

GRADE 4

# REVEALED

God's Plan for the  
Human Person

TEACHER'S GUIDE

*Accompanied by*

***PEPPE THE LAMPLIGHTER & INCLUDES  
ORIGINAL UNITY SCRIPTURE STUDY***

**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: 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.
- You can change your biological sex.
- 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.

### 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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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 build 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 a clear 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 or how we are treated by others, but rather on being:

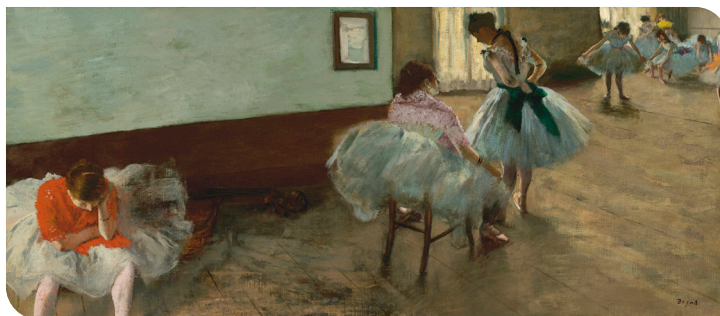
- made in the image and likeness of God;
- redeemed by Christ, who laid down his life for each one of us;
- called to glory (cf. Rm 8:30) to spend eternity sharing in the loving communion of the three Persons of the Blessed Trinity.
- **universally called to holiness**

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 our having to do 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.

**...each one of us exists in a “*unique, exclusive, and unrepeatable relationship with God himself*” who loves us unconditionally.**

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.



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## I CAN OFFER MY WORK FOR OTHERS ACTIVITY



*When Peppe works, he makes a gift of himself to others by providing light for those walking the streets, he makes money to help support his family, and through his special intentions, he prays for each of his family members.*

*Let's look at some of Peppe's special intentions that he prayed for in the story. For some of his sisters, he prayed for success in their work. For his father, he prayed that heaven could help his heart and heal him from his illness. When his sister, Assunta, was missing, he prayed that she might be safe that night. For himself, Peppe prayed that he would always be able to help light the lamps.*

**What is an example of work that you could do at school?**

Answers may vary. For example, "I could pay attention in class and do the exercises given to me by my teacher." "I could hold the door for people as they walk in the building." "I could pick up trash on the playground."

**What is an example of work that you could do at home?**

Answers may vary. For example, "I could take the trash out," "I could wash the dishes," or "I could clean my room."

Have the students turn to their I CAN OFFER MY WORK FOR OTHERS worksheet on page 9 of the student activity book.

*I want you to think about the many opportunities that we have to make a gift of ourselves through our work at school and at home. We can also pray special intentions for the people in our lives through our work. Silently think about people in your life for whom you want to pray. Write the intention for that person on the line below the lamp and pray for that person. To light the lamp, color the lamp to make it look like there is a flame inside. Cut along the dotted lines and think about a location that you could place your lamp to remind you to pray as you work. For example, if you take the trash out at home, you might choose to tape your lamp near the trashcan.*

**NOTE:** The teacher could play soft background music while students are working/praying. If time allows, students could place their lamps next to the areas where they will be doing their work.



## WRAP UP

*God calls us to a special mission to become holy, like him. God worked for 6 days to create the world and everything in it. When we do the work we are called to, we image God, the creator, and fulfill his mission for us on earth, especially our primary God-given mission to become a saint little by little each and everyday. The gift of work helps us to complete that mission. Sometimes work can be difficult, or seem boring, but one way we can find joy in our work is to pray for others.*



“What Is Love?” “I Wanna Know What Love Is.” “How Will I Know (If He Really Loves Me)?” So many songs express wonder about “This Thing Called Love.” They emanate through the radio waves, and they echo in our hearts. We love pizza, we love football, we love our pets, but then we also love other human persons. Clearly all these declarations are on different levels and should be talked about as such. So, what is authentic love? Is love a warm feeling? An attraction? St. Thomas Aquinas adequately articulates the Catholic understanding of love, **to will the good of the other. Knowing what that good is, of course, is to know God.** St. Paul explains, True love “does not seek its own interests, but rejoices with the truth.” God has made known his moral law through the Ten Commandments, as well as the Beatitudes. The moral law gives us the guardrails to live harmoniously within the truth of our human nature to meet the demands of authentic love.

This primarily means truly imaging Christ and making a sacrificial, total gift-of-self to those that we love. Pope St. John Paul II describes this with the term “spousal meaning of the body.” Essentially, this phrase conveys that every person is made to be a gift. We know this because to be made in the image of the eternal gift exchange (the Trinity) is to recognize that we are meant to be a gift. *Gaudium et Spes*, a well-known document from the 2nd Vatican Council, goes so far as to say, “Man cannot fully find himself, except through a sincere gift of himself.”

So, this spousal meaning of the body, that we are all made to be a gift, is crucial to Pope St. John Paul II’s thoughts on authentic love. He makes the claim that masculinity and femininity are not only a source of procreation, but our sexuality from the very beginning contains a spousal attribute.

*“This is the body: a witness to creation as a fundamental gift, and therefore a witness to Love as the source from which this same giving springs.” (TOB 14:4)*

In other words, we contain right from the beginning the power to express love, and we are called to be a gift to others through authentic love. This gift of authentic love runs contrary to the world’s ideas of what love might be. We can like pizza, we can like our dogs, we can like our favorite ice cream, but to love a person is an act of the will, a choice. This decision to love is a deliberate action that fulfills the very meaning of our existence as gift, bringing us closer to our heavenly home. “The power to express love: precisely that love in which the human person becomes a gift and — through this gift — fulfills the very meaning of his being and existence.” (TOB 15:1) This is authentic love.



## GUIDED LEARNING QUESTIONS



**Where have you heard the word “love” used before?**

Answers may vary. For example, songs, movies, etc.

**Imagine you had to define the word “love” in one sentence. How would you answer?**

Answers may vary.

**The teaching book of our Catholic Faith, called the Catechism, defines love as, “to will the good of another.” CCC 1766**

**What does it mean to “will” something?**

To will something, means that we use our freewill given to us by God to freely choose to do something. Recall from the story, **Peppe used his free will to look for a job.**

**What does it mean to “will the good for someone?”**

To will the good for someone means that we use our freewill given to us by God to freely choose to do what is best for someone else. For example, a wasp was about to sting your classmate, so you shouted, “Look out!” and swatted the insect away. **Another example is when Peppe works hard to help take care of his sisters.**

**Can anyone force someone to love? Why or why not?**

No, someone cannot be forced to love because love requires someone to use their freewill to choose the good. The good is determined by God.

**Is love always easy? Give an example of love that requires sacrifice/suffering from Peppe’s story or from your own life.**

No, love is not always easy. Because of the choice in the garden of Eden sin and suffering entered the world. **Peppe sacrifices his time and energy to look for a job and then to do the job he got well each night.**

**Can you think of a time when love (willing the good of another) would be difficult?**

Answers may vary. For example, your classmate was cheating on a test. You knew cheating was wrong and not good for your classmate, so you report this to the teacher even though you know your classmate will be upset with you.

## EXPLORING AUTHENTIC LOVE ACTIVITY

Assign the students into groups of five. Have the students turn to their AUTHENTIC LOVE QUESTIONS on page 21 of the student activity books. Have one student volunteer to tear their worksheet page out for the group to use.

**Cut out each question card on the dotted line. Mix the question cards up and each member of the group should pick one card.**

**Answer the questions in order from 1-5. Each member of your group will attempt to answer their question card in front of the group. If someone is unable to answer the question on their own, then the other members of the group can help answer it.**

Allow time for each group to answer their questions. After some time, go through the questions together as a class, allowing answers from each group.

## WRAP UP

End in a prayerful reflection on 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

**If I speak in human and angelic tongues but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.**



*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



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*“Continence for the kingdom of heaven, the choice of virginity or celibacy for one’s whole life, has become in the experience of the disciples and followers of Christ an act of particular response to the love of the Divine Bridegroom.”*  
(TOB 80:1)

In Ephesians, we hear that marriage is supposed to mirror the love of Christ and the Church. Christ lovingly gives his life for his bride, the Church and we, as the Church, lovingly receive the sacrificial love of Christ.

When a priest accepts the sacrament of Holy Orders as his personal vocation, he takes on the character of being in the person of Christ. This means that a priest also lovingly gives his life for his bride, the Church, and we, as the Church, lovingly receive the sacrificial love of God through the priest.

If marriage is supposed to image the mystery of Christ’s love for the Church, then the priesthood directly participates in the divine love of the bridegroom.

The priest has the special sacrifice of living in a celibate state of life that imitates Christ, our future state of life in heaven and participates in the sacrifice of Christ for his bride, the Church. This is a difficult sacrifice for the priest to make, but Pope St. John Paul II says, “It is a characteristic feature of the human heart to accept even difficult demands in the name of love, for an ideal, and above all in the name of love for a person.” (TOB 79:9)



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## GUIDED LEARNING QUESTIONS



### ***How does our parish priest give of his time?***

Answers may vary. Our priest gives his entire life to the priesthood. He lives in the rectory, spends time visiting sick people in the hospital, etc.

### ***How does our parish priest give of his talents?***

Answers may vary. Our priest brings us the Eucharist, brings us reconciliation, teaches classes, cooks for the parish fundraiser, etc.

### ***How does our parish priest give of his treasures?***

Answers may vary. Our parish priest could have made more money doing a different job, but he chooses to sacrifice that extra money by becoming a priest. Our parish priest could have been married with children, but he chose to sacrifice the joy of married life and children to a different kind of joy to serve the Church **in imitation of Christ**. Our parish priest donates money to the poor.

## WRAP UP



***Let's pray for the many priests as they strive to love like Jesus. Respond to each line with, "Mary watch over them."***

***Dear Lord, we pray for the many priests who give their lives to the Church out of love.***

***For the priests who serve the poor...***

***For the chaplains in the military...***

***For the chaplains in the hospital...***

***For our parish priest...***

***For the priests who baptized us...***

***For the priests who are newly ordained...***

***For the priests who are lonely...***

***For the priests who are elderly...***

***For the priests who are in other countries...***

***Jesus, please protect all of the priests in the world and give them the grace to love like you love. Amen.***

## OPTIONAL LESSON EXTENSIONS

### LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PRIESTHOOD

Assign the students into groups of five. Have the students turn to their PRIEST VOCAB and LEARN ABOUT THE PRIESTHOOD worksheets on pages 39 and 41 in the student activity book.

***Cut out each term on the dotted line and take one term and its definition. Read your definition and fill in the boxes on your LEARN ABOUT THE PRIESTHOOD activity sheet.***

Allow time for students to fill in their boxes.

***Take turns presenting your word to your group. Choose two other words and fill in the boxes for the additional words on your LEARN ABOUT THE PRIESTHOOD activity sheet.***

Allow time for students to present in their group and fill in additional boxes.

### WRITE A THANK YOU NOTE TO YOUR PRIEST

Invite the students to write a thank you note to their parish priest for giving his time, talent and treasures to the parish.

# WHERE WE ARE NOW: STUDENT PACKET

## ORIGINAL UNITY (PART 2)



7) Read Matthew 26:26-28.

Receiving the Eucharist is the most amazing way we remain with Jesus. We receive his very **body, blood, soul, and divinity** into our body. It is amazing that Jesus loves us so much that he gives his whole self to us!

Write a short prayer thanking Jesus for the gift of the Eucharist.



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**You can say your prayer of thanksgiving after you receive the Eucharist.**



Jesus invites us to participate in the giving and receiving of the Trinity. When we receive the Eucharist, we receive Jesus' gift-of-self. The word "Eucharist" means thanksgiving. Write the words, "Thank You!" in the fifth circle of your timeline to thank Jesus for his amazing gift-of-self.

