

Lesson 1 – The Mystery of God

Grade 7 – Chapter 1

KEY CONCEPT

We can come to know God through all that he has created and through human reason.

QUICK SESSION

OVERVIEW

STEP 1 - WELCOME

STEP 2 - INVITE

STEP 3 - DISCOVER

STEP 4 - LIVE

STEP 5 - CLOSING

HELPFUL HINT OF THE DAY

Welcome students and thank them for coming

-From day one it is important to convey two things: that you care about the candidates and that you are excited.

-Introduce yourself. Tell them a few things about you and your life – where you grew up, favorite sports team, favorite ice cream, why you decided to be here with them

-Take a few minutes and go around the class, asking each person to introduce themselves and share something like you did

-Let them know that you will be praying for them throughout the year. Encourage them to start praying for each other

-Remember what Theodore Roosevelt wrote: “People don’t care how much you know, until they know how much you care.”

STEP 1 - WELCOME

TIP

Community Activity

STEP 2 – INVITE

TIP

Begin in prayer

- **Ask God to bless your time together and the next year**
- **Asking to grow in faith with Him and open their hearts to the Truth they will be exposed to this year**

Identify

- **Encourage the children to think back over their last couple of weeks and see where they saw God (where did they experience joy/peace)**

Skip Optional Activity – include thanksgivings in the activity above

STEP 3 – DISCOVER

TIP

*****You don't need to do the prayers before each page for "Discover"*****

Seeing God in the Works of Creation

- **Read paragraphs**
- **Break into small groups of 3 and encourage them to dive into the questions**

Scripture

- **Read through Genesis 1:1 – 2:4**
- **Spend time on this section of your text**
- **Focus on science and religion not living in contradiction to each other**
- **Watch YouTube Video: "Faith and Science with Fr. James Kurzynski - Part 2: Georges LeMaitre"**

Skip Optional Activity

Scripture

- **Use the passages in John**
- **Use small groups to discuss themes from these passages**

God's Plan for Us

- **Use small groups to discuss the questions at the end of the section**

Use the "Notice, Connect, Pray"

God Is Truth

- **Use small groups to discuss the questions at the end of the section**

The Attributes of God

- **Have each student go through the activity on their own**
- **Encourage them to dive deeper in their answers with small groups and allow for sharing with the larger group**

Do the "Activity Master 1: What Does God Look Like?"

- **Have them go through it in small groups**
- **If time, share a couple ideas with the class**

In Summary

- **Go through each of the points and see if there are any questions**

Have the young people reflect on and discuss decision making.

- **Share with the youth about how Scripture affects your decision making.**
- **Invite the young people to think about the last time they had to make a difficult choice.**
- ***Ask:* How did you go about making that choice?**
- ***Discuss:* How could that process be helped next time if you use Scripture to guide you?**

STEP 4 – LIVE

TIP

Our Catholic Life

- **“The highest form of prayer is to stand silently in awe before God.” - St. Isaac the Syrian**
- **Write this quote on the board and have it as a part of the reflection questions**

Skip “Celebration of the Word”

- **If time, take a trip to the church to spend 5-10 minutes in prayer before leaving**

STEP 5 – CLOSING

TIP

Close in prayer together

- **Encourage them to focus on the “Attributes of God” during the week**

Take Homes:

- **Review chapter test**

Name _____

Date _____

What Does God Look Like?

You will be working in a small group to create a poster. You will need poster board, magazines, scissors, tape or glue, markers, yarn, colored paper, pipe cleaners, and this instruction sheet.

Step 1:

Create a headline for your poster. It could read "What We Think God Looks Like," "Our Vision of God," or something similar. Write your headline ideas in the space below. Circle the one that your group chooses.

Step 2:

As a group, discuss what you think God looks like and how you would like to illustrate your ideas. List your group's ideas in the space below.

Step 3:

Work together to create your image. Use as many supplies as you would like. Try to think beyond "typical" images of God. List any supplies that you may need in the space below.

Step 4:

Be prepared to make a presentation on your creation. Make sure someone in your group is able to explain why you created your image of God the way you did. Make some notes about your creation in the space below.