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LESSON 1: THERE IS ONE GOD— THE BLESSED TRINITY

LESSON FOCUS

Emphasis

We believe there are three persons in one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We show our belief in the Blessed Trinity every time we make the Sign of the Cross. Even as adults, we cannot fully comprehend this basic concept of our faith. We believe it is true because Jesus, who is God the Son, revealed the Blessed Trinity to us in his teachings. Not even in heaven will the mystery of the Blessed Trinity be fully understood. “The mystery of the Trinity itself is inaccessible to the human mind and is the object of faith because it was revealed by Jesus Christ, the divine Son of the eternal Father” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* [CCC], Glossary, see also CCC 251).

In presenting this lesson to the children, it should be emphasized that all three persons of God are equal. Each person is all-loving, all-powerful, all-wise, etc. There was never a time when all three persons did not exist.

Even though we cannot completely understand the Blessed Trinity, we believe that there are three persons in one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We believe this because Jesus taught us about the Blessed Trinity.

Correspondence to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

Belief in one God: CCC 199–202, 228, *Compendium* 36–37

The implications of faith in one God: CCC 222–27, 229, *Compendium* 43

“In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”: CCC 232–37, 265, *Compendium* 44

The revelation of God as the Blessed Trinity: CCC 238–48, 261–64, *Compendium* 46–47

Blessed Trinity in the teaching of the faith: CCC 249–56, 266, *Compendium* 48

The divine works and the trinitarian missions: CCC 257–60, 267, *Compendium* 49

Vocabulary

Blessed Trinity: the three persons in one God

mystery: something we cannot fully understand

Concepts of Faith

How many Gods are there?

There is one God, and there are three persons in the one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

What do we call the three persons in one God?

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

LESSON PRESENTATION

(CCC 234)

Proclamation

In one God there are three persons.

LESSON 1: THERE IS ONE GOD— THE BLESSED TRINITY

LESSON EXPLANATION

We can use a shamrock to learn about the Blessed Trinity.
(Show the children a picture of a shamrock.)

Materials needed:

large shamrock cut from green poster board

Ask: **How many shamrocks do you see?** *One shamrock.*

How many leaflets are on this one shamrock?

(Point to each of the three leaflets and have the children count with you.)

There are three leaflets on one shamrock.

The three leaflets on one shamrock help us learn about the Blessed Trinity, the three persons in one God.

The unity of persons in the family can be used as another imperfect example of the perfect unity of persons in the Blessed Trinity.

Ask: **How many families live in your house?** (Give the children a chance to answer.)

How many people live in your house? (Let the children share how many people are in their families.)

Point out that one family usually includes several people. Those people are all separate persons, but they make up one family. In God, there are three persons, but only one God. (This does not come close to explaining the Blessed Trinity, but it does offer us a small comparison to use in teaching.)

Tell the children the names of the three persons in the Blessed Trinity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. We usually think of God the Father as our Creator. He gave each of us life. The second person of the Blessed Trinity is God the Son. He became man to show us and teach us how to live. Jesus is God the Son. He died for us. The third person of the Blessed Trinity is God the Holy Spirit. He helps us act as images of God. The dove is a sign of the Holy Spirit. God the Father is God, God the Son is God, and God the Holy Spirit is God. There are three persons in one God. We call these three persons the Blessed Trinity.

Review Questions

1. How many persons are there in God?

There are three persons in God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

2. What do we call the three persons in one God?

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

3. Will we ever completely understand the mystery of the Blessed Trinity?

No, we cannot completely understand the mystery of the Blessed Trinity.

4. Why do we believe there are three persons in one God?

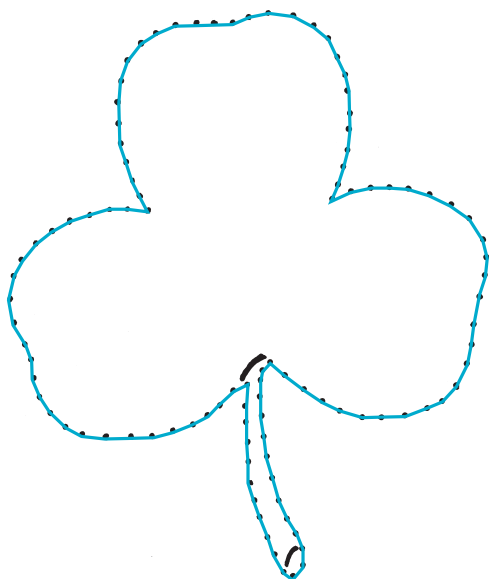
We believe there are three persons in one God because Jesus, God the Son, taught us about the Blessed Trinity.

LESSON 1: THERE IS ONE GOD— THE BLESSED TRINITY

Have the students complete page 1 in Workbook A or page 53 in Workbook B.

LESSON 1: THERE IS ONE GOD— THE BLESSED TRINITY

Directions: Connect the dots and color the picture.



There are three persons in one God:
the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

1

LESSON 1: THERE IS ONE GOD— THE BLESSED TRINITY

Directions: Cut out the boxes. Glue one box in each leaf.



God the Father	God the Son	God the Holy Spirit
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53

LIVING THE LESSON • APPLICATION

Each time we make the Sign of the Cross we give praise to the three persons of the Blessed Trinity. When we say the Glory Be, we are showing that we believe that God always was and always will be.

Make the Sign of the Cross for the children, showing them that you touch your forehead saying “In the name of the Father”, then your chest saying “and of the Son”, then your left and right shoulders saying “and of the Holy Spirit”. Then, turning your back to the children (so as not to confuse them as to which shoulder is first), have the children make the Sign of the Cross with you. Tell them that we make the Sign of the Cross at the beginning and end of our prayers. When we do this, we are telling God we believe in him, and we are offering our prayers to him.

Next, teach the children the Glory Be. Explain that “glory” means praise and honor. We praise God for all his goodness. When we pray the Glory Be, we show our love for God by praising the Blessed Trinity. Tell the children the Glory Be is a special prayer of praise we offer the Blessed Trinity. Have the children repeat each phrase after you. Then have them say it with you.

*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.*

It is suggested that the Glory Be become part of children’s daily prayers at school.

LESSON 1: THERE IS ONE GOD— THE BLESSED TRINITY

Review Questions

1. When do we make the Sign of the Cross?

We make the Sign of the Cross at the beginning and end of our prayers.

2. Why do we make the Sign of the Cross?

We make the Sign of the Cross to show God we believe in him as the Blessed Trinity.

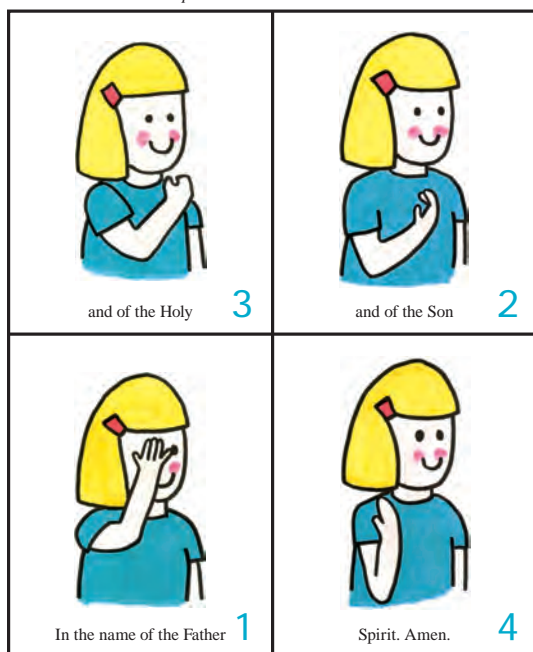
3. What is the special prayer to the Blessed Trinity?

The special prayer to the Blessed Trinity is the Glory Be.

Have the students complete page 2 in Workbook A or page 54 in Workbook B.

LESSON 1: THERE IS ONE GOD— THE BLESSED TRINITY

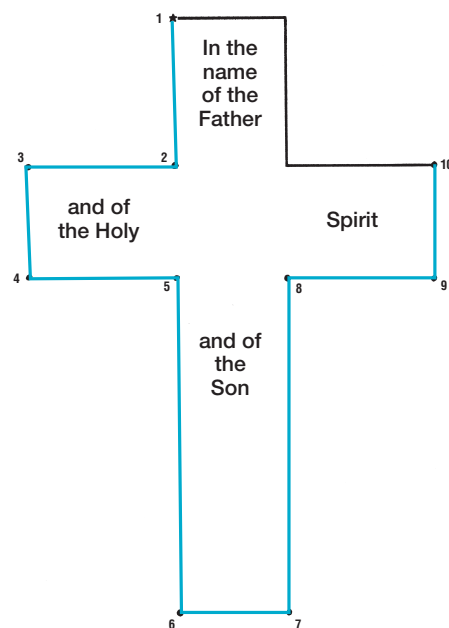
Directions: Cut out the pictures. Put them in the correct order.



2

LESSON 1: THERE IS ONE GOD— THE BLESSED TRINITY

Directions: Connect the dots and color the picture.



54

CELEBRATION

Prayer

Have the children make the Sign of the Cross and pray the Glory Be.

LESSON 1: THERE IS ONE GOD— THE BLESSED TRINITY

ACTIVITIES

Shamrock Project

The circles and triangles may be cut out by the teacher or patterns made for the children to trace and cut the shapes themselves. Have the children glue one circle toward the top of the black paper. Glue the other two circles next to each other on the bottom of the first circle. All the circles should be touching and form a shamrock. Glue the triangle on the bottom of the shamrock to form the stem. Have the children print “Father” on the top circle, “Son” on the next circle, and “Holy Spirit” on the last circle.

Remind the children that Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are not just other names we call God but are the three persons in the Blessed Trinity. This is a mystery, and we cannot understand it. We believe it because Jesus, God the Son, taught us about the Blessed Trinity.

Materials needed:

4” circles cut from green construction paper
(three per child)
triangles cut from green construction paper
(one per child)
black construction paper
(one sheet per child)
glue or glue sticks

Shamrock Painting

Spread green acrylic paint on paper plates or other disposable surfaces. Have the children dip the heart-shaped sponge into the paint and press onto the top of the construction paper with the point of the heart facing downward. Dip the sponge two more times and press the sponge below and to the sides of the first heart shape. All three points of the heart shapes should be touching to form a shamrock. With a paint brush add the stem of the shamrock. When the paint is dry, have the children print the words “Father”, “Son”, and “Spirit” next to the three leaflets of the shamrock.

Remind the children that Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are not just other names we call God but are the three persons in the Blessed Trinity. This is a mystery, and we cannot understand it. We believe it because Jesus, God the Son, taught us about the Blessed Trinity.

Materials needed:

sponge cut into a heart shape (a heart-shaped cookie cutter could be used)
green acrylic paint
paper plates
paintbrush
construction paper

Action Rhyme

Look at my fingers. (*Hold up both hands.*)
Count them with me. (*One hand counts fingers on other hand.*)
How many fingers do you see? (*Wiggle fingers of both hands.*)
One, two, and three. (*Hold up one, then two, then three fingers.*)
Three persons in God. (*Hold up three fingers.*)
One, two, and three. (*Count three fingers.*)
Three persons of the Blessed Trinity. (*Make a triangle with thumbs and index fingers.*)
One, two, and three. (*Count three fingers.*)
Only one God. (*Hold up one finger.*)
He loves me. (*Hug self.*)
Three persons in God. (*Hold up three fingers.*)
The Blessed Trinity.

LESSON 2: WE SEE GOD IN THE WORLD AROUND US—CREATION

LESSON FOCUS

Emphasis

To grow in the love of God, we first must come to know God and his love for us. Through creation, God reveals himself to us as our loving and caring Father. In learning about God, we also come to know ourselves, because we are made in the image of God.

Explain to the children that God made from nothing all the things that are alive and all the things that are not alive. As you present this lesson, the children should become aware of the wonders of God seen in all creation.

Correspondence to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

The Creator: CCC 279–81

Catechesis on creation: CCC 282–89

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

The mystery of creation: CCC 295–301, 317–18, 320

Man created in the image of God: CCC 355–57, 380–81

Vocabulary

Creator: God, who made everything from nothing

Concepts of Faith

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

Who is our Creator?
God is our Creator.

LESSON PRESENTATION

Proclamation

God created the world and everything in it.

LESSON EXPLANATION

Show the children an apple (or any fruit with seeds).

Ask: What would you have to do to make an apple tree grow? (Give children time to answer.)

Cut the apple open to show the children the seeds. Explain to the children that to make an apple tree grow, they would have to plant the seeds, water the tree, pull the weeds, and then, if they were lucky, an apple might grow on the tree. Apple trees grow from apple seeds. This is God's plan. God made the first fruit trees from nothing. We cannot make a tree without seeds.

Materials needed:

an apple or any fruit with seeds
pictures of natural scenery (mountains, rivers, trees, sunset, sunrise, etc.)

LESSON 2: WE SEE GOD IN THE WORLD AROUND US—CREATION

Next, show the children the pictures of mountains, rivers, trees, sky, etc.

Ask: Can you make any of the things you see in the picture? (Give children time to answer.)

Some of the children might say they could make a lake by putting lots of water in one place or a mountain by piling up lots of dirt. Point out that they would have to use water and dirt that are already in the world. We could not make these things from nothing. God made the mountains and lakes from nothing. He made the whole world and everything in it for all people. God made all the people to be in charge of the things in the world. More wondrous than all this, God loves each of us and has given us life through our parents. Because we are persons, we can love God, praise him, and thank him for all he has made.

Review Questions

1. Who is the Creator of the world?

God is the Creator of the world.

2. Can we make something from nothing?

No, only God can make something from nothing.

3. Did God need seeds to make trees?

No.

4. Do we need seeds to make trees?

Yes.

5. Was everything created by God?

Yes, God created the whole world and everything in it.

In the beginning there was only God. Then, God made everything from his love. He made the whole world and everything in it.

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

SCRIPTURE ACCOUNT: Creation—Workbooks A and B

Genesis 1:1–31

Lesson Story:

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

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

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

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

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

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

God looked at everything he had made and was pleased. Then God made the first man, Adam, and the first woman, Eve. God said, “I have made the whole world and everything in it for you. I give you all kinds of plants for food and all kinds of animals. You are in charge of all the things in the world.” God looked at all he made and saw it was good, and he was pleased.

God is with us always. He has given us life, the whole world, and everything in the world because he loves us. Every person, plant and animal, star and lake that we see should remind us of God, our Creator. We should love God and thank him for everything he has made.

LESSON 2: WE SEE GOD IN THE WORLD AROUND US—CREATION

Review Questions

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

God made the world and everything in it.

2. **Who made the angels?**

God made the angels.

3. **What did God make to shine during the day?**

God made the sun to shine during the day.

4. **To whom did God give everything?**

God gave everything to Adam and Eve, the first man and woman.

LIVING THE LESSON • APPLICATION

We call God “Creator” because he made the world and everything in it from nothing. God made all the things in the world for people to use. We can use all the things God has made, but we cannot use other people. We love, praise, and thank God for the wonderful world he has given us.

Ask: **How can we show God we are thankful for our world?** *We show we are thankful for our world by taking care of our world—keeping the land, air, and water clean, by not littering, etc.*

How do we use the water that God made for us? *We use water to drink, to cook with, to wash in, to grow food, to play in, to make energy, etc.*

How do we use the plants and trees that God made for us? *We use the plants and trees to eat, to give shade, to make houses and other things out of wood, to feed the animals, etc.*

How do we use the animals that God made for us? *We use the animals to do work for us, to give us food, to have fun with.*

How do we use the sun that God made for us? *We use the sun to give us energy, light, warmth, etc.*

ACTIVITY

Have the children draw pictures of the things for which they are thankful.

Materials needed:

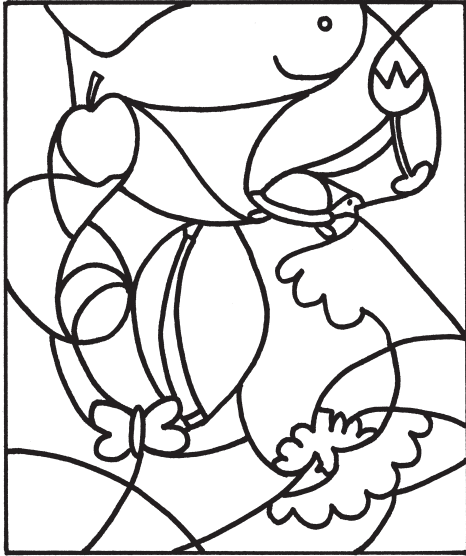
blank paper
pencils
crayons or markers

LESSON 2: WE SEE GOD IN THE WORLD AROUND US—CREATION

Have the students complete page 3 in Workbook A or page 55 in Workbook B.

LESSON 2: WE SEE GOD IN THE WORLD AROUND US—CREATION

Directions: Find and color the hidden pictures.

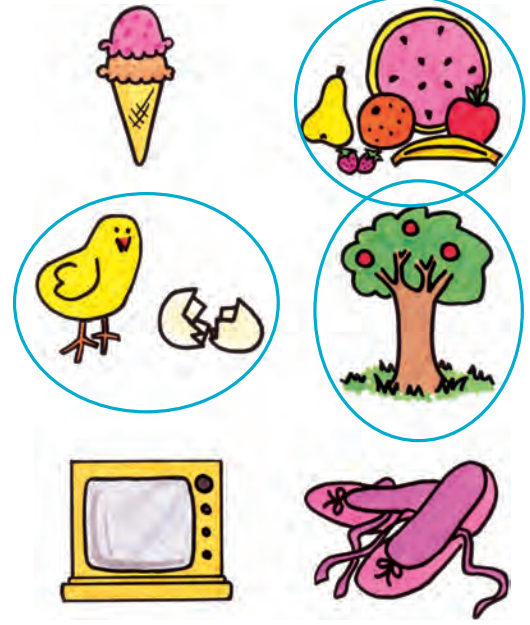


God made the whole world and everything in it.

3

LESSON 2: WE SEE GOD IN THE WORLD AROUND US—CREATION

Directions: Circle the things God has made.



God made the whole world and everything in it.

55

CELEBRATION

Prayer

*Our Father in heaven, we thank you
for the wonderful world you have given us.
We love you. Amen.*

ACTIVITIES

Creation Booklet

A creation booklet can be made from the children's workbook pages. Remove the pages from the students' workbooks and cut the pages in half on the solid line. Cut two pieces of construction paper in half and glue a picture to each piece. Then have the children place the pictures to show the order in which God created them. Punch holes on the left side of the pages, lace with yarn, and tie to make a booklet. The children can design their own covers. While they are working, remind them that God made the whole world and everything in it from nothing. God is our Creator and our loving Father.

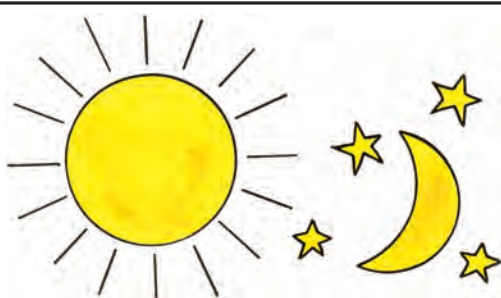
Materials needed:

pages 4–5 of Workbook A or pages 56–57 of Workbook B
scissors
yarn
crayons
construction paper
three-hole punch

LESSON 2: WE SEE GOD IN THE WORLD AROUND US—CREATION

LESSON 2: WE SEE GOD IN THE WORLD AROUND US—CREATION

Creation Booklet



God made the sun, moon, and stars.

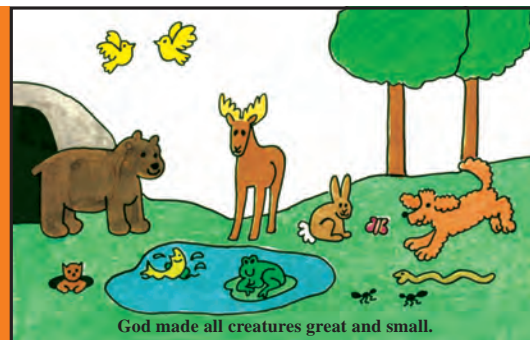


God made the plants and trees.

4

LESSON 2: WE SEE GOD IN THE WORLD AROUND US—CREATION

Creation Booklet



God made all creatures great and small.



God made Adam and Eve in his image.

5

Action Rhyme

Who made the fish? *(Hands together, moving back and forth in swimming motion.)*

Who made the seas? *(Hand moves up and down to show waves.)*

Who made the stars? *(Point up to sky.)*

Can you tell me? *(Point to others.)*

Who made the animals,

big and small? *(Hand overhead, then down low.)*

Who made the people, *(Arms spread wide.)*

and loves them all? *(Hug self.)*

God made the fish, *(Swimming motion with hands.)*

the stars, and the seas. *(Wave motion with hands.)*

God made everything. *(Arms spread wide.)*

God made me. *(Point to self.)*

LESSON 3: I AM SPECIAL TO GOD, WHO MADE ME

LESSON FOCUS

Emphasis

We are all made in the image of God. This concept may cause some confusion in the children's minds. They may think that, since we are all made in the image of God, we look like God. This confusion can be clarified by pointing out physical differences among the children. For example, some have brown hair, some have blond, some blue eyes, some brown, some are tall, some are short and yet we are all made in the image of God. Even twins who strongly resemble each other have personal differences, one is quiet, one is talkative; one likes to eat something that the other does not like. We all reflect God in different ways. Stress that no one or two of us or even a million of us reflect God completely or accurately. We should want to reflect God as clearly as we are able.

We are made in the image of God and therefore, we have a great dignity. One aspect of our dignity is our freedom to choose. For example, we are free to choose to believe in Jesus and what he teaches us through the Church. No government has the right to take this freedom away from us or to restrict our exercise of our freedom to believe. Any government that would do this would be violating human dignity. Our dignity also involves the freedom to form our conscience properly according to the teaching of Jesus and his Church. Again, no government can take this freedom away from us or restrict it without violating our dignity.

Correspondence to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

Man created in the image of God: CCC 355–57, 380–81

Equality and difference willed by God: CCC 369

Vocabulary

image: the reflection of ourselves and others, as in a mirror

Concepts of Faith

Why are we special to God?

We are special because we are made in the image of God.

LESSON PRESENTATION

Proclamation

We are made in the image of God.

LESSON EXPLANATION

Ask: Are we plants? No.

Are we animals? No.

What are we? *Persons or people.*

Materials needed:

large mirror

We are persons. God created all people. He loves each and every one of us. We should love all people, too. All people are created in God's image. People may look differently, act differently, speak different languages, and come from different countries, but God created all people in his image.

LESSON 3: I AM SPECIAL TO GOD, WHO MADE ME

Hold a large mirror toward the children so that they see their reflection. Refer to this reflection as an image. Turning your back to the class, place the mirror in such a way that the children can see you in it. Change your expression (smile or frown), then ask the children to guess what expression you are making. When they guess correctly, ask them how they know. They should respond that they can see you in the mirror. Your image in the mirror shows the children something about you. As images of God, we want to show others something about God and his love for us. The good things we think, and say, and do help others see and learn about God through us.

Review Questions

1. Who made each of us?

God made us.

2. How are we made?

We are made in the image of God.

3. Are we all exactly alike?

No, we not all exactly alike.

4. Do we all reflect God in the same way?

No, we all do things in a different way, but all the good things we think, say, and do reflect God.

5. What are some ways you can act as images of God?

Pick up their toys, help parents, share toys, etc.

6. Is everyone an image of God?

Yes, all people are created in the image of God.

SCRIPTURE ACCOUNT: Jesus and the Children— Workbook A

Luke 18:15–17

Lesson Story:

When Jesus was living on earth, there were no cars, or buses, or even bicycles. Jesus traveled from one town to another on foot. He walked many miles with his friends, the disciples. He wanted all the people to hear about God and to know about his love.

One day, Jesus was sitting on a hillside teaching many people about God. Some mothers heard that Jesus was near their neighborhood.

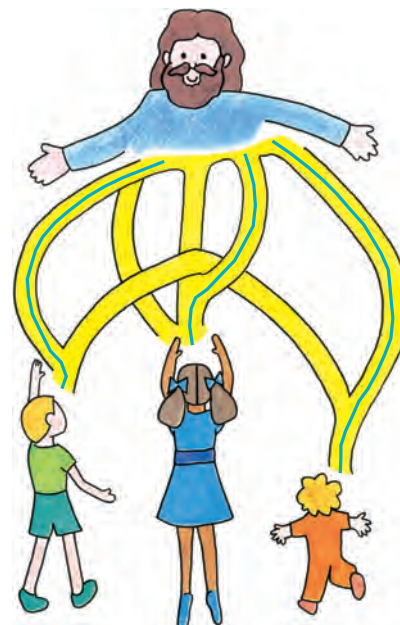
“We want to take you to see Jesus”, the mothers told their children. “Jesus is a great teacher. He can teach you about God.”

So off they went to walk to the hill where Jesus was teaching. When they got there, they could hardly believe their eyes! There were people everywhere! People were sitting under trees, and people were sitting on the hill. There were even people standing in the road. Slowly and patiently, the mothers helped the children through the crowd. The children could not see Jesus, because all the grownups were so tall. Finally, the mothers and their children made their way to the front of the crowd. They could see Jesus now! He was sitting with his special helpers. As the mothers and the children came close to Jesus, the helpers stopped them.

Have the students complete page 6 in Workbook A.

LESSON 3: I AM SPECIAL TO GOD, WHO MADE ME

Directions: Help the children find their way to Jesus.



Jesus said, “Let the children come to me.”

LESSON 3: I AM SPECIAL TO GOD, WHO MADE ME

“Can’t you see Jesus is busy?” they said. “Jesus does not have time for your children now.”

Sadly, the mothers began to leave with their children. But Jesus saw what had happened.

“Let the children come to me”, Jesus said. “Do not stop them.”

Quickly the children ran to Jesus. He laid his hands on their heads, blessing them. Then he lifted the littlest child onto his lap.

“All of you must come to God with hearts full of love like these children. They love the way God does.”

The children had a wonderful time with Jesus. They listened to all he had to say. The mothers and the children went home happy that they had seen Jesus and learned more about God’s great love.

We are all God’s children. He made us in his image. He wants us to reflect him by loving and caring for each other. By doing this, we show in a small way God’s great love for us.

Review Questions

1. Who came to see Jesus?

The mothers and their children came to see Jesus.

2. What did Jesus’ helpers say to the mothers?

Jesus’ helpers told the mothers to go away because Jesus was busy.

3. Why did Jesus want the children to stay?

Jesus wanted the children to stay because they had hearts full of love, and they reflected God’s love.

4. Who are God’s children?

All of us are God’s children.

5. Are we all images of God?

Yes, all people are made in the image of God.

6. Whom do we act like when we show our love for other people?

When we show our love for other people we reflect God’s love.

SCRIPTURE ACCOUNT: Adam and Eve—Workbook B

Genesis 1:26
and 2:18–2

Lesson Story:

After God made the angels, he made the world and all the plants and animals. God then made Adam, the first man. Adam was special because he was made in the image of God. Adam did not look like God, but he could love and work like God. He could also share God’s life.

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

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

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

LESSON 3: I AM SPECIAL TO GOD, WHO MADE ME

Review Questions

1. **Who was the first man?**
Adam was the first man.
2. **What did God ask Adam to do?**
God asked Adam to name the animals.
3. **Who was the first woman?**
Eve was the first woman.
4. **Why did God make Eve?**
God made Eve to love God and to love Adam as God did.
5. **Why did God make Adam?**
God made Adam to love God and to love Eve as God did.
6. **Did Adam and Eve look like God?**
No, Adam and Eve did not look like God.
7. **How were Adam and Eve different from the animals?**
They could think and make choices; they were persons.
8. **How were Adam and Eve like God?**
They were both made in the image of God to do what God does: love and work.

Have the students complete page 58 in Workbook B.

LESSON 3: I AM SPECIAL TO GOD, WHO MADE ME

Directions: Find and color the hidden animals.



Adam and Eve named the animals.

58

LIVING THE LESSON • APPLICATION

We are all special because we are images of God. We can love and act the way God loves and acts. We can share God's life. When we make the wrong choices, we are not acting as images of God. We are still images of God but not as clear or bright images of God. We are like the sun on a cloudy day, we know that the sun is still in the sky but we cannot see it clearly and the sun is not as bright. When we choose to act like God, we are like mirrors. Other people can see God in us. We are like the sun in a clear blue sky. We are clear and bright images of God.

Ask: **Why are we special?** *We are special because we are made in God's image.*

Are the trees or animals images of God? *No, they are not persons.*

List examples for the children of different situations such as obeying parents, saying prayers, following school rules, fighting with a brother or a sister, not sharing toys, sitting quietly at church, etc.

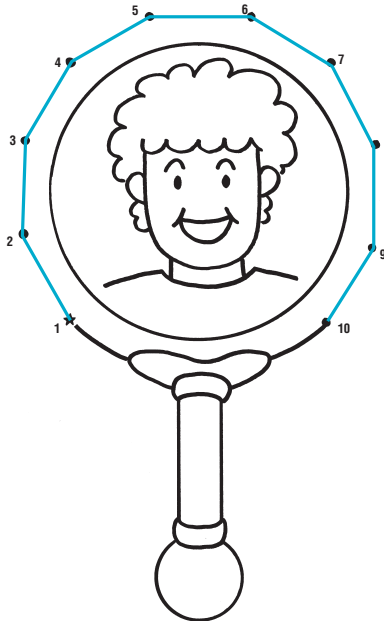
Ask: **In which of those situations would you be reflecting God?** *Obeying parents, saying prayers, following school rules, sitting quietly at church, etc.*

LESSON 3: I AM SPECIAL TO GOD, WHO MADE ME

Have the students complete page 7 in Workbook A or page 59 in Workbook B.

LESSON 3: I AM SPECIAL TO GOD, WHO MADE ME

Directions: Connect the dots and color the picture.



We are made in the image of God.

7

LESSON 3: I AM SPECIAL TO GOD, WHO MADE ME

Directions: Circle the things animals can do.



Animals cannot act as images of God.
Only persons are made in the image of God.

59

CELEBRATION

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for making me.
Help me to be a reflection of you to everyone I meet.

LESSON 3: I AM SPECIAL TO GOD WHO MADE ME

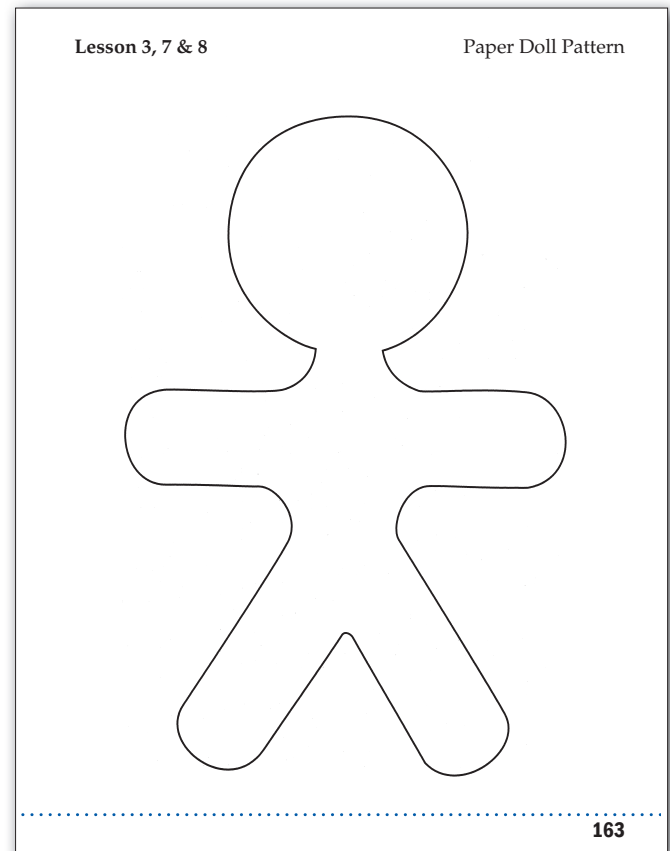
ACTIVITIES

Paper Doll Mirror

Materials needed:

paper doll mirror pattern (one per child)
shiny foil
lightweight poster board
scissors
glue
crayons or markers

Using the pattern provided, cut one paper doll from the lightweight poster board for each child. Cut a circle from the shiny foil and glue the circle over the face of the paper doll. Print "I am an image of God" across the chest of the paper doll. The paper doll can be colored by the children. The paper doll helps the children remember that only people are images of God.

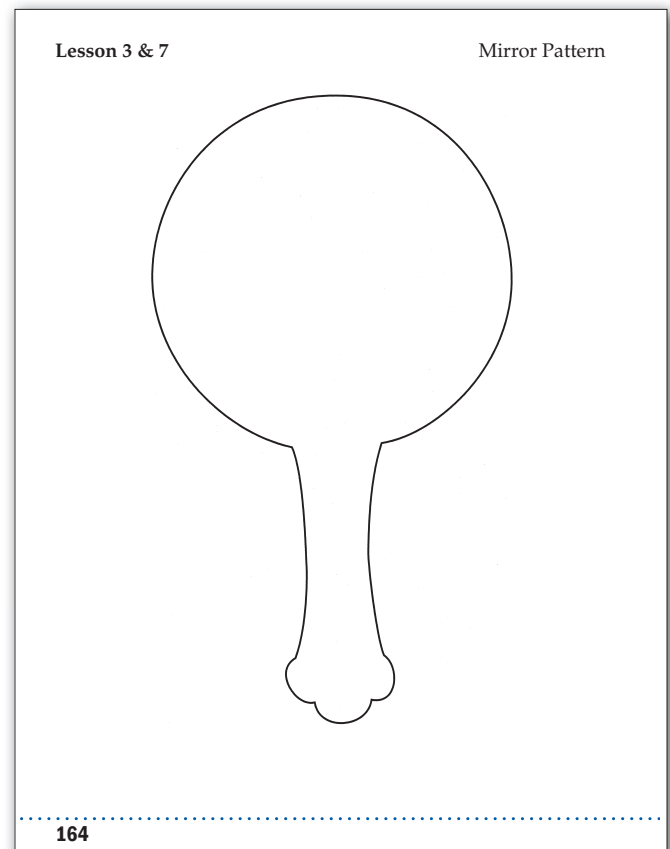


Mirror

Materials needed:

mirror pattern
scissors
shiny foil
lightweight poster board
glue
crayons or markers

Using the pattern provided, cut one "mirror" from the lightweight poster board for each child. Cut a circle from the shiny foil for each child. Have the children glue the circle of shiny foil to the center of the mirror. Print around the edge of the mirror "I am an image of God." Remind the children that the mirror helps them remember that they reflect God to others.



LESSON 3: I AM SPECIAL TO GOD WHO MADE ME

Action Rhyme

I am special (*Point to self.*)
because God made me. (*Point to heaven, then to self.*)
I'm not like the bunny (*Form ears on top of head with hands, and hop up and down.*)
or the apple tree. (*Arms circle head and sway.*)
I can love and think. (*Hands on heart, then point to head.*)
I can talk and say, (*Point to mouth.*)
"I love everybody." (*Arms spread wide.*)
God made me that way.

LESSON 4: ACTIONS AND ATTITUDES— THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

LESSON FOCUS

Emphasis

Remind the children of the last lesson—we are all made in the image of God. Mention that the “image” in the mirror has no choice. It has to do whatever the person in front of the mirror does. God has given us a free will. We do not have to act as an image of God. We can choose to act or not to act as an image of God.

Ask: **How do we know how God acts?** *God gave us the Ten Commandments to help us know how to live as an image of God. They are a way of life for an image of God.*

The Old Law is from the Old Testament and is summed up in the Ten Commandments given to Moses by God. On the other hand, the New Law is given to us by the grace of the Holy Spirit and is received by believing in Jesus. The New Law “fulfills and surpasses the Old Law and brings it to perfection” (CCC 1984). “The New Law is a law of love, a law of grace, a law of freedom” (CCC 1985).

When we choose to act as an image of God by following the Commandments, we show our love for God. The Commandments are not rules or laws forced on us but rather the way an image of God chooses to act. The Commandments are God’s way of helping us know how to act as an image of God. They help us know the rights choices to make. They are the ways an image of God should live.

Our actions (the things we do) and our attitudes (how we think) both should show that we love God. We were made to know, love, and serve God in all we think, and say, and do.

Correspondence to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

The Old Law: CCC 1962

The Ten Commandments: CCC 2054–69

Vocabulary

Ten Commandments: directions God gives us so that we can know how to act as images of God

envy: unhappiness over something good that someone else has

Concept of Faith

How should we show our love for God?
We should show our love for God by choosing to follow the Commandments that he gave us.

LESSON PRESENTATION

Proclamation

When we follow the Ten Commandments, we act as images of God.

LESSON 4: ACTIONS AND ATTITUDES— THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

LESSON EXPLANATION

Begin by having the children pretend that you are holding two ice cream cones (or hold up pictures of two ice cream cones). The cones should be two different flavors (for example, chocolate and strawberry). Ask the children what would happen if both cones were offered to a dog. The dog would probably eat both, not caring about the flavors.

Materials needed:

two large “ice cream cones” made out of poster board (or pictures of ice-cream cones)

But what would happen if the two cones were offered to one of the children? (Give a few of the children a chance to choose one of the cones.)

God made us in his image. We have minds to think and wills to choose. We can choose between right and wrong. We can choose to act or not to act as images of God. We are always images of God, even when we make the wrong choice. But we are not as bright an image of God—like the sun on a cloudy day—when we choose to do wrong. How do we know if the choice we make is a right choice or a wrong choice? God gave us the Ten Commandments to help us make good choices and to teach us how an image of God lives. (The following children’s version might be easier for them to understand.)

1. There is only one God and you should love him with all your heart (CCC 2084, 2133–36).
2. Keep God’s name holy (CCC 2142, 2160–61).
3. Go to church on Sunday (CCC 2168, 2177, 2180–83).
4. Obey your mom and dad (CCC 2197–200, 2204–5, 2216–20, 2247–48, 2251).
5. Be kind to other people (CCC 2258, 2262).
6. You should love everyone as an image of God (CCC 2331, 2346–47).
7. Do not take things that do not belong to you (CCC 2401, 2408, 2453, 2454).
8. You should tell the truth (CCC 2464–70, 2481–87, 2508, 2510).
9. Do not be envious of other people’s families. (CCC 2515–27)
10. Do not be envious of the things other people have (CCC 2538, 2553, 2556).

Point out to the children that the first three Commandments help us know how to love and serve God better. The remaining seven help us know how to love and serve others

Review Questions

1. Who is made in the image of God?

Everyone is made in the image of God.

2. How do we know how an image of God should act?

The Ten Commandments teach us how an image of God should act.

3. What do the Ten Commandments help us do?

The Ten Commandments help us live as an image of God and make the right choices.

4. When we make wrong choices, are we still an image of God?

Yes, but we are not acting as we should. We are not as clear or as bright images of God.

LESSON 4: ACTIONS AND ATTITUDES— THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

SCRIPTURE ACCOUNT: The Rich Young Man—Workbook A

Matthew
19:16–22

Lesson Story:

There was once a very rich young man who came to talk to Jesus. This young man had lots of money. He bought all kinds of fancy clothes and lots and lots of good food. He bought many things with his money.

The young man wanted to follow Jesus and learn more about the things Jesus taught. The young man wanted to please God so he could go to heaven.

“Jesus,” asked the young man, “what good deeds must I do, to have eternal life?” The young man was asking Jesus what he should do so that he could share in God’s life now and someday go to heaven.

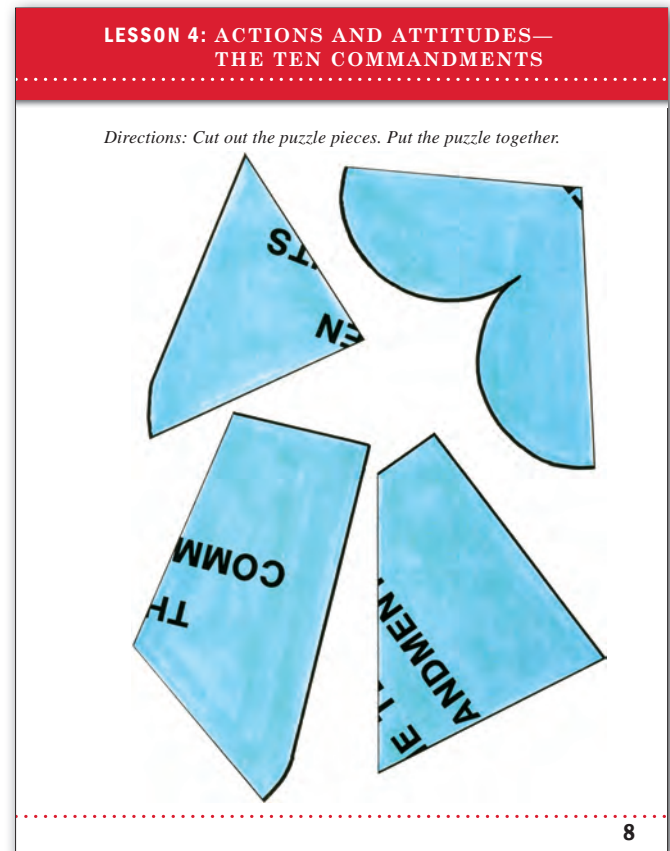
Jesus said, “Keep the Commandments.” Jesus was telling the young man to obey the Ten Commandments. The young man wanted to do more. “What do I still lack?” he asked. The young man wanted to know what else he could do. Jesus said, “Go, sell everything you possess and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven; and, come follow me.” Jesus was telling the young man to sell all the things that he owned and to give all his money to help the poor people.

The rich young man went away very sad. He liked having lots of money and lots of things. He did not want to give them away. He loved his money and all the things that he owned more than he loved God and more than heaven.

God wants us to show our love by following the Ten Commandments. He wants us to be the best images of God we can be. We should show our love for God in all we think, say, and do.

Ask: What should be most important to us, money, food, things, or God? *God.*

Have the students complete page 8 in Workbook A.



Review Questions

1. Was the young man in the story rich or poor?
The young man was rich.
2. What did the young man ask Jesus?
The young man asked how he could share in God’s life now and someday go to heaven.
3. What was the first thing Jesus told the young man to do?
Jesus told the young man that he should follow the Ten Commandments.
4. What else did Jesus tell the young man to do?
Jesus told the young man to sell his things and give money to the poor.
5. Did the young man do that?
No, the young man did not do what Jesus asked.
6. Why not?
The young man didn’t do what Jesus asked because things were more important to him than God.
7. Was the young man happy?
No, he went away sad.

LESSON 4: ACTIONS AND ATTITUDES— THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

SCRIPTURE ACCOUNT: Moses and the Ten Commandments—*Workbook B*

Exodus 3:7–12, 5:1–2,
19:1–20, 20:1–17,
and 31:18

Lesson Story:

God chose a man named Moses to help the slaves in Egypt. The slaves were being punished by the king because they loved God.

“Moses, I want you to help the slaves”, God said. “They are my chosen people. Tell them I have sent you.”

At first Moses was afraid. “How can I help these people?” Moses asked. “I am only one man, and the king will never listen to me.”

“Do not be afraid”, God told him. “I will be with you always. I will give you the help you need.”

Moses listened to God and obeyed him. Moses told the king that God wanted the slaves to be free, but the king would not listen to Moses.

“The slaves should love and serve me”, said the king, “but they only love and serve God. I will not set them free.”

Again and again Moses asked the king to free the slaves, and, finally, the king agreed. Moses then led the chosen people of God across the desert to the place that God had ready for them. In that place there was a huge mountain called Sinai. It was a holy mountain. God asked Moses to climb to the top of the mountain. Moses obeyed God and climbed to the very top.

Moses and all the people were made in the image of God. They wanted to know how to act as images of God. God loved the people and wanted to help them live as his images. So God gave Moses the Ten Commandments to help all the people. Moses and the people knew if they followed the Ten Commandments they would be living as images of God.

Moses listened to God. God wrote all his Commandments on two stone tablets. Then Moses carried the stone tablets down the mountain. He showed the Commandments of God to the people.

Moses told the people that the Ten Commandments would tell them how to love and serve God and how to share God’s love with each other. Moses told the people, “The Commandments will help us know how to live. They can help us get to heaven.”

These same Ten Commandments help us today. They help us know what is right. When we choose to obey the Ten Commandments, we are acting as images of God.

*Have the students complete page 60
in Workbook B.*

LESSON 4: ACTIONS AND ATTITUDES— THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Directions: Help Moses climb the mountain.



God gave Moses the Ten Commandments.

60

LESSON 4: ACTIONS AND ATTITUDES— THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Review Questions

1. What did God ask Moses to do?

God asked Moses to help the slaves.

2. Was this easy for Moses to do?

No, it was not easy.

3. Did Moses make a good choice?

Yes, he obeyed God.

4. What did God give to Moses?

God gave Moses the Ten Commandments.

5. Why did God give the Ten Commandments to Moses?

God gave Moses the Ten Commandments so everyone would know how to act as images of God.

LIVING THE LESSON • APPLICATION

It is not always easy to do what is right and to make right choices. If we ask ourselves what an image of God would do, it is easier to know what is right. We should try very hard to live by the Ten Commandments.

Ask: Where are some places we have to make choices about how to act? *We make choices at home, at school, and at church.*

Have the children give examples from their own lives of how they can live each of the Ten Commandments. Use the children's version of the Commandments:

First Commandment

There is only one God, and you should love him with all your heart. (We should say our prayers.)

Second Commandment

Keep God's name holy. (We should not say bad words.)

Third Commandment

Children and grown-ups should go to church on Sunday. (We should not misbehave in church.)

Fourth Commandment

Obey your mom and dad. (We should obey our parents and teachers.)

Fifth Commandment

Be kind to other people. (We should not hurt other people.)

Sixth Commandment

You should love everyone as an image of God. (We should love other persons in the right way.)

Seventh Commandment

Do not take things that do not belong to you. (We do not take things from stores or from our friends.)

Eighth Commandment

You should tell the truth. (We should not tell lies.)

Ninth Commandment

Do not be envious of other people's families or who their parents, siblings, and grandparents are. (We should not be envious of how other people look or what they can do.)

Tenth Commandment

Do not be envious of the things other people have. (We should not be envious of the toys or nice things that other people have.)

LESSON 4: ACTIONS AND ATTITUDES— THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Ask: Which of the Ten Commandments help us to love and serve God better? The first three Commandments help us to love and serve God better.

Which help us know how to love and serve each other better? The last seven help us to love and serve each other better.

Have the students complete page 9 in their Workbook A and page 61 in Workbook B.

LESSON 4: ACTIONS AND ATTITUDES— THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Directions: Color the happy face to show a good action or the sad face to show a wrong action.



Our good actions reflect God.

9

LESSON 4: ACTIONS AND ATTITUDES— THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Directions: Connect the lines and color the tablets.



61

CELEBRATION

Prayer

Dear God, I love you.
Help me to follow your Commandments and make the right choices.
I want to be a bright image of God.
I want to be with you in heaven.
Amen.

LESSON 4: ACTIONS AND ATTITUDES— THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

ACTIVITIES

Stone Tablets

Cut out of lightweight poster board a set of “stone tablets” for each child. Have the children cover the tablets with foil. Give each child a list of the children’s Ten Commandments. Have the children cut the Commandments out in strips. If the Commandments are numbered, the children can keep the Commandments in the right order by recognizing the correct number. Have the children glue the Commandment strips on the foil-covered tablets. The finished project can be labeled “How to act as an image of God”.

Materials needed:

lightweight poster board
aluminum foil
scissors
list of Ten Commandments for each child
(copy from Appendix, page 162)

Helping Hands

For each student, trace both the child’s hands on a large sheet of paper. (Have the children spread their fingers when you trace their hands.) Give each child a sheet of paper with the Ten Commandments typed on it. Have the children cut the Commandments from the sheet of paper and glue one Commandment on each finger. Label the paper “The Ten Commandments help us love God and others.”

Materials needed:

large sheets of paper (one for each child)
glue
scissors
list of Ten Commandments for each child
(copy from Appendix, page 162)

Action Rhyme

God gave the Ten Commandments to me (*Hold up ten fingers.*)
so an image of God you will see. (*Hand circles face.*)
I should want to think and love and say (*Point to head, heart, and then mouth.*)
everything right in the best way. (*Shake finger.*)
And if I choose to disobey and not do what is right, (*Point finger to self, then shake finger.*)
the image of God that I am won’t be bright. (*Cover the face with hands.*)
So it’s important, don’t you see (*Shake finger and point to eyes.*)
to follow God’s Commandments so we can be (*Make walking motion with fingers.*)
bright images of God for all to see. (*Open arms wide.*)

LESSON 5: LOVE OTHERS AS GOD LOVES YOU

LESSON FOCUS

Emphasis

God first loved us through creation, but even more wondrous was the great love shown through the very act of redemption. Jesus gave us the ultimate gift of love, his life. Through the Eucharist, he continually shares with us the special gift of his love, which enables us to grow in love for him and others.

As God's images, we all have the need to love and be loved. Love is not an emotion (although it includes the emotions), but a total union of the wills of two or more persons. Persons love each other by making a gift of themselves to one another in their wills. Such a love is total, permanent, and life-giving. There are different kinds of love, for example, the love of a husband and wife, the love of children, and the solitary love of a hermit (united to the Church) praying for the world. It is impossible to love God without loving others, and it is impossible to love others without moving nearer to God.

Point out to the children that the word "love" is often used in the wrong way. Sometimes we say "I love my dog" (or cat, etc.). But that is not quite true. We do not care about our pets in the same way that we love our moms and dads or other people. People are made in the image of God. They have minds and wills. They can act like God. Animals do not have minds and wills. They are not persons. They are not made in the image of God as persons are. We can truly love only other persons. We can care about our pets very much, but we do not truly love them. Sometimes we say "I love pizza" (or ice cream, etc.). But this is not really quite true either. We can really enjoy a certain kind of food, but we do not really love it. We can love only persons.

Correspondence to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

God, "He who is", is Truth and love: CCC 214, 231

God is love: CCC 221, 231

The Holy Spirit—God's gift: CCC 733

Communion in spiritual goods: CCC 952

Marriage in God's plan: CCC 1602

Male and female he created them: CCC 2331

Holy Orders: CCC 1593–98

The communal character of the human vocations:
CCC 1878

The Christian Family: CCC 2204–6

Conversion and society: CCC 1889

Vocabulary

love: choosing to help everyone, including ourselves, be the best images of God we can be

Concepts of Faith

Whom does God love?

God loves everyone.

Whom are we to love?

We are to love God, ourselves, and everyone else.

LESSON 5: LOVE OTHERS AS GOD LOVES YOU

LESSON PRESENTATION

Proclamation

We should love God, and we should love others as God loves us.

LESSON EXPLANATION

Explain to the children that God loves. God loves us; God loves everyone.

We are made in the image of God to do what God does. That means that, because God loves us and everyone, we should love ourselves and everyone else. First, we should love God, and then we should love others as God loves us.

Materials needed:

pictures of a bride and groom, a family, a priest, nuns in various habits, and a monk

There are many ways to show this love for others. Some ways are big and difficult for us. Some are smaller and easier to do. As we grow up, we choose how we will live our lives and show our love of God and of others. We are all called by God to love others in different ways. Some people answer God's call and show their love by getting married and becoming husbands and wives, moms and dads. (Show a picture of a bride and groom.)

The people who choose to show their love by being married help themselves and their families lead good lives so they can be happy now and happy together in heaven someday. (Show a picture of a family.)

Some people choose not to get married. They answer God's call and show their love for others in different ways. Some men become priests. (Show a picture of a priest.) They share their love with all of us, helping themselves and all of us to lead good lives now and to get to heaven.

Other men and women answer God's call and share their love in another way. Some of the women live, work, and pray together. They are called "sisters". (Show pictures of nuns in various habits.) The sisters teach in schools, work in hospitals, work in parishes, and take care of the poor. They show their love in many ways.

Certain men also answer God's call and share their love in this way. They are called "brothers". (Show a picture of a monk.) The brothers live, work, and pray together, too. They show their love of God by teaching and by helping the poor and the sick. Some people choose not to marry or become priests, sisters, or brothers. They live their lives loving God and loving others too.

All these people are living their lives as images of God, loving others as God loves them. They are all sharing their love as images of God should. We all have a special way to live and share our love with others. When we love others, we make ourselves happy, because we are acting as God made us to act.

LESSON 5: LOVE OTHERS AS GOD LOVES YOU

Review Questions

1. What does God do?

God loves.

2. Whom does God love?

God loves everyone.

3. Because we are made in the image of God, what are we to do?

We are to love as God loves.

4. Whom are we to love?

We are to love God, ourselves, and everyone.

5. Can we love our pets?

Not in the same way that we love persons. Our pets are not persons made in the image of God. We care for our pets because God made them for us.

6. Can we love certain foods?

No, not the way we love persons.

7. What are some ways people can answer God's call and live their love?

We answer God's call by getting married, by living a holy life as a single person, by becoming a priest, by becoming a sister, or by becoming a brother.

SCRIPTURE ACCOUNT: The Poor Woman Who Showed Her Love—Workbook A

Mark 12:41–44

Lesson Story:

Jesus was a teacher. He came to teach us how to live as images of God. One day, Jesus went to the temple with his friends. A temple is something like a church. Jesus and his friends were watching the people come into the temple. One by one, the people would put coins into a basket. This money was the people's gift to be shared by the poor.

Jesus watched a very rich man come into the temple. The rich man acted as if he were very important. He wore very fancy clothes. The rich man jingled his money very loudly. "I have lots of money", the man thought to himself. "But I will keep most of it for myself. I want to buy more clothes, and I want to go on a big trip. Oh, and I have to buy a fancier house. I'll just give to the poor what I have left over after I have my fun." When he thought everyone was looking at him, he put his coins in the basket. Even though there were a large number of coins, the gift was not as big a gift as he could have given.

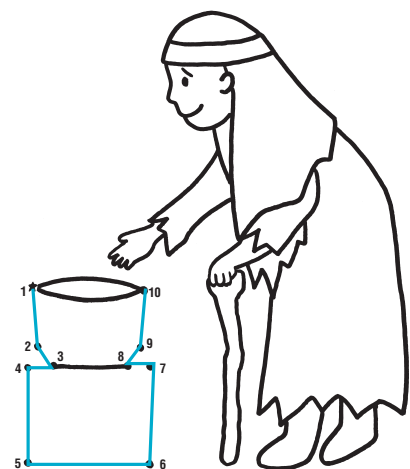
Then a very poor woman came into the temple. She was dressed in old clothes. She reached into her pocket and took out two coins. They were the last two coins she had. Quietly, she put them into the basket. She bowed her head and prayed, "Please help the people who have even less than I do. Help me show my love to others as you have shown your love to me."

When Jesus saw what had happened, he told his friends, "The poor woman gave more than the rich man did. The poor woman loved God so much that she gave all she had, while the rich man gave only his extra money."

Have the students complete page 10 in Workbook A.

LESSON 5: LOVE OTHERS AS GOD LOVES YOU

Directions: Connect the dots and color the picture. Draw two coins in the woman's hand.



The poor woman showed her love for God.

10

LESSON 5: LOVE OTHERS AS GOD LOVES YOU

Review Questions

- 1. What is a temple?**
A temple is something like a church.
- 2. What did people do when they came into the temple?**
The people put money into a basket.
- 3. What was the money for?**
The money was to help the poor people.
- 4. Who gave the most money?**
The rich man gave the most money.
- 5. Whose gift showed more love?**
The poor woman's gift showed the most love.
- 6. Why?**
Because she gave all she had, and the rich man gave only his extra money.
- 7. When we show our love for others, whom are we reflecting?**
When we show our love for others we are reflecting God.

SCRIPTURE ACCOUNT: The Stranger Who Turned into a Friend—Workbook B

Luke 10:30–37

Lesson Story:

One day, Jesus told a story about a traveler who had been walking down a long and dusty road. The traveler was hurt and had lost all his food and money. The poor traveler could go no farther. He lay down by the side of the road. Soon a man came by carrying a bottle of water.

"Please help me", the traveler said. "I am thirsty and hurt."

But the man with the water did not stop. "I'm in a hurry", he said. "Besides, you have nothing to give me for my water."

The traveler felt very sad as he watched the man walk away. The traveler wondered if anyone coming along the road would help him. After a while, a merchant passed the traveler.

"Please help me", the traveler cried.

"But I do not even know you", the merchant said. "You should ask someone you know." And off he went.

The sun was going down, and soon it would be dark. The traveler still had found no one to help him. Just then a stranger from another place came by, riding on a donkey. He saw the traveler and felt sorry for him.

"Let me help you", the stranger said. The stranger gave the traveler water to drink, and he put bandages on the traveler's bruises. The stranger let the traveler ride on the donkey.

"You can stay with me at the inn", the stranger said. "I will buy you some food to eat and take care of you."

The traveler was very happy. "You are good and loving", he said to the stranger. "I will never forget you."

Have the students complete page 62 in Workbook B.

LESSON 5: LOVE OTHERS AS GOD LOVES YOU

Directions: Cut out the pictures. Put them in the correct order.



62

LESSON 5: LOVE OTHERS AS GOD LOVES YOU

We should be like the stranger, showing our love by helping others. We should not ask for rewards for the good things we do or say. We should help others, even those we do not know. We should not say that we are too busy to help. When we show our love for others, we are showing we love God, and we also make ourselves happy.

Review Questions

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. What happened to the traveler?
<i>He was hurt and had lost all his food and money.</i> | 5. What did the stranger from another place do?
<i>The stranger helped the traveler. The stranger put bandages on his bruises, gave him water, put him on his donkey, took him to the inn, and bought him food.</i> |
| 2. What did the traveler need?
<i>The traveler needed someone to help him.</i> | 6. Who was acting as an image of God?
<i>The stranger from another place was acting as an image of God.</i> |
| 3. What did the first man say to the traveler?
<i>The first man said he was too busy to help.</i> | 7. When we help others, what do we show?
<i>When we help others, we show that we love others as God loves us.</i> |
| 4. What did the merchant say to the traveler?
<i>The merchant said he did not know the traveler.</i> | |

LIVING THE LESSON • APPLICATION

It is important that the children understand that loving others does not mean loving only our own families and friends, but loving all God's family. One way to demonstrate this idea is to have the children participate in a food-shelf program.

Ask: Do you ever get hungry? (Give children time to answer.)

What do you do when you are hungry? Ask Mom for something to eat.

Explain to the children that there are people who do not have enough to eat. They cannot just go into their cupboards or refrigerators and get something to eat, because there is no food there.

Ask: How can we show our love for these people? Say prayers, share food.

Have each child bring a non-perishable food item to share with the hungry people. (You may want to have extra items on hand, in case one of the children forgets.) The food collected can then be given to the local food shelf or community food-share program.

We are never too little to share our love with others. We can show our love in little ways every day.

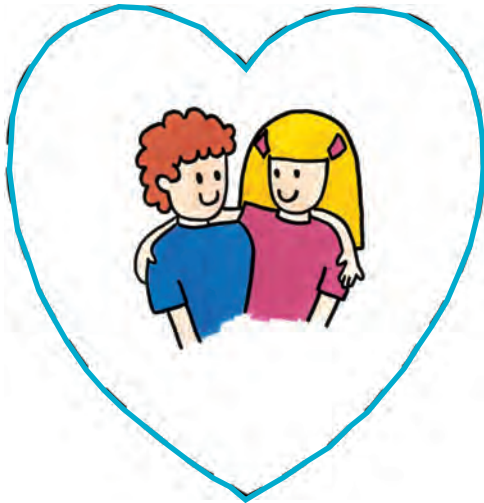
Ask: What are some of the ways we act as images of God, loving others as God loves us? Letting others be first in line, saying "thank you", helping our moms and dads, forgiving others, not always getting our way but doing what others want, praying for sick people, being nice to someone who is lonely, helping someone who cannot do things as well as we can, sharing our toys or clothes or food with people who do not have any, etc.

LESSON 5: LOVE OTHERS AS GOD LOVES YOU

Have the students complete page 11 in Workbook A or page 63 in Workbook B.

LESSON 5: LOVE OTHERS AS GOD LOVES YOU

Directions: Connect the lines and color the heart.

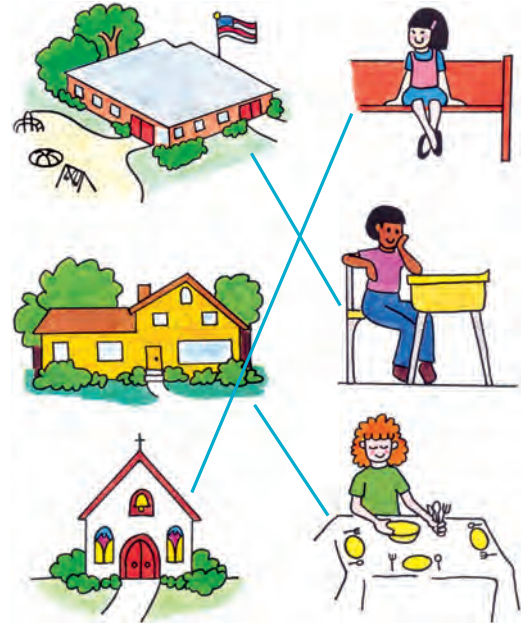


Love others as God loves you.

11

LESSON 5: LOVE OTHERS AS GOD LOVES YOU

Directions: Match the action to the place.



We show our love for God in different ways.

63

CELEBRATION

Prayer

Dear God,
help us to act as your images,
loving others as you love us.
We offer you our acts of love.
Amen.

LESSON 5: LOVE OTHERS AS GOD LOVES YOU

ACTIVITIES

We Love Others Picture

Have each of the children glue red paper heart to another piece of construction paper. Have the children draw pictures of the people they love. Write on the hearts "We love others as God loves us." Remind the children that God loves each of us. To act as images of God, we are to do what God does. We are to love. We love God first, then ourselves, then we love others as God loves us.

Materials needed:

hearts cut from red construction paper (one per child)
construction paper in a variety of colors (one piece per child)
glue
crayons or markers

Handprints and Heart Picture

Give each child a dark-colored piece of construction paper and a red-construction-paper heart. Laying the construction paper in a landscape position, have the children glue the heart in the center of the paper. The children will be placing handprints on either side of the heart.

Handprints can be done in two ways. Option 1: Place a large amount of baby powder in a container, and have the children place their hands, palms down, in the powder. Then have the children place their hands on the dark paper, pushing down to form a handprint. Spray the handprint lightly with hair spray to keep it from smearing. Option 2: Place finger paint in a container. Have the children place their hands, one at a time, into the paint. Then have the children place their hands on the dark paper, pushing down to form a handprint.

Materials needed:

dark-colored construction paper (one piece per child)
hearts cut from red construction paper (one per child)
glue
baby powder (for option 1)
hair spray (for option 1)
finger paint (for option 2)

Write on the hearts, "We are never too small to show our love for God." Remind the children that there are many little things we can do every day to show that we love others as God loves us.

Action Rhyme

I have something to share. (*Cup one hand over the other.*)

You have it, too. (*Point to others.*)

The more you share it, the bigger it grows. (*Move hands apart to show growing.*)

It's the gift of love. (*Hand on heart.*)

To love one another is easy to do. (*Nod head "yes".*)

Share your love with others, and they'll share their love with you. (*Arms out, as if to give, then crossed over chest.*)