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# God Created Everything

# LESSON 1: WE BELIEVE IN ONE GOD

## LESSON FOCUS

### Emphasis

In one God, there are three Divine Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. The three Persons in one God are called the Blessed Trinity. The Blessed Trinity is a mystery of faith we cannot completely understand. We believe in the Blessed Trinity through faith because it is one of the truths Jesus taught us. In this lesson we will discuss the Blessed Trinity.

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

**Characteristics of faith:** CCC 153–65, 176–81 (*Compendium* 27–29)

**Credo:** CCC 185–97 (*Compendium* 33–35)

**Dogma of the Blessed Trinity:** CCC 253–56, 263–67 (*Compendium* 48–49)

**Blessed Trinity as mystery:** CCC 232–37, 261 (*Compendium* 44–45)

**Relation between Tradition and Holy Scripture:** CCC 80–83, 96–97 (*Compendium* 12, 14)

**Revelation of God as Blessed Trinity:** CCC 238–48, 262 (*Compendium* 46–47)

**Ways to the knowledge of God:** CCC 31–38, 46–48 (*Compendium* 3–5)

### Concepts of Faith

**What do we call the three Persons in one God?**

*The Blessed Trinity.*

### Suggested Scripture Readings

John 14:6–11. *Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life,*

John 14:26. *The Holy Spirit will teach you all things.*

### Vocabulary

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

**Sacred Tradition:** the teaching of the Apostles, which has been entrusted to them by Jesus. Guided by the Holy Spirit this teaching has been passed down in the Church through the successors of the Apostles (bishops) to the present day. Both the Bible and Sacred Tradition come from God's revelation in Jesus.

**mystery of faith:** a truth revealed by God that cannot be fully understood by the human mind

**faith:** the power that God gives us that helps us believe what He reveals

**theology:** the study of God using the Sacred Scriptures, the teachings of the Church, and reason

**reason:** the power to understand, find, or think clearly about the truth

**Doctor of the Church:** a title given to certain saints whose writing, preaching, or teaching is trustworthy, outstanding, and true for all the faithful throughout history

# LESSON 1: WE BELIEVE IN ONE GOD

## LESSON PRESENTATION

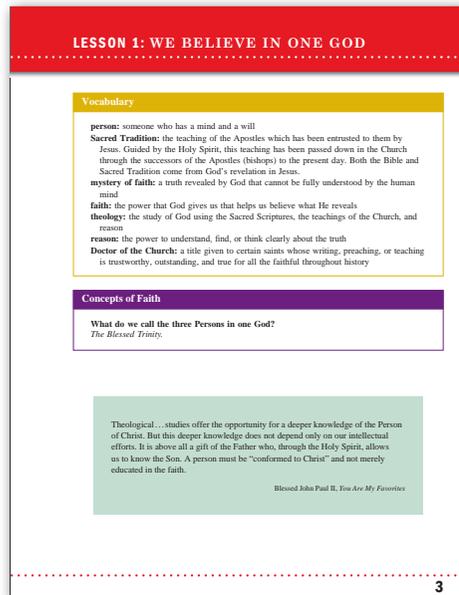
### Preparation

Set up a sacred space (see section about Preparation in Introduction). Begin with a short prayer and end prayer with “Saint Thomas Aquinas, pray for us!”

### Proclamation

We call the three Persons in one God the Blessed Trinity.

*Have the students study the vocabulary words and the Concepts of Faith before the lesson begins on page 3 in the student text.*



Discuss with the students what the papal quote means. Break it down into smaller parts and explain what each part means. Theological study is the study of God. This study leads us to a deeper relationship and friendship with Christ. Just as with a human friendship, more knowledge leads to a better relationship, so with Christ, a greater knowledge leads to a deeper relationship. End with the summary that our learning about God should lead to a deeper relationship with Him and help us to love Him more.

**(CCC 1803)**

**Background for teachers:** Faith is a theological virtue, along with hope and love. The three theological virtues are given to us by God at Baptism. “A virtue is an habitual and firm disposition to do the good”. Faith is the virtue that helps us to believe all that God has revealed to us through Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition.

## LESSON EXPLANATION

People who study theology use the Sacred Scriptures (the Bible), Sacred Tradition, and reason in their study of the Blessed Trinity. Reason is the step-by-step process that we use to draw conclusions. We use it almost without thinking about it when we make connections between previously acquired knowledge to form new conclusions. Reason is using our intellect to understand something or figure out a problem. We can do the same as the people who study theology.

**Ask:** **What do you (the students) know from Scripture, Sacred Tradition, or reason?** (Make a quick list on the board, as in the following example.)

Sacred Scripture	Sacred Tradition	Reason
Miracles of Jesus	Mary’s Assumption	The sun will come up tomorrow
Stories about Jesus	The Apostles’ Creed	Being alive is good
People in the Old Testament		Eating healthy is important

# LESSON 1: WE BELIEVE IN ONE GOD

Have the students read pages 4–5 in their text.

## LESSON 1: WE BELIEVE IN ONE GOD



People who study theology use the Sacred Scriptures (the Bible), Sacred Tradition, and reason in their study of the Blessed Trinity. Reason is using our intellect to understand something or figure out a problem. With our Catholic Faith, we can do the same as the people who study theology.

Using the Sacred Scriptures (the Bible), we can read about the three Persons of the Blessed Trinity. Here are two examples of Jesus teaching us about the Blessed Trinity. In the first example, Jesus talks about God the Father. Jesus is God the Son. In the second example, Jesus talks about God the Holy Spirit.

Jesus said to him [Thomas the Apostle], "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me. If you had known me, you would have known my Father also; henceforth you know him and have seen him." Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we shall be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you do not know me, Philip? He who has seen me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or else believe me for the sake of the works themselves."

John 14:6–11

"But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you."

John 14:26

In the teachings of the Church we have the prayer called the Apostles' Creed. In the Apostles' Creed we state what we believe as Catholics. The Apostles' Creed is part of Sacred Tradition.

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## LESSON 1: WE BELIEVE IN ONE GOD

### Apostles' Creed

I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

(At the words that follow, up to and including "the Virgin Mary", all bow.)

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended into hell;  
on the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;  
from there he will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting. Amen.

We can see from the Apostles' Creed that the Church teaches us about the Blessed Trinity. The Church teaches us about God the Father almighty, about Jesus Christ, His only Son, and about the Holy Spirit.

Using reason, we can try to understand the mystery of the Blessed Trinity by looking at our families. Think about your family. How many families live in your house? Usually one family lives in a house. How many people live in your house? Usually one family includes several people. Those people are all separate people, but there is still only one family. In God there are three Persons, but there is still only one God. This example does not come close to explaining the Blessed Trinity, but it does offer a small comparison to help us understand the Blessed Trinity.

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# LESSON 1: WE BELIEVE IN ONE GOD

Have the students complete page 6 in their text.

Have the students read pages 7–8 in their text and complete page 9.

## LESSON 1: WE BELIEVE IN ONE GOD

### Review Questions

1. What three things can we use to learn about the Blessed Trinity?

Three ways we can learn about the Blessed Trinity are Sacred Scripture, Sacred Tradition, and reason.

2. What prayer states what we believe as Catholics?

The Apostles' Creed states what we believe as Catholics.

3. What are some ways that we can be reminded of the Blessed Trinity in everyday life?

(Answers will vary. Make sure that the examples are valid three-in-ones—shamrock, apple [skin, flesh, core], candle with three wicks.)

Jesus has revealed to us the mystery of God. He, the Son, has made us know the Father who is in heaven, and has given us the Holy Spirit, the Love of the Father and of the Son. Christian theology summarizes the truth about God with this expression: only one substance in three persons.

Pope Benedict XVI, *Angelus*, May 22, 2005

## LESSON 1: WE BELIEVE IN ONE GOD

### Story of Faith

One man who studied about God and taught and wrote about the Blessed Trinity was Saint Thomas Aquinas. Thomas was a priest and belonged to the Dominican Order, founded by Saint Dominic. He is known today as a Doctor of the Church, because his teaching is very important to help us learn about God and the Church. Read the following story about Saint Thomas Aquinas.

### Saint Thomas Aquinas

THOMAS AQUINAS was born in 1225. He was born of wealthy parents in the family castle in the town of Aquino, Italy. Thomas' parents were members of the nobility.

Although Thomas was strong like his father and six older brothers, he did not become a soldier as they had. Instead, Thomas was drawn to the religious life. Thomas was a very quiet boy. He was intelligent and inquisitive, always asking questions.

When Thomas was five years old, he went to live with the Benedictine monks (men who spend their time in prayer) at the Abbey of Monte Cassino in Italy. There he studied about God and learned about the religious life. He even wore a Benedictine habit (the special clothing that sisters and monks wear). This didn't mean that he had to become a Benedictine monk, though that was what everyone expected.

When Thomas was fourteen years old, he returned home. A little later, he went to study at the University of Naples (Italy). While in Naples, Thomas joined the Dominican Order. His family was not happy with his decision. They did not think that the Dominican friars were good enough for their son, because the Dominicans were a new order in the Church, and lived a very poor life—begging for their food, and spending their time preaching and teaching all over the countryside. Thomas' family had agreed to a religious life for Thomas if he would go to the Benedictine Abbey of Monte Cassino, where most students came from wealthy and noble families. As a monk at the Abbey, backed by his family's influence, Thomas might become a bishop or even a Pope. Thomas' family tried many ways to get him to change his mind and become a Benedictine. When even bribery didn't work, they had him kidnapped and brought home. They locked Thomas in a tower of one of their castles for about seventeen months. They intended to keep him locked up until he changed his mind. But Thomas did not change his mind. He didn't want the riches offered to him. He had promised to live in poverty. Finally, Thomas' family permitted him to return to the Dominican Order. Thomas made his way to the University of Paris and there learned theology, philosophy, and science from a Dominican friar whose name was Albert. Later, Albert would also become a saint and a Doctor of the Church, because he was such a great teacher. He was later known as Albert the Great. Thomas' best friend, Bonaventure, was a Franciscan friar who would also become a well-known saint and Doctor of the Church.



# LESSON 1: WE BELIEVE IN ONE GOD

## LESSON 1: WE BELIEVE IN ONE GOD



Thomas was a large man, but he was quiet and reserved. He was very humble, because he knew his gifts came from God. On first meeting him, fellow students thought Thomas was uninteresting and stupid, because of his size and quiet nature. They soon discovered, however, that Thomas was extremely intelligent, even a genius. He did not show off and was always courteous, even when he strongly disagreed with someone. Albert knew that Thomas would be a great teacher one day. Thomas was greatly inspired by Albert and eventually became an even greater teacher than Albert himself.

Thomas became a professor of theology. He spent his life teaching, writing books, meditating, and praying. Thomas would always pray before writing or teaching. His writings and teachings were brilliant and clear. In addition to writing books, Thomas wrote prayers. One year he wrote prayers to be said at the Mass on the feast of Corpus Christi (the Body and Blood of Christ). Bonaventure had also composed Mass prayers for the same feast day. Both Thomas and Bonaventure were to read their prayers to the Pope and cardinals. The Pope and cardinals would then decide which man's prayers would be said at Mass. First, Thomas read the Mass prayers he had composed. Bonaventure listened. He knew that Thomas' prayers were much better than his own. Without waiting for the Pope and the cardinals to decide which prayers to use, Bonaventure quietly tore up his own composition. Thomas wrote many prayers and songs about the Blessed Sacrament, including the *Pange Lingua* and the *Tantum Ergo*, which you may have heard in church, perhaps during the Benediction.

The most famous of Thomas' writings is his *Summa theologiae*, which is his summary of Catholic theology. His study of God is divided into three parts: God, creation, and Christ. In his study, Thomas used arguments both for and against each particular point. Then he gave a final and convincing argument that proved the truth he was seeking. Today, the *Summa theologiae* is used throughout the world in seminaries, universities, and even some high schools to teach the truths of the Catholic faith.

Thomas felt that what he had written was like straw compared to God's love for him and his love for God. Toward the end of his life, as Thomas knelt before a crucifix, he heard a voice from the crucifix say, "You have written well of Me, Thomas. What would you have as a reward?" Thomas replied, "Only Yourself, Lord."

Thomas died on March 7, 1274, near Terracina, Italy. His friend Bonaventure died in July of the same year. Thomas was declared a saint in 1323. He is the patron saint of Catholic schools. His feast day is January 28.

## LESSON 1: WE BELIEVE IN ONE GOD

### Review Questions

1. What religious order did Saint Thomas join?

Saint Thomas joined the Dominican Order.

2. From whom did Saint Thomas learn?

Saint Thomas learned from Saint Albert the Great.

3. What did Saint Thomas spend his life doing?

Saint Thomas spent his life as a professor of theology, by teaching, writing, meditating, and praying.

4. What is the most famous of Saint Thomas' writings?

The *Summa theologiae* is the most famous writing of Saint Thomas.

5. Toward the end of his life, what did Thomas ask of Jesus?

Saint Thomas asked Jesus for "Only Yourself, Lord."

# LESSON 1: WE BELIEVE IN ONE GOD

## Lesson Activity

Saint Thomas used Sacred Scripture, Sacred Tradition, and reason to learn about the Blessed Trinity. Use reason to find reminders of the Blessed Trinity around us. There are many sets of three in the world around us. These can remind us of the Blessed Trinity.

The students will find reminders of the Blessed Trinity in creation and objects around us, things that are three, but one. God gives us many reminders of the Blessed Trinity all around us. Ask the students to find their own reminders for homework.

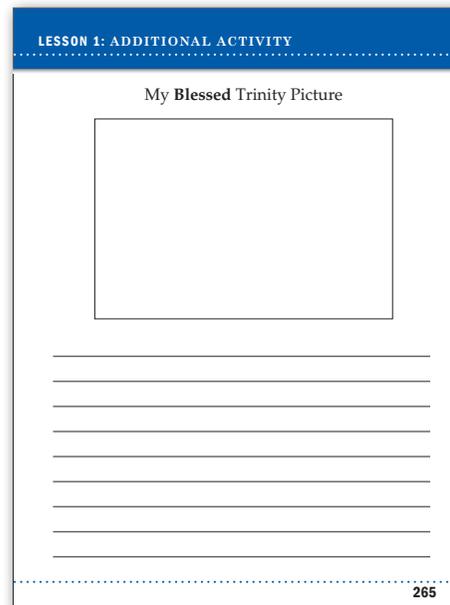
They can draw a picture of it and write a few sentences about how that object reminds them of the Blessed Trinity, for example, a three-leaf clover, a tricycle has three wheels, three parts of an apple (skin, flesh, core), three aspects of fire (flame, light, heat). Copy the premade worksheet My Blessed Trinity Picture for the students to use (worksheet can be found in the Appendix on page 265). Allow each student to present his object and read his sentences. Hang the papers in the room or in the hallway.

Emphasize with the students that each example of the Blessed Trinity does not and cannot come close to fully explaining the Blessed Trinity. It is a mystery that cannot be completely understood by the human mind.

To enhance the lesson, use Andrei Rublev's icon of the Blessed Trinity. The picture and commentary can be found on the internet.

LESSON 1: ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

My Blessed Trinity Picture



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## LIVING THE LESSON • APPLICATION

Have the students read page 10 and complete page 11 in their text.

### LESSON 1: WE BELIEVE IN ONE GOD

What do we know about each Person in the Blessed Trinity? We know that a person is someone who has a mind and a will with the power of thinking and choosing. Because God is divine, His mind is all-knowing and all-wise. God's will allows Him to love everyone and everything perfectly. He always plans what is good for us and all creation. We also know that each Person of the Blessed Trinity is God. God the Father is God, God the Son is God, and God the Holy Spirit is God. Moreover, we know that God is powerful, wise, and loving. He is powerful; He created everything from nothing. He is wise; He knows everything and uses His knowledge for our good and His glory. He is loving; He loves us and helps us to make loving choices. Each Person of the Blessed Trinity is powerful, wise, and loving. One Person is not greater than the others. Even though each Person of the Blessed Trinity is powerful, wise, and loving, sometimes we focus on the special things that the three Persons of the Blessed Trinity do.

We focus on the power of God the Father when we say that God the Father created the angels, us, the world, and everything in the world.

We focus on the wisdom of Jesus, God the Son, when we say that God the Son knows everything. We sometimes call Jesus the Word of God. Jesus teaches us the truth about God. (And of course, by His death on the Cross, Jesus saved us from sin.)

We focus on God's love in the Holy Spirit when we say that the Holy Spirit is loving. The Holy Spirit guides the Church, and He helps us to make loving choices and to follow Jesus.

Though we sometimes focus on creating with the Father, teaching with the Son, and loving with the Holy Spirit, it is important to remember that the three Persons of the Blessed Trinity always act together—they are *one* God.

# LESSON 1: WE BELIEVE IN ONE GOD

## LESSON 1: WE BELIEVE IN ONE GOD

### Review Questions

1. How many Gods do we believe in?

*We believe in One God.*

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2. Is one Person in the Blessed Trinity greater than another?

*One Person in the Blessed Trinity is not greater than another.*

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3. What do we focus on with God the Father?

*We focus on power or creation with God the Father.*

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4. What do we focus on with God the Son?

*We focus on wisdom or teaching with God the Son.*

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5. What do we focus on with God the Holy Spirit?

*We focus on love with God the Holy Spirit.*

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## Lesson Activity—Blessed Trinity Folder

To make the folder, the construction paper is folded horizontally into three equal sections, so that each section is 4 inches wide and 9 inches high.

After the paper is folded into sections, open it flat. Label the top of the left section “God the Father”, the middle section “God the Son”, and the right section “God the Holy Spirit”.

Under “God the Father”, have the students write: “We connect power with God the Father when we say that God the Father created the angels, us, the world, and everything in the world.” At the bottom of the left section, they draw a picture of one or more of the things that God the Father created.

Under “God the Son”, have the students write: “We connect wisdom with God the Son, Jesus, when we say that God the Son knows everything. We sometimes call Jesus the Word of God. Jesus teaches us the truth about God.” They then draw a picture of Jesus teaching.

Under “God the Holy Spirit”, have the students write: “We connect love with the Holy Spirit when we say that the Holy Spirit is loving. The Holy Spirit guides the Church, and He guides us. He helps us to make loving choices and helps us to follow Jesus.” They then draw a picture of someone making a loving choice.

### Materials needed:

white construction paper,  
approximately 9 × 12 inches  
pencils  
markers  
crayons, or coloring pencils

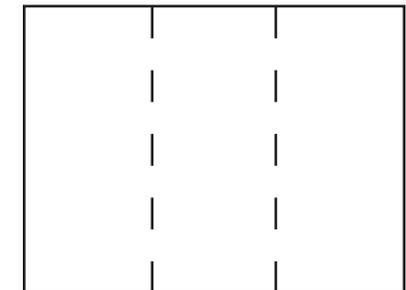


Diagram on folding the paper

# LESSON 1: WE BELIEVE IN ONE GOD

Refold the paper so the left section or panel is on top. Have the students title their folders “The Blessed Trinity”. They could also draw a three-leaf clover or a triangle on the cover, as a symbol of the Blessed Trinity. The paper folded three times, the three-leaf clover, and the triangle all help us understand that there are three Persons in one God.

## ENHANCING THE LESSON

The Blessed Trinity is a mystery of faith. Our minds cannot completely understand the mystery of three Divine Persons in one God.

**Ask:** Can you think of any other examples of mysteries (natural or supernatural)? Examples of natural mysteries could be the Aurora Borealis, eclipses, how bumblebees fly, anything that is not easy to explain or understand, things that people call “mysteries”. The example of the mystery novel could also be used.

**Why are these called mysteries?** Sometimes they are called mysteries because they are hard to explain or understand.

The Church understands that a mystery is something that we could not know by ourselves; God reveals it to us. While we cannot understand everything about what the mystery means, we can know some things about it.

Examples of mysteries of the faith may include the Incarnation (God becoming man in Jesus Christ), the Assumption of Mary into Heaven, and the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead. List examples on the board. Explain that the main difference between natural mysteries and mysteries of the faith is that natural mysteries can be explained, while mysteries of the faith are revealed by God, and will never be totally understood until we see God face-to-face in Heaven.

**Ask:** Even though we cannot completely understand God, we should continue to learn as much as we can about Him. How can we learn more about God? Pay attention in religion class, do our religion homework, go to Mass on Sundays and Holy Days, pray.

Have the students read the following section on page 12 in text.

## LESSON 1: WE BELIEVE IN ONE GOD

The Blessed Trinity is a mystery of faith. Our minds cannot completely understand the mystery of three Divine Persons in one God.

The Church understands that a mystery is something that we could not know by ourselves; God reveals it to us. While we cannot understand everything about what the mystery means, we can know some things about it.

We believe in the mystery of the Blessed Trinity because Jesus, God the Son, taught us this truth, which is contained in Sacred Scripture, as we saw earlier. We also believe because God has given us the gift of faith. Faith is the power that God gives us that helps us believe what He reveals.

There is a story told about Saint Augustine, who was the bishop of Hippo. Bishop Augustine lived many, many years ago. He was very intelligent and used his intelligence to study about God and the Blessed Trinity. One day, he was walking along the seashore thinking about the mystery of the Blessed Trinity. He saw a small boy digging a hole in the sand. Then the boy began filling the hole with sea water. He filled a shell with water from the ocean and emptied the water into the hole he had dug.

The bishop asked the boy what he was doing. The boy explained that he was trying to empty the ocean into the little hole he had dug.

Bishop Augustine told the boy that he could not possibly empty the enormous ocean into such a small hole. The boy replied that it would be easier for him to put all the water from the ocean into the little hole than it would be for Augustine to understand entirely the mystery of the Blessed Trinity. After the boy said this, he vanished. The boy was really an angel.

The angel was telling Saint Augustine that the human mind doesn't have the ability to understand God completely, because God is divine. The Blessed Trinity is one of the mysteries of faith that we cannot completely understand. But Augustine prayed and studied, and like Saint Thomas Aquinas, he wrote a great deal about the Blessed Trinity, even one book that is called *The Trinity*. Saint Augustine was also made a Doctor of the Church, like Saint Thomas and Saint Bonaventure.

We should go to Mass on Sundays and holy days. Have you noticed that the Blessed Trinity—Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit—are mentioned during Mass? All of our prayers are made to the Father, through the Son, and in the Holy Spirit. On one particular Sunday, the Church focuses especially on the Blessed Trinity. That Sunday is called Trinity Sunday. It is the first Sunday after Pentecost. On that Sunday we pray, “**For what you have revealed to us as your glory we believe equally of your son and of the Holy Spirit, so that in the confessing of the true eternal Godhead, you might be adored in what is proper to each Person, their unity in substance, and their equality in majesty.**”

We should also pray each day, thanking God for His gifts to us and asking Him to help us follow Him always. When we make the Sign of the Cross, we are praising the Blessed Trinity and showing that we believe that in one God there are three Persons.

The Glory Be prayer reminds us that each Person of the Blessed Trinity always was, is now, and always will be.

### 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.

# LESSON 1: WE BELIEVE IN ONE GOD

Have the students complete page 13 in their text.

**LESSON 1: WE BELIEVE IN ONE GOD**

**Review Questions**

- 1. What is a mystery of faith?**  
*A mystery of faith is truth revealed by God that cannot be fully understood by the human mind.*
- 2. What is an example of a mystery of faith?**  
*An example of a mystery of faith is the Blessed Trinity.*
- 3. What is faith?**  
*Faith is the power that God gives us that helps us believe what He reveals.*
- 4. What is the lesson of the story of the angel and Saint Augustine?**  
*The lesson of the story of the angel and Saint Augustine is that God cannot be completely understood by the human mind because He is divine.*
- 5. What are some ways we can learn more about God?**  
*Sample answers about some ways we can learn about God are pay attention in religion class, pray, go to Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation, and read books about God and the saints.*
- 6. To what will knowledge of God lead us?**  
*Knowledge of God will lead us to a better friendship with Jesus Christ.*
- 7. How do we remember the Blessed Trinity in our prayers?**  
*We remember the Blessed Trinity in our prayers when we make the Sign of the Cross and pray the Glory Be.*

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Have the students complete the review worksheet for Lesson 1 (found in the Appendix).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Lesson 1: We Believe in One God** *Lesson Review Worksheet*

Complete the following sentence by filling in the blank in each sentence.

- We call the three Persons in one God the Blessed Trinity.
- A person is someone who has a mind and a will.
- The power that God gives us that helps us believe what He reveals is faith.
- A mystery of faith is a truth revealed by God that cannot be fully understood by the human mind.
- The teachings of the Church which have been entrusted by the Holy Spirit to the Apostles and have been passed down to their successors to the present day is also called Sacred Tradition.

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

- He was a great teacher of the Church and wrote a famous summary of Catholic theology.  
a. Saint Francis of Assisi  
b. Saint Thomas More  
c. Saint Thomas Aquinas
- What prayer states what we believe as Catholics and especially what we believe about the Blessed Trinity?  
a. the Hail Mary  
b. the Apostles' Creed  
c. the Our Father
- Sacred Scripture is also known as \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. Sacred Tradition  
b. the Bible  
c. a mystery
- Which of the following sentences is false?  
a. We believe in three Gods.  
b. Each Person of the Blessed Trinity is God.  
c. One Person of the Blessed Trinity is not greater than the others.
- What is the study of God using the Sacred Scripture, the teachings of the Church, and reason called?  
a. theology  
b. Sacred Tradition  
c. faith

Write the answers to the following questions on the lines provided.

- Name the three Persons of the Blessed Trinity. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit
- Name one mystery of faith. The Holy Trinity
- What three ways did Saint Thomas Aquinas use to study theology? Sacred Scripture (the Bible), the teachings of the Church (Sacred Tradition), and reason

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## CELEBRATION

**Ask:** How do we begin and end each prayer? *With the Sign of the Cross.*

# LESSON 1: WE BELIEVE IN ONE GOD

## ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Use the Getting to Know You worksheet to help the students learn about each other. Pair the students and ask them to complete the worksheet. Then have each student present his partner to the class by sharing what he has learned.

*Have the students complete the activity on page 14 in the student text.*

**LESSON 1: WE BELIEVE IN ONE GOD**

**Getting to Know You**

*Directions: Take turns with your partner asking and answering the following questions. Be prepared to introduce your partner to the class by sharing the information you have learned.*

My name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of my partner: \_\_\_\_\_

When is your birthday? \_\_\_\_\_

How many children are in your family? \_\_\_\_\_

What are their names and ages? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Where were you born? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever lived anywhere other than in this town? If so, where? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your favorite sport? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your favorite subject in school? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you play a musical instrument? If so, what? \_\_\_\_\_

What do you like to do in your free time? \_\_\_\_\_

What do you want to be when you grow up? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any pets? What kinds? What are their names? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What is your favorite food? \_\_\_\_\_

**14**

## Read a Story

Books about Saint Thomas Aquinas:  
*Saint Thomas Aquinas and the Preaching Beggers*, Brendan Larnen, O.P. and Milton Lomask, Ignatius Press, 2005.  
*Saint Thomas Aquinas: The Story of the Dumb Ox*, Mary Fabyan Windeatt, Tan Books, 1993.

## Watch a DVD

Another saint who taught about the mystery of the Blessed Trinity was Saint Patrick. Watch *Patrick: Brave Shepherd of the Emerald Isle*, CCC of America, 1997.

# LESSON 2: ANGELS ARE CREATED

## LESSON FOCUS

### Emphasis

In this lesson we will discuss the creation and fall of the angels. God created the angels in His image to know Him and to love Him. As images of God, angels are persons. They are persons with minds and wills, but no bodies. The mind allows them to think, and the will allows them to choose. As persons with minds and wills, some angels chose to love God; others did not.

### Suggested Scripture Readings

Exodus 23:20–22. *God promises a guardian angel to guide Moses and the Israelites.*

Tobit 12:11–15. *Raphael appears to Tobit.*

Matthew 18:10–12. *Angels protect the little ones.*

Luke 1:1–20. *Angel appears to Zechariah.*

Luke 1:26–38. *Gabriel appears to Mary.*

Luke 2:8–14. *Angels announce the birth of Jesus.*

Luke 22:39–42. *Angel comforts Jesus in the garden of Olives.*

Acts 1:6–11. *Angels at the Ascension*

John 20:11–13. *Angels appear to Mary Magdalene at the tomb of Jesus.*

Acts 12:6–11. *Angel frees Peter from prison.*

Hebrews 1:13–14. *Angels serve us.*

*If you follow the Scriptures in this way, the students will see that the angels were there at every important event in the life of Christ.*

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

**Angels:** CCC 328–36, 350–52 (*Compendium* 60)

**Fall of the angels:** CCC 391–95, 413–14 (*Compendium* 74)

**Heaven:** CCC 1023–29, 1053 (*Compendium* 209)

**Hell:** CCC 1033–37, 1056–57 (*Compendium* 212–13)

**Mystery of creation:** CCC 293–301, 315, 317–18, 320 (*Compendium* 51, 53–54)

### Concepts of Faith

#### Who are angels?

*Angels are images of God. They are persons created by God without bodies. They are pure spirits with minds and wills.*

#### What gift did God give the angels?

*God created the angels in His image with the gift of His life, which is grace.*

#### What do the angels do?

*The angels praise God and can also act as His messengers and as our guardians.*

#### Where are the angels who love God and are faithful to Him?

*They are in Heaven, praising and worshipping God.*

#### Where are the angels who do not love God and are unfaithful to Him?

*They have separated themselves from God and are in a place created for them, called Hell.*

## LESSON 2: ANGELS ARE CREATED

### Vocabulary

**create:** to make something from nothing, as only God can do

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

**angels:** images of God; persons created by God without bodies; immortal, pure spirits with minds and wills who always praise God and act as guardians and messengers of God's saving plan; word means "messenger"

**grace:** a free gift from God in which He shares His divine life and friendship with us

**devils:** unfaithful angels who chose not to act as images of God by sinning against God

**Heaven:** a place of eternal life with God where there is perfect happiness and love of God, love of neighbor, and love of self

**Hell:** a place of eternal separation from God, reserved for those who have chosen it by their own free decision not to love God; a place in which there is no love of God, no love of neighbor, and no love of self

**immortal:** will not die, will live for ever

**eternal:** always was, always is, and always will be

**pure spirits:** persons with minds and wills but no bodies

### LESSON PRESENTATION

#### Preparation

Gather materials: Bible, picture of angels, or board, or large piece of paper and markers.

Set up a sacred space (see section about Preparation in Introduction). Begin with Angel of God prayer.

*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.*

#### Proclamation

Angels are images of God who were created by God without bodies. They are pure spirits with minds and wills.

# LESSON 2: ANGELS ARE CREATED

Have the students study the vocabulary words and the Concepts of Faith before the lesson begins on page 15 in the student text.

## LESSON 2: ANGELS ARE CREATED

### Vocabulary

**create:** to make something from nothing, as only God can do  
**person:** someone who has a mind and a will  
**angels:** images of God; persons created by God without bodies; immortal, pure spirits with minds and wills who always praise God and act as guardians and messengers of God's saving plan; word means "messengers"  
**grace:** a free gift from God in which He shares His divine life and friendship with us  
**devils:** unfaithful angels who sinned against God by choosing not to act as images of God  
**Heaven:** a place of eternal life with God where there is perfect happiness, love of God, love of neighbor, and love of self  
**Hell:** a place of eternal separation from God, reserved for those who have chosen it by their own free decision not to love God; a place in which there is no love of God, no love of neighbor, and no love of self  
**immortal:** will not die; will live for ever  
**eternal:** always was, is, and always will be  
**pure spirits:** persons with minds and wills but no bodies

### Concepts of Faith

**Who are angels?**  
*Angels are images of God. They are persons created by God without bodies. They are pure spirits with minds and wills.*

**What gift did God give the angels?**  
*God created the angels in His image with the gift of His life, which is grace.*

**What do the angels do?**  
*The angels praise God and can also act as His messengers and our guardians.*

**Where are the angels who love God and are faithful to Him?**  
*They are in Heaven, praising and worshipping God.*

**Where are the angels who do not love God and are unfaithful to Him?**  
*They have separated themselves from God, and are in a place created for them, called Hell.*

"For he will give his angels charge of you to guard you in all your ways."

Psalm 91:11

15

## LESSON EXPLANATION

Ask the students what they think an angel looks like. Have a few volunteers, or the students in small groups, draw pictures of what they think angels look like on the board (or on large pieces of paper, or you can show pictures of angels). The students will probably draw or describe pictures of human persons with halos and wings, holding harps or candles. Leave the pictures up during the following discussion.

God created the angels in His image. As images of God, angels are persons. They have minds to think and wills to choose. The angels are pure spirits. They are created without bodies. God created the angels to know Him and to love Him. As pure spirits, angels are more like God than like human persons. They are wiser and more powerful than human persons. They know more about God than we do here on earth. From their creation, God shared His life, grace, with the angels.

Have the children discuss their drawings (or pictures).

**Ask:** **Do these pictures fit the description of an angel?** *No. Angels are created as pure spirits without bodies, so we cannot see them. The Bible contains stories of angels appearing to people. They appeared to have bodies so people would be able to see them.*

To illustrate the place angels take in creation, discuss the hierarchy of being. Write it on the board as you go through it with the students.

**Ask:** **What is the most basic part of creation?** *Rocks.*

**Next part of creation?** *Plants.*

**Next part of creation?** *Animals. All of these parts of creation are physical and are not made in the image of God.*

**Next part of creation?** *Human Persons. Human persons are physical (body) and spiritual (soul). Because the soul has a mind and will, human persons are made in the image of God.*

# LESSON 2: ANGELS ARE CREATED

Each step of creation is covered, from less complicated (rocks) to more complicated (human persons).

At the very top of the hierarchy of being is God, Who is pure spirit and the Creator of all. Because of this, it is reasonable to conclude that God would create a being that is pure spirit, but not divine, to fill in that step of creation. That part of creation is the angels.

Use the Hierarchy of Being chart on page 16 of the student text to illustrate this fact.

**LESSON 2: ANGELS ARE CREATED**

**Hierarchy of Being**

God—pure spirit and divine, with mind and will

↑

Angels—pure spirit, with mind and will

↑

Human Persons—physical and spiritual, with mind and will

↑

Animals—physical, with no mind or will; actions governed by instinct

↑

Plants—basically alive

↑

Rocks—not alive

**What Angels Are**

Angels, spiritual beings endowed with intelligence and will, [are] servants and messengers of God.

Pope Benedict XVI, *Regina Caeli*, April 5, 2010

God created the angels in His image. As images of God, angels are persons. They have minds to think and wills to choose. The angels are pure spirits; that is, they were created without bodies. We cannot see angels.

God created the angels to know Him and to love Him. As pure spirits, angels are more like God than human beings. They are wiser and more powerful than human persons. They know more about God than we do here on earth. Any choice or decision an angel makes is made with full knowledge. Angels do not change their minds.

**(CCC 330)** The angels were blessed from their creation with grace. They



**Ask:** What would be the first thing you would do if something good happened to you? (For example, what would they do if they received a new game, an outfit, or a book as a gift? Maybe they received something they had wanted for a long time. Lead them to conclude that they would tell someone about the gift.) When we have good news, we have a desire to share it with others. God is all-good, and He wants to share His goodness and His love with others. This is the reason why God created angels and all things. He wanted to share His goodness and love with His creation.

**Why did God create the angels?** (Accept all reasonable answers.) God created the angels in His image to know Him and love Him. God is all-loving and all-good. He created them to share His goodness.

**Background information for the teacher:** Because of Original Sin humans make decisions without full knowledge. Our intellects are darkened and our wills were weakened. However, we learn from our experiences and can change our minds because of new information or rethinking. We do not always know the consequences for our actions before they happen. Angels do not learn or change their minds. The angels chose for God or against God at their creation. At their creation, the angels had all the information they needed to make a decision to follow God or not to follow Him. When they chose, their choice was final and not able to be changed. They understood the consequences of their choice before they chose.

Read and discuss “What Angels Are” in the students’ textbook on pages 16–17. Then have them find the coded message on page 18 of their textbook.

# LESSON 2: ANGELS ARE CREATED

## LESSON 2: ANGELS ARE CREATED

were created by God in His image to love and worship Him forever. In the splendor of their glory, the angels surpass all visible creatures. With such an advantage, how could some of the angels choose not to love God? It was possible for them to choose not to love God because the angels have free wills.

**(CCC 392)** God created the angels free, so that they could freely choose to love. As images of God, they were created to love. If God forced the angels to love Him, that wouldn't really be love; it would be force. Love is always freely chosen. God gave the angels freedom, so that their love could be freely chosen. Some angels, led by Lucifer, whose name means "light", chose not to love God. They rejected God and His reign. Lucifer then became known as Satan, a name which means "adversary". He and his followers chose to live in Hell, where they never repent of their sins, and where they work to turn all mankind away from God.

### Review Questions

1. What are angels?

*They are images of God who are persons with minds and wills; pure spirits without bodies.*

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2. Can angels change their minds?

*No, when they make a choice, they do not change their minds.*

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3. Do angels have free will?

*Yes, angels have a free will to choose to love God or not.*

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Work the puzzle below and find the coded message. Use the codes to find out what letter each symbol stands for.

*Have the students read pages 18–19 and complete the activity on page 19 in their text.*

## LESSON 2: ANGELS ARE CREATED

*Directions: Use the code below to discover the hidden message.*

■ ● ♥ § ♣ ∅ ☑ ☎ ♠ ☒ ✱ ☞ ♦ # ⊗  
A C D E F G H I L M N O R S T

A N G E L S   A R E  
■ ✱ ∅ § ♠ #   ■ ♦ §

C R E A T E D   I N   T H E  
● ♦ § ■ ⊗ § ♥ ☎ ✱ ☒ ☑ §

I M A G E   O F   G O D  
☎ ☒ ■ ∅ § ☞ ♣ ∅ ☞ ♥

### Story of Faith



*Saint Michael  
the Archangel*

God created the angels in His image. He created them to love Him as He loves them. The angels were very happy loving and praising God. Among them were some very powerful angels called archangels. The names of some of the archangels are Gabriel, Raphael, and Michael. These angels are very strong and special friends of God.

One of the angels, named Lucifer, decided that he didn't want to love God. He wanted to be just as important and powerful as God. Lucifer led a group of angels who also were too proud to love God. They wanted to be gods. (Today, we call Lucifer Satan.)

Saint Michael the Archangel and the other faithful angels struggled with Lucifer and the other unfaithful angels. Lucifer and the unfaithful angels chose no longer to live with God. They no longer wanted God's life, which is called grace. They chose a place created for them by God called Hell.

# LESSON 2: ANGELS ARE CREATED

## LESSON 2: ANGELS ARE CREATED

### The Faithful Angels

When Satan and some of the other angels turned away from God, they turned away from all that is good, from all that is true, and from all that is love. They chose not to act as images of God. They chose to live an existence apart from God, where there is no love of God, no love of neighbor, and no love of self. They used their freedom to choose what we call Hell. Through their free choice, evil happened.

Satan and his followers can tempt us to turn away from God. However, they cannot make us sin. When we pray the Our Father, we pray, "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." God hears our prayer and gives us the grace we need to resist temptation and to do His will.

All persons can freely choose to respond to God's love. By responding to God's love we become the best images of God we can be. When we are tempted to do something wrong, we can pray to Saint Michael and the other faithful angels, who will help us act as images of God.

The angels who chose to love God and to be faithful to Him remained with God in Heaven, and they help us in our relationships with God and others. These angels praise God eternally on behalf of all the created world. Some of the angels are sent by God to us as messengers. Some are guardian angels, who are sent to us to help us and sometimes to protect us from evil. At times, these angels may influence us to do good things. We can pray and ask our guardian angels to bring our prayers to God.

### Activity

**Directions:** On a separate piece of paper, answer the following questions in your own words.

1. Why did some of the angels choose not to love and be faithful to God?  
*They wanted to be as important and powerful as God.*
2. Where are the angels who chose not to love God?  
*In Hell.*
3. Where are the angels who chose to love God?  
*In Heaven.*
4. What are the three things that the angels do?  
*They praise God and act as messengers and guardians.*
5. Angels have minds and wills. What does this mean?  
*They are persons and images of God.*
6. How are angels like human persons? How are angels different from human persons?  
*Angels have minds and wills like we do. Angels do not have bodies.*

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## LIVING THE LESSON • APPLICATION

### Bible Search

Remind the children that we can't see angels, but they have appeared to some people as messengers of God. In these cases they have assumed a bodily form so they can be seen by the people. Divide the students into groups of three or four. Have the students find the Bible passages that tell about angels. Have the students write a short script and act out the passage. The students should identify the role the angel(s) is (are) playing in their passages (praising God, acting as a messenger, or acting as a guardian). The following are some examples that could be used:

Exodus 23:20–22. *God promises a guardian angel to guide Moses and the Israelites (guardian).*

Tobit 12:11–15. *The angel Raphael appearing to Tobit (messenger/guardian)*

Isaiah 6:1–7. *Describes the throne of God in Heaven with the angels praising Him (praising)*

Luke 1:1–20. *The angel Gabriel appearing to Zechariah (messenger)*

Luke 1:26–38. *The angel Gabriel appearing to Mary (messenger)*

Luke 2:8–14. *The angels' announcement of the birth of Jesus to the shepherds (messenger/praising)*

Matthew 18:10–12. *Angels protect the little ones (guardians).*

Luke 22:39–42. *Angel comforts Jesus in the garden of Olives (praising).*

John 20:11–13. *An angel appearing to Mary Magdalene at the tomb of Jesus (messenger)*

Acts 1:6–11. *Angels at the Ascension (messenger)*

Acts 12:6–11. *Angel frees Peter from prison (messenger).*

Hebrews 1:13–14. *Angels serve us (guardians).*

# LESSON 2: ANGELS ARE CREATED

Have students complete page 20 in their text.

## LESSON 2: ANGELS ARE CREATED

### Discussion Questions

1. Can angels change their minds? Why or why not?  
No. The angels make fully informed decisions; unlike us, they always have complete information before choosing anything.
2. Angels are pure spirits with powerful minds and wills. Is there anything they need?  
Because angels don't have bodies, they don't need food and water as we do. They do need God's life, grace, to act as images of God and to live with God in Heaven.
3. As images of God, the angels were created to love as God loves. If God had forced them to love Him, would it have really been love? Why or why not?  
No. Love must be freely chosen.
4. Do you think God took away the unfaithful angels' superior minds and wills because they opposed Him?  
No. (Explain to the children that the unfaithful angels try to get us to turn away from God, but no matter how hard they try, if we ask God for His help we will receive the help to turn away from temptation. The unfaithful angels work for evil, as the faithful angels work for good. Sometimes the term "fallen" is used to describe the unfaithful angels. Explain that the term "fallen angels" means that these angels chose to reject God and to be unfaithful to Him.)
5. Did God create evil?  
God did not create evil. Satan and his followers chose evil when they disobeyed God. Evil entered the world when Adam and Eve sinned.
6. Where did the unfaithful angels go when they left Heaven?  
They went to Hell. Hell is a place where there is complete separation from God. There is no love of God, no love of neighbor, and no love of self. In Hell there is an absence of everything good.

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**Note to the teacher:** If the question of physical suffering in Hell is raised, explain to the students that the primary suffering of Hell is not being with God, which means also the absence of all love.

Heaven is a place of perfect happiness, where there is love of God, love of neighbor, and love of self. We know of two persons who are in Heaven, body and soul. After His death and Resurrection, Jesus ascended into Heaven, body and soul. True God and true man He ascended forty days after Easter. When the Blessed Virgin Mary's earthly life was over, she was taken to Heaven, body and soul. We call this her Assumption into Heaven.

## ENHANCING THE LESSON

In this part of the lesson, we will think about the differences between the angels and us. Have you ever made a decision and then, later, after having learned more, changed your mind?

When we gain more knowledge about a decision we have made, we can change our minds and make a more informed decision. The angels do not change their minds, because they already have full knowledge before they make a decision. They do not gain more knowledge and change their minds.

# LESSON 2: ANGELS ARE CREATED

Have students complete page 21 of their textbook and use this as a lesson review.

**LESSON 2: ANGELS ARE CREATED**

**Word Search**

*Directions: Fill in the blanks below, and then find the answers in the word search following the statements. These are some of the words you will use.*

Hell	God	devils	grace
Heaven	create	angels	

- We call Heaven a place of perfect happiness, where there is love of God, love of neighbor, and love of self.
- To create is to make something from nothing.
- We call Hell the place of eternal separation from God, where there is no love of God, no love of neighbor, and no love of self.
- Angels are images of God created by God without bodies. They are pure spirits with minds and wills.
- The devils are the angels who chose not to act as images of God.
- Grace is the gift of God's life that He gave the angels and us.
- Persons, both angels and humans, are made in the image of God.

D	E	F	L	M	S	T	O	W	L	J	R
N	P	C	R	E	A	T	E	L	H	L	V
D	O	E	P	I	K	M	J	F	A	E	U
E	S	G	A	H	E	A	V	E	N	Z	B
V	T	O	D	E	H	R	Q	N	G	F	J
I	A	D	R	L	S	C	V	B	E	N	C
L	D	O	U	L	Z	G	W	F	L	O	W
S	R	G	R	A	C	E	T	P	S	M	S

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## CELEBRATION

Pray the prayer to Saint Michael the Archangel on page 22 of the student text together as a class.

**LESSON 2: ANGELS ARE CREATED**

**Prayer to Saint Michael**

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle,  
be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the Devil.  
May God rebuke him, we humbly pray.  
And do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host,  
by the Power of God, thrust into hell Satan and evil spirits  
who wander the earth seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

**22**

## LESSON 2: ANGELS ARE CREATED

### ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Have an outline of an angel drawn (one per student) with the title “My Guardian Angel”. Have each student color the angel and write the quote “He will give his angels charge over you to protect you in all your ways” (see Matthew 4:6), or Angel of God prayer. The students can put them in a place where they can see them to remind them to pray to their guardian angel.
- Students can write a story about a time that their guardian angels helped them—resist temptation, guarded them from evil, helped them in some way.

### Resources for the teacher

- To find pictures of angels, go to <http://www.silk.net/RelEd/clipart.htm>
- Book of illustrated fine art: *Saints and Angels*, Clare Llewelyn, Ignatius Press, 2003.
- Other books on angels:
  - *Angels*, Marco Bussagli, Abrams Books, 2007.
  - *Angels and Demons*, Peter Kreeft, Ignatius Press, 1995.
  - *Send Me Your Guardian Angel: Padre Pio*, Father Alessio Parente, National Center for Padre Pio Gifts, 1983.

### Books and DVDs for children

- *My Secret Friend: A Guardian Angel Story*, DVD from CCC of America, 1993.
- *The Angels: God’s Messengers and Our Helpers*, Rev. Lawrence Lovasik, Catholic Book Publishing, 1996.
- *Praying to My Guardian Angel*, Rev. Lawrence Lovasik, Catholic Book Publishing, 2009.
- An angel appeared to the children at Fatima to prepare them for the coming of the Blessed Mother. Here are two resources to learn more:
  - *Our Lady Came to Fatima*, Ruth Fox Hume, Vision Books, Catholic Book Publishing, 2005.
  - *The Day the Sun Danced*, DVD, CCC America, 2005.

# LESSON 3: THE UNIVERSE IS CREATED

## LESSON FOCUS

### Emphasis

In this lesson we will discuss how God created the world and how we are different from the rest of God's creations. All the material things that God has created are gifts to us. We need to take care of God's gifts.

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

**Catechesis in creation:** CCC 282–89 (*Compendium* 51)

**Creation:** CCC 279–81, 315 (*Compendium* 51)

**Man created in the image of God:** CCC 355–57, 380–81 (*Compendium* 66–67)

**Man in Paradise:** CCC 374–79, 384 (*Compendium* 72)

**Man's responsibility for creation:** CCC 358, 2415–18, 2456–57 (*Compendium* 66, 507)

**Mystery of creation:** CCC 295–301, 315, 317–18, 320 (*Compendium* 51, 54)

**The world as created for the glory of God:** CCC 293–94, 319 (*Compendium* 53)

### Concepts of Faith

**Why did God create everything?**

*God created everything to share His goodness and love.*

### Suggested Scripture Readings

Genesis 1:1–31; 2:1–25. *Creation*

Psalm 104. *Praise of God the Creator*

## LESSON PRESENTATION

### Preparation

Gather needed materials for teaching and activities. Set up sacred space (see section about Preparation in Introduction). Begin with a prayer.

### Proclamation

God created everything to share His goodness and love.

# LESSON 3: THE UNIVERSE IS CREATED

*Have the students study the Concepts of Faith on page 23 before the lesson begins.  
Note: there is no vocabulary list for this lesson.*

**LESSON 3: THE UNIVERSE IS CREATED**

My dear friends, God's creation is one and it is good. The concerns for non-violence, sustainable development, justice and peace, and care for our environment are of vital importance for humanity. They cannot, however, be understood apart from a profound reflection upon the innate dignity of every human life from conception to natural death: a dignity conferred by God himself and thus inviolable.

Message of the Holy Father Benedict XVI to the Young People of the World on the Occasion of the XXIII World Youth Day, 2008

**Concepts of Faith**

**Why did God create everything?**  
*To share His goodness and love.*



May all creation give glory and praise to you, O Lord.  
I will sing praise to you, my God, all my life.  
Bless the Lord, O my soul!

Based on Psalm 104

**23**

## LESSON EXPLANATION

We remember that God did not have to create anything or anyone. God created the world and everything in it out of a desire to share His goodness and love. We learned that God created angels in His image, who love and praise God.

The moon's surface is mountainous and barren, and there is no sign of life. This might be what the earth looked like before God created the plants, trees, flowers, and animals.

*May all creation give glory and praise to you, O LORD.  
I will sing praise to you, my God, all my life.  
Bless the Lord, O my soul!*

—Based on Psalm 104

# LESSON 3: THE UNIVERSE IS CREATED

Have students read pages 24–25 in the student text.

## LESSON 3: THE UNIVERSE IS CREATED

### Scripture Story

#### The Story of Creation

Based on Genesis 1:1–31 and 2:1–2

In the beginning, there was only God. Then, because of His goodness and love, God made everything from nothing.

God made the angels to share Heaven with Him. The angels are persons with minds to think and wills to make choices. The angels are pure spirits; they do not have bodies.

When God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was without form and void. It was covered with water, and darkness was everywhere.

Then God said, “Let there be light”, and there was light. God saw that the light was good. God separated the light from the darkness. He called the light “day” and the darkness “night”. And there was evening and there was morning: one day.

God separated the water from the sky. God called the sky “heaven”. And there was evening and there was morning: a second day.

And God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place and let the dry land appear.” He gathered some of the water to be great oceans. Some of the water He gathered into fresh-water lakes and streams. God made the dry land to appear, and He called the dry land “the earth”. God saw that it was good.

Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation, plants yielding seed and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind.” So it happened. God covered the earth with all kinds of plants and many trees of various shapes and sizes, including the trees with fruit. The earth was full of color and beautiful to look at. God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning: a third day.

Then God made two great lights—the greater light, the sun, to rule the day. And the lesser light, the moon, He made to shine at night. He also made the stars to shine at night. God set them in the heavens to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night and to separate the light from the darkness. And there was evening and there was morning: a fourth day.

Then God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth.” He filled the waters with whales, fish, and many different swimming creatures. God saw that it was good, and He blessed them. And there was evening and there was morning: a fifth day.

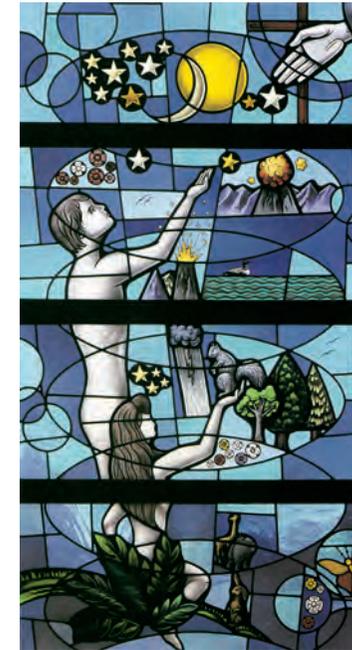
Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures: cattle, creeping things, and beasts of the earth of all kinds.” So it happened. God made all the animals of the earth. God saw that it was good.

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creep upon the earth.” God created man in His image; in the divine image He created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them.

And God saw everything He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning: a sixth day.

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## LESSON 3: THE UNIVERSE IS CREATED



So it was that God created the first man, Adam, and the first woman, Eve. Adam and Eve were different from the rest of God’s creations. Only Adam and Eve were persons with bodies—created in the image of God with minds and wills.

God gave to Adam and Eve the care of the wonderful world He had made and everything in it.

When God completed all His work of creation, He rested.

God did not have to create the angels, human beings, or the world. God freely chose to create all things to share His goodness and love.

When God created the world, everything was beautiful and in harmony. Everything had a proper place and was in a proper order. Everything worked together to survive and fulfill God’s plan. God gave people the responsibility of taking care of all His gifts.

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# LESSON 3: THE UNIVERSE IS CREATED

Have the students complete page 26 in their text.

LESSON 3: THE UNIVERSE IS CREATED

Discussion Questions

1. Who made the world and everything in it?  
*God.*

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2. Why did God create the world?  
*He wanted to share His goodness and love.*

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Your very existence has been willed by God, blessed and given a purpose (cf. Genesis 1:28).

Life is not just a succession of events or experiences: it is a search for the true, the good and the beautiful. It is to this end that we make our choices; it is for this that we exercise our freedom; it is in this—in truth, in goodness, and in beauty—that we find happiness and joy.

Pope Benedict XVI,  
Message for the 43rd World Communication Day,  
May 24, 2009

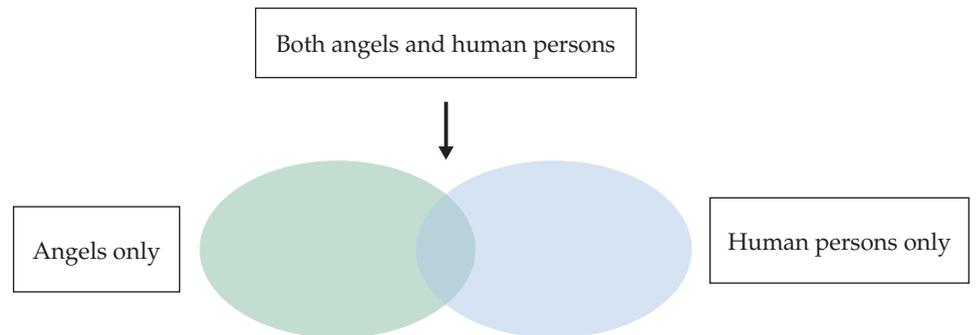
LIVING THE LESSON • APPLICATION

We remember from Lesson 2, “Angels Are Created”, that angels are persons created as images of God. They were created with minds to think and wills to make choices. Because they are pure spirits, they do not have bodies.

**Ask:** Whom else did God create in His image? *People.*

Draw a Venn diagram on the board or overhead to compare and contrast human persons and angels, and another Venn diagram to compare animals and human persons.

**Sample Venn Diagram:** In the circle about angels, write characteristics that apply to angels only. In the circle that says “Human persons only”, write characteristics that apply to human persons only. Where the two circles intertwine, write characteristics that apply to both angels and human persons.



# LESSON 3: THE UNIVERSE IS CREATED

**Ask:** **How are people like the angels?** *We are both part of creation. We are persons, made in the image of God. We have minds and wills—we think and choose.*

**How are people different from the angels?** *We have bodies, and the angels do not. We need food and water, sleep, and exercise to sustain our bodies. Angels do not. The angels know more about God than we do.*

**How are animals like people?** *We are both part of creation. Animals have bodies. Like us, they need food, water, sleep, and exercise to sustain their bodies.*

**How are animals different from people?** *Animals are not persons. They have brains, but they do not have minds and wills. They cannot think and choose as we do. For example, we can solve math problems, because we have minds. Animals cannot multiply or divide. They cannot solve problems. They cannot invent new things to improve their lives. We can decide how to wear our hair. Can a dog choose how to style its fur? No, we decide for it.*

Plants are living things also. They need the sun and water to grow. Plants are not persons with minds and wills. Plants are not images of God as are angels and human beings. Stress that only God is uncreated. He is the Creator of all persons and things.

*Review “Hierarchy of Being” from Lesson 2, “Angels are Created” on page 16 of student text.*

## ENHANCING THE LESSON

*Have the students read “Praise the Lord for His Creation” which is based on Psalm 104, on page 27 of the student text. Students may read the prayer together, alternating one group and another group at each stanza.*

### LESSON 3: THE UNIVERSE IS CREATED

#### Praise the Lord for His Creation

Bless the LORD, O my soul!  
O LORD, my God, you are great and wonderful.  
All majesty and glory are yours.

Out of your love  
you created the heavens and the earth.  
In the wide blue sky,  
you made the sun to shine by day,  
giving light and warmth.  
As evening comes, the moon and the stars  
give light to the darkness.

You made the mountains and the valleys;  
and the oceans you set  
in a place you had fixed for them.

You made lakes and streams  
that wind among the mountains,  
giving drink to all living things.  
In the waters you put swimming creatures,  
both great and small.

You filled the skies with all kinds of birds.  
The birds build their nests in the trees you planted,  
and from the branches the birds send forth their songs.

How many are your works, O LORD!  
The earth is full of your creatures.  
In wisdom you have made them all.

You send rain to water the earth,  
and the land is plentiful  
with the fruits of your works.

You raise grass for the cattle  
and vegetation for people's use.  
At sunrise people work to gather from the earth  
the food and drink that you have promised.

All of your creations depend on you for life,  
and you give them all that they need.  
In your great love, you send forth your Spirit  
and continue your creative work.

With each new day that dawns,  
each new flower that blooms,  
with each new child that's born,  
you renew the face of the earth.

May all creation give glory and praise  
to you, O LORD.  
I will sing praise to you, my God,  
Bless the LORD, O my soul!

Based on Psalm 104

# LESSON 3: THE UNIVERSE IS CREATED

## FOR DISCUSSION

The following story describes what might happen if we don't appreciate God's creations and take care of them.

Have the students read pages 28–30 in their text.

## LESSON 3: THE UNIVERSE IS CREATED

### Story of Faith

The following story describes what might happen if we don't appreciate God's creations and take care of them.

### One Strange Dream

One day, Paul and Tony were walking home from school. Paul was eating a candy bar. As he took the last bite, he let the wrapper fall to the ground. Tony said, "Hey! You dropped your candy wrapper."

"So, I don't need it anymore", answered Paul.

"Haven't you heard that you shouldn't be a litterbug?"

Paul retorted, "Knock it off! I don't need to be a goodie-two-shoes."

Tony was disappointed. He thought that everyone should help take care of the earth.

That night, Paul did not sleep very well. He kept tossing and turning. Then suddenly he saw two large green creatures with wings. They wrapped him in a sheet and flew off with him.

Paul cried, "Where are you taking me?" But there was no answer.

After what seemed a very long time, the creatures landed. Paul was set free. He looked around. Before him was the most beautiful sight he had ever seen. There was a lake so clear that he could see tadpoles swimming and shiny rocks on the bottom. He could see the sun reflected in the water and the bluest sky he had ever seen. In the distance, he could see the tops of the mountains. The grass was a bright green that resembled plush carpeting. There were all kinds of animals around. All of the animals had plenty to eat. Beautiful birds flew in the sky.

Paul turned to the two creatures and asked, "Where am I? Who are you? I've never seen any place like this before. Where are all the people?"

The two creatures looked at each other, and then one replied, "My name is Jake and my friend's name is Jose. This is the planet earth. You do not see any people, because they have not been created yet."

"What?" exclaimed Paul.

Jose explained, "This is what the world looked like before man was created."

"Why are you showing me all this?" asked Paul.

Jake and Jose wouldn't give Paul a reason. Jake would only reply, "Take a look around you."

Paul said, "Everything is so clean and healthy looking. Why haven't I been to such a great place before?" Again, there was no answer.

Suddenly there was a great wind! Paul felt himself spinning around. He spun so fast he became dizzy and couldn't see. Paul felt as if he were being lifted up and down. Suddenly the spinning stopped, the wind was still, and he found himself sitting on the ground. Paul stood up and looked around.

He was in the same place, but it looked somewhat different. Paul asked, "Why have things changed?"

Jose answered, "Look around and see if you can notice what is different."

Paul looked toward the mountains. Paul had trouble seeing the tops of the mountains. There seemed to be a haze covering everything. There were no more tadpoles in the lake. He could barely see the

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pebbles at the bottom. They were no longer shiny, but dull and gray. There weren't as many trees, and the grass had several worn spots. Some of the different kinds of animals had disappeared. Now there were tall, shiny buildings, with smoke puffing out of the smoke stacks. A pipe coming out of one of the buildings was draining sludge into the lake. Paul noticed there were people walking around.

Two boys were eating candy bars. They both threw their wrappers on the ground. Paul saw pop cans and fast-food containers on the ground. A boat sped around the lake. Paul could see the gasoline from the old motor dripping into the lake. He wondered how anything could live in the lake.

Paul remembered that he always dropped his wrappers and paper on the ground. He wondered. Suddenly a strong wind arose. Again, Paul felt himself spinning around. Again he felt dizzy, as if he were going up and down. Abruptly, the spinning stopped.

Paul looked around him. Jose and Jake were still with him, but Paul thought he was in a new place. "Where is this place?" asked Paul.

"Look around you. We are standing in the same spot, only many years later", replied Jake.

Adam couldn't believe his eyes! There were no trees and no grass. He couldn't see any of the mountains! Where was the sun? He thought he saw a hazy spot in the sky that might be the sun. The water had disappeared from the lake. Instead, the lake was filled with thick, oily sludge. The buildings were no longer shiny but were dusty, gray, and empty. There were no people around at all! Paul didn't see any animals, birds, or fish. Instead of trees and grass, he saw piles of garbage decorating the land.

Paul picked up one of the rusty cans. He turned toward Jose and Jake and asked, "Where are all the people and the animals?"

Jose answered with a question: "What are some of the things people need in order to live?"

"Food and water", replied Paul.

Jake replied, "God loves us. He created the world with everything in it. Then he created people. However, humans forgot to take care of His beautiful creations. Plants cannot live without clean air or water; animals can't live without other animals, plants, and water. People need water. People get food from the plants and animals. But people have not taken care of God's creations. This is the result. You see what the earth is like because of neglect."

"How can we change it? Can we save the world?" asked Paul.

Jose said, "If people don't change their ways, they will destroy all of God's creations. You have just experienced what the world might look like in the future. If you and everyone else will begin to think about the earth and to take care of it, it does not have to end up this way."

Suddenly, a strong wind blew. Again, Paul felt dizzy and felt himself going up and down. When the motion stopped, he found himself in bed. Paul jumped up and looked outside. It was a nice, sunny day, and the sky was clear blue. "Aww ... it was just a dream! I don't have to worry." Then he saw a rusty pop can. Maybe everything had really happened.

Paul got dressed and ran to the park. He joined his friends at the food stand. After they had purchased their food, the friends walked along the path toward the lake. David dropped the paper sack when he took the food out.

Paul picked up the sack and threw it in a nearby trash can. Paul said, "You should be more careful." David couldn't believe his ears! Paul had never thrown anything away before! David just stood and stared at Paul.

When they reached the lake, Terry flipped the lid to his orange juice container into the lake. Joel threw his glass at the ducks that were swimming by.

"What's the matter with you guys? Don't you know we have to take care of our earth? It's the only one we have. If we don't take care of it, we'll lose it", Paul insisted.

*Ask the students to give other answers to this question. (Healthy foods, clean water, clean air, love, shelter, clothing)*

# LESSON 3: THE UNIVERSE IS CREATED

## LESSON 3: THE UNIVERSE IS CREATED

"Gee, Paul, you're right. We do need to take care of our earth. I guess we didn't think about it before", said David.  
"I've been doing a lot of thinking. All of us have to take care of the earth and all of God's creations. We have to try to get other people to do the same", replied Paul.  
"What kinds of things can we do?" asked Joel.

### In Your Own Words

*Directions: Think of five ways that you can help take care of God's creations.*

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

*Ask the children for their answers to Joel's question. (Sample Answer: Don't litter; try not to use plastic; walk instead of asking for a ride; use a car pool; don't tease animals; take care of books so more trees don't have to be cut down to replace them; don't take twenty-minute showers; recycle.)*

Tell the children that they can be leaders. They can be like Paul. Paul's friends weren't taking care of the earth, but they changed when they saw Paul doing the right things. Maybe the students can change their friends by being good leaders.

CCC 373 says that "God calls man and woman, made in the image of the Creator 'who loves everything that exists,' to share in his providence toward other creatures; hence their responsibility for the world God has entrusted to them."

It is good to take care of the earth, mainly because God created it, and also that it really is an act of charity to let people have access to clean water and air, and a place without garbage all over it. Many people in poor countries often do not have access to these things; what can we do to help them?

# LESSON 3: THE UNIVERSE IS CREATED

## ACTIVITY

### Taking Care of God’s Creations

Tell students that today they are going to make a collage (or mural). Give each student a large piece of paper. (If the class is making a mural, cut a large strip from a roll of butcher paper.) Have the students look in magazines for pictures showing people taking care of God’s creations. Have them cut the pictures out and glue them on the right half of the paper. Then have them look for pictures showing pollution—ways that people have not taken care of God’s creations. Have them cut these pictures out and glue them on the left side of the paper. Then have them write a sentence across the top of the paper expressing the necessity of taking care of God’s creations. (Example: *We take care of God’s creations*, or a line from Psalm 104.)

*Have the students complete “In Your Own Words” on page 30 of student text. Discuss the results.*

*Have the students complete the review worksheet for Lesson 3 (found in the Appendix).*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Lesson 3: The Universe Is Created

Lesson Review  
Worksheet

Directions: Write T on the line if the following statements are TRUE or F if they are FALSE.

1.   T   God created everything to share His goodness and love.
2.   F   The angels are not persons with minds and wills.
3.   F   God did not make man and woman in His image and likeness.
4.   T   God did not have to create everything.
5.   T   Angels and human persons are different because angels do not have bodies and human persons do.
6.   T   Human persons and animals are different because human persons have minds to think and wills to choose and animals do not.
7.   F   God did not give people the responsibility to take care of creation.
8.   T   When God created the world, everything was beautiful and in harmony.

Short Answer: Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

9. Why did God create everything?   God created everything to share His goodness and love.
10. What is one way we can take care of God’s creation? (Answers may vary.)   Sample answer: One way we can care for God’s creation is by picking up trash on the ground, throwing away our trash in a trash can, recycling, not wasting water or electricity, walking or riding a bike rather than driving.

# LESSON 3: THE UNIVERSE IS CREATED

## CELEBRATION

Pray the “Praise the LORD for His Creation” prayer. Each student can name the part of creation for which he is thankful. Listen to the song “God of Wonders, You are Holy”.

## ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

### Creation dioramas

Each student makes a diorama showing some of the things God created. If pictures from magazines are used, they may be glued onto cardboard to give them stability. A sign entitled “God’s Beautiful Creations” may be made for each diorama and taped onto the shoebox.

This activity can also be done in pairs of students or in groups of students, depending on the size and needs of your class.

Display the dioramas in the classroom or on a table in the hallway.

#### Materials needed:

shoebox (one per student)  
homemade playdough (see recipe)  
rocks  
small toy animals  
plastic “trees” and “plants”  
construction paper (various colors)  
pictures from magazines  
paints  
clear tape  
(Students should bring some of these items from home.)

### Playdough Recipe

Combine in five-quart pan: 4 cups salt, 10 cups water. Heat on stove for about four minutes, until thoroughly heated, stirring occasionally.

While above mixture is heating, mix together in a bowl: 2 cups cornstarch and 1 cup water. Remove salt mixture from stove and add cornstarch mixture. Stir constantly, as mixture will thicken rapidly. (You will want to use a large, sturdy mixing spoon.) Add food coloring (examples: blue for water, green for grass, and so forth). Remove dough from pan and place it on a large plastic garbage bag. (You may want to protect your hands by using plastic gloves or bags.) Knead the dough until all of the food coloring is mixed in.

The dough can be kept soft by storing it in a plastic bag in the refrigerator. The dough will stay soft for several weeks. The dough dries and hardens at room temperature in about 48 hours.

If the mixture does not thicken quickly after adding the cornstarch and water, you can place the pan back on the stove and heat on low, stirring constantly. As the mixture begins to thicken, remove the pan from the stove and continue stirring.

**Note to the teacher:** You may wish to make several batches of dough, each a separate color. Do not double this recipe, because the batch will be too difficult to handle.

# LESSON 3: THE UNIVERSE IS CREATED

## Creation mural

Divide the class into 7 groups—one group for each day of creation. Assign each group a day. The group members will discuss what happened on their assigned day and decide what they will draw or paint to represent that day.

Get a large piece of butcher paper.

Each group will draw or paint what happened on their assigned day in order on the butcher paper.

### Materials needed:

paint  
crayons or markers  
butcher paper

## Illustrate the prayer

Each student chooses his favorite line or image from the prayer “Praise the LORD for His Creation” and illustrates it. The students write the line they have illustrated on the picture.

### Materials needed:

blank white paper  
crayons or markers

## Field trip to pick up trash

Go around the school yard or playground to pick up trash.

If possible organize a field trip to go around the neighborhood to pick up trash.

Encourage the students to pick up trash whenever they see it—in the classroom, in the hall, around the school, in their neighborhood, park, etc.

Warn the students not to pick up broken glass or any other dangerous objects. Be sure to tell them to wash their hands after picking up trash.

## Listen to song “God of Wonders, You are Holy”

Make a PowerPoint presentation that shows creation and goes with the song

# LESSON 4: HUMAN PERSONS ARE CREATED

## LESSON FOCUS

### Emphasis

In this lesson we discuss what makes each human person unique among all of God's creations and the creation of people in the image of God.

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

**Charity:** CCC 1822–29, 1844 (*Compendium* 388)

**Dignity of and respect for the human person:** CCC 1700–709, 1710–12, 1929–33, 1943–44 (*Compendium* 358, 411)

**Human freedom:** CCC 1730–42, 1743–48 (*Compendium* 363–366)

**Love for the poor:** CCC 2443–49, 2462–63 (*Compendium* 520)

**Man created in the image of God:** CCC 355–57, 380–81 (*Compendium* 66–67)

**Divine Providence:** CCC 301–8

### Vocabulary

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

**love:** to choose freely to give oneself to God and others

**awe:** great wonder, together with deep respect

**dominion:** being in charge of; having authority or stewardship; being able to use things, but not misusing them

### Suggested Scripture Readings

Genesis 1:1, 26–31; 2:21–23. *Creation of humans*

### Concepts of Faith

#### Why did God create human persons?

*God created human persons out of a desire to share His goodness and love with them. He also made us to know and love Him, and to serve Him in this world and in Heaven.*

#### Why did God allow Adam to experience loneliness?

*God allowed Adam to experience loneliness so Adam could discover for himself how unique he was.*

#### Why shouldn't we use other people?

*Persons are made in the image of God. As images of God, they have dignity, and they deserve our respect.*

# LESSON 4: HUMAN PERSONS ARE CREATED

## LESSON PRESENTATION

### Preparation

Gather necessary materials for teaching and activities: Bibles. Set up a sacred space (see section about Preparation in Introduction). Begin with a prayer.

### Proclamation

God created human persons out of a desire to share His goodness and love with them.

*Have the students study the vocabulary words and the Concepts of Faith before the lesson begins on page 31 in the student text*

## LESSON 4: HUMAN PERSONS ARE CREATED

Sacred Scripture affirms that “God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them” (Genesis 1:27). As one created in the image of God, each individual human being has the dignity of a person; he or she is not just something, but someone, capable of self-knowledge, self-possession, free self-giving and entering into communion with others.

Pope Benedict XVI, General Audience, December 3, 2008

### Vocabulary

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

**love:** to choose freely to give oneself to God and others

**awe:** great wonder, together with deep respect

**dominion:** being in charge of; having authority or stewardship; being able to use things, but not misusing them

### Concepts of Faith

#### Why did God create human persons?

*God created human persons out of a desire to share His goodness and love with them. He also made us to know and love him, and to serve him in this world and in Heaven.*

#### Why did God allow Adam to experience loneliness?

*God allowed Adam to experience loneliness so Adam could discover for himself how unique he was.*

#### Why shouldn't we use other people?

*Persons are made in the image of God. As images of God, they have dignity, and they deserve our respect.*

Yet you have made him [each human person] little less than the angels, and you have crowned him with glory and honor. You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet.

Psalm 8:5-6

# LESSON 4: HUMAN PERSONS ARE CREATED

## LESSON EXPLANATION

Remember, God created all things and human persons. He did this out of a desire to share His goodness and love with them.

### God's Creation

**Ask:** How do you think Adam felt upon seeing the earth? *Everything was all new to him.*

Try to remember the first time you saw something that was so beautiful no words could describe it: a harvest moon, a red sunset, the sun shining on new snow that has lightly coated the trees, or a bird soaring through the blue sky. What was your first reaction? You probably stood looking and wishing the beautiful sight could stay like that forever. This may have been how Adam felt. He was probably in awe at such beauty, very peaceful, and happy. Remember, there was no sin or evil on the earth, only God's beautiful creation. In the beginning, Adam also may have felt like someone all alone on a desert island.

*Have the students close their eyes for a few minutes. Ask them to picture themselves on a desert island.*

There is not another living person any place on the island. You are the only one. You have no one to talk to, and no one to talk to you. You look around, and you do not see another person like yourself, only animals. The animals have other animals that look like them, but you are the only human person.

Imagine how Adam must have felt, being the only human person on the whole earth. He must have felt very lonely. God allowed Adam to experience loneliness so that Adam could discover for himself how unique he was. Then God created Eve. Adam and Eve were both human persons, and they became partners. Neither one of them was lonely. Adam and Eve could love each other with a Godlike love. Adam and Eve were the first family. Adam and Eve loved God, and they loved each other. [Read the story from Genesis 2:18–23.]

Read and discuss the following section in the students' textbook (from page 32).

## LESSON 4: HUMAN PERSONS ARE CREATED

### God's Creation

God created the world and everything in it.



“Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon earth.’ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”

Genesis 1:26–27

God created all things and all human persons. He gave everything to us—the fields, fruits, sun, rain, animals—everything necessary for us to live. All that we have is a gift of God's love. When God created the world, He gave Himself to the world He loved. He created us in His image and likeness to do what He does. When we do what God does—love—our actions reflect His actions. We can act like God because we are reflections, or images, of God. As images of God, we have minds to think and wills to make choices. Animals cannot think or choose. They can only seek food, life, and protection for themselves. Animals act a certain way all the time. They cannot think, and they cannot choose how to act or what to do. We are able to think with our minds and to make choices with our wills. What kinds of choices have you made today? As images of God, we should try to make right choices.

God created the world and everything in it out of a desire to share His goodness and love. God created many things on earth that we may use and enjoy. He gave us land to grow our food, water for us to drink, animals to help us with our work, and many other things. In His providence, he cares for everything he created, from the tiniest bug to every person on the earth!

The one creation of God's that we may not use is persons. Persons are made in the image of God. As images of God we have dignity, and we deserve each other's respect. As images of God we should love God and others. Sometimes we fail to love and respect others as we should. We fail when we use people.

# LESSON 4: HUMAN PERSONS ARE CREATED

## LIVING THE LESSON • APPLICATION

We remember from Lesson 3, “The Universe Is Created”, that God created the world and everything in it out of a desire to share His goodness and love. God created many things on earth and gave us dominion over them. We may use these things and enjoy them. He gave us the land to grow our food; water for us to drink; trees for us to make houses, furniture, and paper; and animals to help us with our work. In His Providence, he cares for everything he created, from the tiniest bug to every person on the earth!

The one creation of God’s that we may not use is persons. Persons are made in the image of God. As images of God we have dignity, and we deserve each other’s respect. As images of God we should love God and others. Sometimes we fail to love and respect others as we should. We fail when we use people.

*Have the students open their textbook to page 33 and discuss each of the following stories with them. Have them write their answers to the questions following each story. Discuss their answers with them.*

## FOR DISCUSSION

*Have the students read the stories on pages 33–34 and answer the questions.*

### LESSON 4: HUMAN PERSONS ARE CREATED

#### Discussion Questions

1. We have dominion over the animals, the plants, and the things of the world. Dominion means being able to use the things of the world, but not misusing them through vandalism or similar destruction. Over what part of God’s creation do we not have dominion?

People.

2. Why shouldn’t we use people?

People are made in the image of God. As images of God, we have dignity, and we deserve each other’s respect. God loves, and as images of God we were made to love. We fail to love and respect others as we should when we use people, even though sometimes we may not be aware of using people.

**Directions:** Read the following stories. In the space provided after each story, answer the question. Then explain your answer.

1. Dan does not like to do his math. It takes him a long time to finish the problems, and he just does not like spending so much time on math. There are so many more interesting things to do. There is a new student, Jack, who is really good at math—and he is really fast! Jack offers to help Dan. Dan finds that he is finishing his math homework in less than half the time with Jack’s help. Dan goes to Jack’s house every night, so that he can get his math done quickly. When Dan is done with his math, he leaves to have fun with his friends, but he does not ask Jack to come along. In fact, Dan never invites Jack along when he and his friends are going somewhere, and Dan hardly talks to Jack in school.

Is Jack being used? Explain. Yes. (Answers may vary. Sample answer: Dan is spending time with Jack only because Jack will help him with his math. Dan does not really want to be friends with Jack.)

# LESSON 4: HUMAN PERSONS ARE CREATED

## LESSON 4: HUMAN PERSONS ARE CREATED

2. Karen wants to go to her friend's house after supper, but it is Karen's turn to do the dishes. Karen decides to be extra nice to her brother, Dave, and then to ask him to do the dishes for her after supper, so that she can go to her friend's house. Dave agrees to do the dishes for Karen, but Karen does not offer to do the dishes the following night for Dave.

Is Karen using Dave? Explain. Yes. (Answers may vary. Sample answer: Karen is being extra nice to Dave because she wants something from him. Also, she does not offer to do the dishes for Dave some other time.)

3. Susan goes home with Sally after school only when Sally's mom is working late. When Sally's mom works late, she is not there to tell the girls not to eat cookies, drink pop, or watch television. Susan does not want to go home with Sally when Sally's mom is there, because her mom does not allow eating a lot of snacks after school.

Is Susan using Sally? Explain. Yes. (Answers may vary. Sample answer: Susan wants to be with Sally after school only so she can eat unhealthy food and do what she wants.)

4. Bob's friend Tommy wants to go over to Bob's house only when there is a good show on television. Bob does not see Tommy any other time; Tommy does not want to play baseball, ride bikes, or do anything else. When Tommy does come to Bob's house, he does not talk very much to Bob, because he is paying so much attention to the television.

Is Bob being used? Explain. Yes. (Answers may vary. Sample answer: Tommy is friends with Bob only when he wants to use Bob's TV.)

For you formed my inward parts, you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am wondrously made.

Psalm 139:13-14

## ENHANCING THE LESSON

*Have students read the top of page 35.*

## LESSON 4: HUMAN PERSONS ARE CREATED

### Different Persons, Different Talents

God created us as unique individuals, with different talents and personalities. No two persons, not even "identical" twins, are exactly alike. There has never been a person exactly like you before, and there will never be one exactly like you in the future.

We each have many talents, but we may be better at one thing than another. We do not all have the same talents. One person's talents are not more important than another's.

The important thing is that we use our talents to love others and care for them.



### Story of Faith

*Here is the story of one person who used her talents to love others and care for them.*

### Saint Elizabeth of Hungary

During the period of history called the Middle Ages, in the year 1207, Princess Elizabeth was born to King Andrew and Queen Gertrude of Hungary.

It was a time of kings and queens, princes and princesses, knights and castles. The kings and princes ruled over small states and were often at war with one another. The castles were defended by armies of knights. Some of these knights lived in houses around the castle. Many servants worked and lived in these houses and belonged to the land almost as if they were slaves.

Peasants lived in the village and worked hard for their money. The taxes they paid helped to support those who were rich. Beggars came to the castle gates, hoping that one of the ladies or knights would give them a coin or a crust of bread.

Some of the princes and kings made agreements to help defend the others' lands if attacked. King Hermann of Thuringia, a small state in Germany, and King Andrew of Hungary made such an agreement. A marriage was arranged between Princess Elizabeth, King Andrew's daughter, and Louis, King Hermann's son. The marriage was arranged shortly after Elizabeth was born.

When Elizabeth was only four years old, she went to live in the castle of Thuringia. She was a small child with dark hair and a happy, cheerful personality. But she was sad and frightened to be leaving her home and parents and going to live in a strange place with people she did not know. When she arrived at the castle, she met Louis, who was ten years old, and his family. Louis and Elizabeth became good friends and cared for each other.

# LESSON 4: HUMAN PERSONS ARE CREATED

## *Different Persons, Different Talents*

In this lesson, we will read the story of one person who used her talents to love others and care for them.

We have learned that we are made in the image of God. God created us as unique individuals. Psalm 139 says, “For you formed my inward parts, you knitted me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you, for I am wondrously made” (Psalm 139:13–14).

Although we are all images of God, each of us is like Him in a special way. Each of us is a unique person with unique talents and a unique personality. We each have many talents, but we may be better at some things than others. We do not all have the same talents. One person’s talents are not more important than another’s. What is important is that we use our talents to help and to serve others.

*Point out on a wall map the countries of Germany and Hungary.*

*Have the students read this story about Elizabeth of Hungary, who used her talents to love and serve God and others on pages 35–37 of their textbook.*

A leper is a person who has the disease of leprosy, which is a skin disease that is very contagious and often causes appendages to fall off the body.

Smallpox is a virus that causes puss-filled blisters to develop on the body. It is contagious and many people died in epidemics. Now it is controlled by vaccines.

*Have the students read this story about Elizabeth of Hungary, who used her talents to love and serve others, on pages 35–37 and the top of page 38 of their textbook.*

## LESSON 4: HUMAN PERSONS ARE CREATED

Louis was being educated in many subject areas, so that he would be prepared for the time when he would be king of Thuringia. He studied languages and math. He learned to swim and how to use the weapons of knighthood. Elizabeth learned to embroider, to sing and to play a musical instrument, and to ride a horse. She also learned the things she would need to know as queen of Thuringia.

Elizabeth often spent time in the castle chapel. There she prayed to God and talked to Him about the things that hurt her and made her sad. She prayed each day, she made many small sacrifices, and she was very generous. She gave big baskets of food to the beggars at the castle gates, and gave away many of the things that she liked the most. She was also patient and forgiving. Some of the rich ladies in the castle spoke unkindly about Elizabeth, because they did not like all the things she did to show her love for God. Many of the people in the castle did not understand her and wanted her to be sent back to Hungary. Louis would not allow it, however, for he loved and cared for Elizabeth.

At the age of fifteen, when his father died, Louis became king of Thuringia. He had been well trained, and he managed the affairs of the kingdom very well.

When Louis was twenty-one years old, and Elizabeth was fourteen, they were married. Together they ruled Thuringia and were very happy. Over the next few years they had a son, Hermann, and a daughter, Sophia. During this time, they often went to the village, where they spoke with the villagers and listened to their concerns. Elizabeth cleaned the homes of the poor, and she cared for those who were sick. This was difficult for her to do, because she had a dislike for disease and ugliness. She overcame this dislike, however, and even went to the leper colony to bring the lepers food, clothes, and money.

She told them about Jesus, who had died for them.

Elizabeth gave away her beautiful clothes and kept only plain clothes for herself. However, when there were special occasions on which she needed to be dressed like a queen, God always provided her with the most beautiful clothes.

One very cold winter, when Louis was away to see the emperor, there was a famine. The peasants and beggars especially were lacking food. Elizabeth sold her jewels and anything else that she could to raise money to help the poor. She also used the grain from the castle bins and made bread each day, which she gave to the poor and hungry. The people who lived in the castle were very angry, because they were afraid that they would not have enough to eat.

When the worst part of that winter was over, people suddenly became sick with smallpox, and many died. People were afraid they would get the disease if they touched the bodies of the dead, so they would not bury them. Elizabeth asked God to watch over her, and then she went out to care for the sick and bury the dead. When the people saw her doing this, they followed her example and began to help each other. There were so many sick people to be cared for that Elizabeth had a hospital built and trained nurses to care for the people. Finally the sickness was over, and the terrible time came to an end. All the money was gone, and the castle grain was almost gone. When Louis returned home, the rich people complained to him that Elizabeth had given everything away to the poor and that the grain was nearly gone. Louis defended Elizabeth and did not get upset with her. When the people took Louis to show him that the granaries were nearly empty, they found instead that the grain bins were so full the grain was running over the top and onto the floor.

Later, Louis went to war to protect the Holy Land, the land where Jesus had lived. This war was called a crusade. Elizabeth was very sad. She was soon to have another child, and she would miss

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Louis very much. Elizabeth rode along with Louis and the army until they reached the border of Thuringia. There, she and Louis said goodbye. Elizabeth then went back to the castle and spent much of her time caring for the poor and the sick. Louis and the army continued their journey to the Holy Land. Many of the men became sick with a fever, and some of them died. Louis also became very sick, but he continued the journey until he could go no farther, and, at the age of twenty-seven, Louis died.

Elizabeth heard of Louis' death three weeks later, at about the time that their little daughter Gertrude was born. Elizabeth was filled with deep sorrow. She had lost her husband, and, without him to protect her, she was treated cruelly by the people. In addition, Louis' brother, Henry, took over as king, although that role rightfully belonged to Louis' son.

One cold, dark night, Elizabeth left the castle and took her children with her. A friendly tavern keeper let them use an old shed that he had used for his pigs. When Elizabeth's aunt, who was the head of a convent, heard of her troubles, she invited Elizabeth and her family to live at the convent with the nuns. Elizabeth and her children lived there until the knights of Louis' army brought his body back to Thuringia. At his funeral, there was a reconciliation between Henry and Elizabeth. Henry acknowledged Louis' son as king of Thuringia, and he provided Elizabeth with money and a place to live. Elizabeth chose to live a life of poverty, in imitation of Saint Francis, and to do works of charity. Elizabeth's son and older daughter were raised at the castle, and her younger daughter was raised by nuns at a convent.

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Have the students complete page 38 in their text. Discuss the results.

Fasting is not eating or drinking for a period of time as a way to imitate Jesus' fasting for forty days in the desert.

## LESSON 4: HUMAN PERSONS ARE CREATED

Elizabeth fasted and prayed. She continued her work of caring for the poor, the sick, and the lepers. On November 17, 1231, after becoming very ill with a fever, Elizabeth died. She was twenty-four. Even before she was buried, miracles began to occur. People who were blind regained their sight. Lepers were healed, as well as people who were lame or crippled.

Three and a half years after her death, in 1235, Elizabeth was declared a saint by Pope Gregory IX. During her short lifetime, Elizabeth had set an example of Christian charity and love for God. Her feast day is November 17.

**Directions:** Saint Elizabeth of Hungary used her talents to love and care for others. After reading the story, write down three things that you have learned about Saint Elizabeth of Hungary.

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

We can imitate Saint Elizabeth of Hungary by using our talents to love and care for others. What are some of your talents, and how can you use them to love and care for others?

- \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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# LESSON 4: HUMAN PERSONS ARE CREATED

Have students complete page 39 in the student text and discuss.

**LESSON 4: HUMAN PERSONS ARE CREATED**

*Directions: Fill in the blanks below with the following words and phrases. You may not need all the words.*

- Only persons can love and be loved.
- Adam and Eve chose to love God and love each other.
- Adam and Eve became the first family.
- Adam and Eve were created in the image of God.

*On a separate sheet of paper, please answer the following questions in your own words.*

- What is love?  
Love is to choose freely to give oneself to God and others.
- Why can we think and choose?  
We can think and choose because we have a mind and a will just like God.
- Give an example of how one person might use another person, and explain why it is wrong to do so.  
It is wrong to use another person because each person is made in the image of God and has dignity and deserves respect.

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Have the students complete the lesson review worksheet for Lesson 4 (found in the Appendix).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Lesson 4: Human People Are Created** *Lesson Review Worksheet*

*Directions: Match the vocabulary word with its definition by writing the letter on the line.*

- d someone created in the image of God with a mind, a will, and a body a. dominion
- c great wonder, together with deep respect b. love
- b to choose freely to give oneself to God and others c. awe
- a being in charge of; having authority or stewardship; being able to use, but not misuse d. human person

*Fill in the Blank: Write the correct word from the word box in the blank.*

dignity    goodness    unique    image  
loneliness    love    respect

- God created persons out of a desire to share His goodness and love with them.
- God allowed Adam to experience loneliness so Adam could discover for himself how unique he was.
- People are made in the image of God. They have dignity and deserve respect.

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# LESSON 4: HUMAN PERSONS ARE CREATED

Have the students complete the review worksheet for Unit 1 (found in the Appendix).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Unit 1—God Created Everything

Unit Review  
Worksheet

Complete the following sentences by filling in the blank in each sentence.

1. We call the three Persons in one God the Blessed Trinity.
2. The angels who love God and are faithful to Him are in Heaven, where they praise and worship God.
3. The angels who do not love God and are unfaithful to Him have separated themselves from God and are in a place created for them called Hell.
4. God created everything to share His goodness and love.
5. God created persons out of a desire to share His goodness and love with them.

Match the words in column A with the correct definition in column B.

### Column A

6. D Theology
7. E Faith
8. G Devils
9. B Eternal
10. C Pure spirits
11. A Mystery of faith
12. I Awe
13. F Dominion
14. H Love

### Column B

- A A truth revealed by God that cannot be fully understood by the human mind.
- B Always was, always is, and always will be.
- C Persons with minds and wills, but no bodies.
- D The study of God using the Sacred Scriptures, the teachings of the Church, and reason.
- E The power that God gives us that helps us believe what He reveals.
- F To be in charge of; to have authority or stewardship.
- G Unfaithful angels who chose not to act as images of God.
- H To choose freely to give oneself to God and others.
- I To have great wonder, together with deep respect.

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

15. Why did God allow Adam to experience loneliness?  
a. So Adam could discover for himself how unique he was.  
b. So Adam would name the animals.  
c. So Adam would obey God.
16. We shouldn't use other people. Why?  
a. Because people don't like to be used.  
b. Because people have dominion over things of the earth.  
c. Because people are made in the image of God, they have dignity, and they deserve our respect.
17. Who are angels?  
a. Images of God—persons created by God with wings.  
b. Pure spirits who don't think or choose.  
c. Images of God—persons created by God without bodies; pure spirits with minds and wills.
18. What gift did God give the angels?  
a. The gift of speech.  
b. The gift of bodies.  
c. The gift of His life, grace.
19. He and the other faithful angels struggled against Lucifer and the unfaithful angels.  
a. Saint Michael  
b. Saint Gabriel  
c. Saint Raphael
20. He was a great teacher of the Church and wrote a famous summary of Catholic theology called the *Summa theologiae*.  
a. Saint Francis of Assisi  
b. Saint Thomas More  
c. Saint Thomas Aquinas
21. She was a good queen who cared for the people.  
a. Saint Elizabeth Seton  
b. Saint Teresa of Avila  
c. Saint Elizabeth of Hungary

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## ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- **The students can write a journal about what it is like to live on a desert island alone.** There is not another living person any place on the island. You have no one to talk to, and no one to talk to you. You look around, and you do not see another person like yourself, only animals. The animals have other animals that look like them, but you are the only human person. (The students could write one or more entries.)
- **Do the *For Discussion* section as skits.** Perform them as written. Then have the students make a new ending for each that would show how not to use people. Act out each new skit.
- **After reading and discussing the second and third paragraphs of the *Different Persons, Different Talents* section, do the following activity—God-Given Gifts and Talents.** Put the students' desks in a circle. Each student puts his name at the top of a sheet of paper. Each student should write one talent/good thing about himself. The students then pass their papers to the right (or left, as teacher directs) and the next person writes something good about the person whose paper he has. Give the students a set time (30 seconds or one minute). Continue passing the papers around in the same direction until the paper comes back to whom it belongs. Allow the students to read the comments that their fellow classmates have made. Discuss the purpose of the exercise—to recognize the gifts and talents that God gives to each of us and to compliment others on their gifts.
- **Read *You Are Special* by Max Lucado to discuss the dignity of the human person and the fact that God made each person with special gifts and talents.** It does not matter what other people think of us. It is only what God thinks that matters. (Max Lucado, *You Are Special*, Crossway Books, 1997.)

## LESSON 4: HUMAN PERSONS ARE CREATED

### Stewardship and service

God created the world and everything in it out of a desire to share His goodness and love. God created many things on earth that we may use and enjoy. He gave us dominion over the things of the earth. This means we have authority over them. We also have a responsibility to take care of them.

#### Materials needed:

Plant cuttings from a healthy green plant  
jars  
water  
potting soil  
plant pots (one for every four students)

Root the plant cuttings in a jar or jars of water. When the plants have roots, give each group of four students a clay plant pot, a rooted plant cutting, and potting soil. The rooted plant cuttings then are planted in the clay pots and placed in or near a window where they will get enough sunlight. Each group of students then shares the responsibility of taking care of their plant.

When the plants are well established, they may be given to a nursing home, a priest or sister in your parish, or a special person in school.



# God Always Loves Us

# LESSON 5: ORIGINAL SIN AND US

## LESSON FOCUS

### Emphasis

In this lesson, we will discuss Adam and Eve and Original Sin. We will also discuss the effects of Original Sin on Adam and Eve and their descendants.

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

**Consequences of Original Sin:** CCC 55–58, 399–400, 402–9, 416–19  
(*Compendium* 7, 75–77)

**Definition of sin:** CCC 1849–51, 1871–72 (*Compendium* 392)

**God’s promise of a Redeemer:** CCC 410–12, 420–21 (*Compendium* 78)

**Morality of human acts:** CCC 1749–61 (*Compendium* 367–69)

**Original Sin:** CCC 388–90, 396–401, 415 (*Compendium* 73, 75)

**Reality of sin:** CCC 385–87, 413 (*Compendium* 73)

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** CCC 1422–98 (*Compendium* 296–312)

### Concepts of Faith

#### How did Adam and Eve hurt themselves when they chose to sin?

1. They lost God’s gift of grace and were not able to share God’s life on earth or live with Him someday in Heaven.
2. They wounded their abilities to think and to choose.
3. They wounded their bodies and would experience suffering and death.

#### How are we affected by Original Sin?

1. We are born without grace.
2. Our abilities to think and to choose are wounded.
3. Our bodies will experience suffering and death.

### Vocabulary

**Original Sin:** the first sin of Adam and Eve. We inherit Original Sin from Adam and Eve, which means we are conceived and born without grace.

**sin:** knowing something is wrong (against God’s Commandments) and choosing to do it anyway

**inherit:** to receive from a parent or ancestor by genetic transmission

**temptation:** something that makes a wrong choice seem like a right choice

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

# LESSON 5: ORIGINAL SIN AND US

## LESSON PRESENTATION

### Preparation

Gather any necessary materials. Set up a sacred space (see section about Preparation in Introduction). Begin with an opening prayer: read chapter 2 of the Book of Genesis aloud. Remind the students of the uniqueness of our creation and that we are made in the image of God.

### Proclamation

Adam and Eve hurt themselves and all their descendants through their sin.

*Have the students study the vocabulary words and the Concepts of Faith before the lesson begins on page 43 in the student text.*

## LESSON 5: ORIGINAL SIN AND US

### Vocabulary

**Original Sin:** the first sin of Adam and Eve. We inherit Original Sin from Adam and Eve, which means we are conceived and born without grace.  
**sin:** knowing something is wrong (against God's Commandments) and choosing to do it anyway  
**inherit:** to receive from a parent or ancestor by genetic transmission  
**temptation:** something that makes a wrong choice seem like a right choice  
**grace:** the gift of God's life that He shares with persons

### Concepts of Faith

#### How did Adam and Eve hurt themselves when they chose to sin?

1. They lost God's gift of grace and were not able to share God's life on earth or live with Him someday in Heaven.
2. They wounded their abilities to think and to choose.
3. They wounded their bodies, and would experience suffering and death.

#### How are we affected by Original Sin?

1. We are born without grace.
2. Our abilities to think and to choose are wounded.
3. Our bodies will experience suffering and death.

Should not Adam and Eve have been faithful to God? Certainly. And instead they disobeyed, and lost His friendship. But the Lord loved them, as your parents love each of you. Then He thought of saving them by sending them a Redeemer, that is, Jesus Christ, His son. He would come, He would teach the way of truth, and then He would die to make up for men's sins. You see, then, God's goodness: ... He at once promised salvation by means of the Redeemer.

Blessed John Paul II, *You Are My Favorites*

## LESSON 5: ORIGINAL SIN AND US

### LESSON EXPLANATION

**Note to the teacher:** It might be helpful to have a piece of music that is beautiful, and an example of music that is discordant.

When God created Adam and Eve, He gave them a beautiful place to live, called the Garden of Eden. God created Adam and Eve with the gift of His life, grace. God invited Adam and Eve to love Him as He loved them and to love each other. Adam and Eve lived in total harmony with God, with themselves, with each other, and with nature. When you think of the word “harmony”, think of a beautiful piece of music, where all the notes, all the voices, and all the instruments fit together to make this beautiful music.

He invited Adam and Eve to imitate Him in His goodness and love. This was not difficult for Adam and Eve. They had complete control over their bodies. Their bodies expressed their persons through their actions. In other words, with their minds they knew they were to love, with their wills they chose to love, and with their bodies they expressed their love outwardly. They experienced a harmony in their lives.

**Note to the teacher:** For more information, see CCC 397–402.

Now, after Original Sin, we, many times, lack harmony. Our bodies seem to want something different from what our minds know is right and our wills want to choose. Often our bodies move us to do something rather than our minds and wills determining our actions. Also, we sometimes deliberately choose something that we know is wrong. For example, my body might move me to eat the whole bag of chocolate. My will then

chooses to eat all of it even though my mind knows that it is not good for me and that it will probably make me sick. I often do what my body desires rather than doing what my mind knows is good and right to do.

There was nothing that Adam and Eve needed. They did not have to work hard for their food or shelter. They did not get sick or cold. Best of all, with God’s grace, Adam and Eve were able to love God. They were able to love each other as they should. They were completely happy.

If Adam and Eve were in complete control of their bodies, how could the devil have tempted them? We will find the answer to this question as we read the story of Adam and Eve and Original Sin. How did disharmony enter the world?

# LESSON 5: ORIGINAL SIN AND US

Have the students read pages 44–45 in their text. They can read it silently, or you can select readers to read it aloud.

## LESSON 5: ORIGINAL SIN AND US

### Scripture Story

#### Adam and Eve and Original Sin

Based on Genesis 3

When God created Adam and Eve, He shared His life, grace, with them. He gave them a beautiful place to live, called the Garden of Eden. The garden was filled with beautiful flowers, animals of every kind, fish in the lakes and streams, and birds nesting in the trees. There were many fruit trees, which provided food for Adam and Eve. God gave Adam and Eve that beautiful garden in which to live. God asked only one thing of them. In the center of the garden stood the tree of knowledge of good and evil. God told Adam and Eve that they could eat the fruit of all the trees, except for this tree. If Adam and Eve were to eat the fruit from this tree, they would not be able to live with God forever.

Not eating the fruit of the tree of good and evil seemed like such a little thing, and at first it was easy for Adam and Eve to obey God. They were made in God's image and likeness. They shared God's life, grace. Their minds and wills had complete control over their bodies. Adam and Eve listened to God, and they obeyed God. They loved God and were very happy, until one day a serpent came and spoke to Eve. The serpent was really the devil. The devil wanted to spoil everything. He wanted Adam and Eve to disobey God.

The serpent was more cunning than any other wild creature that the Lord God had made. The devil asked Eve, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat of any tree of the garden?'"

Satan knew that he could not tempt Adam and Eve into eating the fruit by appealing to their sense of taste, or smell, or sight. Their minds had control over their bodies, so Adam and Eve could not be tempted so easily.

Eve told the devil, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden; but 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.'" If they ate this fruit, they would no longer be able to live in the beautiful garden God had created for them.

The devil was very clever. He appealed directly to Eve's mind and lied to her, saying, "You certainly will not die! For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

The devil told Eve that God was jealous and did not want Adam and Eve to have the same powers that He had.

Eve must have known that the devil was lying, but she chose to disobey God. When Eve saw that the fruit was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took the fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, and he ate.

Like the unfaithful angels, Adam and Eve sinned. It was a sin of disobedience and pride. They disobeyed God's command for them not to eat of the tree of good and evil. They committed the sin of pride because they wanted to be as wise and powerful as God. They thought that would make them happy. Adam and Eve chose to disobey God. They chose not to trust Him. Instead of being happy, Adam and Eve felt very ashamed. They knew that they had not loved God as they should, that they had sinned.

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## LESSON 5: ORIGINAL SIN AND US

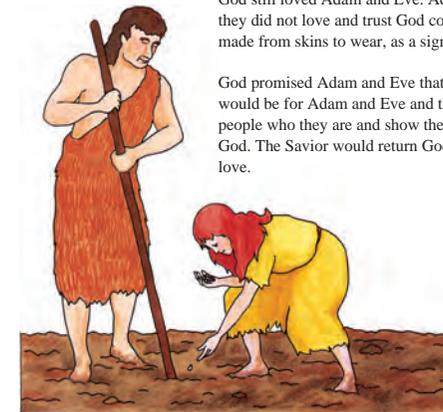
Adam and Eve tried to hide from God. But God called to Adam and asked, "Where are you?" Adam answered, "I heard the sound of you in the garden; but I was afraid . . . so I hid myself." Then God said, "Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" Adam then blamed Eve, saying, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." God then asked Eve, "What is this that you have done?" Eve blamed the devil, saying, "The serpent beguiled me into it, and I ate it."

### Original Sin and Its Results

Adam and Eve chose to disobey God and not to love Him. They hurt the relationship they shared with God. They were no longer in harmony with Him. This sin of Adam and Eve was the first sin. We call it the "Original Sin".

After sinning, Adam and Eve could no longer live in the Garden of Eden. They now had to work very hard for their shelter and food. They would suffer from the cold, and they would get sick. They would experience death. They were no longer in harmony with nature.

After sin, it was hard for them to know what was right and to make the right choices. Most importantly, Adam and Eve lost grace. Adam and Eve were very unhappy. They experienced disharmony within themselves and between each other.



God still loved Adam and Eve. Adam and Eve, however, showed that they did not love and trust God completely. But God gave them clothes made from skins to wear, as a sign that He still loved and cared for them.

God promised Adam and Eve that He would send a Savior. The Savior would be for Adam and Eve and their descendants. He would teach people who they are and show them how they should act as images of God. The Savior would return God's love and help them return God's love.

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# LESSON 5: ORIGINAL SIN AND US

Have the students complete page 46 in their textbooks.

## LESSON 5: ORIGINAL SIN AND US

### Review Questions

1. What was the one thing God asked of Adam and Eve?  
*God asked Adam and Eve not to eat the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Who tempted Adam and Eve?  
*The devil.*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What was the most important thing Adam and Eve lost when they sinned?  
*Adam and Eve lost God's life, grace.*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What was the first sin of Adam and Eve called?  
*Original Sin.*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## LIVING THE LESSON • APPLICATION

Adam and Eve knew they were created in the image of God. They knew how they should act. Before Original Sin, Adam and Eve had grace. In their minds they knew what was right, with their wills they chose to do what was right, and with their bodies they expressed their right choices outwardly. This was possible because they were not wounded by sin. When Adam and Eve committed the Original Sin, they lost grace. Sin weakened their minds and wills. They experienced an inward struggle to do what they knew was right. In their minds they knew what was right, but it was hard for them to choose with their wills what was right and to do what was right with their bodies. Sometimes, it was even hard for them to know what was right. It was hard for Adam and Eve to love each other as they should. Adam and Eve were very unhappy.

# LESSON 5: ORIGINAL SIN AND US

Have the students read "Cain's Wrong Choice" on pages 47–48 of their textbook, and then answer the discussion questions.

## LESSON 5: ORIGINAL SIN AND US

On the one hand we know we must do good, and in our inner selves this is what we desire, yet at the same time we feel an impulse to do the opposite, to follow the path of egoism, of violence, to do only what he enjoys even though we know that this means working against good, against God and against our fellow man . . . . This inner contradiction of our being is not a theory. We all experience it every day as around us we see the second of these two will prevail. Suffice to think of daily news of injustices, violence, and dissipation.

Pope Benedict XVI, General Audience, December 3, 2008

Our parents and guardians make decisions that affect the whole family, for example, where we go to school and where we live. Adam and Eve made a decision that affected them and all of their descendants, except Jesus and Mary. Adam and Eve chose to sin. When Adam and Eve committed the Original Sin, they lost grace, and they were not able to live with God in Heaven. They were not able to love each other as they should. It was hard for them to know what was right and to make the right choices. They could no longer live in the Garden of Eden, and they had to work very hard for their food and shelter. They would suffer and die. Original Sin and its effects were passed on to their descendants.

Cain and Abel were sons of Adam and Eve. As descendants of Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel suffered from Original Sin and its effects. Cain and Abel lacked grace. It was hard for them to know what was right and to make the right choices. They also had to work hard for their food, clothing, and shelter. In the following story we will see Original Sin and its effects reflected in the choices Cain made.

### Scripture Story

#### Cain's Wrong Choice

Based on Genesis 4

Cain and Abel were sons of Adam and Eve. God loved Cain and Abel. Abel grew up and became a shepherd, while Cain chose to become a farmer.

Abel wanted to offer a sacrifice to God. He waited for his sheep to have their lambs. When the lambs were finally born, he offered the firstborn lamb to God as a sacrifice. The firstborn lamb was considered the best one. Abel gave God the best lamb he had. God was very pleased with Abel and his offering. God accepted Abel's sacrifice.

Cain grew lots of food. Eventually, Cain offered a part of a harvest to God. Cain did not give God the first and best of his harvest. God was not pleased with this gift. God did not accept Cain's gift. Cain was envious of his brother, Abel, because God had accepted Abel's sacrifice and not his. Cain became angry at Abel. Cain thought of a plan to hurt his brother. Cain asked Abel to go into a field with him. When they were in the field, Cain turned on his brother and killed him.

God knew what Cain had done. He asked Cain, "Where is Abel, your brother?"

Cain answered, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?"

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## LESSON 5: ORIGINAL SIN AND US

The Lord then said, "What have you done!"

The Lord told Cain he had done a terrible thing to his brother. The Lord also told Cain how he had hurt himself when he killed his brother. As a result, he would no longer be able to farm. He would have to wander far from home. Cain had lost his home and would never be able to find a place to settle down. Cain feared that, as a wanderer, he would soon be murdered. "Not so!" the Lord said to him. The Lord placed a special mark on Cain. Anyone who saw the mark would know that Cain was protected by God. God still loved Cain and protected and cared for him.

### Discussion Questions

1. What did Abel do that showed he loved God very much?

Abel offered his firstborn lamb to God.

2. After Cain's sacrifice was refused, what feeling did Cain have toward Abel?

He became envious of Abel and angry at him.

3. Did Cain make right choices or wrong choices? What were Cain's wrong choices?

Wrong choices. He became angry, and he allowed his anger to get in the way of his love. He killed his brother, Abel.

4. What did God tell Cain?

Cain had done a terrible thing to his brother. Also, Cain had hurt himself when he made wrong choices, and he could no longer be a farmer.

5. Why was it hard for Cain to make a right choice?

He inherited Original Sin and its effects.

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# LESSON 5: ORIGINAL SIN AND US

## ENHANCING THE LESSON

Adam and Eve were tempted to sin. You may have heard the saying, “The devil made me do it.” If we think back to the story of Original Sin, we remember that the devil tempted Eve to make a wrong choice, but he did not make Eve sin. Eve chose to eat the forbidden fruit. Then Eve offered some to Adam, and Adam chose to eat the fruit also.

*Have students read page 49 from their text.*

## LESSON 5: ORIGINAL SIN AND US



### **Temptation**

Cain should not have been angry at his brother. Because of Original Sin and its effects, it was hard for Cain to love his brother, to know what was right, and to choose what was right.

God wants us to be happy here on earth and some day with Him in Heaven. God wants us to be free to choose to love Him and to be happy with Him. So, God created us in His image, with minds to think and wills to make choices. It is up to us to choose to love God and to accept the love and happiness He offers us.

When Adam and Eve committed the Original Sin, they were no longer able to love God as they should. It was difficult for them to know what was right and to make loving choices. Original Sin and its effects were passed on to all the people who came after Adam and Eve, except Jesus and Mary. We are all conceived and born with Original Sin and its effects. It is still hard for us to know what is right and to make right choices. Sometimes we are tempted to make wrong choices.

Many “voices” inside and outside us tempt us not to believe in God, not to listen to His fatherly invitations, to prefer our whims to His friendship.

*Blessed John Paul II, *You Are My Favorites**

Temptations make wrong choices seem to be good. No matter whether temptations come from ourselves (for example, selfishness, misguided emotions, weaknesses), from the world (people, places, and things), or from the devil, we can still choose to make right choices with the help of grace. But making right choices is difficult sometimes, and we struggle between what is right and what is wrong.

## LESSON 5: ORIGINAL SIN AND US

**Ask:** Let's look at an example of temptation. If you saw a delicious three-layer chocolate cake with rich, creamy, chocolate frosting (or something equally good) sitting on your kitchen counter, how many of you would want some?

Let's pretend it's supper time, and you know you should not have any cake before supper, but it sure looks good. At this point you know what is right, but you are tempted to do what is wrong. You want to have a piece of cake, but in your mind you know you shouldn't. You struggle between what you know is right and what you are tempted to do. Sometimes you give in and do what you know is not right.

**What would life be like if there weren't this struggle? What if it were always easy to do what is right?** *Life would be much better for everyone.*

This is what life was like for Adam and Eve before Original Sin. After Original Sin came the struggle to do what is right.

### FOR DISCUSSION

Read "The Difficult Choice" story of faith on pages 50–51 in the student text. They can read it silently, or you can select students to read it aloud. Then have the students complete the Discussions Questions on page 51.

**Ask:** What was the right thing to do? (Answers may vary.)

**If John helped Andy, he would betray his best friend, Mark. John had to make a choice. What will John do?** (Answers may vary.)

**ACTIVITY:** Put yourself in John's place and think about the choice he has to make. What would you do if you were John? Finish the story, telling the choice John makes and why he makes the choice he does.

*Give the students some time to work on the end of the story in class or assign it for homework.*

## LESSON 5: ORIGINAL SIN AND US

### Story of Faith

#### The Difficult Choice

It was a beautiful, sunny, spring day. Andy, Mark, and John had to stay inside during recess and finish their science projects. Their teacher, Mrs. Brown, had warned the class about what would happen if they didn't have their work done on time, but the three boys hadn't listened. They chose to wait until the last minute to do their science projects, and they ran out of time. While the boys worked, Mrs. Brown wrote that night's homework assignment on the board, as she always did.

Andy worked especially hard. He knew he had put off doing his work, and he knew he had better finish this project, or he would be in trouble! Andy had already been to the principal's office several times, because he had not behaved in class. He had drawn pictures and written notes on the board several times. If he got in trouble again, his parents would ground him for sure.

Mark and John usually got their work done on time, but with the beautiful spring weather, they had been busy playing baseball. Mark and John were best friends, and they played baseball together all the time. That's what they had planned to do at recess. John knew it was his own fault he had to stay in for recess, but Mark was really angry. Of all days for Mrs. Brown to keep them in!

Andy received permission to go to the lavatory. After he left, Mrs. Brown told Mark and John that she was going to go to the library to get a book and that she would be right back. She asked Mr. Carson, the other fourth-grade teacher, to look in on the boys.

When Mrs. Brown left, Mark quickly went up to the board, erased the homework assignment, and wrote, "NO HOMEWORK!!!" in its place. He was back at his desk working when Mr. Carson checked on the boys. As Mr. Carson was leaving, Andy returned and went back to his desk. He looked at the board to see how much homework Mrs. Brown had given them. When he saw "NO HOMEWORK!!!" on the board, Andy knew Mrs. Brown would suspect him, because of the times he had written on the board before. Andy went up to the board to erase "NO HOMEWORK!!!" Just as he got up to the board, Mrs.

Brown walked in. She noticed the words written on the board in place of the homework assignment. Andy told Mrs. Brown that he hadn't written on the board, and that he didn't know who had. Mrs. Brown told Andy she was sorry, but his parents would have to be called, and his pranks would have to stop. Andy figured it was no use arguing, because he had written on the board other times. So he just sat at his desk.

Meanwhile, the rest of the class came in from recess as Mrs. Brown was rewriting the homework assignment. Mark worked at his desk with a little smirk on his face, because he had gotten by with his prank, and Andy had been blamed for it!



# LESSON 5: ORIGINAL SIN AND US

Have the students complete the discussion questions on page 51.

**LESSON 5: ORIGINAL SIN AND US**

John, however, sat thinking. John knew that Mark had erased the homework assignment and had written "NO HOMEWORK!!!" instead. John had watched Mark do it! John also knew that Andy was really in a lot of trouble this time. Andy was going to be punished for something Mark had done. John didn't know what to do. He didn't want Andy to get in trouble for something he didn't do. He also didn't want to tell on Mark, who was his best friend. Besides, if he told on Mark, Mark probably wouldn't be his friend anymore. Or, maybe John should encourage Mark to tell Mrs. Brown the truth about what he did.

**Discussion Questions**

**1. If John helped Andy, he would betray his best friend, Mark. John had to make a choice. What would be the right thing for John to do?**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**2. Put yourself in John's place and think about the choice he has to make. What would you do if you were John? Finish the story, telling the choice John makes and why he makes the choice he does.**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Sin and Forgiveness**

Sometimes we fail to love as we should. Sometimes we are selfish, we give in to our weaknesses, and we choose to sin. Sin is knowing something is wrong and choosing to do it anyway.

We know that by sin the Lord is offended, friendship with Him is broken, His grace is lost, one strays from the right path, heading for ruin.

Committing sin, we are far from God, against God, without God.

Blessed John Paul II, *You Are My Favorites*

When we do sin, God still loves us. When we sin, we should tell God we are sorry and ask Him to forgive us in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The following prayer is based on Psalm 25, a psalm asking God for guidance and forgiveness.

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## Sin and Forgiveness

Have the students read this section on the bottom of page 51 in their text.

After the students have completed their stories, discuss their endings with them. Lead them to see that, even though it would be very difficult, John should tell Mrs. Brown what really happened. Even though Andy was in trouble often, he shouldn't be disciplined for something Mark did, and John shouldn't protect Mark just because they are friends. This might lead Mark to use John in the future.

Have the students complete the review worksheet for Lesson 5 (found in the Appendix).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Lesson 5: Original Sin and Us** Lesson Review Worksheet

Directions: Circle the letter for the best answer.

1. The first sin of Adam and Eve is called a.

a. Original Sin      c. serious sin  
b. temptation      d. big sin

2. A sin is knowing something is wrong and c to do it anyway.

a. failing      c. choosing  
b. refusing      d. declining

3. Because Adam and Eve are our first parents, we c Original Sin from them.

a. get      c. inherit  
b. receive      d. want

4. b is something that makes a wrong choice seem like a right choice.

a. Virtue      c. Desire  
b. Temptation      d. Sin

Directions: Use the appropriate word in the box to fill in the blanks (a word may be used more than once).

inherit   think   pride   grace   die   choose   disobedience

5. The most important gift that Adam and Eve had from God was grace.

6. Adam and Eve's sin was one of pride and disobedience.

7. After Original Sin, Adam and Eve wounded their abilities to think and choose.

8. Adam and Eve would die because of Original Sin.

9. We inherit Original Sin from our first parents.

10. We are born without grace.

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# LESSON 5: ORIGINAL SIN AND US

## CELEBRATION

Jesus helps us not to give into temptation and forgives us when we do.

The prayer on page 52 is based on Psalm 25, a psalm asking God for guidance and forgiveness.

## ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

### • Role play situations

- Divide the class into several groups. Give each group one of the following situations to role play. Each group takes about ten minutes to decide what they will do to role play the situation. In each role play situation, one of the characters will need to make a choice. After each group has acted out its role play situation, ask the class if the character made a right or a wrong choice. Was there another way to handle the situation? Discuss the choice that was made. For example: Why was it a right choice, or why was it a wrong choice? Was there another way to handle the situation? And so forth.

#### ○ *Situation 1* **Shoplifting**

You and your friends are shopping at a store. Your friends decide that it would be cool to steal something to see if they can get away with it. You tell your friends that you don't want to steal anything, but they really put the pressure on you to do what they want to do.

*What will your choice be?*

#### ○ *Situation 2* **Excluding someone from playing with a group**

One of your friends at school is not very popular, and a group of your other friends doesn't want you to be friendly to that person anymore. One day at school, you start to sit next to the unpopular friend during

## LESSON 5: ORIGINAL SIN AND US

### Prayer for Guidance and Help

To you I lift up my soul,  
O LORD, my God.  
In you I trust.

Help me to know and follow  
your ways, O LORD.  
Guide me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are God my Savior.

You are compassionate and kind.  
In your goodness, do not remember  
my sins and my weaknesses.

You are honest and good, O LORD,  
you show sinners the way.  
You guide those who seek you,  
and you teach them your way.

You offer your friendship  
to those who show you great love and respect.  
You free from sin  
those who look toward you, O LORD,  
and you instruct and guide them.

Look toward me  
and have pity on me, O LORD.  
My heart is deeply troubled,  
and I am in great distress.

Remove my troubles and suffering  
and take away all my sins.  
Protect me, LORD,  
I trust in your love and care.

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lunchtime. The group of your other friends tells you to come sit with them and not pay any attention to your unpopular friend.

*What will your choice be?*

## LESSON 5: ORIGINAL SIN AND US

### ◦ *Situation 3*

#### **Disobeying a parent**

Your mom told you to come right home after school today. She is at work and wants you to start on some chores that need to be done. You are supposed to call her as soon as you get home. Some of your friends invite you to play after school, and you really want to go. You explain that you have to go home, but your friends suggest that you could call your mom from another phone and tell her you were home. She wouldn't know the difference.

*What will your choice be?*

- **Review characteristics of human beings before and after Original Sin.** Make a chart by looking over the lesson in the book.
- **Analyze Genesis 3:15, traditionally known as the protoevangelium, or the first time that God promised a Savior immediately after Adam and Eve committed the Original Sin.**
  - Read Genesis 3:15 aloud. "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise your head; and you shall bruise his heel." God the Father is speaking to Satan. He says that He will make the devil and the woman enemies. We may think that the woman is Eve, but many Church Fathers see the woman as Mary, the Mother of the Redeemer. The seed of the devil are all those people who follow him. The seed of Mary is, of course, Jesus. Jesus will crush Satan and his power through the victory of the Cross, which is the "bruise on His heel." (See *The Protoevangelium of Salvation* by Blessed Pope John Paul II from a General Audience, December 17, 1986, for more details. It can be found at the Vatican website <http://www.vatican.va/>.)
- **Any books about the saints are helpful to either have the students read or read out loud to them.** The saints help us see how to fight temptation and give our lives totally to God, no matter what He may ask us to do. The Vision Books saints series can be found through Ignatius Press.

# LESSON 6: GOD'S MERCIFUL LOVE

## LESSON FOCUS

### Emphasis

In this lesson we will discuss the mercy and love of God. Old Testament stories will be used to show God's merciful love toward the people of that time.

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

**Forgiveness:** CCC 2838–45, 2862 (*Compendium* 594–95)  
**God's mercy as Father:** CCC 270, 277 (*Compendium* 50)  
**Mercy and sin:** CCC 1846–48 (*Compendium* 391)

### Concepts of Faith

#### Does God love us even when we sin?

*Yes, even when we sin, God still loves and cares for us. However, sin makes us less able to love God.*

#### What is merciful love?

*Merciful love is drawing good out of evil.*

#### How does God show His merciful love?

*God shows His merciful love when He forgives our sins. The good that God draws from the evil of our sins is the fact that we turn back to God and have a closer relationship with Him. When we realize how much God loves us we will love Him more and more.*

### Suggested Scripture Readings

Genesis 6–9:19. *The story of Noah*

Genesis 11:1–9. *The Tower of Babel*

Genesis 37–45. *Joseph and his brothers*

## LESSON PRESENTATION

### Preparation

Gather necessary materials. Set up a sacred space (see section about Preparation in Introduction). Begin with an opening prayer.

### Proclamation

God shows His merciful love to us, even when we sin.

### Vocabulary

**God's mercy:** showing kindness and compassion; love that draws good out of evil

**immoral:** wrong, evil; indecent

**hospitality:** welcoming people

# LESSON 6: GOD'S MERCIFUL LOVE

Have the students study the vocabulary words and the Concepts of Faith before the lesson begins on page 53 in the student text.

## LESSON 6: GOD'S MERCIFUL LOVE

Mercy is manifested in its true and proper aspect when it restores to value, promotes and draws good from all the forms of evil existing in the world and in man. Understood in this way, mercy constitutes the fundamental content of the messianic message of Christ and the constitutive power of His mission.

Blessed John Paul II, *Dives in misericordia*, 6

### Vocabulary

**God's mercy:** showing kindness and compassion; love that draws good out of evil  
**immoral:** wrong; evil; indecent  
**hospitality:** welcoming people

### Concepts of Faith

#### Does God love us even when we sin?

*Yes, even when we sin, God still loves and cares for us. However, sin makes us less able to love God.*

#### What is merciful love?

*Merciful love is drawing good out of evil.*

#### How does God show His merciful love?

*God shows His merciful love when He forgives our sins. The good that God draws from the evil of our sins is the fact that we turn back to God and have a closer relationship with Him. When we realize how much God loves us we will love Him more and more.*

The LORD is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and abounding in mercy.  
The LORD is good to all,  
and his compassion is over all that he has made.

Psalm 145:8-9

The Old Testament encourages people suffering from misfortune, especially those weighed down by sin—as also the whole of Israel, which had entered into the covenant with God—to appeal for mercy, and enables them to count upon it: it reminds them of His mercy in times of failure and loss of trust. Subsequently, the Old Testament gives thanks and glory for mercy every time that mercy is made manifest in the life of the people or in the lives of individuals.

Blessed John Paul II, *Dives in misericordia*, 6

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## LESSON EXPLANATION

What is God's merciful love? Even though we sin, God continues to love us. However, sin makes us less able to love God. We suffer certain consequences of our sins. When we are sorry for our sins, God forgives us. We, in turn, are grateful to God, and He draws us closer to Himself. The good that God draws from the evil of our sins is the fact that we turn back to God and have a closer relationship with Him. This is merciful love.

We remember from the story of Adam and Eve and Original Sin that, although Adam and Eve experienced God's punishment for their sin, they also experienced God's constant love and mercy. He still loved and cared for Adam and Eve and was merciful to them. He promised that one day He would send a Savior. Though Adam and Eve had to work harder for their food and shelter, God provided them with clothing. God still provided the sun and the rain, so that what Adam planted would grow. They must have been grateful to Him for these things. Their gratitude drew them closer to God.

God also showed His merciful love to Cain. After Cain killed Abel, Cain experienced some of the consequences of his sin when he had to leave the land where he had made his home and wander from place to place. After leaving his homeland, Cain experienced God's love and mercy when God protected him and kept him from harm. Cain must have been grateful to God for this. His gratitude drew him closer to God.

There are many other times when God showed His merciful love to people. For example, at the time of the great flood, God protected Noah and his family. He kept them safe in the ark and cared for them. They were grateful to God and were drawn closer to Him. God established a covenant with Noah and his descendants. This new bond of love is the good that God draws from the evil of sin.

God also showed mercy to the people of Babylon, who built a tower. The people were able to work together because they all spoke the same language. As the tower became taller and taller, the people forgot God. They were making a wrong choice. Because of their sins, the people began

## LESSON 6: GOD'S MERCIFUL LOVE

to speak different languages. The people couldn't understand each other, the work on the tower stopped, and all the people began to move away. God showed His merciful love and formed a new nation from among those people who were scattered. God saved some of the people from the full effects of their sin. The new people, under the leadership of Abraham, were drawn closer to God through a new covenant of love.

Abraham was a good man. God asked Abraham to leave his home and go to a place that God would show him. Abraham did as God asked, taking with him his wife, Sarah, his nephew Lot, and all his possessions. God gave to Abraham the land of Canaan. God blessed Abraham and promised him that he would have a son.

In the land of Canaan, Abraham and Lot were both very successful. They soon had so many flocks, herds, and tents that it became necessary for them to part. Abraham remained in Canaan. Lot settled in the Jordan Plain near the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. The people of Sodom and Gomorrah were very wicked, and the sins they committed against God were very great.

“The Old Testament encourages people suffering from misfortune, especially those weighed down by sin—as also the whole of Israel, which had entered into the covenant with God—to appeal for mercy, and enables them to count upon it: it reminds them of His mercy in times of failure and loss of trust. Subsequently, the Old Testament gives thanks and glory for mercy every time that mercy is made manifest in the life of the people or in the lives of individuals”

—Blessed Pope John Paul II, *Rich in Mercy*, no. 6.

## LIVING THE LESSON • APPLICATION

Have the students read the first six paragraphs on page 54 of the textbook.

### LESSON 6: GOD'S MERCIFUL LOVE



#### God's Merciful Love

God is merciful and loving. Even when we sin, God continues to love us. However, we are less able to love God. We experience certain consequences of our sins. When we are sorry for our sins, God forgives us. We, in turn, are grateful to God, and He draws us closer to Himself. This is God's merciful love. The good that God draws from the evil of our sins is the fact that we turn back to God and have a closer relationship with Him.

God showed His merciful love to Adam and Eve by promising them a Savior and by providing them with clothing. Adam and Eve must have been grateful to God, and their gratitude drew them closer to God.

Cain experienced the consequences of killing Abel when he had to leave his home and wander from place to place. God showed Cain merciful love by protecting him and keeping him from harm. Cain must have been grateful to God, and his gratitude drew him closer to God.

God showed merciful love to Noah and his family by keeping them safe in the ark and caring for them. Noah and his family must have been grateful to God, and their gratitude drew them closer to God.

When the people of Babylon forgot God as they worked on the tower of Babel, they began to speak different languages, and they moved away from Babel. God showed His merciful love by forming a new nation from among those people who were scattered. The people of the new nation must have been grateful to God, and their gratitude drew them closer to God.

God showed merciful love to Lot and his family by protecting Lot from the crowd that was trying to harm him. By the mercy of God, the angels removed Lot and his family bodily, by taking their hands and leading them out of the city, after first warning them that the city would be destroyed. Lot and his family must have been grateful to God, and their gratitude drew them closer to God.

While God allows us to experience some of the consequences of our sins, He forgives our sins when we are sorry. We experience God's love and mercy. By experiencing God's love and mercy, we are grateful to God and draw closer to Him. By experiencing some consequences of our sins, we learn to be responsible for our actions. We can learn from our wrong choices and try to make right choices in the future.

We should thank God for the love and mercy He gives us in spite of the times we sin and do not love Him as we should.

King David, who lived 950 years before the time of Christ, praised and thanked God for the generosity God showed him and his country.

The following prayer is based on Psalm 103, a prayer written by King David, praising God's goodness, mercy, and love.

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# LESSON 6: GOD'S MERCIFUL LOVE

**Ask:** Have you ever experienced God's merciful love? Spend a few minutes allowing the students to share their experiences.

Have the students read the remaining paragraphs from page 54 and page 55 of their textbooks.

**LESSON 6: GOD'S MERCIFUL LOVE**



**Praise of God's Goodness**

Bless the LORD, O my soul;  
All my being, bless his holy name.  
O my soul, bless the LORD;  
do not forget all he does for you.  
He forgives all your sins,  
and heals all your ills.  
He saves your life,  
and he treats you with kindness and compassion.

The LORD is just and right in all his actions.  
He is merciful and gracious.  
He is slow to anger and is filled with kindness.  
He does not always scold us, nor does he stay angry.  
He does not deal with us according to our sins.

The LORD's kindness to us is greater  
than the distance between heaven and earth.  
The LORD has compassion on us  
as a father has compassion on his children.

The LORD's throne is in heaven,  
and his kingdom rules over all.  
Bless the LORD, all you his angels,  
You do what he asks and you love and obey him.  
Bless the LORD, all his works,  
everywhere in his kingdom.  
Bless the LORD, O my soul.



God has always cared for human persons and loved them in a merciful way. God always forgives those who ask for forgiveness. As images of God, we should try to act as God does. We should try to love others and forgive those who ask for our forgiveness.

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## ENHANCING THE LESSON

**Ask:** Can you remember some Bible stories that are examples of God's merciful love? Noah; the Tower of Babel; A Plea for Mercy—the story of Abraham and Lot

God has always cared for human persons and loved them in a merciful way. God always forgives those who ask for forgiveness. As images of God, we should try to act as God does. We should try to love others and forgive those who ask for our forgiveness.

Have the students read the story of "Joseph and His Brothers" on pages 56–60 of their textbook.

The following story is about a man who loved and forgave his brothers, even though he seemed to have a good reason not to.

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## LESSON 6: GOD'S MERCIFUL LOVE

### Scripture Story

*The following story is about a man who loved and forgave his brothers, even though he seemed to have a good reason to remain angry with them.*

### Joseph and His Brothers

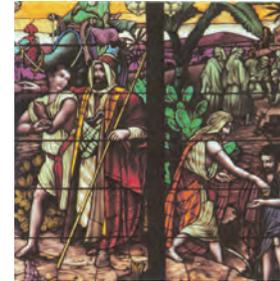
Based on Genesis 37–45

Joseph lived a long time ago. He and his family were shepherds. Jacob had twelve sons. He loved Joseph more than any other of his children because Joseph was the son of his old age; and Jacob made Joseph a long robe with sleeves. But when Joseph's brothers saw that their father loved Joseph more than all his brothers, they hated Joseph, and could not speak peaceably to him. Then Joseph began to have dreams in which something or someone would bow down to him. He told his family about his dreams. And his brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the saying in mind.



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## LESSON 6: GOD'S MERCIFUL LOVE



One day, Jacob said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing the flock? Come, I will send you to them." And Joseph said to him, "Here I am." So Jacob said to him, "Go now, see if it is well with your brothers, and with the flock; and bring me word again." As Joseph was walking, his brothers saw him afar off, and before he came near to them they conspired against him to kill him. They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall see what will become of his dreams." But when Reuben, one of Joseph's brothers, heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, "Let us not take his life." And Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood; cast him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand upon him." Reuben said this that he might rescue Joseph out of their hands, to restore him to his father. So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the long robe with sleeves that he wore; and they took him and cast him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it.

Then they sat down to eat; and looking up they saw a caravan of traders (merchants) on their way to Egypt. Then Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we slay our brother and conceal his blood? Come, let us sell him, and let not our hand be upon him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers agreed. When the traders passed by, they drew Joseph up and lifted him out of the pit, and sold him to the traders for twenty pieces of silver; and they took Joseph to Egypt.

Then they took Joseph's robe, and killed a goat, and dipped the robe in the blood; and they sent the long robe with sleeves and brought it to their father, and said, "This we have found; see now whether it is your son's robe or not." And he recognized it, and said, "It is my son's robe; a wild beast has devoured him; Joseph is without doubt torn to pieces."

Now Joseph was taken down to Egypt, and Potiphar, an officer of the pharaoh, bought him. The Lord was with Joseph, and he became a successful man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian, and his master saw that the Lord was with him, and that the Lord caused all that he did to prosper in his hands. So Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him, and he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had. However, one day the master's wife tricked Joseph and, because of her trick, Joseph was put into jail. While in jail, Joseph was put in charge of the other prisoners.

Two of the prisoners were men who had worked for the pharaoh. One morning, Joseph saw that these men were upset. He asked, "Why are your faces downcast today?" They said to him, "We have had dreams, and there is no one to interpret them." And Joseph said to them, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell them to me, I beg you." The two men told Joseph about their dreams. Joseph explained to them what the dreams meant. What Joseph told them would happen, did happen. One of the men was freed from prison and went back to work for the pharaoh.

Two years went by, and Joseph was still in prison. One night, the pharaoh had a dream. He saw seven fat cows grazing on green grass. Behind them, he saw seven ugly, skinny cows, who came and ate the seven fat cows. The dream woke the pharaoh, but he quickly fell back to sleep and had another

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dream. This time he saw seven ears of fat, healthy grain. Then he saw seven thin ears sprout up and swallow the healthy ears.

When the pharaoh woke up, he was upset. He called all his advisors and told them about his dreams. He wanted one of them to interpret or explain the dreams. No one was able to interpret the dreams. Then, the worker who had been in prison with Joseph told the pharaoh about him. "When we told him our dreams, he interpreted them for us and explained for each of us the meaning of his dream", said the worker.

Then the pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they brought him hastily out of the dungeon. And the pharaoh said to Joseph, "I have had a dream, and there is no one who can interpret it; and I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it. Joseph answered the pharaoh, "It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer."

Then Joseph said to the pharaoh, "The dream of Pharaoh is one; God has revealed to Pharaoh what he is about to do. The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven good ears are seven years. The seven lean and gaunt cows that came up after them are seven years, and the seven empty ears are also seven years of famine. It is as I told pharaoh; God has shown to Pharaoh what he is about to do. There will come seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt, but after them there will arise seven years of famine, and all the plenty will be forgotten in the land of Egypt; the famine will consume the land, and the plenty will be unknown in the land by reason of that famine which will follow, for it will be very grievous."

Joseph advised the pharaoh, "Now therefore let Pharaoh select a man discreet and wise, and set him over the land of Egypt. Let Pharaoh proceed to appoint overseers over the land, and take part of the produce of the land of Egypt during the seven plenteous years. And let them gather all the food of these good years that are coming, and lay up grain under the authority of Pharaoh for food in the cities, and let them keep it. That food shall be a reserve for the land against the seven years of famine which are to befall the land of Egypt, so that the land may not perish through the famine." Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has shown you all this, there is none so discreet and wise as you are; you shall be over my house, and all my people shall order themselves as you command."

During the next seven years, Joseph traveled throughout Egypt. He collected the abundant food and stored it in all the nearby towns. Joseph thought that he was a lucky man. He married and had two sons. Joseph named his oldest son Manasseh, meaning "God has made me forget entirely the suffering I endured at the hands of my family"; and he named his second son Ephraim, meaning "God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction."

After seven years of abundance, the seven years of famine began to come, as Joseph has said. There was famine in all lands; but in all the land of Egypt there was bread. Joseph rationed food to the Egyptian people. Soon people from all over the world came to Egypt to obtain rations of grain. Because Joseph was the governor, they had to ask him for their rations.

Back home, Jacob said to his sons, "I have heard that there is grain in Egypt; go down and buy grain for us there, that we may live, and not die." So all of Joseph's brothers, except for the youngest, Benjamin, left for Egypt. Jacob would not let Benjamin go, because he was afraid something would happen to him.

Joseph's brothers came to Egypt, and bowed themselves before him with their faces to the ground. Joseph saw his brothers, and knew them, but he treated them as strangers and spoke roughly to them.

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**Ask:** What had happened in those dreams? Joseph began to have dreams in which something or someone would bow down to him.

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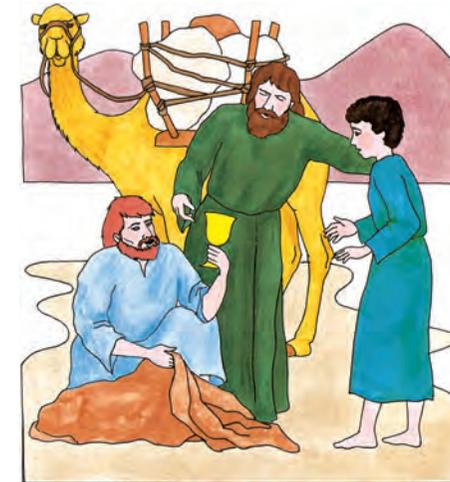
However, the brothers did not recognize Joseph. Joseph remembered the dreams he had had about them. Joseph said, "You are spies; you have come to see the weakness of the land."

His brothers replied, "No, my lord, but to buy food have your servants come. We are twelve brothers, the sons of one man in the land of Canaan; and behold, the youngest is this day with our father, and one is no more."

Joseph insisted that the brothers were indeed spies. He said, "By this you shall be tested: by the life of Pharaoh, you shall not go from this place unless your youngest brother comes here. Send one of you, and let him bring your brother, while you remain in prison, that your words may be tested, whether there is truth in you; or else, by the life of Pharaoh, surely you are spies." And he put them all together in prison for three days.

On the third day, Joseph went to them and said, "Do this and you will live, for I fear God: if you are honest men, let one of your brothers remain confined in your prison, and let the rest go and carry grain for the famine of your households, and bring your youngest brother to me; so your words will be verified, and you will not die." Joseph's brothers agreed to this. They thought they were being punished because of what they had done to Joseph.

Joseph understood what they were saying even though they were speaking a different language. Then he turned away from them and wept; and he returned to them and spoke to them. And he took Simeon from them and bound him before their eyes. And Joseph gave orders to fill their bags with grain, and to replace every man's money in his sack, and to give them provisions for the journey. This was done for them.



When the brothers arrived home, as they emptied their sacks, behold, every man's bundle of money was in his sack. They told Jacob everything that had happened. Jacob was afraid that something would happen to Benjamin, so Jacob would not let him go.

Now the famine was severe in the land. And when they had eaten the grain which they had brought from Egypt, their father said to them, "Go again, buy us a little food." They refused to go unless Benjamin went with them. Jacob knew they needed the food, so he finally agreed. He said, "If it must be so, then

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do this: take some of the choice fruit of the land in your bags, and carry down to the man a present. Take double the money with you; carry back with you the money that was returned in your bags; perhaps it was an oversight. Take also your brother Benjamin, and arise, go again to the man." Then they left for Egypt.

When Joseph saw his brothers with Benjamin, he turned to one of his servants and told him to prepare a special dinner. The brothers were brought into the house to Joseph with the presents which they had with them, and bowed down to him to the ground. They presented Joseph with the gifts they had brought. Then Joseph instructed them where to sit. The brothers were amazed, because they were seated according to their age, from oldest to youngest.

After dinner, Joseph commanded the steward of his house, "Fill the men's sacks with food, as much as they can carry, and put each man's money in his sack, and put my silver cup in the sack of Benjamin with his money for the grain."

As soon as the morning was light, the men were sent away with their donkeys. When they had gone but a short distance from the city, Joseph said to his steward, "Up, follow after the men; and when you overtake them, say to them, 'Why have you returned evil for good? Why have you stolen my silver cup? You have done wrong in so doing.'"

When he overtook them, he spoke to them these words. They said to him, "Behold, the money which we found in our sacks, we brought back to you from the land of Canaan; how then should we steal silver or gold from your lord's house?"

The servant told them that he had to search their bags. He explained that the one who had the silver goblet would have to come back and become a slave. He searched everyone's bag and finally found the goblet in the last bag, Benjamin's bag.

The whole group then went back to the city. When they reached Joseph's house, the brothers pleaded with Joseph. Joseph said, "Only the man in whose hand the cup was found shall be my slave; but as for you, go up in peace to your father."

Judah begged Joseph to let Benjamin go. He explained that one of their brothers was dead and that Benjamin was very special to their father. Judah said, "For how can I go back to my father if the lad is not with me? I fear to see the evil that would come upon my father."

Joseph could no longer keep his secret. "I am Joseph", he said to his brothers. "Is my father still alive?"

The brothers were so surprised they could not move or speak. Joseph said, "I am your brother Joseph, whom you once sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life."

"Make haste and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay ... and there I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come; lest you and your household, and all that you have, come to poverty.'"

Then Joseph hugged Benjamin tightly, and they both began to cry. Joseph then kissed each of his brothers. The brothers brought Jacob and the rest of their family to Egypt. They were given some land to live on.

Have the students complete page 61 from their textbooks.

## LESSON 6: GOD'S MERCIFUL LOVE

### Review Questions

- 1. Why did Joseph's brothers want to hurt him?**  
*They were envious of him because their father loved him more than them.*
- 2. What did Joseph's brothers do to Joseph?**  
*They plotted to kill him. Then they sold him to a group of men going to Egypt.*
- 3. What did Joseph say the pharaoh's dream meant?**  
*That there would be seven good years and then seven years of great famine.*
- 4. When Joseph told his brothers who he was, was he angry with them?**  
*No.*
- 5. What did Joseph say to his brothers?**  
*He said, "[D]o not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life." Joseph then said that he would make sure they had everything they needed.*

Joseph had great reason to be angry with his brothers. First, they plotted to kill him. Then they sold him to some men traveling to Egypt. Imagine what Joseph must have felt when his own brothers sold him. He probably thought he would never see his family again. However, Joseph knew that God would be always with him. Joseph forgave his brothers for everything. He even helped them during the famine. Joseph helped them move to Egypt.

Joseph showed merciful love toward his brothers. He continued to love them and to forgive them in spite of what they had done to him. Joseph's brothers were grateful, and their gratitude drew them closer to Joseph in love and brotherhood. We should do the same thing as Joseph. We should show merciful love toward others.

# LESSON 6: GOD'S MERCIFUL LOVE

Have the students complete page 62 in their textbook.

## LESSON 6: GOD'S MERCIFUL LOVE

**Directions:** Write about three ways you can show merciful love.

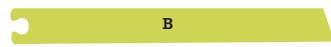
**Example:** My friend lied and told the teacher that I had stolen his football, when he himself lost it. I can forgive my friend and not stay angry at him.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Match column A with column B.



- 5 Tower of Babel
- 6 Noah and the Great Flood
- 1 Adam and Eve (Original Sin)
- 2 Lot and His Family
- 3 Cain's Wrong Choice
- 4 Joseph and His Brothers



- 1 God provided them with clothes and other things. They must have been grateful to Him. Their gratitude drew them closer to God.
- 2 These people were saved when the cities were destroyed. They must have been grateful to God. Their gratitude drew them closer to Him.
- 3 God protected him as he wandered from place to place. He must have been grateful to God. His gratitude drew him closer to God.
- 4 He forgave his brothers for selling him into slavery.
- 5 The people forgot about God. They were full of pride. The people were scattered and began to speak different languages. God showed His merciful love by forming a new nation from among the scattered peoples.
- 6 God protected him and his family in an ark. God established a covenant with him and his descendants. This new bond of love is the good that God draws from the evil of sin.

**Evaluation:** There is no quiz for Lesson 6 available in the Appendix. Instead, have students do the following activity as a quiz. After the lesson, have students complete the Unit 2 test (unit test and answer key can be found in the Appendix).

Have the students complete the review worksheet for Unit 2 (found in the Appendix).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Unit 2—God Always Loves Us

Unit Review  
Worksheet

Read each question and then write a T in front of those statements that are True, and write an F in front of those statements that are False.

- How did Adam and Eve hurt themselves when they chose to sin?
  1. T They lost God's gift of grace and were not able to share God's life on earth or live with Him in Heaven.
  2. T They wounded their abilities to think and to choose.
  3. F They would no longer have any food to eat.
  4. T They wounded their bodies and would experience suffering and death.
- How are we affected by Original Sin?
  5. T We are born without grace.
  6. T Our abilities to think and to choose are wounded.
  7. T Our bodies will experience suffering and death.
  8. F We are unselfish.
- What is Original Sin?
  9. F The sin committed by Cain.
  10. T The first sin of Adam and Eve.
  11. F The first sin we commit.

Complete the following sentences by filling in the blank in each sentence.

12. When we know something is wrong and choose to do it anyway, we sin.
13. God promised Adam and Eve He would send a Savior.
14. Jesus (God the Son) is the Savior God promised to send.
15. When we sin, we should receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
16. Merciful love is drawing good out of evil.
17. God shows His merciful love when He forgives our sins.

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

18. Showing kindness and compassion, drawing good out of evil, means:
  - a. being sympathetic
  - b. being merciful
  - c. being helpful
19. Wrong, evil, indecent mean:
  - a. immoral
  - b. immortal
  - c. unlawful
20. Welcome, cordial mean:
  - a. nice
  - b. happy
  - c. hospitable
21. His brothers sold him into slavery:
  - a. Noah
  - b. Lot
  - c. Joseph
22. Cain killed his brother, Abel, because of:
  - a. anger
  - b. envy
  - c. sacrifice

# LESSON 6: GOD'S MERCIFUL LOVE

## CELEBRATION

Pray Psalm 136. This psalm emphasizes God's mercy as He shows it in His actions for people.

## ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

### Old Testament newspaper

The students can make a newspaper showing and telling the stories of God's merciful love in the Old Testament. Each student should first choose a story.

The stories to choose from are:

- Adam and Eve and Original Sin (Genesis 3)
- Cain's Wrong Choice (Genesis 4)
- Tower of Babel (Genesis 11:1–9)
- Noah and the Great Flood (Genesis 6; 7; 8; 9:1–17)
- Joseph and His Brothers (Genesis 37–45)
- Abraham and Lot (Genesis 18–19)

Give each student a piece of paper about 11 × 14 inches. Each student should write a newspaper article about the story and draw a picture to accompany the article. If you choose, the students can then give oral reports on their stories. This activity can be adapted to the needs of your class.

#### Materials needed:

A piece of paper approximately 11 × 14 inches (one for each student)  
markers  
pencils  
crayons  
transparent tape

## Buildings of trust

Read the story of Noah, "The Wickedness of Mankind", Genesis 6:9–10, and "Noah Makes the Ark as God Commands", Genesis 6:11–19, or "The Tower of Babel", Genesis 11:1–9.

#### Materials needed:

Bible  
craft sticks or toothpicks  
glue  
brown construction paper

The story of Noah shows trust in God and love of God. In the story of Babel, people forgot God and trusted in themselves. Ask the students what kind of trust we should "build" in our lives—trust in God or trust in ourselves.

- If you read the story of Noah, have the students build their own arks, using craft sticks or toothpicks, glue, and construction paper.
- If you read the story of the Tower of Babel, have the students build their own towers, using the same materials.

## DVDs and Websites

*Veggie Tales: The Ballad of Little Joe* (Big Idea, 2003) is a retelling of the story of Joseph and his brothers from Genesis chapters 37–45. Read from Genesis and watch the video. Compare real story and video to each other: what was similar, what was different, what is left out of the video? The teacher can lead a discussion or have the students write a paragraph comparing and contrasting the two versions.