



## 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

#### REFERENCES:

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH  
no. 293, 356

#### SACRED SCRIPTURE

GEN 1-2; WIS 7:17-22;

MT 19:4; 1 JN 4:7-21

#### CREED

nos.

232-  
67,  
279-  
384

#### LITURGY

nos.

1145-  
52,  
1166-  
67,  
1602-  
05

#### LIFE

nos.

2083,  
2174-  
95,  
2203-  
06,  
2231-  
36

#### PRAYER

nos.

2565-  
67,  
2653-  
54,  
2664-  
72,  
2822-  
27

### TOPICS

- Human Dignity, Freedom & Responsibility
- Adam's Priesthood
- Created Male and Female in God's Image
- Called to Love; How Do We Live in God's Love for Us?

### GOAL(S):

- Families will read the First Story of Creation and reflect on how God ordered the world as He prepared a home for His children.
- Families will discuss what it means to be created in the image and likeness of God.
- Families will reflect on and discuss how they can keep the Lord's Day holy.

### 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

*What If...?*

**Each person in the family chooses and answers one or two of the questions below:**

- What if you woke up as an animal tomorrow, what animal would you want to be?
- What if it started to rain desserts tomorrow, what treat would you choose?
- What if you could have one wish, for what would you wish?

(adapted from [www.cultureamp.com](http://www.cultureamp.com))



# **BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR CATECHISTS: THE CATHOLIC CHURCH'S TEACHING ON CREATION.**

- “Catechesis on creation is of major importance.” Read more in CCC, nos. 279-289.
- In approaching the first chapters of Genesis, it is important to read them in the light of Christ and how the Church reads them. They 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 articulate 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.
- There are many great resources available to help Catholics deepen their appreciation of the inspired Word of God in Sacred Scripture (e.g., [Bible in a Year podcast](#), [St. Paul Center](#), [Word on Fire](#)). 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. 279-89 as noted above) and faith and science (no. 159) can be helpful background.
- For those interested in deeper exploration of the truths of the faith and the Church’s encouragement of scientific exploration—particularly regarding the relationship between the truth of creation and theories of biological evolution—a couple of accessible academic summary articles are available below as well as a book treatment of common questions regarding science, reason, and faith. It is important to remember that when the Church expresses openness to what can be ascertained scientifically, she understands that ultimately faith, reason, and science cannot contradict each other—any supposed contradictions are just that: apparent and needing to be worked out. Further, it is also important to remember there are truths beyond the proper domain of the natural sciences, including truths accessible to reason (philosophical) as well as truths needing the light of faith (truths of revelation or related doctrinal truths explored by theology). Some examples related to the topic of creation and the beginning of human history include God’s existence and His action as Creator, the human soul being directly and immediately created by God Himself (not a product of biological evolution), and original sin as “a deed that took place *at the beginning of the history of man ...* freely committed by our first parents” (CCC, no. 390).
- [Contrary to Popular Belief: The Catholic Church Has No Quarrel With Evolution and Never Condemned It | Church Life Journal | University of Notre Dame](#)
- [A Very Short Introduction to the History of Catholic Evolutionism | Church Life Journal | University of Notre Dame \(nd.edu\)](#)
- Fr. Robert Spitzer, SJ, *Science, Reason, and Faith: Discovering the Bible* (OSV, 2023).
- Joseph Ratzinger (Benedict XVI), “In the Beginning...: A Catholic Understanding of the Story of Creation and the Fall” (Eerdmans, 1990).

## **MATERIALS**

### GOD CREATED THE WORLD ACTIVITY

Make a book with [free printable and instructions](#)

- 1 – Glue
- 2 – Yellow and black construction paper
- 3 – Cotton balls, blue tissue paper squares
- 4 – Brown construction paper, green paint, green dot marker (optional) cut-out flowers
- 5 – Yellow crayons, stickers
- 6 – Blue dot marker, bird and fish creation printable
- 7 – Person cut-out, animal stickers
- 8 – Blue paper circle, green tissue paper squares, red heart

### GENESIS 1 & 2 SCAVENGER HUNT

Assemble seven zip top baggies (per family) with the following foods. Number each bag according to the day it represents.

- 1 – Oreos or white and chocolate chips
- 2 – White pudding with blue food coloring
- 3 – M&M’s, pretzel sticks, and raisins
- 4 – Mini powdered sugar donut (broken in half), circle cookie or piece of cheese cut in a circle, Starbursts
- 5 – Goldfish & Animal crackers
- 6 – Large marshmallows (pillows)

# TEACH

## 1. Hook: Family Sharing

**Invite** parents to share with their children what they did to prepare for their birth.

**Ask:** When a mother and father learn that they are going to have a child, how do they prepare?

**Answers will vary:** Have a baby shower, decide where the baby will sleep, buy diapers, clean the house, wash the baby's clothes, etc....

## 2. Introduce Topic

Last time we were together at *Families Forming Disciples*, we learned that the Holy Trinity is “Family” in a unique sense. In fact, it is the first “Family” that ever existed. It always has existed and it will always exist, forever. In the eternal life of the Trinity, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit love each other with an eternal love.

God is love, and He also decides out of love to multiply and grow His larger family. But first, God knew His children would need a home. The Holy Trinity, the one God, was the first “parent” to ever prepare a home for His children.

## 3. CONTENT

**Explain:** Parents show their love for their baby even before he/she is born by gathering items the baby will need and putting their house in good order, so their home will be ready when the baby arrives.

This is exactly what the Holy Trinity, the first “Family” did. The One God showed His great love for us by preparing a home for us, His children.

**Invite** families to open their bibles to Genesis 1 and read along. (Consider asking volunteers to read the various verses in the lesson below to increase participation. The below translation of verse 1 is taken from the RSVCE.)

**Read:** Genesis 1:1 tells us, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters.”

**Ask:** What words describe how the earth was at the very beginning of creation?

**Possible Answers:** Without clear order, not fully developed, empty, formless, etc., but the Spirit of God was working!

**Explain:** Genesis teaches us that God created everything out of nothing. It also teaches us that God is a God of order, and God's order brings us joy, peace and harmony. He knew His children would need order to live on the earth, to thrive, to be healthy and grow. As we listen to the First Story of Creation from the Bible, think about where we can see God creating order in the natural world as He was preparing the earth to become our home.

**Invite** families to open their bibles and read along with you: [Genesis 1:1-26](#)

or

Watch [The Gospel Project for Kids: The Creation Story](#)

(1st Story of Creation- 3 min)



# CONTENT CONTINUED:

**Ask:** When we listened to the First Story of Creation, where did you see God creating order (or patterns) in our natural world?

**Possible Answers:** Seasons of the year, days and nights, time

**Reread:** Genesis 1:26. Then God said: “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and the cattle, and over all the wild animals and all the creatures that crawl on the ground.”

**Ask:** What does it mean to be made in God’s image and likeness? As human beings, we are made of a body and a \_\_\_\_\_?

**Answer:** Soul

**Explain:** It is our soul that is most especially formed in God’s image and likeness.

Our soul is the very core of who we are, and it is directly created by God. Our bodies share in the dignity of “the image of God” by being united to our souls. God loves us body and soul, but it is our spiritual soul that distinguishes us most greatly from every other living creature in the world. Of everything that makes us who we are, our soul is of the greatest value to God because He loves who each one of us is, to our very core!

**Ask:** Name some characteristics that people share with God that show we are made in His image and likeness.

**Possible Answers:**

1. We have dominion over and a responsibility to care for the earth and for all the creatures God has created for us.
2. We have free will to choose the good.
3. We are capable of knowing and loving God and each other as well!

**Invite** families to read Genesis 1:27 along with you.

God created man in his image,  
In the divine image he created him;  
Male and female he created them.

**Explain:** Genesis 1:27 is a very important verse, so let’s look at it closely!

The first line says, “**God created man in his image**”. That means that we human beings have been created in the image of God. No other visible creature has been created in the image and likeness of God! God made us for Himself and He loves us as His children, above all other earthly creatures! We have been formed out of God’s love with a very high dignity.

The second line says, “**In the divine image he created him**”. We are made in God’s image, which means that we have been created to live with God, to share His Divine Life, to be His very own family! Our true home is with God!

The third line says, “**Male and female he created them**.” This means that the one God created his children as two distinct sexes or genders, male and female, to complement one another in God’s beauty and order. Both male and female are made in the image of God.



# CONTENT CONTINUED:

*(Note for parents/catechists:* Our identity, fully revealed in Christ, is as children of the Most Holy Trinity, created in God's image as male or female. Our sexual identity as male or female is essential to who we are and who we are destined to be in Christ as beloved sons and daughters of the Father. As the Church teaches, "everyone, man and woman, should acknowledge and accept his sexual identity" [CCC, no. 2333]. Many people today are confused about issues related to sexual identity. Some experience gender dysphoria. Some identify as "transgender." Some seek interventions from medical providers that are contrary to the truth of the human person and God's plan. There is a great need for compassionate and sound accompaniment and support for all people who may be questioning or struggling with accepting their God-given sexual identity. Every person is created to be our brother or sister in Christ. We are called to pray for and walk with all those who experience questions or conflict in this area, and we are called to love them with God's love. Authentic pastoral care always unites God's love and the truth of God's plan, which are inseparable. For more resources to understand the Church's teaching in this area, go to <https://archatl.com//sexuality-and-gender/> and <https://archatl.com/ministries-services/pastoral-care-ministry/>.)

The entire human race came from a male and a female (with God's help). This is God's holy design for how His family would grow and how God's life in us would continue from one generation to the next.

**Read:** Genesis 1:28. "God blessed them, saying: Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it."

**Explain:** Here we see God lovingly giving His children an order for family life with God. First God gave the man and the woman his blessing. Then, He told them to be fertile and multiply.

**Read:** Genesis 1:28-31

## INTERACTIVE BIBLE ACTIVITY

1. Invite families to open their bibles to **Genesis 1**.
2. Read a verse (**red print below**)
3. Ask families to state what had been created that God saw was good in that verse. (**Answers are in green print below**)

vs 4- God saw how good the light was/ **day & night**

vs 10- God saw how good it was/ **sky & sea**

vs 12- God saw how good it was/ **plants**

vs 18- God saw how good it was/ **sun, moon & stars**

vs 21- God saw how good it was/ **swimming creatures & birds**

vs 25- God saw how good it was/ **cattle, creeping things, wild animals**

vs 31- God looked at **everything he had made, and he found it very good.**

**Explain:** Each time God saw how good something He had created was, it meant that it was in accordance with God's will. Because He loved us even before we were born, God created order to bring us peace and harmony.

**Read** aloud **Genesis 2:1-4**

## FAMILY CONVERSATION/ACTIVITY

**“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves.**

**For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.”**

**Matthew 11:28-30**

As we read in the Bible, part of God’s loving order for His children is to rest on and to keep holy the sabbath day. (The ceremonial observance of this day is replaced by the Lord’s Day on Sunday, which is the fulfillment of the sabbath. The Lord’s Day liturgically starts with the vigil Mass and first evening prayer on Saturday.) God waits for us to be with Him every day, but He especially longs for us to spend time with Him on the Lord’s Day. This is out of His infinite love for us, because God, who is all knowing, sees how difficult our lives can be and how greatly we need His grace to keep going and stop to rest in His arms.

- How does your family keep holy the Lord’s Day?
- What else can your family do to keep holy the Lord’s Day?

## CREATION ACTIVITIES

Choose one of the Creation Activities below:

- [God Created the World Activity](#)- make a book with free printable and instructions
- [Genesis 1 & 2 Scavenger Hunt](#)

## MISSION ACTIVITY

# 1

### First, Introduce Mission Activity

Mission Activities are to be done at home during Week 2 and to be shared at the gathering of families on Week 3.

### Second, Explain Activity

Your Family At-Home Mission is to:

- Watch the videos about The Creation Story and Adam and Eve.
- This is the month of the Rosary, so place your family rosary on your home altar next to your family bible.
- On November 1st, All Saints Day, we celebrate and show God that we are grateful for the saints who are in Heaven and for all the help they give us. Watch: [All Saints’ Day for Kids!! | DIY Catholic Saint Costumes & Stories | what a is saint](#)

# 2

- iv. Choose an activity from the video to do with your family or join another family and make it a special event!  
&/or  
Choose a book about a favorite saint and read it together at dinner or before bedtime.
- v. On November 2nd, All Souls Day, we pray for our loved ones who have died as well as for all those who are in Purgatory waiting for us to pray for them, so they too can go to Heaven and finally be with God forever! Find a picture of a family member or friend of the family who has died that you would like us all to pray for during Week 3 and on All Soul's Day, or draw a picture of that person if you don't have a photo. Place the photo or picture on your home altar/prayer corner. (This can be the same person that you prayed for last year, or you can add as many people as you want.) \*Remind the families to bring the picture to the Week 3 gathering. Be ready to share about who the person is, and why he/she is important to your family.
- vi. Gather in your prayer space/around your home altar as a family. Take a moment to be silent with God together, and say a prayer for your family member or family friend, and for one another. Then end by praying a decade of the Rosary.

# 3

## Last, Share Your Experience!

Show the families your rosary that you have placed on your home altar, as well as the picture of a special person who you would like to pray for at the Week 3 gathering.

## 6. REVIEW & CLOSE IN PRAYER

Dear God,  
You are the fount of all blessings,  
source of all life,  
and giver of all grace:

We thank You for the gift of life:  
for air, food, and water;  
for the love of family and friends;  
for all the things without which  
we couldn't continue to live.

We thank You for the mystery of creation:  
for the beauty that the eye can see,  
for the marvels that the ear can hear,  
for all the amazing mysteries that fill  
the universe with wonder.

Help us to grow in knowledge and  
appreciation of Your Creation,  
To be good stewards of what You have given us,  
And to always remember that every good gift  
comes only from You.

We thank You for this day and for our life.  
We thank You that You are our God, our  
Creator, and our Savior.

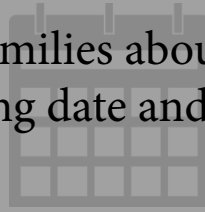
For these, and all blessings,  
we give You thanks, eternal, loving God,  
through Jesus Christ we pray.  
Amen.

Adapted from [www.cslewisinstitute.org](http://www.cslewisinstitute.org)



## REMIND

Remind families about the next meeting date and time.



## SUPPORTING QUOTES FROM CHURCH DOCUMENTS

*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, nos. 356:

Of all visible creatures only man is “able to know and love his creator”. He is “the only creature on earth that God has willed for its own sake”, and he alone is called to share, by knowledge and love, in God’s own life. It was for this end that he was created, and this is the fundamental reason for his dignity:

What made you establish man in so great a dignity? Certainly the incalculable love by which you have looked on your creature in yourself! You are taken with love for her; for by love indeed you created her, by love you have given her a being capable of tasting your eternal Good. (St. Catherine of Siena)

**Pope St. John Paul II**, *Man and Woman He Created Them: A Theology of the Body*, trans. M. Waldstein (Pauline: 2006), 9:3 (p. 163)

The account of the creation of man in Genesis 1 affirms from the beginning and directly that man was created in the image of God inasmuch as he is male and female. The account in Genesis 2 ... reveals ... that the complete and definitive creation of “man” ... expresses itself in giving life to the “*communio personarum*” that man and woman form.... *Man became the image of God not only through his own humanity, but also through the communion of persons*, which man and woman form from the very beginning.

**Pope Francis**, Encyclical *Laudato Si'* (2015), no. 65

Without repeating the entire theology of creation, we can ask what the great biblical narratives say about the relationship of human beings with the world. In the first creation account in the Book of Genesis, God’s plan includes creating humanity. After the creation of man and woman, “God saw everything that he had made, and behold it was very good” (Gen 1:31). The Bible teaches that every man and woman is created out of love and made in God’s image and likeness (cf. Gen 1:26). This shows us the immense dignity of each person, “who is not just something, but someone. He is capable of self-knowledge, of self-possession and of freely giving himself and entering into communion with other persons.” Saint John Paul II stated that the special love of the Creator for each human being “confers upon him or her an infinite dignity.” Those who are committed to defending human dignity can find in the Christian faith the deepest reasons for this commitment. How wonderful is the certainty that each human life is not adrift in the midst of hopeless chaos, in a world ruled by pure chance or endlessly recurring cycles! The Creator can say to each one of us: “Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you” (Jer 1:5). We were conceived in the heart of God, and for this reason “each of us is the result of a thought of God. Each of us is willed, each of us is loved, each of us is necessary.”

