

# For the Classroom – Formation in Christian Chastity, Grade 6

## Lesson Plan 2

### Theme: God Made Us to Love And To Be Loved

#### Objectives:

1. Students will learn that virtue is a spiritual power, which involves the purity of mind and body, frees love from selfishness, and helps them to realize their own dignity as a child of God, as well as the dignity of others as children of God.
2. Students will know what modesty is and what it requires.
3. Students will understand that in families, chastity builds an atmosphere of love, virtue, and gratitude for God's gifts, and helps each person discover what is his/her own vocation.

Now tell the story of St. Joseph.

#### St. Joseph:

St. Joseph, a carpenter by trade, demonstrated his fatherly love as the foster-father of Jesus. As Mary's husband, St. Joseph also served as a model of charity, justice, chastity, and faithfulness to God's plan. Because of his role as guardian and protector of the Holy Family, we invoke St. Joseph's intercession as Patron of family life. He is also Patron of husbands, Patron of fathers, Patron of the Church, and Patron of a holy death. (You may omit this prayer if both lessons are being taught on the same date)

**Opening Prayer:** St. Joseph, please obtain God's grace and protection for my family and for all families. Help us to love by giving of ourselves to others, avoiding selfishness, and living in peace with others. Help us to model our lives after yours by being humble, working at our tasks faithfully, by acting justly, and by loving mercy. Finally, help us by your prayers to live chaste lives, to be truly devoted to Jesus and Mary, to love and grow in our Catholic faith, and finally to be with our Lord in heaven.

Amen.

#### Review:

So far, we've learned that God made us because He loves us. He wants us to love Him above all things and to love our neighbor as ourselves. The primary way that we do this is to help people through our prayers, words, and actions to get to heaven. True love involves sacrifice and Jesus' crucifixion is the ultimate example of sacrificial love. We also learned what true friends are and what they are not. A true friend does what is good for our body and soul. Gossiping, bullying, malicious teasing, or using another person for our own pleasure goes against true friendship. God commands us to treat everyone with the dignity that they deserve as people made in His own image.

Now we will learn that God loves us and that only He can fully satisfy our desire for love. For that desire to be satisfied, we must love Him above all else and love our neighbor as ourselves. Loving God requires us to live chastely and modestly.

(The following Scripture quotes and quotes from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and “Key Concepts” Reading are reproduced at the end of this Lesson for your distribution to your students. Have them take turns reading out loud.)

### **Quotations from Sacred Scripture:**

*Let no one have contempt for your youth, but set an example for those who believe, in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity.* (1 Timothy 4:12)

*The LORD came and revealed his presence, calling out as before, “Samuel, Samuel!” Samuel answered, “Speak, for your servant is listening.”* (1 Samuel 3:10)

### **Quotation from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (2522):**

*Modesty is decency. It inspires one’s choice of clothing. It keeps silence or reserve where there is evident risk of unhealthy curiosity. It is discreet.*

### **“Key Concepts” Reading:**

#### **Chastity - Key To Holiness.**

God loves us deeply and only He can satisfy our desire for love. Because He loves us so, we are duty bound to love Him above all else. He also commands us to love our neighbor as ourselves. Love of God and neighbor requires that we live a chaste life.

Chastity is the spiritual power or virtue, which frees love from selfishness. Living chastely helps us to have inner peace. Chastity enables us to think purely and act purely. Living chastely enables us to respect others and ourselves. It helps us to be holy. In family life, chastity builds an atmosphere of respect, virtue, sacrifice, and love.

Part of chastity is modesty. Modesty means, “refusing to unveil what should remain Hidden.” (CCC 2521) It keeps private things private. Modesty is part of the cardinal virtue of temperance. Modesty protects us spiritually from acting impurely. “Modesty is decency. It inspires one’s choice of clothing...” (CCC 2522) We must dress so as to adequately cover the private parts of our bodies. We must not dress so as to arouse unhealthy curiosity in others. If immodest subjects are discussed we should either change the subject or excuse ourselves from the conversation. We show respect for God, others, and ourselves by dressing and acting modestly.

Vocation is a call from God to live in a particular way, for instance, as a married person,

a priest, or a religious sister. All people, regardless of their state of life, are called to be holy. Chastity helps us to discover what our own vocation is – whether it is marriage, the priesthood, religious life, or the single life.

### **Discussion Questions:**

Question: From what does the virtue of chastity free us?

Answer: Chastity frees us from selfishness.

Question: How does chastity help us?

Answer: It gives inner peace; enables one to think and act purely with the mind of Christ; helps us to respect ourselves and others; builds up respect and love in families; helps us to be holy; helps us to more easily discern God's will.

Question: Which are the cardinal virtues?

Answer: The cardinal virtues are the four main categories of virtue around which the other virtues may be grouped. The cardinal virtues help us to govern our actions, to order our passions, and to guide our conduct, according to reason and faith. The four cardinal virtues are prudence, temperance, justice, and fortitude. (See CCC 1804 ff.)

Question: Under which cardinal virtue do chastity and modesty fit?

Answer: Chastity and modesty are part of the cardinal virtue of temperance.

Question: What is temperance?

Answer: Temperance is the cardinal virtue by which we control the desires of the senses according to the will of God.

### **Activity:**

Along the top of one side of the board, write the word "Friend" and along the top of the other side of the board, write the word "Chastity." Leave space between the words and below the words. Leave a large space in the middle of the board. Ask students to come up with adjectives describing these two words based upon what they have read and been taught in class. Write fitting responses on the board under each word. Then, in the middle of the board, write the name "Jesus."

The teacher should ask the students how Jesus helps us to be chaste, and to be true friends to one another, and what Jesus has to say about chastity, friendship, and love of neighbor. Responses may include such things as: He gives us His grace to lead chaste lives. His parable of the Good Samaritan shows us about true friendship and love of neighbor. He gives us the sacraments, which give us a share in His life and help us to be holy. He tells us in the Beatitudes, "Blessed are the pure in heart." He provides us with the ultimate example of self-giving love by His death on the Cross, so that we may have life to the full.

**Summary:**

Today we have learned that chastity is a virtue that helps us to think and act purely and which frees us from selfishness. We have learned that to be chaste, we must be modest. Modesty involves keeping private things private. It affects how we speak, dress, and act. Finally, we learned that by living chaste lives, we lead the life of holiness that our Lord desires.

**Closing Prayer:** Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us! Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us! St. Joseph, pray for us!

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