

6th & 7th Grade Homestudy Lesson #3

GOD THE FATHER

GOAL

The goal of this Edge Night is to help the middle school youth understand that faith is a personal act. When we profess what we believe, we are putting our faith in something that is real: in events that have already occurred, in promises that will be fulfilled and in a God who is personally in love with us.

THE CREED

Begin the lesson by carefully praying the Nicene Creed:

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was
buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

Lectio Divina

Read Exodus 3:1-15

How is God speaking to you through the story of Moses and the Burning Bush?

What did this story teach you about God the Father?

Read Exodus 3:1-15 again

TEACHING

I AM WHO AM

In this mysterious conversation between God and Moses, God reveals to us His name, "I AM WHO AM." It is significant that God reveals His name and it shows us more about who He is. When we meet someone for the first time we usually ask what their name is and we tell them our name. This exchange signifies the beginning of a relationship. We know that person and they know us.

This same thing is happening when God talks to Moses. By reaching out to Moses God reveals His desire to be in a relationship with all of mankind. Even though we didn't see the burning bush that doesn't mean that God does not want us to know Him personally, He gave His name to Moses to share with all of mankind His love and presence. He wants us to know Him in a new and personal way. God is not some far off dictator who sits in heaven and barks orders, like in our game of "Simon Says," but He is a God who is near to His people, who cares about His children, and who desires a loving relationship with them. (CCC 205-207)

By saying "I AM" God is revealing that He is the fullness of being. He has no beginning, He has no end, and He simply is. Because God IS, He is constantly and

continuously faithful to man and is ALWAYS “merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.” (CCC 210–213, Exodus 34:5–6)

God is also the fullness of truth; He cannot deceive and He always keeps His promises. (CCC 215–217) God is the fullness of love; He loves us more than we could ever imagine. God’s love is never ending and never fading. This love is also revealed in a new way through Jesus, who refers to God as His Father, to Himself as the Son, and to the Holy Spirit who is at work with them. The three persons of the Trinity are a relationship and exchange of love. (CCC 218–221)

THE FATHER

God is one; there is only one God. But in this oneness He has revealed to us three distinct persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. This is called the Trinity and Jesus Christ revealed this to us. As we continue our journey of knowing God we are going to focus first on God the Father. (CCC 232–260)

God the Father is almighty; there is nothing that is impossible for Him. He is all-powerful and has ultimate authority over everything. But at the same time, He is our loving Father who takes care of our every need. (CCC 268–274) God is the Creator revealing to us where we come from and where we are going, for we were created by God and for God. (CCC 282–285)

Faith helps us to understand and see that God created the world and our reason helps us to see the plan behind all of creation. (CCC 286–289) There is a plan, a purpose, and a specific design in everything that God creates. He created everything and holds it all in existence. If He were to stop thinking about something, it would cease to exist. (CCC 290–301) God has always been with no beginning and no end and He created the whole world out of nothing. He created it to reveal His glory, His wisdom, His goodness and His love. (CCC 293–295)

OUR FATHER

God did not just create everything and step back from it, but He stays close to His creation and cares for it, most especially for humanity. We learn from Jesus Christ that God is not only His Father, but God is our Father too. Jesus not only teaches us about the Father, but He also teaches us how to pray to Him and, by merit of His death on the cross, He makes it possible for us to become God’s adopted children through Baptism. (CCC 240, 1265, Matthew 6:9–13)

God the Father wants a relationship with you. He has created you with a purpose- for a specific reason- and He has created you to be His son or daughter. In our daily life we can look at all the intricate designs of creation and see God's love and plan or we can stop and pray to Him for all our needs, trusting that He is almighty and always faithful to us. When we are confused or hurt, we can turn to God the Father who is the fullness of truth and love. In all circumstances of every day "HE IS." He is present to you in every moment and holds your very life in existence.

QUESTIONS

1. What is the Trinity? What are the three persons of the Trinity? How many Gods are there?
2. What did this lesson teach you about God the Father that you did not already know?
3. What is your relationship with God the Father like right now? What can you do to grow closer to him?

