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Unit 1: THE MYSTERY OF GOD

LESSON 1: WHO IS GOD?



Vocabulary

being: someone who is, who exists

believe: to know and to accept by faith

Bible: the book that contains the holy writings about God

choose: to decide; to make a choice

image: a copy or reflection of something

infinite: without end or limits; forever

inspire: to give someone an idea to act

mystery: something we cannot fully understand

perfection: without mistake; excellence; completeness

reveal: to make known; to show

Concepts of Faith

Who is God?

God is the all-powerful, all-wise, and all-loving Being who created everything.

How do we come to know God?

We come to know God by studying the things He has made, by reading Bible stories about Him, and by listening to what the Church teaches.



LESSON 1: WHO IS GOD?

Psalm 104:1–4

Bless the LORD, O my soul!

O LORD my God, you are very great!
You are clothed with honor and majesty,
who cover yourself with light as with a garment,
who have stretched out the heavens like a tent,
who have laid the beams of your chambers on the waters,
who make the clouds your chariot,
who ride on the wings of the wind,
who make the winds your messengers,
fire and flame your ministers.

When we are asked, “What might God look like?” we may think of Him as a mighty king, wearing a crown, and riding on a chariot made of clouds as the psalm describes. We cannot see God.

Still, we can imagine what He might look like.

Who is God, then? God is the source of all life. He is the all-powerful, all-wise, and all-loving Being who created everything. He is a mystery that we cannot completely understand.

Because God is the supreme mystery, how do we come to know Him? We can come to know God by studying the things He has made, by reading Bible stories about Him, by listening to what the Church teaches.

LESSON 1: WHO IS GOD?



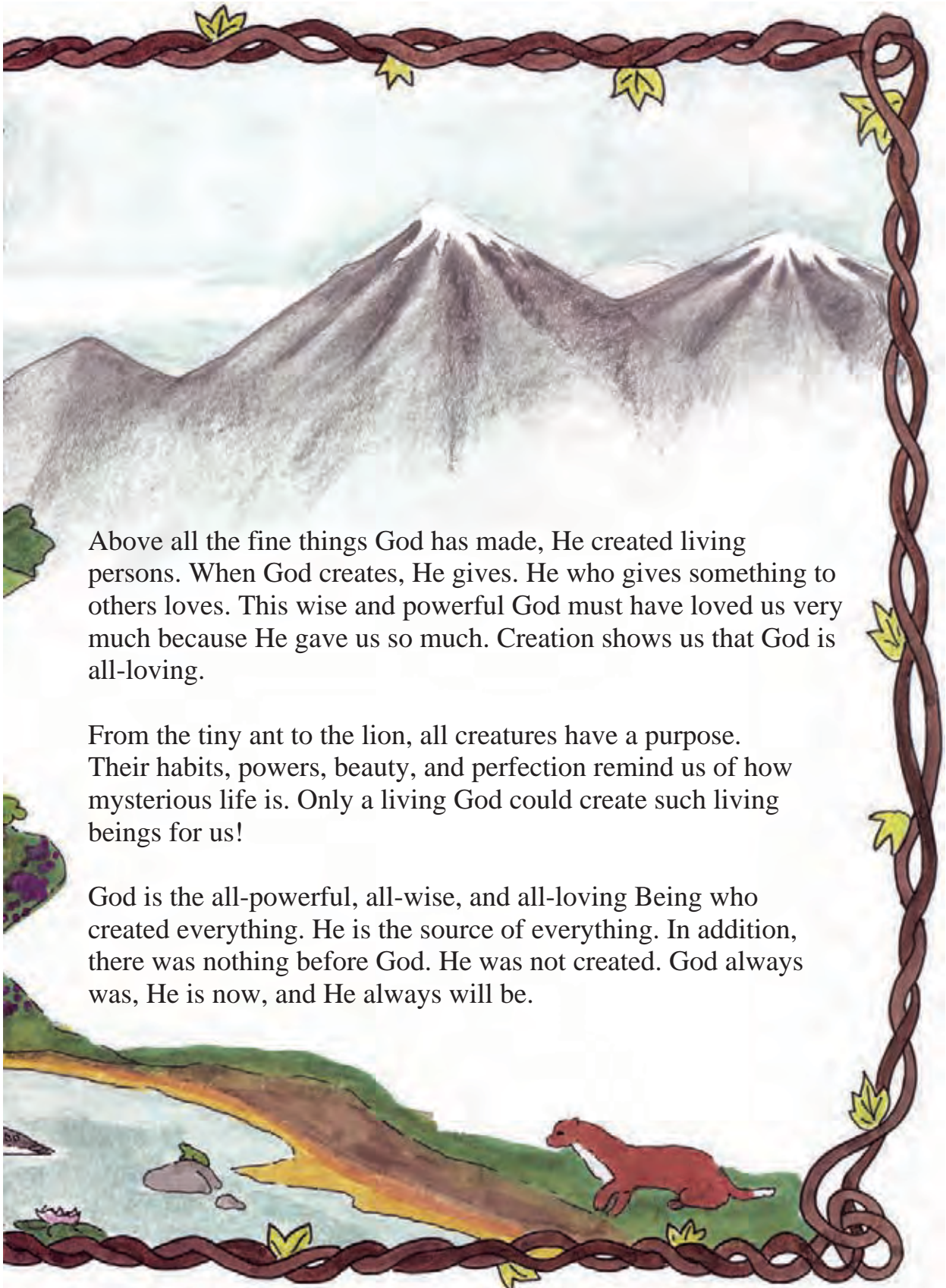
All of creation was wonderfully planned and was created by God from nothing. The earth on which we live rotates on its own axis. Day turns into night, and night turns into day. The seasons return year after year at the same time, providing sunshine and showers for all of God's creatures. Plans such as these show us that God is all-wise. The handiwork of creation shows us that He is all-powerful.



LESSON 1: WHO IS GOD?



LESSON 1: WHO IS GOD?

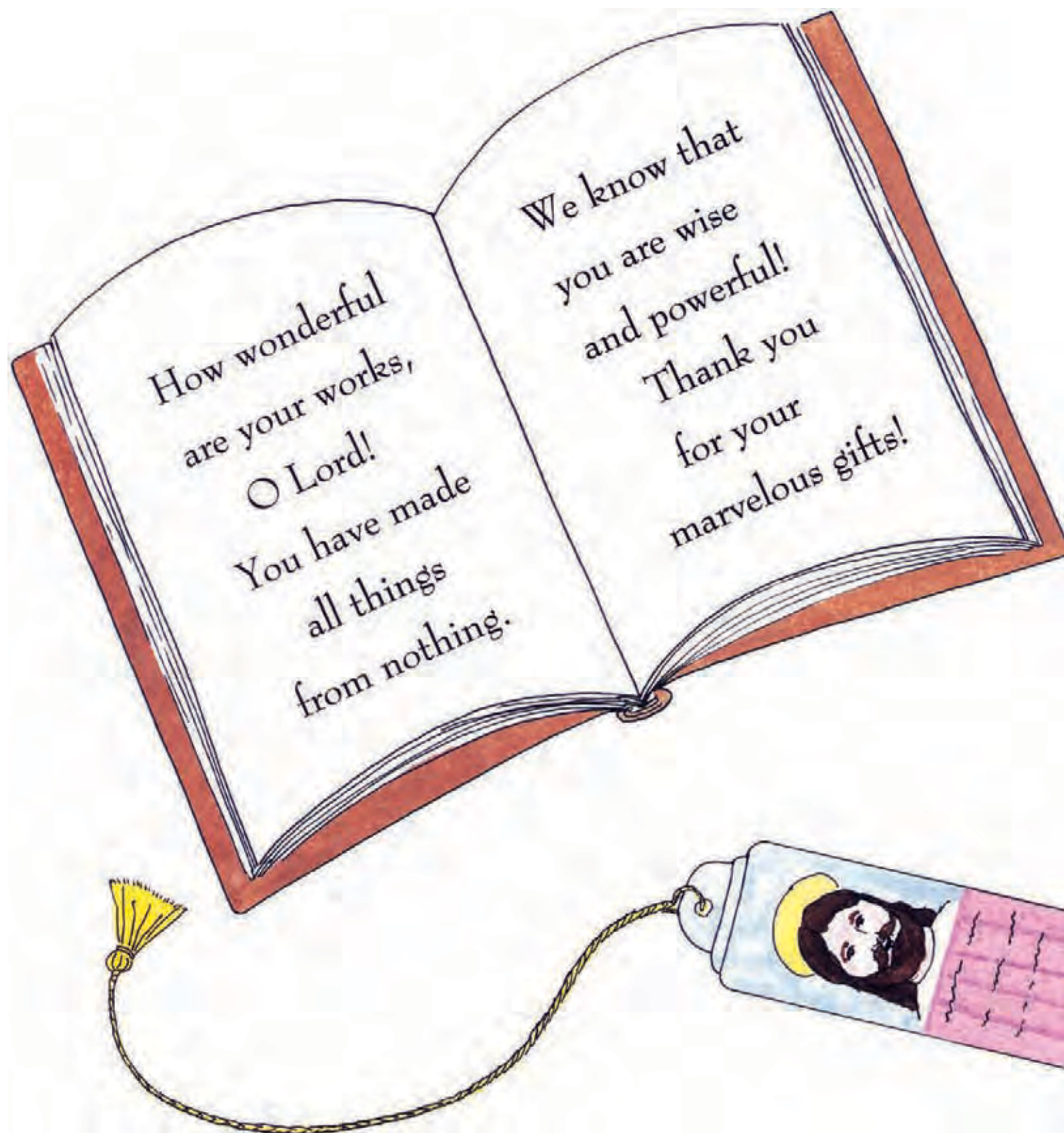


Above all the fine things God has made, He created living persons. When God creates, He gives. He who gives something to others loves. This wise and powerful God must have loved us very much because He gave us so much. Creation shows us that God is all-loving.

From the tiny ant to the lion, all creatures have a purpose. Their habits, powers, beauty, and perfection remind us of how mysterious life is. Only a living God could create such living beings for us!

God is the all-powerful, all-wise, and all-loving Being who created everything. He is the source of everything. In addition, there was nothing before God. He was not created. God always was, He is now, and He always will be.

LESSON 1: WHO IS GOD?



LESSON 1: WHO IS GOD?

We learned that we can come to know God by studying the wonders of His world. But God also reveals Himself to us by speaking to us. His Word can be found in stories about Him in the Bible.

Long ago, before there were any books, God spoke to a certain group of people. He revealed His great power in the things He did for them. They were so inspired by His words and deeds that they told stories about Him.

Years passed and other people began writing down those stories about the wonder of our Creator. The writings were saved and collected over many hundreds of years. A sacred book was formed by the Church. One of the ways God speaks to us today is through this book. It tells us about God. This book of holy writings is called the Bible.

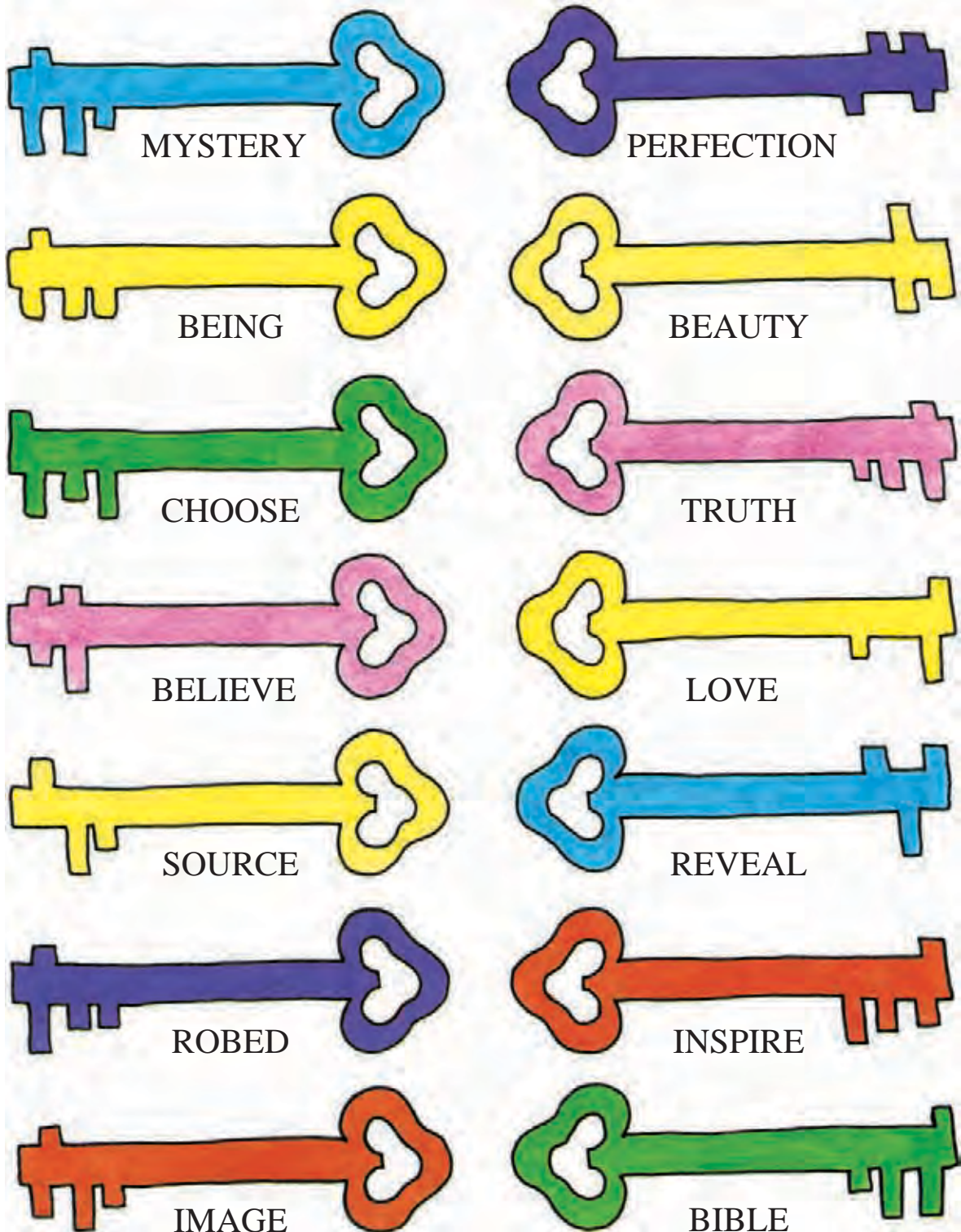
The word “Bible” comes from the Greek word *biblion*, meaning “book”. The Bible is not just one book; it is a library of books in one volume. The Bible is one of the ways that the Church teaches us about God. There are other things about God that are not in the Bible. We know these things as “Sacred Tradition”. The Church teaches us about God through Sacred Tradition, too. In order for us to know all there is to know about God, we should listen to the teachings of the Church.





LESSON 1: WHO IS GOD?

Directions: Cut out the words. Match them to the definitions on the next page. Glue the words and definitions together on a separate sheet of paper.



LESSON 1: WHO IS GOD?

Directions: Cut out the definitions. Match them with the words on the previous page. Glue the words and definitions together on a separate sheet of paper.



a truth that our minds cannot completely understand



someone that is, that exists



the book that contains God's word



to make known; to show



something true or right



a person, place, or thing from which something comes



without mistakes, excellence, completeness



to know and to accept by faith



a copy or reflection of something



to choose freely to give oneself to God and others



to give someone an idea to act



clothed with a robe



a quality that is delightful to look at, listen to, or think about



to decide—to make a choice

LESSON 2: THREE PERSONS IN ONE GOD



Vocabulary

divine: having to do with God

person: someone who has a mind and a will

Savior: Jesus Christ

Blessed Trinity: in God there are three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

grace: the gift of God's life that He shares with persons

Concepts of Faith

What is the Blessed Trinity?

The mystery of the three Persons in one God.

Who are the members of the Blessed Trinity?

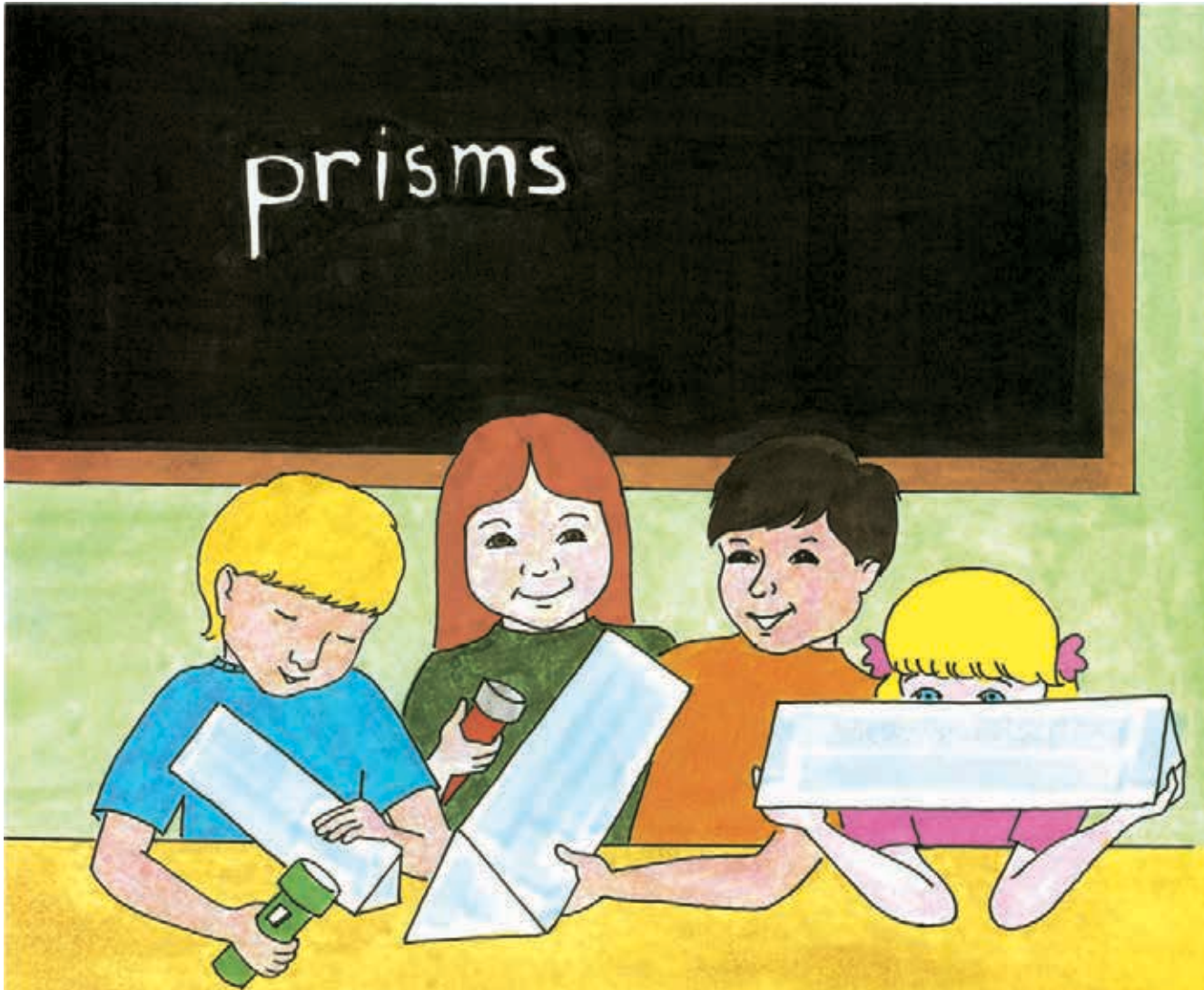
We call the first Person God the Father, the second Person God the Son, and the third Person God the Holy Spirit.

How can we think of each Person?

We can think of God the Father as our Creator, God the Son as our Teacher and Savior, and God the Holy Spirit as our Helper.



LESSON 2: THREE PERSONS IN ONE GOD



There is only one God. Yet there are three Divine Persons in God: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. We call the mystery of three Persons in one God the Blessed Trinity.

We can think of God the Father as our Creator; we can think of God the Son as our Teacher and Savior; and we can think of God the Holy Spirit as our Helper. We only think of them as acting separately, but God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit create, teach, save, and help together.

The Blessed Trinity is a mystery. It is difficult for us to understand. To help us learn about each Person, we are going to look at each one individually.

LESSON 2: THREE PERSONS IN ONE GOD



God the Father's perfect image, God the Son, became man. We call Him Jesus. Through His teaching, Jesus tells us that we are images of God. He also teaches us how we should act as images of God. As our Savior, Jesus returned God's love and helps us return God's love.

God the Holy Spirit comes to us to give us grace, God's life. He comes to us every time we receive the Sacraments. He helps us act as images of God.

Again, we must remember that God (all three Persons) creates us, saves and teaches us, helps us, and loves us. All three Persons work together as one.

When God the Father created the world and all of us, He showed us His power. He brought the world into existence out of nothing. He also created us in His image and likeness.

LESSON 2: THREE PERSONS IN ONE GOD

Scripture Story

Creation

Based on Genesis 1:1–31

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and darkness was everywhere. Then God said, “Let there be light”, and there was light. He called the light “day” and the darkness “night”.

Next, God made the blue sky. God separated the waters above the sky and the waters below the sky. God gathered the waters under the sky into one place. He made the beautiful oceans. God called the dry land “earth” and the waters “seas”. God created grassy fields, hills, and mountains. To add to the landscape, God created flowers and trees. God created two great lights, the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He also made the stars.

God filled the waters with everything that swims and the sky with everything that flies. Then God made every kind of animal: wild and tame, big and small.

God looked at everything that He had made. He saw that it was good.



LESSON 2: THREE PERSONS IN ONE GOD

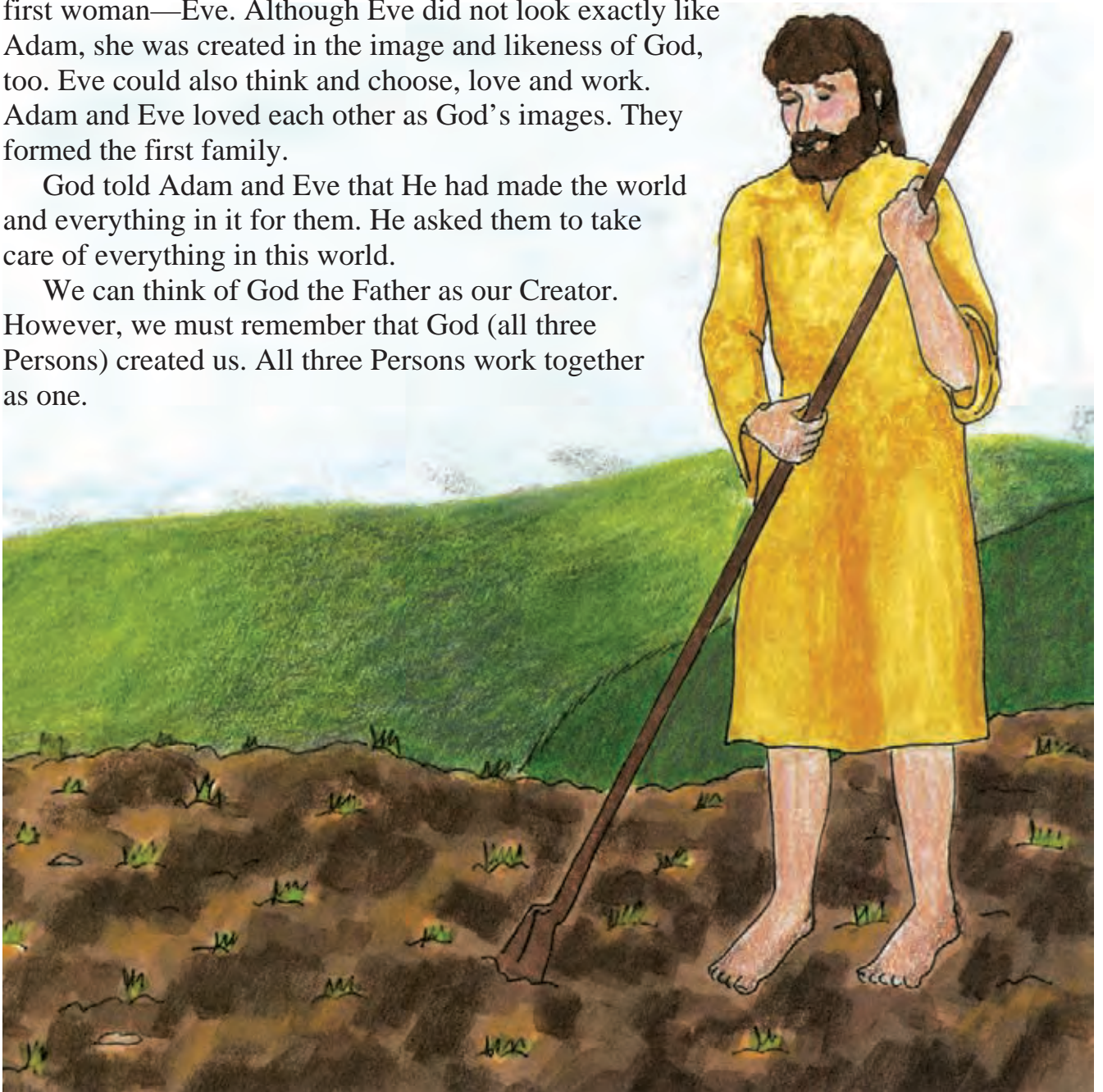
Then God made Adam, the first man. Adam was special. He was an image of God. He could share God's life, grace. He could think and choose, love and work. Adam was a person.

Even though Adam enjoyed taking care of God's world, he was lonesome. He was the only person with a body! There were angels. Angels are persons, but they do not have bodies. Adam could not see them and talk to them. He wanted to share his life with someone.

God did not want Adam to be lonely. So, God created the first woman—Eve. Although Eve did not look exactly like Adam, she was created in the image and likeness of God, too. Eve could also think and choose, love and work. Adam and Eve loved each other as God's images. They formed the first family.

God told Adam and Eve that He had made the world and everything in it for them. He asked them to take care of everything in this world.

We can think of God the Father as our Creator. However, we must remember that God (all three Persons) created us. All three Persons work together as one.



LESSON 2: THREE PERSONS IN ONE GOD

Review Questions

1. Who created the world and everything in it out of nothing?

2. Whom can we think of as our Creator?

3. In the beginning, there was darkness everywhere. Then God said,
“_____.”
4. Next, God created the sky and the water. What forms of life can be
found in the sky and water?

5. What forms of life can be found on land?

6. The first man, Adam, was special. Why?

7. The first woman, Eve, was special. Why?

8. Adam and Eve loved each other as God’s images. They formed the first

LESSON 2: THREE PERSONS IN ONE GOD

Directions: Fill in the blanks with words that we can use to describe God the Father.

POWERFUL

ALMIGHTY

CREATOR

PERFECT

LOVING

PERSONS

FATHER

C _ _ _ _ _

_ _ _ _ _ R

_ _ _ E _ _ _ _

A _ _ _ _ _

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_ O _ _ _ _

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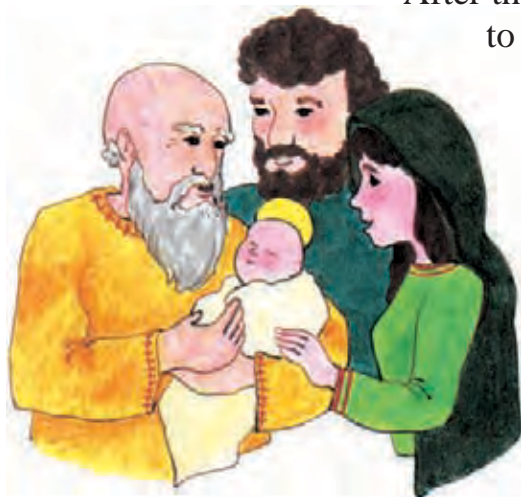
LESSON 2: THREE PERSONS IN ONE GOD

When Jesus was a baby, some of the people of that time knew that He had come to teach them the truth and to save them from sin! Read the following story about two of those people.

Scripture Story

The Presentation in the Temple

Based on Luke 2:22–38



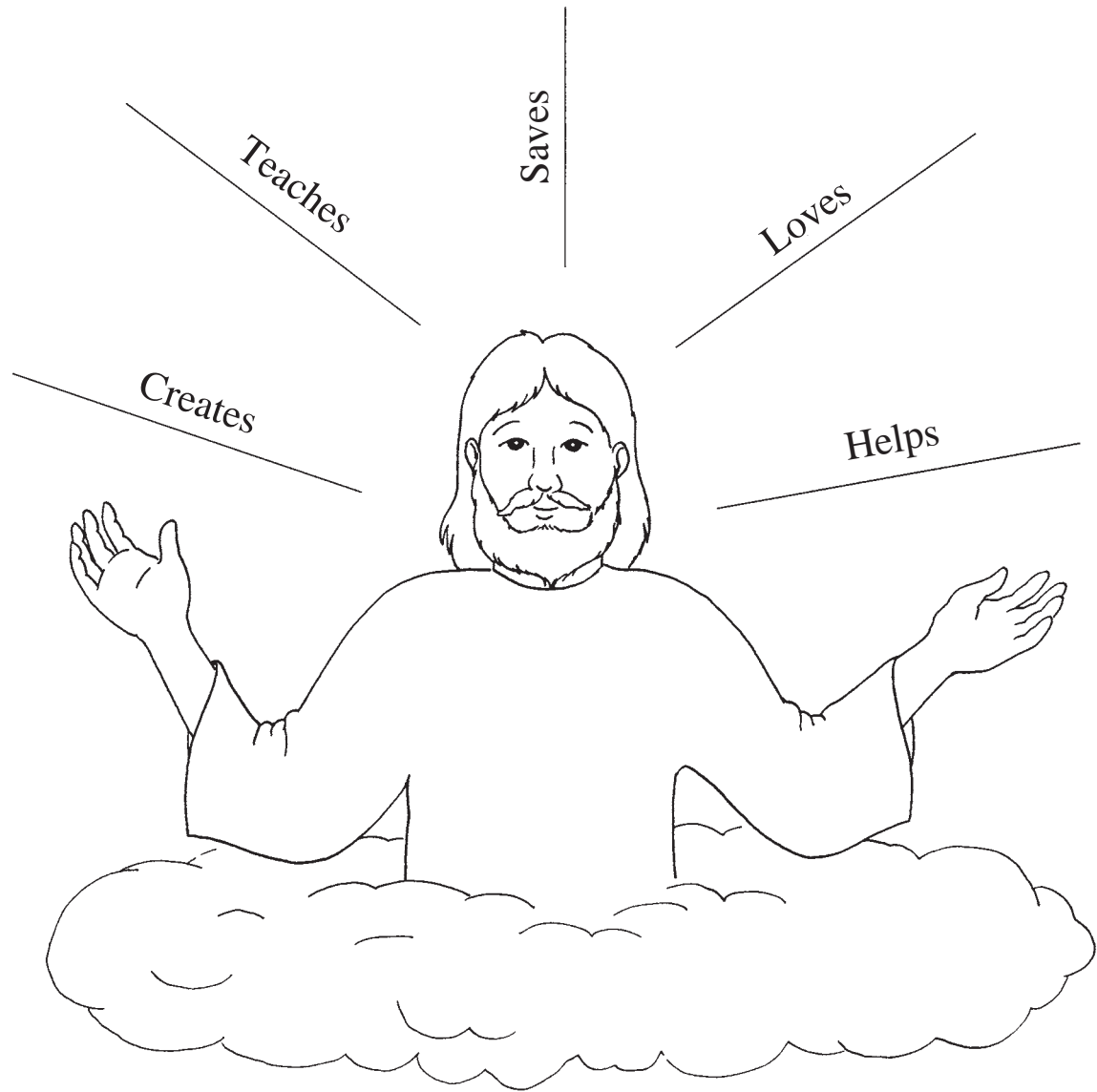
After the birth of the baby Jesus, Mary and Joseph took Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord. There was a man in Jerusalem by the name of Simeon. Simeon was a righteous and devout old man. The Holy Spirit was with him.

When Mary and Joseph arrived at the temple, Simeon was already there. When he saw Mary and Joseph carrying baby Jesus, Simeon went up to them. He took the baby Jesus in his arms and prayed out loud saying, “Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation . . . a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.”

Mary and Joseph marveled at what Simeon had said about Jesus. Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, “Behold, this child is set for the fall . . . of many in Israel . . .” Simeon was telling Mary that many people would not accept what Jesus would say and that Mary would suffer great sorrow.

Anna, an eighty-four-year-old widow, was also in the temple. She saw baby Jesus, too. She gave thanks to God the Father for allowing her to see Jesus. Then she went to tell all of the people who were waiting for news that the Savior had come!

LESSON 2: THREE PERSONS IN ONE GOD



God the Son is the perfect image of God the Father. He became man to be our Teacher and Savior. Through His teaching, Jesus tells us that we are images of God. He also teaches us how we should act as images of God.

When Jesus, God the Son, died on the Cross, He showed His great love for us. He freed us from sin and returned the Father's love. He also made it possible for us to return the Father's love.

We can think of God the Son as our Teacher and Savior. He showed His love for us by dying on the Cross. He is also a Light to the world, showing the way to Heaven. However, we must remember that God (all three Persons) creates us, saves us, helps us, and teaches us. All three Persons work together as one.

LESSON 2: THREE PERSONS IN ONE GOD

Directions: Fill in the blanks with words we can use to describe God the Son.

SON

LORD

TEACHER

IMAGE

LIGHT

SAVIOR

S _ _

_ _ A _ _

_ _ V _ _

_ I _ _

_ O _ _

_ _ _ _ _ R

LESSON 2: THREE PERSONS IN ONE GOD

Scripture Story

The Descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost

Based on Acts 2:1–39

The Apostles were gathered together, all in one place. Suddenly, a sound came from Heaven like the rush of a mighty wind and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Tongues of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit.

The sound caused the multitude of people to come together. The people were bewildered because even though they were from different countries, they heard the Apostles speaking in their own languages. Every one of the people could understand what the Apostles were saying.

All of the people in the crowd were amazed! They asked one another, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language?”

Peter, standing with the other Apostles, raised his voice and said, “Men of Israel, hear these words: . . . This Jesus, who was crucified, God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this which you see and hear.”

When the people in the crowd heard what Peter said, they said, “Brethren, what shall we do?” Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

When the crowd gathered at the coming of the Holy Spirit, all of the people could understand the Apostles. This was a sign that the Holy Spirit wanted all people to know that He is there to help them with His grace.

When the Holy Spirit comes to give us grace, He does not usually come to us in tongues of fire. He does, however, help us act as brighter images of God.

We can think of God the Holy Spirit as our Helper. However, we must remember that God (all three Persons) creates us, saves and teaches us, and helps us. All three Persons work together as one.



LESSON 2: THREE PERSONS IN ONE GOD

Directions: Fill in the blanks with words that remind us of the Holy Spirit.

LIFE	HOLY	SPIRIT	HELPS	GUIDES
LOVES	GRACE	SACRAMENTS	PENTECOST	GIVING

H _ _ _ _

_ O _ _ _

L _ _ _

_ _ _ Y

_ _ _ _ _ S

_ P _ _ _ _

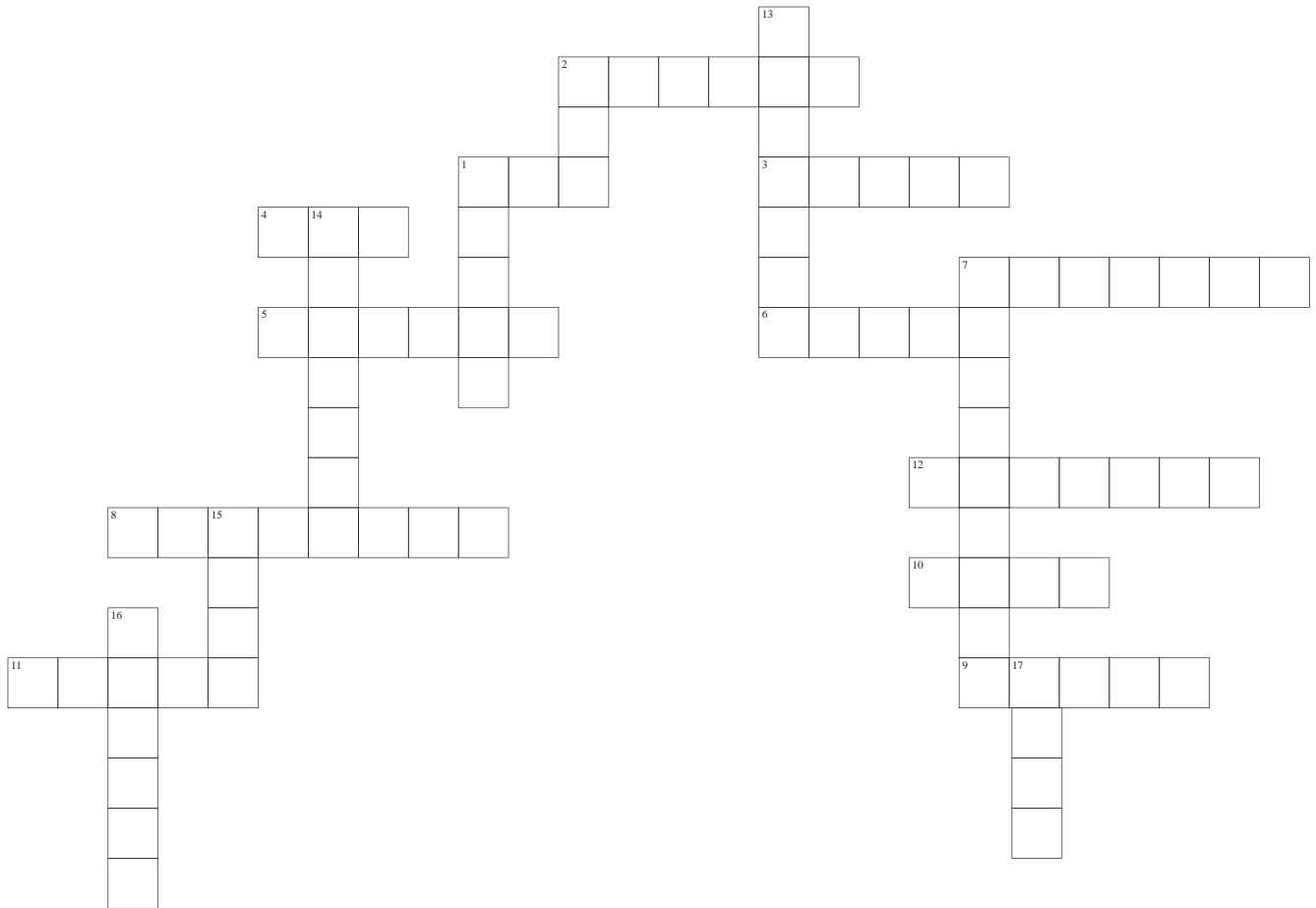
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LESSON 2: THREE PERSONS IN ONE GOD



Across

1. The second Person of the Blessed Trinity is God the _____.
2. Jesus is our _____.
3. and 4. God the Holy Spirit _____ us to _____ as images of God.
5. God the Holy Spirit is our _____.
6. The Holy Spirit brings us God's life, called _____.
7. Jesus is the _____ image of God the Father.
8. God is all-_____.
9. and 12. The Blessed Trinity is _____ in one God.
10. The three Persons _____ and work as one.
11. Each of us is an _____ of God.

Down

1. and 2. Jesus _____ us from _____.
7. The Holy Spirit first came to the Apostles during _____.
13. God created the world out of _____.
14. God the Father is our _____.
15. God is _____.
16. The first Person of the Blessed Trinity is God the _____.
17. The third Person of the Blessed Trinity is God the _____ Spirit.

LESSON 3: LOVING AS GOD LOVES



Vocabulary

Apostles: twelve friends called by Jesus to follow Him. They answered Jesus' call and were sent by Him to teach others about Him and to do His work in a special way

Sacred Tradition: the teaching of the Apostles which has been entrusted to them by Jesus; guided by the Holy Spirit, this teaching has been passed down in the Church through the successors of the Apostles (bishops) to the present day. Both the Bible and Sacred Tradition come from God's revelation in Jesus.

Concepts of Faith

What is our calling as baptized persons?

We are all called to know God, to love God, and to serve God and others.

How do we love as God loves?

By forming groups of persons who work together, love each other, and help each other love as God loves.

How is a "communion of persons", or a kind of family, formed?

A communion of persons is formed when two or more persons work together, love one another, and help each other love as God loves.

When we are baptized, what family do we become part of?

We become part of God's family, the (universal) Church.

Can we belong to more than one family?

Yes, we can belong to many families: our own family, our school family, and our church family.



LESSON 3: LOVING AS GOD LOVES

Loving as God Loves within Families



Each of the three Divine Persons of the Blessed Trinity gives Himself totally to the others. Because the three Persons perfectly love one another, they form a kind of family.

As images of God, we are called to love as God loves. When we love others, we form a kind of family with them.

A kind of family is formed when two or more persons work together, love each other, and help each other love as God loves. We will study three kinds of families.

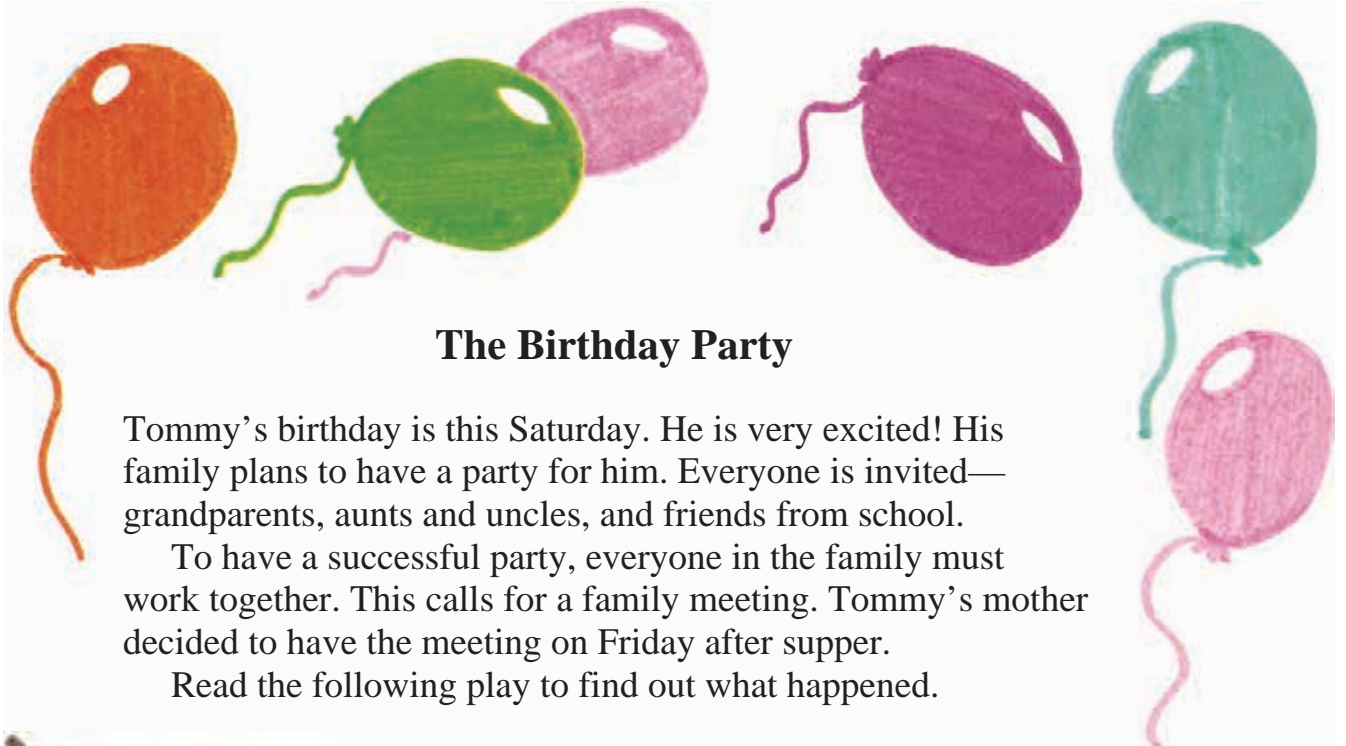
The first kind of family is *the* family. A family begins when a man and a woman marry. They promise to love each other, work together, and help each other love as God loves.

The second kind of family is the group of persons in the workplace. Our workplace is school. This kind of family is formed when students and teachers work together, love each other, and help each other love as God loves.



Finally, the Sacrament of Baptism joins us to another family—God's family. The people within the Church work together, love each other, and help each other love as God loves.

LESSON 3: LOVING AS GOD LOVES



The Birthday Party

Tommy's birthday is this Saturday. He is very excited! His family plans to have a party for him. Everyone is invited—grandparents, aunts and uncles, and friends from school.

To have a successful party, everyone in the family must work together. This calls for a family meeting. Tommy's mother decided to have the meeting on Friday after supper.

Read the following play to find out what happened.



Narrator

Cast of characters:



John Martin, age 17



Sarah Martin, age 13



Tommy Martin, age 9



Dad (Mr. Martin)



Grandma



Grandpa



Mom (Mrs. Martin)

LESSON 3: LOVING AS GOD LOVES

Narrator: It's Friday night. The Martin family is gathered around the kitchen table after supper. All of the dishes have been cleared and washed. Mrs. Martin has a pencil, a list of jobs, and a grocery list.

Mom: We all know that tomorrow is a special day for Tommy. We want to do our best to make it fun for everyone. First, the house needs to be cleaned. I need a volunteer to scrub the floors.

Sarah: I'll do it. I've had a lot of practice. And, when I'm finished, I'll even do the vacuuming!

Dad: Yard work is my specialty! I'll take care of that. We'll need a lot of food. John, why don't you do the shopping? Mom will give you the list.

John: No problem, Dad! I'll need the car keys.

Dad: Okay, but remember, go to the store and back, with no *additional* passengers!

Mom: I'll give you the list tomorrow morning, John. All of you, remember to clean your bedrooms! Tommy, Grandma and Grandpa will be staying in your room tomorrow. You'll be sleeping in John's room. Sarah, Aunt Terry and Uncle Ed will be staying downstairs. Please make sure the sheets, blankets, and pillows are ready for them. I will look over all rooms after lunch on Saturday. Are there any questions?

Family: No!



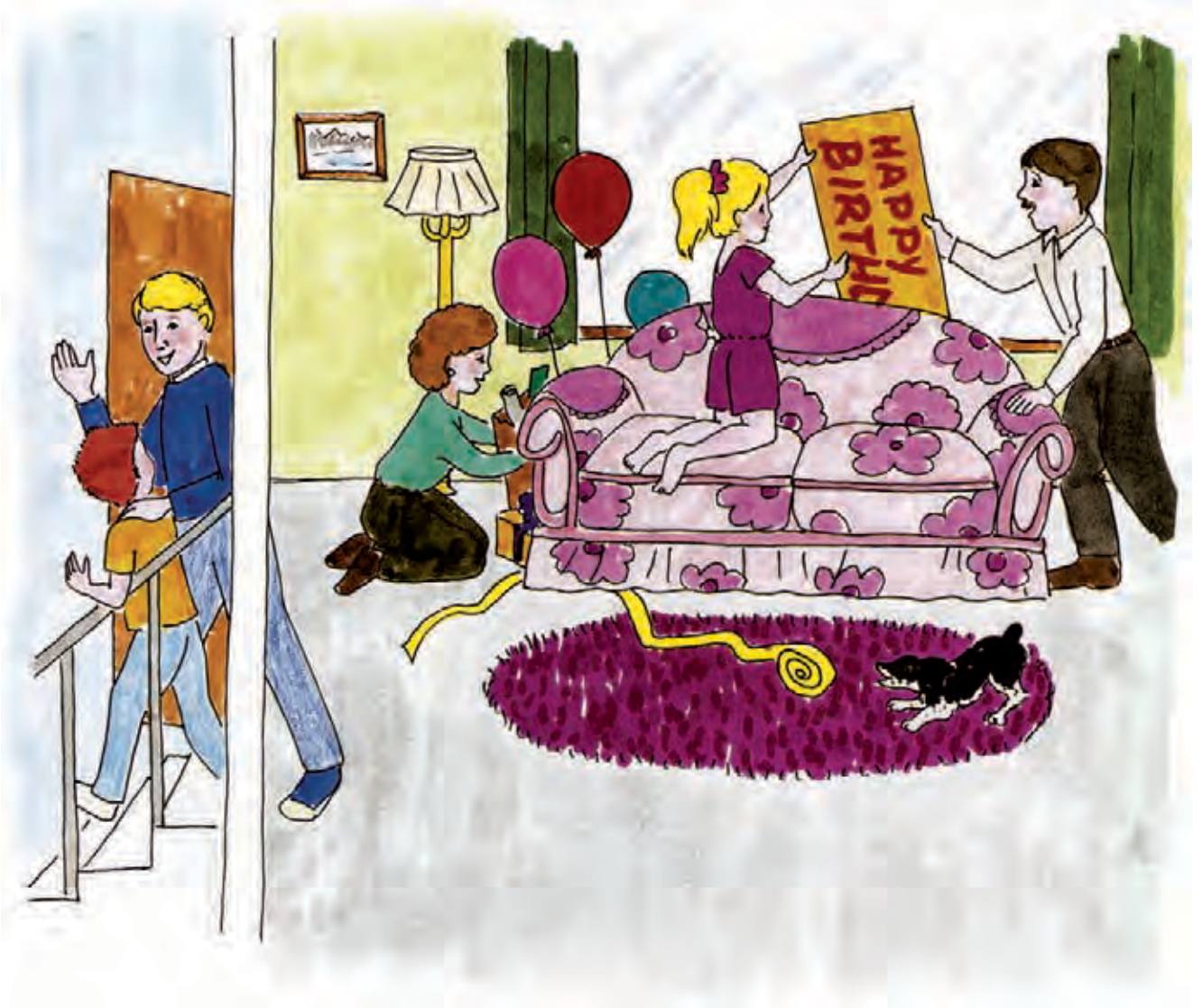
Narrator: It is now Saturday morning. Everyone begins to prepare for the party.

Mom: Let's get going on our chores, everyone! John, please take Tommy to the store with you.

Narrator: After Tommy and John have left, Mom, Dad, and Sarah pull out the decorations from behind the sofa.



LESSON 3: LOVING AS GOD LOVES



Mom: We need to get these up before Tommy gets home, so we don't have much time! Dad, you take care of the backyard. Sarah, you take care of the kitchen, and I'll decorate the living room.

Narrator: By lunchtime the house was ready. Everyone gathered around the kitchen table.

Mom: Our love for each other was easy to see. Everyone chipped in and helped. No one complained. I guess that's what it means to be members of a family! We all work together, love each other, and help each other love as God loves. I'm so proud of all of you!

LESSON 3: LOVING AS GOD LOVES



Narrator: It's time for the party! The doorbell rings. Sarah answers it.

Grandma: The house looks wonderful, Sarah! How did the family do it all?

Sarah: Everyone in the family helped out. Mom says that we are all members of the family. We work together, love each other, and help each other love as God loves.

Grandma: I agree with your mom.

Grandpa: Now, where is that birthday boy?

Sarah: He's in the kitchen. Go ahead and join him! Mom, Dad, and John are in there, too.

Narrator: The birthday party was a big success! Dad visited with everyone and didn't burn the hamburgers. John didn't tease Tommy at all. Everyone helped Mom with the food. Sarah washed the dishes without being asked, and Tommy was thankful for every gift he received. The Martins showed us what a family should be—a group of persons who work together, love each other, and help each other love as God loves.

LESSON 3: LOVING AS GOD LOVES

Our School Family at Work

Our class is like a large family. We need to work together, love each other, and help each other love as God loves. In the classroom we all need to work together so we are all able to learn. Classroom rules help us do this. Can you name some classroom rules?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Sometimes you may not feel very important, but what you have to offer the class is important. Each one of us is working hard to make our school the best learning place that it can be. When we work together, we form a kind of family in the school. We work together, love each other, and help each other love as God loves.

LESSON 3: LOVING AS GOD LOVES

God's Family, the Church

The Sacrament of Baptism joins all of us in one family—God's family, the Church. As members of this family, we should work together, love each other, and help each other love as God loves.

There are many ways in which people work together in God's family. Can you think of some of the ways people help out in your church? Many people help out at Mass. Some people are Eucharistic ministers of Holy Communion, lectors (readers), ushers, altar servers, or choir members. Some people help in other ways, too. Some teach religion classes, clean, or make repairs to the church building, and some collect food or clothing to give to the poor.

When you give your time and talents to others, you are showing your love for them. All of the people who are baptized form the family of the Church. They should all work together, love each other, and help each other love as God loves.



Another very important way we can show that we belong to God's family, the Church, is by actively participating in the celebration of the Mass. We do this by singing together, listening carefully to the cantor, lector, deacon, or priest when they are speaking or singing. We show our respect and love for them and one another when we respond at the appropriate times with our actions and voices. We become one big family!

My Baptism

My full name

My parents

My godparents

The date and time of my Baptism

The church where I was baptized

The priest who baptized me
