

6th & 7th Grade Edge Homestudy

Lesson #1: The Great Idea

Why Am I Here?

GOAL

The goal of this Edge Night is for the youth to understand that they were created out of the goodness and love of God and only in Him will they find purpose and meaning for their lives.

Please begin in Prayer:

Read: Genesis 1:26-31

What word or verse jumped out at you?

What is God saying to you at this time through this Scripture?

What is God asking you to do

TEACHING

The Great Idea

Think of a recent invention or advancement in technology. Research who created it and what it is supposed to do. Write your thoughts here:

All great inventions begin with an idea. All great inventors then take that idea and come up with a plan to make their idea a reality. It takes time and tremendous planning with great precision and an incredible amount of detail to create something. Some inventors even put their love into their creation. There have been many incredible inventions throughout the history of humankind. While there have been many remarkable inventions, one great idea stands above all else. At the very origin of the existence of the world, God had a great idea: to create you.

With human beings in mind, God put the sun in the sky to give us daylight, and He filled the world with land, water, plants, and animals to be our nourishment and sustain us. (CCC 358) When everything was in place, God created human beings uniquely in His image and likeness, putting His breath into them to give them life. (Genesis 1:26-27, 31)

Read Genesis 2:7

You exist because God loves you and willed for you to exist. (CCC 356)

Since human beings were created out of the sheer love of God and made in His image, we all have dignity — we are worthy of honor and respect. Nothing we do, or do not do, will ever change this worth or our dignity. (CCC 357)

To Know, Love, and Serve

Knowing that we exist because God loves us and willed for us to exist only answers part of the question of why we exist. We may also wonder what the point or purpose of our existence is. If you want to know why something was created, what its purpose is, the best way to find out is by asking the inventor.

Refer back to the invention you shared about at the beginning of the Teaching, and share why that person created what they did. Write your thoughts here:

If you want to know the purpose of your existence, one of the best ways to find out is by asking God. But you might think that sounds problematic; how do we ask God a question, and how do we hear His answer?

God knew that we would have questions, and He knew that we would need answers given to us in a way we would understand. So God became like us. God sent us His only Son, Jesus. (John 6:38) • Jesus reveals to us in His words and actions the purpose for our existence: to be in a relationship with God, to know God, to love God, and to live our lives serving God. (CCC 358-359)

Something Here

Our purpose in life is to know God, to love God, and to serve God, but what does that look like? We come to know God, first and foremost, through Jesus, who reveals who God is. We can learn more about God by reading the Bible or looking at what other holy people have said about God.

When we know who God is and discover His great love for us, we can learn to love Him in return. Jesus proves His love for us in incredible ways, including dying on the cross to save us from sin. When we see how much He loves us, we are inspired to love Him in return. (Romans 5:8)

When we are rooted in a knowledge of God and love Him, everything we do flows from this knowledge and love, and we learn to serve Him. Learning to serve God does not mean we are in any way a slave or servant; it means we act and make decisions based on our gratitude for God's love and seek to give Him glory in every aspect of life. (1 Peter 4:11)

How can you serve God in your daily lives? For example, when you take out the trash, you can recognize the great love God has for them in creating them with a body that can lift a trash bag. You can also see God's love in the home you live in and all of your possessions (even the trash in the trash can), and you can be thankful for your parents, even when you have to do chores. This one task can be an act of service, done in great love for God and all He has given you, and bring God glory.

How does this make you feel and why?

Knowing, loving, and serving God is not something we can just know with our minds; it is something we do and experience by growing in a relationship with

God. This semester at Edge, we are going to spend time learning about God and what it means to be a human person, but we are also going to spend time getting to know God through conversations, activities, and, most importantly, opportunities for prayer. As you continue to understand who you are and who God created you to be, the first step is to know that you exist because God loves you. You were created for a reason: to know God, to love God, and to serve God. You are God's greatest idea.

PRAYER

Take some time to contemplate the following prayer:

Think about the last time someone did something really meaningful for you (e.g., your mom or dad worked hard to surprise you with your favorite meal, your best friend saved his or her money to buy you a gift, your teacher took extra time to help you understand a difficult topic). Meaningful gestures can be little or big. It is moving to stop and consider that someone had an idea to do something for you and cared enough to follow through. Thinking about these moments can deepen our gratitude and love for these people in our lives. Think about the world around you. God created this world for each of us specifically; God had each one of you in mind as He created every part of the world.

Think of one way that you see God's for you in the world around you. Say a prayer of thanksgiving to Him.

Close the lesson by praying an Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be.

QUESTIONS

- In your opinion, what is the best invention in the past year?

- Have you ever thought about God as an inventor? What parts of the created world do you love or find most interesting (e.g., volcanoes, the solar system, lizards)? Why?

- You are created in God's image and likeness. How are you an inventor like God?

- What does it mean to know who God is? To love God? To spend our lives serving God?