

GRADE 1

REVEALED

God's Plan for the
Human Person

TEACHER'S GUIDE

Accompanied by

*THE ANIMAL HEDGE &
A SEED IS SLEEPY*

**Required & requested changes mock-up for 2024
USCCB Conformity Edition of Teacher's Guide
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REVEALED: THEOLOGY of the BODY

K-12 CURRICULUM

THEME: VOCATION

TEACHER RESOURCE PAGE

Jesus Christ teaches that everyone who hears his words and follows them is like a wise person building his house on rock. That house is able to withstand rains, floods and winds (Cf. Mt 7:25) in contrast to the house built on sand, which crumbles under the stress (Cf. Mt 7:27). Thinking along those lines, we could say that the foundations of a young person's vocation are being laid long before the construction of the "house" begins. Growth and maturation for a person require an accurate, authentic self-identity built upon the bedrock of Christ's teachings.

Self-identity comes from being certain of one's own dignity and self-worth that's founded not upon the shifting sands of what we do, what we have or how we are treated by others, but rather on being:

- made in the image and likeness of God;
- redeemed by Christ, who laid down his life for each one of us;
- called to glory (cf. Rm 8:30) to spend eternity sharing in the loving communion of the three Persons of the Blessed Trinity;
- **universally called to holiness. (NOTE SAME CHANGE PAGE 39)**

St. John Paul II teaches that each one of us exists in a "unique, exclusive, and unrepeatable relationship with God himself" (TOB 6:2) who loves us unconditionally. What joy and security it can bring everyone, including children, to know we each have an immeasurable dignity and worth that doesn't depend on us doing something and that cannot be taken away by any circumstance or any sin, no matter how bad! This is a truth upon which we can build our entire lives.

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Continuing with the image of building a house, once the solid foundation is set, next comes the development of my life, my work and mission — in other words, my vocation. My vocation (my calling from God) arises from acknowledging all of creation as a gift, including my own existence! Think of it this way. God has gifted life to me and gives himself to me. He calls me in turn to develop and flourish by the loving gift of myself to others. Perhaps it seems counterintuitive, but God designed us to find fulfillment in this way. How many sad and empty lives result from a narcissistic self-seeking of pleasure, money, fame or power (cf. *Gaudium et Spes*: 24,3).

Story books are particularly good at illustrating for children how selfish choices lead to the mistreatment of others and unhappiness, while making the loving gift-of-self to others brings happiness and fulfillment.



THE ANIMAL HEDGE PICTURE WALK

Review *The Animal Hedge* with a picture walk. Using the questions below, make note of what each character sings about and sees in the hedge.

What did the farmer sing about?

The farmer always chose songs about the barnyard animals. He sang songs about sheep, colts, and ducklings.

What did the farmer see in the hedge?

The farmer saw cows, roosters, sheep, etc. in the hedge.

What did the eldest son sing about?

The eldest son always chose coachmen's songs. A coachman is a driver of a horse-drawn carriage.

What did the eldest son see in the hedge?

The eldest son saw a carriage and a team of horses in the hedge. A carriage is like a car that is pulled by horses.

What did the second son sing about?

The second son liked to sing songs of the sea.

What did the second son see in the hedge?

The second son saw a great sailing ship in the hedge.

What did the youngest son sing about?

The youngest son liked to sing songs about a traveling fiddler. A fiddler is a person who plays a violin.

What did the youngest son see in the hedge?

The youngest son saw a fiddler playing before a crowd of dancers in the hedge.

Each son has a different job that they want to do. But did you know that God has placed a lifelong job that he wants for you, me, your mom and dad and EVERY son or daughter he has EVER created to do?

Yes, God wants all of us to become holy.

Do you know what it means to try to be holy?

It means to try to always do good things God wants us to do. Even though those things can sometimes be hard to do, God has promised to give us the strength we need when we stay close to him.

What are some ways we can stay close to God to know what he wants us to do?

We can go to mass, listen to Bible stories, follow Church Traditions, pray to God, accept his sacraments for us when we can like Holy Communion or the Sacrament of Confession.

I AM UNIQUE: TOB GUIDED MEDITATION PRAYER

Lead the students in a guided meditation to recognize that God created each of them unique and unrepeatable.

Everyone sit up straight in your chair with your back against the back of your chair. Place your feet flat on the ground and relax your muscles as if you are melting into your chair. Take a deep breath in (pause) and let it out. Close your eyes. Take another deep breath in (pause) and let it out.

With your eyes closed, place your hands on top of your head. Feel your hair. There is no one else with the exact same hair as yours. God created your hair just for you. Take a moment to think about how special this gift is.

With your eyes closed, place your hands on your face. Gently feel your nose, cheeks, and chin. There is no one else with the exact same face as yours. God created your face just for you. Take a moment to think about how special this gift is.

Open your eyes and look at the lines on your hands. Notice the lines and spirals on your fingers. There is no one else with the exact same hands as yours. God created your hands just for you. Take a moment to think about how special this gift is.

Close your eyes again, place your hands on your knees. Gently feel the bones in your knees. Think of all the things you can do because of your legs. There is no one else with the exact same legs as yours. God created your legs just for you. Take a moment to think about how special this gift is.

Quietly repeat after me, "I am unique." "There is no one else like me." "Thank you, God, for creating me." "Help me to answer your call to holiness for me. I want to stay close to you to choose to do the good more and more each day." "Amen."

THEME: BODY-SOUL UNITY

TEACHER RESOURCE PAGE



Humans don't just HAVE bodies, we ARE our bodies. Little children often attest to this truth after they have been hit by a sibling. The child doesn't say, "My sister hit MY BODY!" The child says, "My sister hit ME!"

Your very being involves your body intimately united to your soul, so that together they make up just one reality: YOU. Although this seems simple, many lies surround the truth of your identity as an inextricable body-soul unity.

The Lies:

- You are a soul trapped inside a body.
- Your body is bad.
- Your body is a curse.
- You are bad.
- You can be born in the wrong body.
- The flesh was not part of God's plan.
- God wants to get rid of your body forever after death.
- Bodies are not welcome in Heaven.
- You can change your biological sex

The Truth:

- You are a body-soul unity.
- Your body is very good. Your body is a gift from God.
- You are good.
- "The flesh is the hinge of salvation." (CCC 1015)
- God purposefully created you either male or female.
- God will resurrect your body at the second coming of Jesus.
- Your body and soul will have perfect union and harmony in heaven! "*The resurrection will consist in the perfect participation of all that is bodily in man in all that is spiritual in him.*" TOB 67:2
- Your biological sex is gifted at conception and is immutable.

Our bodies are intentionally created male or female equally sharing in the dignity of the image of God. With the givenness of our created being we accept the gifts, tasks and limits of the truths of our sexed bodies. We are to respect God's domain in creating us male or female instead of trying to second guess him as is submitted by the current lies of gender theory. The gift of your body is integral to your identity as a body-soul unity. You can introduce this truth to your students by helping them recognize that every action they do involves their bodies and their bodies are what make them visible to the created world.

"The body, in fact, and only the body, is capable of making visible what is invisible: the spiritual and the divine." TOB 19:4

NOTE: The teacher may choose to walk around the room and fan the children while asking if they can feel the wind.

Humans are more than just a body. What else makes a human a human?

A human person is a body and a soul.

Can we see a soul?

No, we cannot see a soul. It is invisible.

How do we know the soul is there?

The soul is invisible, but God gave us our **male or female** bodies to make our souls visible to the world.

GUIDED LEARNING QUESTIONS

Recall the story The Animal Hedge.

Are the farmer's sons boys or girls?

The farmer's sons are boys because they were created male by God and only boys can be sons.

Is the farmer a mother or a father?

He is a father because he was created a boy by God and a grown-up boy is a man. Only men can be fathers by God's design of the male human person.

BUILD A WINDSOCK ACTIVITY

We talked about how the wind is invisible. Another way to know the wind is blowing is by hanging a windsock outside. When a windsock moves, it reveals how strong the wind is blowing and in which direction it is traveling.

We are going to make a special windsock today.

Have the students turn to their MY BODY REVEALS MY SOUL (WINDSOCK) worksheet on page on page 25 in the student activity book.

Directions for making a windsock:

1. Decorate your MY BODY REVEALS MY SOUL WINDSOCK on page 25 of your student activity book.
2. Glue or tape crepe paper streamers approx. 15 inches x 2 inches to the bottom of the backside of the paper.
3. Roll the paper widthwise into a cylinder and secure the ends together with tape or staples.
4. Punch two holes in the top of the windsock, directly across from each other.
5. Thread the yarn through the holes and tie the ends together.

WRAP UP

Take your windsock home and find a place outside to hang it. Every time you see the blowing windsock, it will remind you that you are a body and a soul.

Our body allows us to see our invisible soul! Let's sing the song that we sang at the beginning of the lesson with some different words. Instead of, "If you're happy and you know it" we will use the words, "If your body shows your soul."

If your body shows your soul, clap your hands

If your body shows your soul, clap your hands

If your body shows your soul, and you want the world to know

If your body shows your soul, clap your hands

[repeat with "stomp your feet" and "shout hooray"]



Procreation is rooted in creation, and every time it reproduces in some way its mystery

TOB 10:4

The Trinity is a magnificent mystery. You could contemplate the Trinitarian nature of God for your entire life and still have infinite riches to know and explore in Heaven. God's life-giving love is revealed through the Trinity.

Knowing that we are created in the image and likeness of life-giving love helps us understand our unique call to participate in that love here on Earth. Our identity calls us forward to continue the work of God's creation through loving others.

We are called to love our friends, family, students and all other human persons by making a gift-of-self. When we choose to love selflessly, we image the love of our creator.

We can image God in our relationships with others, but the most obvious and visible display is revealed through the fruitfulness of the sacrament of marriage and family life. Not everyone is called to the vocation of marriage, but we can all witness God's love revealed through this union.* A husband and wife become a mother and father through their selfless love. A baby is a precious gift from God that makes visible God's generosity and life-giving love here on Earth. How wonderful are God's gifts! Besides through conjugal love, sacramental marriage also images the Trinity in its unity, indissolubility, and fidelity.

*"It is obvious that the analogy of earthly human love, of the husband for his wife, of human spousal love, cannot offer an adequate and complete understanding of that absolutely transcendent reality, the divine mystery...At the same time, however, this analogy offers the possibility of a certain cognitive 'penetration' into the very essence of the mystery." TOB 95b:1

WRAP UP



God created each of us to be different and unique. We have special gifts and talents. We can share our differences with others to create something special.

God created boys and girls to be different. A very special way that a man and a woman can share their differences is by becoming husband and wife. The Sacrament of Marriage is a gift from God.

When a husband and wife make the gift of themselves to each other, they can have children and form a family. A husband and wife help each other get to heaven, teach their kids about God, and help their children get to heaven.

OPTIONAL LESSON EXTENSIONS

DRAW THE HOLY FAMILY

Raising kids is a very important job. God wants husbands and wives to share their different gifts as fathers and mothers for this special work. When God asked Mary to raise Jesus, he did not want her to do that important job alone. God knew Jesus needed an earthly father to care for him in a way Mary could not. He sent Joseph to help be an earthly father to Jesus. Mary and Joseph shared their differences, which allowed Jesus to grow up in a holy family.

Have the students draw a picture of the Holy Family helping one another. You can prompt the students with the following events:

Mary kept baby Jesus safe in her belly (womb). Joseph helped to make the stable a suitable place for Jesus to be born.

Mary held baby Jesus to keep him warm and fed him her milk. Joseph guided Mary and baby Jesus away from the bad king who wanted to hurt baby Jesus.

Joseph taught Jesus how to be a carpenter. Mary encouraged Jesus to perform his first miracle at a wedding.

MORE STORYBOOK GUIDED LEARNING QUESTIONS

Turn to the page with the heading "A seed is generous" in the book A Seed is Sleepy.

Do you remember in the book A Seed is Sleepy what the seed embryo's first meals are?

The seed embryo's first meals are from its specially made seed leaves.

Do you know what your first meal was as a newborn baby?

Answers will vary.

You either drank breast milk from your mom, since only a mother's body can make breast milk or a unique drink called "Baby Formula" especially manufactured for newborn babies.

The baby plant or embryo is kept warm by its seed coat. How do you think you were kept warm as a baby?

Answers will vary. A special blanket, held by my mom or dad. Warm baby clothes.

Newborn babies can be wrapped in a special way with a baby blanket to keep them warm. That is called swaddling.