

For the Classroom – Formation in Christian Chastity, Grade 5

Lesson Plan 1

Theme: God Made Us To Know The Truth

Objectives:

1. Students will know that Jesus wants us to know Him and follow the truth.
2. Students will have a greater understanding of how we can live out the truth through the virtue of chastity.
3. Students will demonstrate an appreciation for how our bodies are an expression of the truth of our dignity as adopted sons and daughters of God.

Begin by telling the children that every October, the Church dedicates the entire month as “Respect Life” month and that we are going to talk about how we can respect life by respecting ourselves and others. Then, tell them the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Our Lady of Guadalupe:

In 1531, on a hillside in central Mexico, Mary, the Mother of Jesus and our mother, appeared to an Aztec man named Juan Diego five times. She appeared to him as a pregnant Aztec princess. After one of the apparitions, as Juan was hurrying to be with his uncle who was very sick and thought to be near death, Mary told Juan not to worry and that his uncle would be healed. When he arrived at his uncle’s home, his uncle was completely better.

The Blessed Virgin also told Juan, who had recently converted to the Catholic Faith, to tell the local bishop, Bishop Zumarraga, that she wanted a church built there, at the sight of the apparition. When Juan told this to Bishop Zumarraga, the bishop demanded a sign. Mary, who identified herself to Juan as the Ever-Virgin Mother of the True God, told him to pick some roses from the hillside and deliver them to the bishop. Juan obediently found and picked the roses, which was a miracle in itself since the roses were not in season at that time. When he opened his tilma (cloak) to show the bishop the flowers, not only did the beautiful roses fall from the tilma, but miraculously painted on the tilma was a beautiful image of Mary as she had appeared to Juan Diego.

The bishop had a church built at the site of the apparitions. This site is one of the most visited pilgrimage sites in the world today, with several million people visiting it each year. The tilma contains the same image that our Blessed Mother left on it almost 500 years ago. After the apparitions millions of people living in Mexico and elsewhere in the Americas converted to Catholicism. One of the effects of this was that human sacrifice, commonly practiced by some of the native people up to that time, ceased. Thus, the apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe were instrumental in the saving of, and respect for, human life. It is for this reason that Mary is invoked under the title of Our Lady of Guadalupe as Patroness of the Unborn. She is also invoked under this title as Patroness of the Americas. Juan Diego was recently canonized a saint.

After completing the story, lead the children in the following prayer. (The following Opening Prayer, quotations from Scripture, quotations from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, and the “Key Concepts” are reproduced at the end of this Lesson for your distribution to your students. After reciting the prayer together, have the children take turns reading the rest aloud.)

Opening Prayer: Our Lady of Guadalupe, please obtain God’s grace, protection and spiritual health for my family and for all families. Make our homes safe and pure, a home which recognizes the kingship of Jesus - a sanctuary of peace, joy, and love. Help us to image in our family, the Holy Family of Nazareth - Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Help us to know and live out the truth of Christ’s love for us and for all people, and to realize that the more we live chaste, pure lives, the better we will know and live out the truth. Bring us God’s grace to always respect and defend human life, which is so precious a gift from the Father. Intercede for us with Jesus, that we may be granted the grace of living holy lives and of going to heaven one day to live eternally in happiness with the Holy Trinity, with you, Our Lady of Guadalupe, and with all the blessed. Amen.

St. Joseph, Patron of Family life, pray for us!

Saint Juan Diego, pray for us!

Quotation from Sacred Scripture:

Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’ (Matthew 1:23)

Quotation from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (2466):

In Jesus Christ, the whole of God’s truth has been made manifest. “Full of grace and truth,” he came as the “light of the world.” He is the Truth. “Whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.” The disciple of Jesus continues in his word so as to know “the truth [that] will make you free” and that sanctifies.

“Key Concepts” Reading:

How we come to know and live out the truth

Jesus is the Truth. He wants us to know Him and follow the Truth so that we can choose what is good and live joyful lives. God reveals His truth through Scripture, Sacred Tradition, and the teaching office of the Church, i.e., the Pope and the Bishops in union with Him (the Magisterium). We can also know the truth about what is good and right through reason (our ability to think, understand, and judge). Going to Mass, receiving the Holy Eucharist, going to Confession, and daily prayer are essential for us to know and live out the truth.

Each person has dignity imparted to him or her by God. Every baptized person is an adopted son or daughter of God the Father. Because of the dignity that God gave us, we are to respect others and ourselves in thought, word, and deed.

Discussion Questions:

Question: What do we know about Jesus from the Bible?

Answer: He is God, Son of God, Son of Mary and Foster-Son of St. Joseph, Savior, miracle worker, God in the flesh, our friend, etc.

Question: How can we show our family and friends that we know the truth?

Answer: By acting as Christ would, by sharing the Gospel with them, by following the teachings of Christ and His Church, etc.

Activity:

In class have the students write a might list, which explains three ways we might respect others in thought, three ways we might show respect for others in word, or three ways we can show respect for others in deed. (Choose one of these three topics.) Then, have them share their answers with the class.

Summary:

If we want to know the truth, we need to do all we can to learn about Jesus. By reading the Bible, learning the teachings of the Church, and following the teaching of the Pope and the Bishops in union with him, we will come to know Jesus and the Truth. The Church teaches that each person is a unique creation and should be treated with dignity and respect.

Closing Prayer: Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us! Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas and of life, pray for us! Saint Juan Diego, pray for us!

Opening Prayer

Our Lady of Guadalupe,

Please obtain God's grace, protection and spiritual health for my family and for all families.

Make our homes safe and pure, a home which recognizes the kingship of Jesus - a sanctuary of peace, joy, and love.

Help us to image in our family, the Holy Family of Nazareth - Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Help us to know and live out the truth of Christ's love for us and for all people, and to realize that the more we live chaste, pure lives, the better we will know and live out the truth.

Bring us God's grace to always respect and defend human life, which is so precious a gift from the Father.

Intercede for us with Jesus, that we may be granted the grace of living holy lives and of going to heaven one day to live eternally in happiness with the Holy Trinity, with you, Our Lady of Guadalupe, and with all the blessed.

Amen.

St. Joseph, Patron of Family life, pray for us!

Saint Juan Diego, pray for us!

Quotation from Sacred Scripture

Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’ (Matthew 1:23)

Quotation from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (2466)

In Jesus Christ, the whole of God’s truth has been made manifest. “Full of grace and truth,” he came as the “light of the world.” He is the Truth. “Whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.” The disciple of Jesus continues in his word so as to know “the truth [that] will make you free” and that sanctifies.

“Key Concepts” Reading

How we come to know and live out the truth

Jesus is the Truth. He wants us to know Him and follow the Truth so that we can choose what is good and live joyful lives. God reveals His truth through Scripture, Sacred Tradition, and the teaching office of the Church, i.e., the Pope and the Bishops in union with Him (the Magisterium). We can also know the truth about what is good and right through reason (our ability to think, understand, and judge). Going to Mass, receiving the Holy Eucharist, going to Confession, and daily prayer are essential for us to know and live out the truth.

Each person has dignity imparted to him or her by God. Every baptized person is an adopted son or daughter of God the Father. Because of the dignity that God gave us, we are to respect others and ourselves in thought, word, and deed.