



FAMILIES FORMING DISCIPLES

A FAMILY-FOCUSED APPROACH TO FAITH FORMATION

CALLED TO LOVE: THE ADVENTURE OF LIFE IN CHRIST

TOPIC: GOD CREATES ORDER AND HARMONY

MATERIALS

- Bibles
- [Catholic Mom All Souls Day Activity/ Family Sharing](#)
- Candles with drip protectors, or white candles in plastic containers
- Permanent markers
- Ice breaker: slips of paper, hat, marker



GOALS

- Families will read and reflect on the Second Story of Creation.
- Families will learn about Adam's priesthood.
- Families will learn about how free will and love go together.
- Families will reflect and share about God's Order of Love for themselves in their vocation.
- Families will share about a special loved one for whom they will pray on All Souls' Day and during the month of November.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, we entrust our family to You and ask for Your blessing and protection. We love You Lord Jesus with all our hearts and we ask that You help our family become more like the Holy Family. Help us to be kind, loving, and patient with one another. Give us all the grace we need to become saints and Your faithful disciples. Amen.

ICE BREAKER

CREATION CHARADES

1. On pieces of paper, write words that are related to the Story of Creation that we have been reading in the Bible, such as: water, plants, stars, sun, moon, man, woman, etc.
2. Put them in a hat.
3. Family members take turns drawing a word and acting it out without speaking.
4. The rest of the family guesses what he/she is trying to convey.



FOR THE CATECHIST

Background information on the two stories of creation.

- As noted in lesson one, the first chapters of Genesis communicate truth, but they should not be read as a scientific account of the origins of the world. They are proclaiming truths with poetic and figurative language. The inspired authors were well aware of this reality when putting the two different creation accounts together in order to communicate various aspects of God's work of creation and the dignity of the human person created male and female in the image of God. See CCC, no. 289.
- As also noted in lesson one, there are various resources available to help Catholics deepen their appreciation of the inspired Word of God in Sacred Scripture. A review of the teachings of the Church on Sacred Scripture in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (nos. 101-141) as well as on creation (nos. 282-89) and faith and science (no. 159) can be helpful background to keep in mind here.

REVIEW

The Book of Genesis teaches us that “in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth” in a beautiful and orderly way to make it fit for us to live in. God is a God of order, and God's order brings us peace, joy and harmony. He knew His children would need order to live on the earth, to thrive, to be healthy and grow. In the Story of Creation, we see God creating order in the natural world as He was preparing the earth to become our home.

Hook: Watch: What Does it Mean to be Human? | Catholic Central Clip (30 sec)



Explain: At our last *Families Forming Disciples* gathering, we read **Genesis 1-2:4, the First Story of Creation.**

Ask: What are some of the important things that happened in that story?

Take answers and highlight the themes from Week 1, such as:

- God created out of nothing.
- God created order.
- God created earth as a home for us, His children, to live.
- God made man and woman in His divine image.
- God created the Sabbath for man to rest and receive God's grace to keep going.
- God saw that what He made was good.
- When God says something is good, He means that it is according to His will.

Explain: Though we may not know it, we too want and need to live the beauty of God's order of love!

The Second Story of Creation Genesis 2:4-25

Invite families to open their bibles and read along with you, beginning with **Genesis 2:4-5.**

“At the time when the Lord God made the earth and the heavens--while as yet 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 soil,”

(*Pause and point out that the next verses are very important.)

Read vs 6 & 7:

“...but a stream was welling up out of the earth and was watering all the surface of the ground—the Lord God formed man out of the clay of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life, and so man became a living being.”

Ask: Verses 6 & 7 are describing how God created the first man, Adam, to begin God’s family on earth. From what material was Adam made?

Answer: Water and soil/clay

Ask: When did Adam receive from God a soul made in the divine image and likeness of God and come to life?

Answer: When God blew into his nostrils the breath of life

Read vs 8-9

“Then the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and he placed there the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the Lord God made various trees grow that were 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.”

Explain: God gave Adam a home, where He would be with Adam, called Eden. Eden had all kinds of trees for food. God placed two very important trees in the middle of the Garden of Eden.

Ask: What are the names of those two trees?

Answer: The Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

Explain: Because God was there, all of Eden was holy. However, the middle of Eden, where these two trees were planted, was the holiest place in the entire garden.

Read vs 15: “The Lord God then took the man and settled him in the garden of Eden, to cultivate and care for it.”

Explain: Adam was created to be the high priest of this holy place, the Garden of Eden. It was his job as high priest, to till the soil to help it to grow and to protect it, so everything and everyone in the garden would thrive according to God’s will!

Read vs. 16 & 17: “The Lord God gave man this order: ‘You are free to eat from any of the trees of the garden except the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. From that tree you shall not eat; the moment you eat from it you are surely doomed to die.’”

Explain: Being made in God’s image and likeness meant that Adam had a free will. He was a beloved child of God! St. Luke writes in chapter 3, verse 38, at the end of the Genealogy of Jesus, “Adam, (was) the son of God.”

God our Father loves His children, and He wants to be truly loved too. He gives us free will, so that we can freely choose to love Him. Without our free will, we would just be programmed robots, or animals living solely

on our instincts, not human beings made in God's image and likeness with the ability to choose to love, or not to love. God wants to be authentically and unconditionally loved, not because He needs our love but because He loves us! You and I long for that same kind of love, because we are created in God's likeness. We receive that desire from God and God, who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—a communion of divine Love—is the only One who can perfectly love us authentically and unconditionally. To us today, God gives free will so that we might freely choose to be completely united with Him.

Out of love, God warned Adam not to eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, because if he did, eventually Adam would die. God didn't want Adam to die; He wanted him to live forever, which is why God also gave Adam the Tree of Life, from which he could eat and live forever. All Adam was asked to do was to trust that God loved him and was telling him what was truly best for him. This is the same choice God gives to each one of His children; we can choose to live in God's will, or not to live in God's will. Love must be a free choice for it to be real.

Read vs 18: “The Lord God said: It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a suitable partner for him.”

Ask: What is different about this statement from God when compared to the first story of creation?

Answer: It's the first time God says something is not good, not His will. Therefore, it was not God's will for Adam to be alone without a suitable partner. God created a woman, Eve, to be Adam's partner.

Read vs 19-25

Reread vs 24: “That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one body [RSVCE: one flesh].”

Ask: The man and the woman are two persons, but in God's eyes that see the truth about everything, they are one flesh—two persons united in communion. Who else have we learned about that is three Persons, but One?

Answer: The Holy Trinity

Explain: This is another way in which God's children are created in His divine image and likeness! Male and female are made for each other, to form a communion of persons (CCC, no. 383) that reflects something of the communion of divine Persons, even though we must remember the great difference between God and everything else, including ourselves (see CCC, no. 370).

FAMILY ACTIVITY

Is My Life in God's Order of Love?

Through the Stories of Creation, we have learned that God is a God of order and order brings us peace, joy and harmony! We find God's order everywhere, in nature, the universe, seasons, etc... Because we are God's children created in His image, we need God's order of Love in our lives to be happy. This especially applies to how each one of us lives. Are we choosing to live in God's order of love?

(Catechists: Create your own God's Order of Love for Your Vocation and share them with the families to provide an example of how to do the activity.)

Step 1: On a sheet of paper, write these words and put them in God's order of Love for your vocation—who you are right now. Prioritize them by numbering each one to show which should come first, second, third, etc....

Recreation/ Fun
Spouse
Children
Job
God
Extended family
Friends
Health
Siblings
School

Step 2: None of us is perfect and from time to time, we all need to sit with our Lord, look at our lives and ask Him where He sees it is good and what areas are not according to His will. Ask yourself if the way you spend your time is in sync with God's Order of Love on your priority list. If so, great! If not, what could God be calling you to change?

ACTIVITY/ FAMILY SHARING

[Catholic Mom All Souls Day Activity](#)

1. Give each family either a candle with drip protector, or a white candle in plastic containers and a permanent marker.
2. Ask families to write the names of their loved ones who have passed away on the drip protector, or the outside of the plastic container depending on the type of candle.
3. Then, invite each family to show the photo/picture of the loved one(s) that they will be praying for during All Souls Day, which is celebrated on November 2nd. Invite families to share about who the person is, and why he/she is important to their family.
4. Last, ask families to place their photos and candles on their home altars as a reminder to pray for their loved ones during the month of November.



PRAY

All Souls Novena to St. Joseph

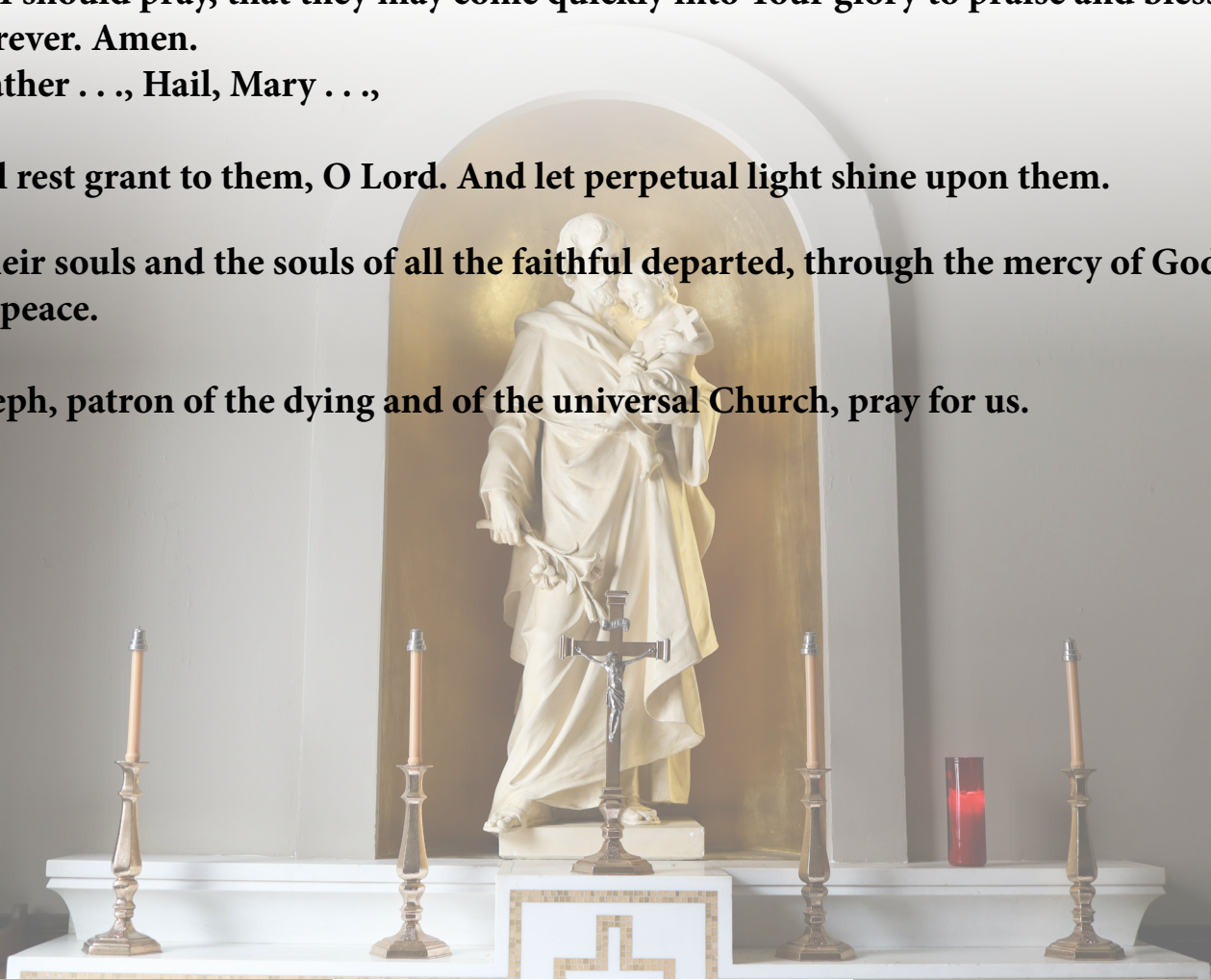
O Lord God, by the Precious Blood which Jesus, Your divine Son, shed upon the Cross this day, deliver the souls in Purgatory, particularly those souls nearest to me and for whom I should pray, that they may come quickly into Your glory to praise and bless You forever. Amen.

Our Father . . ., Hail, Mary . . .,

Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon them.

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

St. Joseph, patron of the dying and of the universal Church, pray for us.



REMIND

Remind families about the next meeting date and time.

