

GRADE 3

REVEALED

God's Plan for the
Human Person

TEACHER'S GUIDE

Accompanied by

***MUFARO'S BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTERS
& INCLUDES AN ORIGINAL SOLITUDE
SCRIPTURE STUDY***

**Required & requested changes mock-up for 2024
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REVEALED: THEOLOGY of the BODY

K-12 CURRICULUM



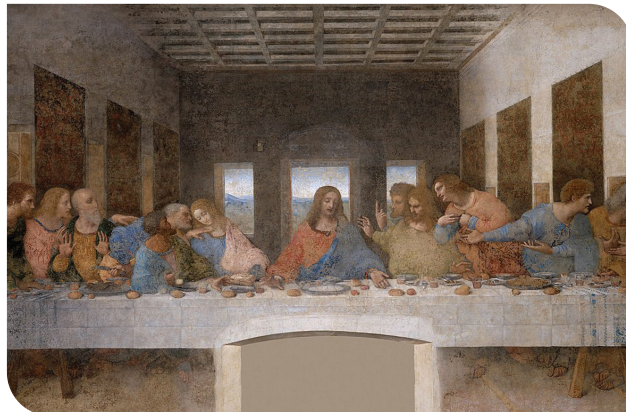
You can't see thoughts, or can you? As a person, I'm capable of thinking and choosing, but can others see I am doing this? I can also relate to others and love them. While you cannot directly perceive thoughts, choices, or love — these things are spiritual — nevertheless, our body has ways of expressing these realities in ways we can see.

Our bodies are made for relationship. Thanks to my body, I can relate with others through a hug or a handshake, acts of kindness, giving gifts, and doing things with and for them. We also communicate with God in prayer through our bodies — by genuflecting, kneeling, crossing ourselves, folding our hands, and bowing our heads.

“The body...transmits that we come from love and that we are made for love.”

My facial expressions, body language and tone of voice are some of the ways that my body transmits what's going on inside of me. But there's more. The body speaks at an even deeper level just by its very existence. It transmits that we come from love and that we are made for love. Our belly buttons show that we come from another. Our parents are a witness to how the gift of life came, ideally through their love, but most certainly through God's participation and generous love. Our bodies tell the story that we are sons and daughters. As male or female, the body gives witness to being designed for giving and receiving love, so our bodies also show that we are inherently capable of being husbands and wives, as well as fathers and mothers. "Gender theory... intends to deny the greatest possible difference that exists between living beings: sexual difference. This foundational difference is not only the greatest imaginable difference but is also the most beautiful and most powerful of them. In the male-female couple, this difference achieves the most marvelous of reciprocities. It thus becomes the source of that miracle that never ceases to surprise us: the arrival of new human beings in the world" (*Dignitas Infinita* No. 58).

Just as children first learn to read words by sounding out the letters, we can teach them to read the messages expressed by the human body — disclosing their noble identity as human persons. At first, they sound out the letters to learn to read words. They quickly realize that we speak through the language of our body. Soon, one can see that the body gives witness to a higher call — to be sons and daughters, husbands and wives, fathers, and mothers. You play an important role in teaching them to begin to read God's narrative within their bodily existence. It's a wonderful mystery and an awe-inspiring gift wrapped in one revelation.



EARLIEST MEMORY WRITING PROMPT ACTIVITY



Have the students turn to their ORIGINAL SOLITUDE (PART 1): IN THE BEGINNING student packet beginning on page 35 in their student activity book.

Let's test our memory.

Do you remember what you had for breakfast this morning?

Allow students to share what they ate for breakfast.

Do you remember what you had for dinner last night?

Allow students to share what they ate for dinner last night.

Do you remember your first birthday?

Answers vary.

Now I want you to close your eyes and try to think back to the earliest memory you have. (Pause.)

Think about how you felt in this memory. (Pause.) *Were you happy, sad, excited, or scared? Was there anyone with you in this memory?* (Pause.) *Open your eyes.*

Now that you have thought about a specific memory, write 3-5 sentences about this memory in the space provided under question number one on your IN THE BEGINNING packet.

CONNECTING TO GENESIS



It can be difficult to remember things that happened a long time ago. Others can help us remember by telling stories and showing us pictures.

*God helps us remember his plan for us through the Bible. **The stories in the Bible are God's own word, in which God teaches us the truth of who we are and who he is.** These stories teach us about ourselves and help us with our lives now. Let's rediscover God's plan for our lives by reading the story of God creating the first human.*

Read Genesis 2:4-9, 15-20

NOTE: To increase student engagement, you may choose to display a creation picture on the board or assign several students to act out the creation account while you read it aloud.

This is the story of the heavens and the earth at their creation. When the LORD God made the earth and the heavens there was no field shrub on earth and no grass of the field had sprouted, for the LORD God had sent no rain upon the earth and there was no man to till the ground, but a stream was welling up out of the earth and watering all the surface of the ground then the LORD God formed the man out of the dust of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

The LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and placed there the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the LORD God made grow every tree that was delightful to look at and good for food, with the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The LORD God then took the man and settled him in the garden of Eden, to cultivate and care for it. The LORD God gave the man this order: You are free to eat from any of the trees of the garden except the tree of knowledge of good and evil. From that tree you shall not eat; when you eat from it you shall die.

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



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Show me sadness with your body. [Allow students to show sadness with their bodies.]

Do you think Nyasha in the story Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters was happy or sad when she worked in the garden?

She was happy because she sang as she worked.

The story says Manyara was almost always in a "bad temper." How can you tell that by the story or the pictures?

She looks angry in the pictures. She yells, teases and is rude in the story.

Happiness and sadness are invisible. What does "invisible" mean?

If something is invisible, we cannot see it.

What other things are invisible?

Some invisible things include love, sounds, WIFI, oxygen, heat, and our soul.

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 through our bodies we make known that each of us has a soul that is intimately connected to our body.

ANGEL NEWS REPORT ACTIVITY

Do angels have bodies?

No, angels do not have bodies. They are pure spirit.

Have the students turn to their ANGEL NEWS REPORT worksheet on page 19 of the student activity book. This activity can also be done in groups of two.

Let's imagine ourselves from an angel's perspective. What do you suppose angels think of humans? What might they have reported about us when human people first came into existence? Angels do not have bodies. They are completely spiritual beings, while human persons are a unique combination of body and soul.

Divide students into groups of two or three. Encourage each group to make a list of ten things human persons can do that angels cannot do. Remember, human persons have bodies and angels do not.

Allow the student groups time to make their lists. After some time, come together as a class and make a list on the board.

Let's make a list of some things human persons can do that angels cannot do. Remember, human persons have bodies and angels do not. [Make a list on the board. See a sample list below.]

- Clap their hands
- Play a sport
- Play a musical instrument
- Have a family
- Get married
- Become priests
- Become religious sisters
- Eat food
- Receive the Eucharist!
- Be born!
- Have babies...create new human persons that will live forever! (Angels cannot do that.)
- Die (Angels don't die because they don't have bodies.)
- Get sick. (Angels don't get sick because they do not have bodies.)
- Drive a car!
- Feel the wind!

Pick three things that a human person can do because God created them as a unique combination of body and soul. Choose one thing that is fun and one thing humans can do to honor God with their bodies. Write a special news report to the other angels explaining what it means to be human.



GUIDED LEARNING QUESTIONS

God loves with a perfect love. Jesus gives us the perfect example of love by his total gift-of-self on the cross. Let's discuss some ways that we can follow Jesus' perfect example of love.

Could Jesus have stopped the guards from crucifying him?

Yes, Jesus could have stopped the guards from crucifying him.

Why do you think Jesus did not stop the guards from crucifying him?

Answers may vary. Jesus chose to give his life on the cross because he loves us.

Do you recall Nyasha from the story Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters? How did she choose to be a gift-of-self when she came across the small boy in the forest?

She sacrificed by giving him the yam she had brought for her own lunch.

What is one time that you had to choose to give a gift-of-self at home?

Answers may vary. I chose to wash the dishes without anyone asking me to do so.

In the story, how did the father, Mufaro and all of his friends help Nyasha to make her life better?

They accompanied her on the journey through the forest to the city so that she would have the chance to become queen.

Jesus gives his entire life on the cross. This meant that he gave up every drop of sweat and blood from his body for us. Have you ever sweated or bled while helping someone in your family?

Answers may vary. I sweated and scraped my elbow while carrying firewood for my dad.

Jesus never stops loving us. He never gives up on us. Have you ever had to help a family member for a long period of time?

Answers may vary. I help my grandparents with yard work every week.

Jesus gave a total gift-of-self on the cross to give us a better life. Have you ever done something to make a family member's life better?

Answers may vary. I made breakfast for my mom when she was tired.

WE CAN LOVE LIKE JESUS ACTIVITY

Post each of the four CHARACTERISTICS OF JESUS' GIFT posters (pages 49-52) in a different corner of the room. All four posters are available as tear-outs in the student activity books pages 23-29.

Have the students turn to their WE CAN LOVE LIKE JESUS worksheet on page 31 of the student activity book. Split the students up into four groups and assign each group to one of the four CHARACTERISTICS OF JESUS' GIFT posters located around the room. Assign one person from each group that will read the text aloud to their group.

We are going to reflect on the characteristics of Jesus' total gift-of-self on the cross. Each group will take turns visiting all four of the posters. One person from your group will read the poster text aloud. Your group will then discuss how we can make a gift-of-self like Jesus. After your group has discussed this, each of you will write or draw one way that you can give the way Jesus gives on your WE CAN LOVE LIKE JESUS student sheet.

Allow time for each group to visit every poster. Students can return to their seats after each group has visited all of the posters. Allow student groups to share their answers and drawings from each of the 4 posters.

- 1) **Jesus could have stopped the guards from crucifying him. Instead, Jesus chose to give a total gift-of-self on the cross. He explains in the Bible that, "No one takes [my life] from me, but I lay it down on my own." —John 10:18**

Describe a time that you had to choose to give a gift-of-self.

- 2) **Jesus gives his entire life on the cross. This meant that he gave up every drop of sweat and blood from his body for us.**

GIFT-OF-SELF (PART 2)

