

For the Classroom – Formation in Christian Chastity, Grade 2

Theme: Every Human Person is a Child of God

Objectives:

1. Students will know that God made all human persons in His image and likeness.
2. Students will know that God made us able to know what is bad and what is good. God gave us a gift to be able to choose either “bad” or “good.” This gift is called “free will.”
3. Students will know how God has a way to help us to do (choose) good and to avoid (not choose) bad things (evil). This way is called life in the sacraments!

Directions for Chalk Talk

Opening prayer: Hail, Mary

Tell the children that every year, the Church sets aside the month of October as “Respect Life” month. We are going to be talking about a special way we respect life, by living lives of chastity. Tell them that chastity is respecting ourselves and others.

Begin by writing “God” in the center toward the top of the chalk board. Ask the children, “Now, of all the things that God created, which is most special to Him?” Answer: People. Write “People” underneath God and draw an arrow to it.

Tell the children that God created people to be good. In fact, the Bible tells us that God loves us so much that He created us in His own likeness and image.

And God wanted us to love Him back. But He realized that for us to love Him, we had to be free to love Him. We had to be able to choose to love Him. If I forced you to say, “I love you,” then what you feel for me probably wouldn’t really be love, would it? Love has to be chosen. A person must choose to love for love to really be love.

God also gave us something called “free will,” the ability to choose whether to love Him back. Underneath “People” write “Free Will.” In parenthesis next to it write “We Choose.”

We can choose to either love God and do what’s good or we can choose to not love God and do what’s bad. Write “Good” underneath and to the left of “Free Will” and “Bad” underneath and to the right.

You want to know something? God loves us so much that he gave us some things to help us choose to love Him. These things are called sacraments. To the left of “Free Will”

write the word “Sacraments.” We’re learning about the sacraments this year since you are preparing for First Communion.

The sacraments are like vitamins for our free will. They strengthen our free will so that we can choose to do what is good and love God. Our will is like a muscle. The stronger it is, the easier it is to do what is good. And the sacraments are like food that strengthens this muscle.

All the sacraments strengthen us, but tonight we’re going to focus on the two sacraments you’re learning about this year – Confession and the Eucharist. Write “Confession” under and to the left of “Sacraments.” Write “Eucharist” under and to the right. Be sure to leave space to write the answers to the questions below.

Discussion Questions:

Question: Can anyone tell me what happens in Confession?

- Answers: 1. Jesus forgives our sins.
2. Jesus wipes away our sins. (Absolution)
3. We receive grace.
(Write these under “Confession.”)

Question: Can anyone tell me what happens when we receive Holy Communion?

- Answers: 1. We are united in a special way to Christ.
2. We are united in a special way to our brothers and sisters in Christ.
3. We receive grace.

Can anyone tell me what these two lists have in common? What do we receive in both sacraments? Once the children have answered “grace,” ask them “What is grace?”

Write “Grace” on the board. Write the four-word definition, “God’s Life Within Us” and draw an arrow to it.

Ask the children three or four times, “What is grace?” Have them shout the answer, “God’s Life Within Us!” Then, tell the children that we receive grace, that God comes to live within us, in all of the sacraments.

That’s right! God comes to live within our bodies and souls, and since our soul – which we can’t see - is within our bodies, God comes to live within our bodies. So one way, maybe the most important way, in which we can show God that we love Him is to take care of our bodies, since this is where He comes to live when we receive the sacraments.

In fact, the Bible tells us that our bodies are temples. Our bodies are like a church or the tabernacle. Temples are where God lives, so we should treat our bodies like temples. How can we take care of our bodies so that they are truly temples for God to live in? Answers should include such things as ‘brush our teeth’, ‘comb our hair’, ‘eat well’, ‘exercise’, etc.

Treating our bodies well and making them wonderful temples for God to live in is called chastity. Write “Chastity” on the board to the right of “God,” “People,” “Free Will,” etc. and underline it twice.

Now, tell the children that there is a saint who is a model of chastity. Tell them the story of St. Dominic Savio. Write his name on the board.

St. Dominic Savio: (This story is also found in Grade 7 – Lesson Plan 2.)

Dominic Savio was born in Italy in 1842. Dominic, loved to pray. He became an altar server when he was just five years old. When he was twelve years old he met a holy priest who later became a saint, St. Don Bosco. Don Bosco ran a school for boys. Dominic joined the school. In those days, children were twelve when they received their First Holy Communion. On the day of his First Holy Communion, St Dominic wrote four simple rules for himself in his notebook. The four rules were:

1. I will go to Confession and to Holy Communion often.
2. I will go to church every Sunday and Holy Day and make that God’s Day!
3. My best friends will be Jesus and Mary.
4. I would rather die than commit a mortal sin! His motto was “DEATH, BUT NOT SIN!”

Write these four rules on the board.

He was very well liked by his classmates because he was not only kind, but also cheerful!

He was not a very healthy boy and got sick a lot. When he was just fifteen years old, as he was lying in bed dying of a sickness, God gave Dominic a peek at heaven. He received Holy Communion before he died. He went straight to heaven and is the Patron Saint of Children.

Tell the children that they should all try to live by the same rules St. Dominic Savio lived by, so that they, too, can live lives of chastity and live with God both here and in heaven when they die.

Activity: Life in the Sacraments Word Search

Close with the prayer to Saint Dominic Savio and invite the children to always pray that they might lead lives of chastity as he did. Have the prayer below and St. Dominic Savio’s four rules on hand to give to the children.

Closing Prayer: Dear Saint Dominic Savio, help us to love Jesus, Mary, and Joseph like you did. Help us to see sin as the worst thing in the world and help us to be kind and cheerful all the time. Help us to love the sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion so that we can avoid sin, and love and obey God and our parents. Help us to love Sunday as a day we rest and come closer to God by going to Church and being with our family! Amen.