

Made for Greatness

We Want To Be Saints

Grades 3-5: Lesson 1

Goal: Students will recall that God wants us to be happy. He knows what will bring us the greatest happiness. Following His plan will make us happy in this life and ultimately in Heaven.

Scripture: Psalm 139:13-16

“For you **formed** my inmost being; you knit me in my mother’s womb. I praise you, because I am wonderfully made; **wonderful** are your works! My very self you know. My bones are not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, fashioned in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw me **unformed**; in your book all are written down; my days were shaped, before one came to be.”

Catechism: (CCC [2012-2016](#), [2028-2029](#)) God created us and has a plan for us. He wants us to be great and He has given us Jesus to help us fulfill that plan: become saints.

Lesson:

1. Opening- Students will be given a small amount of playdough (recipe available here: <http://theimaginationtree.com/2012/04/best-ever-no-cook-play-dough-recipe.html>). Because it does not have a specific shape, it is **unformed**. Children can have a few minutes to make something out of their playdough. Now it is **formed**. It is nice, but can it walk, talk, think, love? But the students can! And does it have a soul? Will it live forever? But the students do and they will! God has made them **wonderful**!
2. Scripture Read [Psalm 139:13-16](#) When you give a gift to someone, how do you hope they will feel? (*Among answers, try to illicit “happy”.*) God took the time to form every part of you; He gave you life. What do you think He hopes you will feel with the gift of life? (*Happy.*)
3. Instruction
 - a. How many of you have an ipad or an iphone (or know someone who does)? If the iphone breaks or if you need help knowing how to use it, do you take it to Walmart to ask them for help? Do you take it to the supermarket? Why not? *They didn’t make it, they aren’t the experts.* Where do you take it? *An Apple Store* Why? *Because Apple is the company that invented the iPhone / iPad – they know everything there is to know about how it works, how to make it to do what you want to do, and how to fix it.*
 - b. God made us. He made us with a purpose. He has a plan for us. Who should we ask about our purpose in live? Movie Stars? YouTube? Why not? *They did not create us – God is the one who made us (“invented us”) and He is the one who knows what we were made for and how we can be happiest.*
 - c. God gives us helps to follow His plan. Example: You are given a board game for Christmas. It looks like a lot of fun, but there are no instructions on how to play.

Do you think it will be enjoyable? What would make it more fun? *To know how to play it!* How does God give us the instructions / directions for our life?

- i. Sacred Scripture - This is His word to us. (*examples: this is why we listen to the readings at mass and why it is important for every home to have a Bible.*)
 - ii. Sacred Tradition – all the teachings of the Church that Jesus gave to His Apostles and they have handed down to us through the Pope and Bishops – when we need help understanding things, the Church can help us. (*examples: this is why we listen to the Holy Father, the pope, and why every home should have a Catechism of the Catholic Church.*)
 - iii. Jesus- Scripture and the Church help us live and act like Jesus. (*examples: The Beatitudes tell us exactly WWJD- What Would Jesus Do?*)
- d. When we follow God’s plan, we are happy
- i. What are some things that you can do with iPhones and iPads? *Let them give some ideas – text, phone call, games, e-mail, internet, etc.* What are some things that you should NOT do with an iPhone or an iPad? *Let them come up with crazy things you should not use it for...e.g.: Use it to dig a hole, use it to hammer in a nail... Why not? You will damage it, break it, it wasn't made to be used like that.* So when Apple tells you what you should and shouldn't do with the iPhone / iPad, they are helping you get the most fun and use out of your device.
 - ii. It is the same with God – when we follow His plan, we get the most joy out of our life.
 - iii. Sometimes it means we feel the kind of happiness that we feel when you get a day off from school. But the happiness God gives is MORE than that and we can feel it even when we go through difficult times in life. It is a deep joy that can stay in your heart even in difficult moments.
 - iv. When we follow God’s plan for us on earth this is called holiness. *Example: Do you have any clothes with a sport’s team logo on them? We want to resemble those we admire. When we follow God’s plan we begin to resemble God, Who is holy, by being holy, ourselves.*
 - v. In Heaven, this is called being a saint – everyone in Heaven is a saint – some are canonized **S**aints (*examples of children saints: Maria Goretti, Dominic Savio, [Tarcisius](#)*) View the brief video on St. Tarcisius and retell the stories of Sts. Maria Goretti and Dominic Savio. Ask the students to identify the ways these young people followed God’s will which made them very happy.
 - vi. Is Heaven a happy place? More than we can ever imagine – and Heaven is where EVERYONE is PERFECTLY HOLY... Holiness brings the greatest happiness. The more holy we become in this life, the happier we will be.

4. Vocabulary

Formed/unformed

Happiness & joy

Holiness

Purpose

5. Homework/ A Step Beyond:
 - a. Students can write an imaginary user manual for human beings. What things would God include in the manual? This could be presented in a written format or might be presented as a brief video/commercial.
 - b. Students can create a time line of their lives with events from their past possible events in their future. They can illustrate how God has guided them and how they have followed His plan and how they will continue to follow His plan.
6. Close with prayer.

Prayer based on writings of Bl. John Henry Cardinal Newman:

God, I thank You that You have created me to do You some definite service. You have given work to me which You have not given to anyone else. I have my mission. I may not know it yet, but I can still follow Your plan. I am a link in a chain, a bond of love between different people. You did not create me to be nothing. I want to do good: please help me. I want to do Your work and follow Your plan: lead me. I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place, a keeper of Your commandments. My God, I trust You. Whatever happens, however I feel, I know I can never be thrown away. Thank You for Your forever love.