get some water from the well? We will need some for breakfast."

Jesus sat up in bed and stretched. Jesus was tired. He wanted to lie back down, to turn over, and to go back to sleep. However, Jesus knew He should do what His Mother asked without any stalling. Jesus got up and got dressed. He took the empty jug off the table and ran off toward the well. On the way, He waved to Joseph, who was sweeping out his carpenter shop. Jesus filled the jug with water and returned to the house. He helped Mary set the table and then called Joseph in to eat.

The family sat down and said a prayer to God, thanking Him for their food. When they were finished eating, Jesus said, "Mother, what a great breakfast!" Jesus liked Mary's cooking and always told her so. After breakfast, Jesus went with Joseph to the carpenter shop. "Jesus," Joseph said, "watch carefully and listen. I will show You how to finish this leg that goes on this chair." Jesus liked to listen to Joseph and to watch him work. Often, while Joseph worked, he would tell stories to Jesus. These stories were usually about God and how He cared for His people. Joseph also taught Jesus the skills of being a good carpenter.

The morning passed quickly. Soon Mary called them in for lunch. After lunch, Jesus went to the well to get more water. When He got back to the house, Mary was busy talking to Joseph. "I know what I'll do", thought Jesus. "I'll clean up the kitchen as a surprise for Mother." So Jesus washed the dishes and put them away. He even swept the floor. When Mary came back to the kitchen, she was surprised. "Jesus, what a thoughtful thing You did. Thank You so much!"

Jesus was pleased. He was thinking that He had made His Mother very happy. He heard a noise at the door. It was His friend Aaron.

Jesus looked at Mary. "May I go and play, or do you want Me to help you with something?", asked Jesus. "You may go and play. Just stay away from the synagogue", said Mary. "You do not want to disturb those people who are praying." So Jesus ran off with Aaron to join the rest of their friends. They began a game of tag. Everyone was having a good time. Jesus saw a boy, Benjamin, watching their game.

## LESSON 3: JESUS, OUR EXAMPLE

“Benjamin, come and join our game”, called Jesus. “Shh . . . , Jesus!”, hissed Aaron. “Benjamin doesn’t run fast. We don’t want him to play!” The other boys stopped to listen. “Aaron, how would you feel if it were you and we would not let you play? Remember how many wrong answers you give in our synagogue class but I still always agree to be your partner”, said Jesus. “You’re right, Jesus”, said Aaron. “Come on, Benjamin! Join our game!”

When the game was finally over, the boys and girls were hot and tired. They ran to the well to take a cool drink of water. Mary was at the well, filling a jug of water. Jesus helped her carry the jug home. As Jesus reached the house, Joseph saw Him. “Jesus, I know You are tired, but could You please deliver this stool for me?”, asked Joseph. “I’ll be glad to”, answered Jesus, even though He would rather have sat down and rested.

When Jesus came back, it was suppertime. After Jesus, Mary, and Joseph sat down, they said a prayer asking God to bless their food. “Mother, you bake the best bread in all of Nazareth!”, exclaimed Jesus. Mary said, “Thank You, Jesus, for appreciating my work.”

After dinner, Jesus helped clean the table. Then Mary sat down with Jesus. She taught Him some prayers to say to God the Father. Then it was Jesus’ bedtime. Jesus kissed Mary and Joseph good night, said His prayers, and went right to bed.

*Remember, this is just a story of what a day in the life of Jesus might have been like. We do not know the details of Jesus’ life when He was seven. But, we know that Jesus always did what was right.*

**Ask:** What kinds of things did we pretend Jesus did?

**What kinds of things did Jesus do in this pretend story that showed He obeyed His parents?** *Jesus got up when Mary called Him. He came to lunch on time. He delivered the stool.*

**What did Jesus do in this pretend story to show that He loved others?** *He did what Mary and Joseph asked Him to do. He cleaned the kitchen for Mary. He told Mary that He liked her cooking. He wanted Benjamin to join the game of tag.*

(CCC 517,  
531–34, 564)

It might not always have been easy for Jesus to make the right choice (for example, when He did not want to get out of bed). But Jesus always made the right choice. As images of God, we should imitate Jesus and always try to make the right choice, too.

# LESSON 3: JESUS, OUR EXAMPLE

Have the students read and complete pages 19 and 20 in their workbooks.

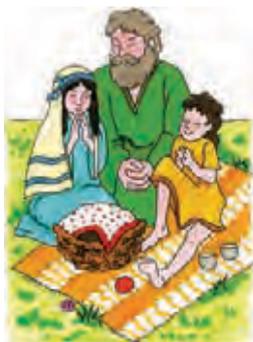
## LESSON 3: JESUS, OUR EXAMPLE

God promised Adam and Eve a Savior. Jesus Christ, God the Son, is our Savior. He is the perfect image of God the Father. God the Son became man to show us who we are and how we should act as images of God, to return God's love, and to help us return God's love.

As a young boy, Jesus showed His love by obeying Mary and Joseph. He also showed His love by caring for other people and doing things for them.

How can a family act like the Holy Family?

*Directions: The left side of this page and the next page have pictures showing how Jesus, Mary, and Joseph acted. On the right side draw a picture in the spaces provided showing how a family can act like the Holy Family.*



Jesus, Mary, and Joseph prayed together.

A family can pray together. Draw a picture of a family praying together.

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## LESSON 3: JESUS, OUR EXAMPLE



Joseph taught Jesus carpentry.

Draw a picture of a person teaching a family member how to do something.



Mary cared for Jesus.

Draw a picture of family members caring for each other.



Jesus cares for other people.

Draw a picture of how you care for other people.

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## ENHANCING THE LESSON • LESSON EXPLANATION PART 2

When Jesus was about thirty years old, it was time for Him to begin His work, teaching people about God the Father and God the Holy Spirit and showing people how to act as images of God. At that time a prophet named John told the people that the Savior that God had promised would be coming soon.

**Ask:** Who is our Savior that God promised? *Jesus, God the Son.* (CCC 523, 717–20)

(CCC 535–37, 565)

John baptized the people who came to him. John baptized the people with water in the Jordan River. He was called John the Baptist. John the Baptist told the people who came to him to turn away from sin and to change their lives. Many people went to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. They did this as a sign that they were sorry for the wrong choices they made and that they wanted to do better. This baptism was not a Sacrament. This was not the Baptism we receive. Jesus had not given the people the Sacraments yet. Jesus did not need to be baptized, but He traveled a very long way to be baptized by John. Jesus did this to show us how important it is for us to receive the Sacrament of Baptism that He gave to us.

Listen to the story about John the Baptist and the baptism of Jesus.

## SCRIPTURE STORY: The Baptism of Jesus

Based on Matthew 3:1–17  
and John 1:29–33

A prophet named John the Baptist lived in the desert near the Jordan River. John wore rough and scratchy clothes made of camel's hair. He wore a leather belt around his waist. For food, John ate grasshoppers and wild honey. John was Jesus' cousin. John told the people about God. John told the people, "Change your lives! The Kingdom of God is at hand." John was telling the people to prepare themselves and to turn away from sin because the Savior that God had promised was coming.

Many people from Jerusalem, Judea, and other places went to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. Some of the people who came to see John were not sorry for their sins and did not want to change. John did not baptize these people. John baptized only the people who wanted to change. These people were baptized with water as a sign that they were sorry for their sins and wanted to do better.

One day, Jesus came to the Jordan River. When John saw Jesus, he exclaimed, "Look! There is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world!" Just as the people of the Old Testament offered lambs in sacrifice to God, so did Jesus offer Himself to His Father. Jesus came to John to be baptized by him. At first John tried to refuse to baptize Jesus. Jesus told John that this was what God the Father wanted, so John baptized Jesus.

After Jesus was baptized, He came out of the water. Suddenly, the sky opened, and John saw God the Holy Spirit descend like a dove and hover over Jesus. A voice from Heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." Then Jesus went into the desert to pray and to prepare for His work to save us.

*Have the students read page 21 in their workbooks.*

### LESSON 3: JESUS, OUR EXAMPLE

#### The Baptism of Jesus

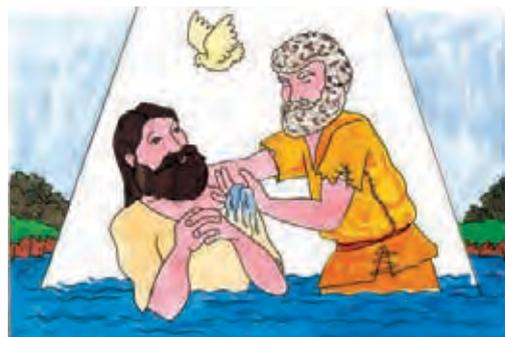
A man called John the Baptist lived in the desert near the Jordan River. His clothes were made of camel's hair. John ate grasshoppers and honey.

Many people went to see John. John told the people that the Savior was coming. John told them to get ready for the Savior by being sorry for their sins and by trying not to sin anymore.

In the River Jordan, John baptized the people who were sorry for their sins. These people wanted to change their lives and to follow God.

One day, Jesus came to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. After John baptized Jesus, God the Holy Spirit came down from Heaven like a dove and rested above Jesus. God the Father said that Jesus was His Son whom He loved very much. John believed that Jesus was the Savior.

Then Jesus went into the desert to pray.



21

## Review Questions

**1. Where did John the Baptist baptize people?**

*John baptized people in the Jordan River.*

**2. What did John the Baptist tell the people?**

*John told people to turn away from sin and to change their lives because the Savior was coming.*

**3. Why were the people baptized by John?**

*The people were baptized as a sign that they were sorry for their sins and wanted to do better.*

**4. Why was Jesus baptized by John?**

*Jesus was baptized by John because Jesus wanted to show people how important it is for them to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.*

**5. Was the baptism by John the Baptist the same Sacrament of Baptism we receive?**

*No, Jesus had not given people the Sacraments yet.*

After Jesus' baptism, He wanted to be alone to prepare Himself for beginning His work. His work was to show us who we are and how we should act as images of God, to return God's love, and to help us return God's love.

**Ask:** **What do you do to get ready for a spelling test or a math test?** *You spend time studying the spelling words or flash cards.*

**What do you do to get ready for a sport you play?** *You practice the sport.*

In other words, you prepare yourself for what you are going to do. Listen to the story about the temptation of Jesus in the desert.

### SCRIPTURE STORY: The Temptation of Jesus

Based on Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus went into the desert, where He spent forty days and forty nights to prepare Himself before beginning His work to save us. During this time, He ate and drank very little. This is called fasting. Jesus also prayed to God the Father and thought about the work He was to begin.

After fasting, Jesus was very hungry. The devil knew how hungry Jesus was. The devil told Jesus to use His power as God the Son to turn stones into loaves of bread so He could eat. Jesus told the devil that, in order to live, man needed more than food. Living means more than eating. It means acting as an image of God and doing what the Father wills. Christ always acted as an image of God, so He did not do what the devil asked.

Jesus let the devil take Him to Jerusalem and set Him on the roof of the temple. The devil told Jesus: if He was God the Son, He could jump off the rooftop and not get hurt. God the Father had promised He would send angels to care for Jesus, so that Jesus would not get hurt. Jesus told the devil that "you shall not tempt the Lord your God". God always loves and cares for us and tells us the truth.

Finally, Jesus let the devil take Him to the top of a very high mountain. The devil showed Jesus all the lands and riches of the world. The devil told Jesus, "All these things I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." But, Jesus told the devil to leave. Jesus told the devil that "you shall worship the Lord your God and only Him shall you serve". The devil was not God. Only God deserves our worship.

Then the devil left Jesus. Angels came to Jesus and cared for Him.

God the Son became man to show us how to act. The devil tempted Jesus the way he tempted Adam and Eve. Jesus made the right choices and did not listen to the devil's lies, because Jesus loved God the Father and knew that the Father always told the truth. Adam and Eve made the wrong choice. They listened to the devil and believed his lies.

Sometimes we are tempted to make the wrong choices, too. We should not want to make a wrong choice. We should always want to try to make the right choice the way Jesus did.

# LESSON 3: JESUS, OUR EXAMPLE

## Review Questions

**1. How did Jesus prepare to begin His work to save us?**

*Jesus went into the desert to fast and to pray.*

**2. How long did Jesus fast and pray?**

*Jesus fast and prayed for forty days and forty nights.*

**3. Who tempted Jesus?**

*The devil tempted Jesus.*

**4. Name the ways Jesus was tempted.**

*Jesus was tempted: to turn stones into bread so He could eat; to throw Himself down from the rooftop to*

*see if the angels would care for Him; and to worship the devil so that Jesus could have all the lands and riches of the world.*

**5. Did Jesus give in to any of the devil's temptations?**

*No, Jesus did not give in to the devil.*

**6. Who came to care for Jesus after the devil left?**

*Angels came to care for Jesus.*

## LIVING THE LESSON • APPLICATION

Mary and Joseph taught Jesus about God's love. Jesus loved God the Father very much. One way He showed this love was by loving and obeying Mary and Joseph. Let us think of ways we can be obedient and show our love—in other words, ways that we can act like Jesus.

**Ask:** **We are called to come to dinner just as our favorite television program comes on. What should we choose to do?** *We can come to dinner as soon as we are called; we should not complain and not try to watch our television program first.*

**Tom knows his mom is tired after working all day. She is trying to cook dinner, and Tom's little sister is crabby and crying. What should Tom do to help his mother?** *Tom can play with his little sister so she stays happy until dinner is ready.*

**Jill and Jim are playing tag. They see a boy who is standing all by himself looking lonely. What should Jill and Jim do?** *They should ask the boy to join the game.*

**When our teacher asks us to work quietly at our desks until recess time, what do we do?** *We do not talk to our friends, but work quietly.*

**When the safety patrols (crossing guards) tell us not to cross the street, what should we do?** *We should not cross the street until they tell us it is safe.*

## Review Questions

- 1. God the Son became man to show us who we are and how we should act as images of God, to return God's love, and to help us return God's love. Before Jesus did these things, He spent time in the desert preparing for this work. What did Jesus do in the desert to prepare Himself?**  
*Jesus prayed and fasted.*
- 2. What two Sacraments are we preparing for this year?**  
*The Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. (If your parish or diocese celebrates the Sacrament of Confirmation in the second grade, please include this in the answer.)*
- 3. What are ways we can prepare for these important Sacraments?**  
*(Answers should include) Pray, listen carefully to our religion teachers, do our homework, and follow the Commandments.*

## CELEBRATION

### Prayer

*Dear Jesus, as a young boy, you listened to your mother and father.  
Sometimes it is hard to me to make the right choice.  
Please help me to remember what You would do.  
I know I should do the same thing.  
Dear Jesus, help me make the right choice.  
Amen*

## ACTIVITIES

### Classroom Activity—Write a Prayer

Have the children think about things Jesus would have done as a child. Remind them that it was not always easy for Jesus to make the right choice. Remind them that Jesus always made the right choice even when it was difficult. As images of God we should always try to imitate Jesus and make the right choice, too. Have the children write a prayer to Jesus, asking Him to help them make the right choices.

# LESSON 3: JESUS, OUR EXAMPLE

## Arts and Crafts—Scripture Story Booklet

To help the students remember the Scripture stories they read, make a booklet retelling the important events in either the story of Jesus' baptism or the story of the temptations in the desert.

If you choose the story of Jesus' baptism, have the students label the pages as follows:

On page 1 write, "Jesus obeyed Mary and Joseph", and draw a picture of Jesus helping Mary and Joseph.

On page 2 write, "Reform your lives! The reign of God is at hand", and draw a picture of John the Baptist.

On page 3 write, "Look! There is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world", and draw a picture of Jesus.

On page 4 write, "John baptized Jesus", and draw a picture of John baptizing Jesus.

On page 5 write, "This is My beloved Son. My favor rests on Him", and draw a picture of a dove above Jesus.

If you choose the story of the temptations in the desert, have the student label the pages as follows:

On page 1 write, "Jesus prayed and fasted in the desert to prepare for His work to save us", and draw a picture of Jesus praying in the desert.

On page 2 write, "The devil told Jesus to use His power as God the Son to turn stones into bread", and draw a picture of the devil tempting Jesus.

On page 3 write, "The angels came to care for Jesus after the devil left", and draw a picture of the angels caring for Jesus.

### Materials needed:

white construction paper for the pages  
colored construction paper for the cover  
pencils  
crayons or markers

## Read a Story

*The Boy Jesus Goes a Walking*, Mary Richardson, Paulist Press, 1988.

*When Jesus Was a Little Boy*, Georgie Moore Eberling, Children's Press, 1954.

*Jesus and the Family Trip*, Sarah Fletcher, Arch Books, Concordia Publishing House, 1998

*The Story of Jesus' Baptism and Temptation*, Bryan Davis, Arch Books, Concordia Publishing House, 1997.

*Jesus Grows Up*, Pilar Paris, Joseph Lozano, and Maria Ruis, St. Anthony Messenger Press, 2007.

*When Jesus Was Little*, Sally Wilkins, Pauline Books and Media, 2004.

*Miracles of Jesus*, Carolyn Larsen, Standard Publishing, 2012.

*Life of Jesus*, Carine Mackenzie, CF4K, 2011.

*Jesus: The Early Years*, Carolyn Larsen, Standard Publishing, 2012.