

## 6th & 7th Grade Edge Homestudy

# Lesson #6: The Artist

Does God Care About Me?

## GOAL

The goal of this lesson is to help you to see how your desires to be known, loved, and cared for reflect God, who loves you and fulfills all of your longings.

## TEACHING

### **The Human Heart**

We need to eat in order to survive. We all have experienced the physical need to eat, and all living creatures operate from this survival instinct. Aside from physical hunger, only humans experience a deeper hunger. We desire and dream. We seek and search for something more, something bigger, something to make us happy.

*What are some of your desires?*

It is not bad to want to have material possessions or to dream of having a whole new wardrobe or the latest gaming system but, ultimately, these desires take us to an even deeper place of longing that we may not realize. When we desire to have a new iPhone it may be because we want to fit in. When we want to fit in, we are desiring to have friendships. When we desire to have friendships, we are desiring to be known, seen, understood, and loved.

While it may seem that material possessions will make us happy and fulfill our desires, or more friends or a boyfriend or girlfriend may make us feel loved, the truth is that only one person is capable of making us feel entirely loved, entirely happy, and entirely seen.

## **God Is Near**

Every human being has desires — things we want, hope for, and dream of. Our ultimate desire is to be known and loved. The reason for this is because humanity is created in the image and likeness of God, who is love. The desires we experience are not for things; they are, ultimately, for God. You may not buy into this. You may think an iPhone will make you happier than God can because God seems too far off or unrelated to what you desire.

## ***Going Deeper***

*“The desire for God is written in the human heart, because man is created by God and for God; and God never ceases to draw man to Himself. Only in God will he find the truth and happiness he never stops searching for” (CCC 27).*

God can seem so big and distant, which can make us wonder if He actually knows us or cares about us. He can seem like an artist who made His painting, hung it on the wall, and walked away. But this is not true. By becoming one of us, God proves that He cares for us, that He is the one to fulfill all of the desires of our hearts, and that He loves us.

## **The Artist Sends His Son Into the Art**

In the beginning, God created man and woman in perfect loving harmony with Him, but that did not last because man and woman — who were created with free will, the ability to make choices — chose to disobey God.

## **Read Genesis 3:1-7**

This is the moment when sin entered the world. The relationship between God and humanity was broken because humanity did not trust God or believe that He is good. (CCC 397) But this was not the end. God did not look at His artwork, see it turn into a disaster, and toss it aside — He had a plan. (CCC 410) God would show His people how to be in a relationship with Him. He would prove to us that He exists and that He loves us — not at distance or from a far-off place but by becoming one of us. God came into the world by sending His one and only Son, Jesus, who is one with God the Father. (CCC 422)

Jesus shows us how to live. He shows us how to treat each other, reveals that God is real, who God is, and saves us from the consequence of sin — death.

### ***Going Deeper***

*God became man so that, through Jesus, we would be saved and our relationship with God would be fixed. Jesus came so we might know God's love. He is our model of holiness and makes it possible for us to share in God's divine nature. (CCC 457-460)*

Jesus tells us of the great love of God, that He sees us, knows us, and does in fact care about us. (CCC 51) Jesus came to not only tell us about the love of God but to prove God's love for us by dying for our sins on the cross and rising from the dead. By His death and Resurrection Jesus proves that everything He said about Himself is true, that He is God and His death on the cross shows us how much God loves us and desires to be in a relationship with us. (CCC 653) Jesus' death and Resurrection make it possible for us to have a relationship with God, and it is this relationship that will satisfy every desire of our hearts because with God we are fully known and loved.

### ***Going Deeper***

*“By giving up His own Son for our sins, God [shows us] that His plan for us one of benevolent love,” that He loves us regardless of what we have done, and that we cannot earn this love (CCC 604). “In this is love not that we loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the expiation for our sins” (1 John 4:10). God “shows His love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).*

## **Prayer**

*It is reasonable to believe that God is real because science proves that the world has a beginning — someone or something outside of the universe must have brought it into being. It is also reasonable to believe that God is real because of the intricate and complex design of the world we live in. Since it is not likely that it just happened that way, there must be an intelligent designer behind it all. Just because we believe that God exists with our mind, does not*

*mean the desire we have to be known and loved is satisfied. So, is God just a big force outside of the world who created us and then left us alone? Or does He care about us, not just us as a whole but me and you as individual people? God knows our desires and to show us that He not only cares about us but loves us deeply, He became one of us. He lived a human life. He grew up with a mom and dad, whom He loved and obeyed. He ate food with friends and taught them about God the Father. He cried when His friends were hurt and performed miracles to heal them. He gave us a way to have a close relationship with Him now and for eternity by dying on the cross for us. The cross is the ultimate proof that God cares. He cares about you and the things that make you smile, laugh, confused, and hurt. He cares about every detail of your life. He cares about having a relationship with you — what kind of relationship will you choose to have with Him?*

Take a moment to look at a crucifix and silently talk to God about anything you are currently thinking. If you do not have a crucifix in your home, look up a picture of one online.

Conclude the lesson by praying the Glory Be.

## **Lectio Divina**

### **Read John 3:16-17**

What word or verse jumped out at you?

What is God saying to you through this scripture?

What is God asking you to do?

**Read Romans 5:8**

What word or verse jumped out at you?

What is God saying to you through this scripture?

What is God asking you to do?

### **Questions**

- Why do people want to be influencers?



