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UNIT 2

God's Gift of Self

Background

Constant help is also required for the growth of children's spiritual life, so that the biological development and impulses they begin to experience will always be accompanied by a growing love of God, the Creator and Redeemer, and an ever greater awareness of the dignity of each human person and his or her body. In the light of the mystery of Christ and the Church, parents can illustrate the positive values of human sexuality in the context of the person's original vocation to love and the universal call to holiness (The Truth and Meaning of Human Sexuality 70).

SEEING SELF AS A GIFT IS MADE POSSIBLE BY AN

awareness of God's creative love. Because we are created in the image and likeness of God, we are uniquely created for love. There is no other creature who has been created like human beings. And each human being is a unique person. There is only one you, and no one else is like you. God loves you as the person he created you to be.

Your life's journey is to discover the person God has created you to be. Through prayer and discernment of your life experiences, you can come to a deeper and truer understanding of the "gift" that is you. Through the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit, you can respond to the charisms, or graces, God has given you to contribute to your own growth and to the growth of your family and the People of God, the Church. Thus vocation is both the gift of self and response to God's will for you to holiness in life.

The life journey of the family also includes the privilege and responsibility to understand the "identity" of the family and to generously help each other become the



person God created them to be. Parents, especially, have this privilege and responsibility in regard to their children.

EXPERIENCING THE LOVE OF CHRIST IN YOUR HEART

leads to a giving of self to others in order to show that love. Thus, each of us is an incarnated spirit, both body and soul, gifted to serve God by helping others. God bestows upon each person unique gifts and talents as expression of our personal contributions to the common good.

As your students mature, the manner in which they make choices will influence future decisions. Over time decisions will become more serious and more complex. To make wise decisions that lead to morally good acts, they will need a solid foundation in moral precepts and norms aligned with the will of God. The teachings of the Church and the exercise of Cardinal and Theological Virtues will sustain them in their ability to bravely make good choices.

RECEIVING THE GRACES OF THE SACRAMENTS IS A

crucial and necessary part in the life of any Catholic. Many students at this age will prepare for and participate in receiving the Sacrament of the Eucharist and the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation. Encourage prayerful reflection by your students in the significance and impact of these two important

Additional Background

Catechism of the Catholic Church: §§ 1763–1764, 1767, 1769



Child Safety

Children of this age are becoming more conscious of how their bodies and abilities are different from their classmates. This unit will help students to understand that their bodies and those of their friends are made special by God and are to be treated with care and respect. They will also learn to pay closer attention to their surroundings and to how others treat them. They will practice making good decisions.

sacraments. They are to become a regular and active aspect of the lives of your students helping them grow in love for Christ and strong in will to do what is right and good. If you see and demonstrate the connection between what you receive from God and do for others, your students can learn from your Christian example what it means to be self-giving.

For Reflection

Read and reflect on the following:

"In the family, which is a community of persons, special attention must be devoted to the children by developing a profound esteem for their personal dignity, and a great respect and generous concern for their rights. This is true for every child" (Familiaris Consortio 26).

- ▶ How have my family experiences contributed to the growth of my self-esteem and concern for my personal dignity?
- ▶ What might I do in all circumstances that will show my respect for the student to help build up their sense of self-esteem?

Family Time

Partnering with the Family

Appreciation and excitement for the development of this age will encourage your students to see that they are blossoming like a flower and not spreading awkwardly like a weed. Emotionally, they are becoming more aware of the impact of their choices and the increasing expectations that their parents and other adults have of them. Positive reinforcement will flow beyond the walls of the classroom and into their daily lives at home. Continue to communicate with their parents to encourage excitement by the whole family about all of the new changes they are experiencing. Remind parents to reinforce the concepts taught in this unit through the use of both the Family Time page and the *Parent Connection* magazine.



LESSON 3 PLANNER

Goal: To discover that God loves us and has given us unique gifts and talents that we are to share with others

Engage

Page 47

Objective

To know that God loves us just as we are

Family Time

Ensure that each student tears out their Family Time page to complete at home

Pray

Celebrate human diversity

Focus

Discover that each person is unique

Discover

Explore individual gifts

Teach

Page 48

Objective

To recognize the special gifts of people with special needs

Focus

Understand the gifts of those with special needs

Explore

Read, discuss and summarize how our bodies are good and need to be cared for properly

Connect

Complete sentences with individual answers

Catholics Believe: God gives each person gifts to share

Apply

Page 49

Objective

To celebrate the unique talents of the students

Focus

Understand that God wants us to be proud of who we are

Discover

Describe the gifts and talents of other students

Integrate

Draw how special gifts can help a family member

Pray

Pray using The Catholic Home section or another prayer

Story Preview

STORY THREE Gifts to Share

Bill, Jean and John have gifts to share. During a museum trip, each of the friends is able to help, in their own way, a group of lost children. Jean was blind, but she could hear sounds others did not notice. John couldn't hear sounds, but he could read lips. Bill discovered many things as he moved slowly in his wheelchair. Each friend happily shared a clue that guided the lost children to the museum entrance to find their bus.

Materials Needed

- ▶ writing paper
- ▶ name tags
- ▶ pens, pencils
- ▶ children's Bible
- ▶ art supplies
- ▶ Lesson 3 Activity Masters

Call to Prayer

God our Father, help us remember that we are your beloved children. Give me the words to inspire each of my students to rejoice in their individuality. Amen.

Who Are You?

LESSON
3

There's No One Just Like You

You are one of a kind.

In all the world, there is no one else just like you.

There will never be another you.

Isn't that great?

God loves you just as you are.

God gave you your own gifts and talents to share.

God wants you to be yourself and to make the most of who you are.



Tell about one special gift that God gave you.



Who Are You? 21

Teaching Tip

Peer Pressure: Second graders are influenced by peer pressure. They need to learn that following the leader is not always the best thing to do. They need to acquire the self-confidence to see themselves as unique with special gifts to be shared. Someone who feels loved by God can extend that love to others more easily. Help the students discover their special gifts. Explain that sharing with others unselfishly and willingly is generosity, and wisdom means making good choices. Let the students give examples of times when they feel they have acted generously and wisely. You too can be a great role model.

ENGAGE

Objective

To know that
God loves
us just as we are

Pray

Open the lesson with a prayer celebrating the uniqueness of each person.

Focus

Inquire: Have you ever met anyone who looks just like you? Who talks just like you? Who laughs just like you? Who acts just like you? Explain that they will not meet anyone just like them because God created them unique, one of a kind.

Discover

- ▶ Direct students' attention to the text on the page. Read aloud the text.
- ▶ Have students imagine a birthday party scene in which everyone looked exactly the same, wearing the same type of clothes, too. Ask: What if all the people in the world looked and acted exactly the same; how would life be? (*perhaps boring with many things not being able to be done or accomplished*)
- ▶ Say: God wants you to love and value yourself and to make the most of who you are.
- ▶ Ask: What is a special gift that God gave you? How can you use it to help others?

Objective

To recognize the special gifts of people with special needs

Focus

Inquire: Do you have any friends or family members with special needs? Ask: What kinds of gifts do they have? Explain people with specific disabilities have gifts that others do not have.

Explore

- ▶ Read Story Three on page 105 in this edition. Ask: What did John see that others didn't? (*the shadow from the pendulum*) What did Jean have that others didn't? (*a keen sense of hearing*) Why did Bill notice more than others? (*He paused often in his wheelchair to look and listen carefully.*)

- ▶ Direct students' attention to the page. Read aloud the text. Remind students that God created us, including our bodies, in his image and likeness. So our bodies are good and need to be cared for properly.

Connect

Read aloud The Catholics Believe box. Inquire: How can you use one of your gifts to help others? Invite the students to complete the activity by filling in the sentences with their unique answers.

Gifts to Share

Each person is different.
Each person has special gifts and talents.

Jean cannot see.
She feels and hears things that her friends never notice.

John cannot hear.
He can read lips and talk with his hands.

Bill cannot walk.
He uses a wheelchair to go everywhere.
He can draw and sing and make his friends laugh.

God gives everyone different gifts.
All people have gifts to share.



Catholics Believe
God gives each person gifts to share.



Tell about yourself.

All About Me

My name is _____.

I can _____.

I like to _____.

22 Who Are You?

Extending the Lesson

Using Activity Masters: Use the Activity Masters "I'm One of a Kind!" and "Give God Thanks" to further develop the concepts explored in this lesson. The "I'm One of a Kind!" activity helps students see themselves as unique. The "Give God Thanks" activity reinforces the idea that their talents are gifts to be shared.

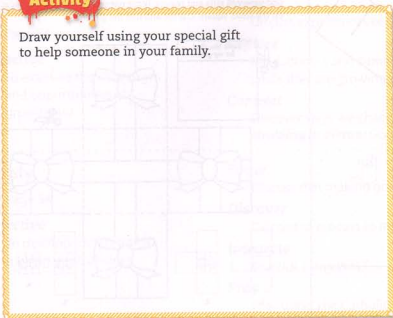
Celebrating Our Unique Gifts: Have students draw themselves using their unique gift or talent in a brave way to help someone else. Suggest that in a certain way, they are a hero to another child when they use their unique gifts and talents to help them.

Sharing My Special Gifts

Feel proud of who you are.
 God made you special.
 God gave you special gifts.
 What is one special gift that you have?
 How can you use that gift to help someone
 in your family?

Activity

Draw yourself using your special gift
 to help someone in your family.



Who Are You? 23

Teaching Tip

Saintly Examples: In discussing examples of people who have used their gifts and talents from God for the benefit and good of others, use the life of a saint. Any saint will do; simply make the story age-appropriate. There are many children's books on the lives of the saints or on a particular saint. Focus on the saint's desire to discover what God has given them and how they used those gifts and talents to thank and serve God by helping others. These stories can provide excellent examples to encourage students to do likewise and strengthen their confidence that they too are called by God to use the gifts and talents he has given them to help others. The generosity of God will in turn lead to our generosity toward others.

Objective

To celebrate
 the unique talents
 of the students

Focus

Have students decorate and wear a name tag. Explain that just as each of us has a unique name, so too we have unique talents and gifts. God desires for us to be proud of who we are so that we can be generous in sharing our talents to help others.

Discover

- ▶ Direct students' attention to the text on the page. Read the text aloud together.
- ▶ Have students sit in a circle wearing a name tag. Invite them to think about the talents or gifts they see in the classmate to their left. Have students take turns describing one talent or gift of that person.
- ▶ Remind students that some people are better than others at specific things. God gave each person special gifts and abilities so we can help each other. And God will always love them no matter what happens to them.

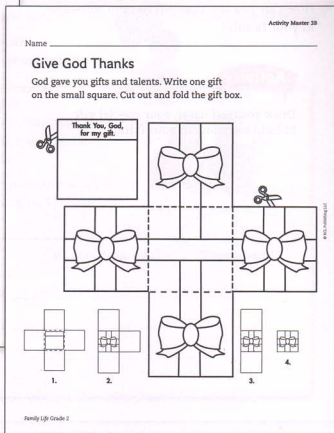
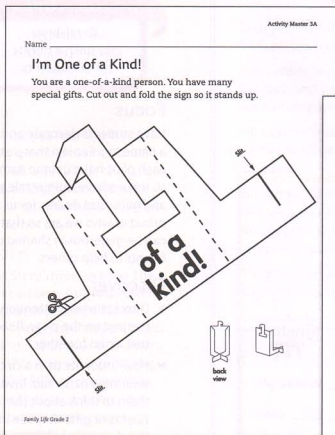
Integrate

Have students complete the activity on the page. Allow time for them to share what they drew in their picture.

Pray

End the lesson with a prayer from The Catholic Home section or with one of your own.

ONLINE ACTIVITIES FOR LESSON 3



How to Find It How to Use It

Step 1: Click & Select



Go to RCLBFamilyLife.com
Click on the link for activities.
Then select the activity master you need.

Step 2: Print & Copy



Print each activity master in advance.
Then copy enough for everyone in the class.

Step 3: Share & Discuss



Once students have completed the activity,
have them share and discuss their responses.

LESSON 4 PLANNER

Goal: To discover that part of growing up is making good choices

Engage

Page 52

Objective

To identify how students grow and change

Pray

Celebrate all things that grow

Focus

Role-play the growth of tiny seeds

Discover

Reflect on the changes involved with personal growth

Teach

Page 53

Objective

To examine the challenges and opportunities of growing up

Focus

Discuss experiences of growing up

Explore

Read, discuss and summarize the different feelings one can have while they are growing up

Connect

Discover ways we change

Growing in Virtue: God's help can help us act bravely

Apply

Page 54

Objective

To develop a strategy for making good choices

Focus

Discuss that making good choices is part of growing up

Discover

Discover a process to make good and brave choices

Integrate

Practice using WALT

Pray

Pray using The Catholic Home section or another prayer

Reviewing Unit 2

Summarize and review the content from both lessons

Story Preview

STORY FOUR Changes

As Karen is growing and changing, her responsibilities grow and change, too. At times she wonders how things that have always been just right aren't just right anymore. Karen feels very proud when her friend compliments her choice of a pretty sweater. Gradually, Karen becomes more confident. Growing and changing has caused her to learn and enjoy many new things.

Materials Needed

- ▶ writing paper
- ▶ pens, pencils
- ▶ art supplies
- ▶ chart paper
- ▶ children's Bible
- ▶ Lesson 4 Activity Masters

Call to Prayer

Jesus, help me be a worthy model for my students and a good steward of the gifts you have given to me. Bless us today in our efforts to do what is good and right. Amen.

Objective

To identify how students grow and change

Pray

Open the lesson with a prayer about the beauty of all things that grow (see Sirach 43:1–12).

Focus

Students move as teacher narrates: Pretend that you are tiny seeds snuggled into rich soil. As the sun comes and warms the earth, the tiny seeds push their way through the soil slowly, slowly growing. And growing. Until they are tall with lush, leafy branches. Explain that they too are growing in similar ways.

Discover

- ▶ Direct students' attention to the page. Read aloud together the text. Ask: What is happening in the picture?
- ▶ Ask: What helps you grow? (*food, water, sleep, good hygiene, vitamins, fresh air, prayer and love*)
- ▶ Ask: What changes do you notice in yourself as you grow? Encourage students to be specific in how they have changed or grown in physical, emotional and spiritual ways. Have them name ways that people treat them differently now than when they were younger.
- ▶ Have students identify objects in the room and then describe a classmate.

LESSON
4

I Can Be Brave

You Are Growing

Every day you grow and change.

It happens very slowly.

Maybe you don't feel it.

Maybe you don't think about it.

But it is happening all the time.

Your body changes.

You learn new things.

You see new things.



How have you grown this year?



24 I Can Be Brave

Teaching Tip

Feeling Overwhelmed: Second graders are ambivalent about the growing process. They are eager for greater freedom, but they also long at times to retreat into the years when less was expected of them. This can cause some anxiety and feelings of being overwhelmed in some students. If the students are feeling too overwhelmed at times, you may need to slow down a little and give them some extra encouragement, understanding and opportunities to relax.

Being Aware: For their safety students need to learn to be observant about their surroundings. This will help them report what they see. Tell students the importance of being aware of what is happening around them and how people treat them.

Changes

As you grow up, your body changes.
It will get bigger.
It will look and feel different.
You will have new feelings and ideas.

You will have new friends.
You will learn new things about yourself and God.
You will decide more things by yourself.

Growing up is not always easy. Making good choices is not always easy.

But God always helps you.
You can be brave and happy.
Life can be more exciting with each new day.

Growing in Virtue

I can be brave with God's help.



Activity

When I Was a Baby I Could

Now I Can

I Can Be Brave 25

Extending the Lesson

Using Activity Masters: Use the Activity Masters "Growing Mobile" and "I Care for Myself" to further develop the concepts explored in this lesson. The "Growing Mobile" coloring activity helps students appreciate God's help in their lives. The "I Care for Myself" puzzle activity reinforces the importance of caring for themselves.

Exploring Heroes: Have students identify and describe one of their favorite heroes. Invite them to also explain why they chose that person as their hero. Explain that heroes use their special gifts and talents to help others. Heroes come from imagination, folklore and real life. Every saint is a hero, and each of the students can be a hero too.

Objective

To examine the challenges and opportunities of growing up

Focus

Ask: What is fun about growing up? Difficult? List responses on the board pointing out the similarities and differences. Explain to students that God helps them grow and wants them to be their best.

Explore

- ▶ Invite students to describe what is happening in the picture on the page. Read aloud together the text on the page.
- ▶ Read Story Four on page 106 in this edition. Ask: What problems was Karen having? (*She missed how she felt when younger.*) What good things were happening? (*She was able to do more, make choices, have more friends, learn new things, etc.*) What did Karen find out about herself? (*She could handle it.*)
- ▶ Explain that Karen was brave for being able to handle the new things in her life.

Connect

Read aloud the Growing in Virtue box. Challenge students to reflect on how they can ask for God's help. Invite students to complete the activity on the page.

APPLY

Objective

To develop a strategy for making good choices

Focus

Explain that making choices is part of growing up. Like Karen in the story, they too will experience different emotions and be able to handle them by making good choices.

Discover

- ▶ Direct students' attention to the pictures and text on the page. Read aloud the text.
- ▶ Explain that WALT can help them to make good choices. Address any questions or concerns about WALT.
- ▶ Have students repeat and memorize WALT.

Integrate

- ▶ Have students practice using WALT. Use these or other age-appropriate scenarios: you see someone teasing a student with braces; while on the Internet, someone requests a picture of you; a friend invites you to his house when no parent is home.
- ▶ Have students complete the activity on the page. Then ask them to share with the class their responses.

Pray

End the lesson with a prayer from The Catholic Home section or with one of your own.

Making Good Choices

To help you make good and brave choices, remember WALT.



Watch what others do.



Ask trusted adults and friends.



Listen to their good advice.



Think before you act.



Think about making a good choice.

Who will you WATCH? _____

Who will you ASK? _____

Who will you LISTEN TO? _____

What will you do next? _____

26 I Can Be Brave

Teaching Tip

Choices in the Classroom: Practice what the students have been learning by appropriately allowing them to make choices about classroom activities. Perhaps you can offer options between activities or lessons and allow students to decide which one to do first. The lessons could be easy or difficult. Having learning centers as part of the classroom environment is helpful in enabling students to make good choices.

ONLINE ACTIVITIES FOR LESSON 4

Name _____

Activity Master 4A

Growing Mobile

Color the spaces between the words.

Cut out the mobile. Cut along the heavy black line, starting and stopping at the black dots.

Punch out the hole and add string.



Family Life Grade 2

Name _____

Activity Master 4B

I Care for Myself

Read the sentences.

Print the circled letters in the boxes.

Read the message.

1. I try to @bey good r@les.

Y O U

2. I @lways b@ush my re@ch.

A R E

3. Ev@ry day I p@ctice safet@.

V E R Y

4. I alway@ try to @@ke the @igh@ choice.

S M A R T.

5. That's h@w I care f@r myself eve@y d@@.

H O O R A Y,

Family Life Grade 2



How to Find It How to Use It

Step 1: Click & Select



Go to RCLBFamilyLife.com

Click on the link for activities.

Then select the activity master you need.

Step 2: Print & Copy



Print each activity master in advance.

Then copy enough for everyone in the class.

Step 3: Share & Discuss



Once students have completed the activity,
have them share and discuss their responses.

REVIEWING UNIT 2

Summary

- ▶ Ask the students to read through the Summary section.
- ▶ Invite them to ask questions about any points that are not clear to them. Make sure to expand on any points that were perhaps touched on only lightly during class time.

Content Review

- ▶ Use the word bank to complete each sentence.
- ▶ Then complete the True and False section.
- ▶ You may choose to have the students complete this as a class or as individuals.

REVIEWING UNIT 2

Name _____

Summary

We have learned about God's Gift of Self.

LESSON 3: Who Are You?

- God loves me just as I am.
- God has given everyone gifts to share
- I am proud of who God made me to be.

LESSON 4: I Can Be Brave

- As I grow, my body, mind and feelings change.
- I can be brave with God's help.
- I can make good decisions.

Content Review

Complete each sentence using one word from the word bank.

act brave gifts grow

1. God gives everyone unique **GIFTS** and talents to share.
2. As I **GROW**, my body changes.
3. With God's help, I can be **BRAVE** in making good choices.
4. Before I make a choice, I should think before I **ACT**

Circle the T if the statement is true.

Circle the F if the statement is false.

1. Many other people are exactly like you. T ☐ F ☐
2. Sometimes it is difficult to make good choices. ☐ T ☐ F
3. A person who cannot see has gifts to share too. ☐ T ☐ F
4. You must be an adult before you can use your gifts. T ☐ F ☐
5. Some people do not have any special gifts and talents. T ☐ F ☐

Unit 2 Review 27

REVIEWING UNIT 2

Name _____

Thinking It Through

Read each question. Then write a short response.
Share your answers.

1. What gifts has God given me to share with others?

2. How does God help me to use my gifts well?

3. How can I tell that I am growing?

Working Together

Write a letter to yourself about some of the things that you have learned. Be sure to put your name, age and today's date on the letter. Seal it in an envelope and write your name on it. Open the envelope after you have completed the last lesson in this book.

28 Unit 2 Review

Thinking It Through

- ▶ Have students answer all three questions on the page.
- ▶ Assign each student a number from one through three.
- ▶ Have students share with the class their answer to the question that corresponds to their assigned number.

Working Together

- ▶ Distribute the materials and allow time for students to complete the letter writing project.
- ▶ Collect all of their letters and place them in a box labeled "Time Capsule." Be sure to mark the outside with the date the box will be opened.
- ▶ End the unit with a prayer from The Catholic Home section.

Teaching Tip

Making Choices: Sometimes it can be difficult for parents to allow their children to start making choices on their own. But letting them make no choices also prevents them from developing the necessary decision-making skills. To help parents in this transition, allow students to make choices in appropriate situations and settings. Then have parents talk with their children about the choices that they made in class that day. Encourage parents to build upon the choices made in the classroom at home. This will help their child gradually learn to make more important decisions as they mature. Be supportive of parents and adults with the students, letting them know that some decision are for adults to make.