

For the Classroom – Formation in Christian Chastity, Grade 7

Lesson Plan 1

Theme: God Made Us To Be Happy In Him

Objectives:

1. Students will learn how to attain true and lasting happiness.
2. Students will understand what true happiness is and that making proper use of our freedom leads to happiness.

Begin by noting that every year the Church sets aside the month of October as “Respect Life” month. Tell the children that you are going to talk about the best way for them to show respect for themselves, others and God: by living a life of chastity.

(The following Opening Prayer, Scripture quotes, and quotes from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, as well as the “Key Concepts” Reading are reproduced at the end of this Lesson for your distribution to your students. Recite the prayer together, then let the children take turns reading the rest of the handout out loud.)

Opening Prayer to the Holy Family: Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, we love you very much. Yours was the perfect Family, overflowing with goodness, peace, truth, and love. Please give us, and our families, the grace we need to be good and pure in thought, word, and deed. Help us to become holy by loving God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength and to love our neighbor as ourselves for love of God. Finally, when our days on this earth have ended, please lead us safely to eternal happiness in heaven with God and all His holy angels and saints. Amen.

Quotations from Sacred Scripture:

Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone! Therefore, you shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength. (Deuteronomy 6: 4-5)

If you love me, you will keep my commandments. (John 14:15)

Quotations from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*:

God put us in the world to know, to love, and to serve him, and so to come to paradise. (1721)

The more one does what is good, the freer one becomes. There is no true freedom except in the service of what is good and just. The choice to disobey and do evil is an abuse of freedom and leads to “the slavery of sin.” (1733)

“Key Concepts” Reading:

How we achieve holiness and our ultimate happiness.

God made us because He loves us and wants us to be happy. Our ultimate and perfect happiness is living with Him forever in heaven. God gives us the Ten Commandments, the Beatitudes, and the teachings of the Church, to show us the way to peace and joy in this life and unlimited happiness in the next. The Holy Eucharist and prayer give us the grace we need to live good lives.

God gives us freedom, which is His gift to choose what is right and good. We call this free will. Because of free will, we are responsible for the decisions we make. Disobedience to God’s commandments and teachings will make us unhappy. The Ten Commandments are like “guardrails” that keep us on the road to life and true happiness, and from “going over the cliff” of unhappiness and spiritual death.

Our parents are responsible for helping us to keep on the straight and narrow road to happiness by guiding us to choose what is good and reject what is evil. We are to follow the fourth commandment and honor our father and mother. God promises blessings to those who do. God is so good and loving that if we choose evil and commit sin, He gives us the sacrament of Penance as a remedy. This sacrament is like medicine for our souls, because through it we receive the healing and life-giving grace of Jesus.

Discussion Questions:

Question: Why did God make us?

Answer: God made us to know Him, love Him, and serve Him, so as to be happy with Him forever in heaven.

Question: What is true freedom?

Answer: True freedom is the freedom to choose what is right and good.

Question: Why does God give us freedom?

Answer: Because He made us in His own image and this dignity includes freedom; because He wants us to freely choose to love Him. True love is not forced, it must be chosen.

Question: What does Jesus say our reaction should be if we are persecuted or “made fun of” for doing the right thing for His sake? (Read the Beatitudes from Matthew 5:1-11.)

Answer: We should rejoice and be glad, for our reward will be great in heaven.

Activities:

- (1) Each student will copy the Ten Commandments onto a piece of paper, leaving several spaces under each commandment. They will then list one or two positive ways to follow each commandment, e.g. for the third commandment: “I will go to Mass every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation.” They will follow this by writing one or two actions they will avoid, which would break that commandment. The teacher will call on students to share their answers orally or to write them on the board.
- (2) Students will look in the gospels and write down two instances where Jesus speaks of consequences for doing good and two instances where He speaks of consequences for doing evil. They should write down the chapters and verses where these may be found. This may be done individually or in pairs. After students have finished, the teacher may choose students to read the scripture passages they have found.

Summary:

So far, we have discussed that our true and lasting happiness is to be found in loving God and neighbor. If we love God, we will keep His commandments. We are responsible for our acts because of the freedom that God has given us. We need God’s grace to live morally upright lives and we receive grace primarily through Mass, prayer, and the sacrament of Penance.

Closing Prayer: Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, help and protect us.

Opening Prayer to the Holy Family

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, we love you very much.

Yours was the perfect Family, overflowing with goodness, peace, truth, and love.

Please give us, and our families, the grace we need to be good and pure in thought, word, and deed.

Help us to become holy by loving God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength and to love our neighbor as ourselves for love of God.

Finally, when our days on this earth have ended, please lead us safely to eternal happiness in heaven with God and all His holy angels and saints.

Amen.

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“Key Concepts” Reading

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