

Laudato Si and Acceptance of Our Bodies

PRO TIP
Download other grades for alternate activities!

CONNECTIONS TO THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

CCC 358, 373

MATERIALS

- ▶ Holy Bibles (or [Genesis Verses](#))
- ▶ Short video of Olympic ice dancing available at SophiaOnline.org/IceDancing
- ▶ [The Power and Gift of the Human Body](#)

CHRISTIAN ANTHROPOLOGY STANDARDS

7.8.1 TOB Describe how the body, by its mere existence, communicates that the human person is a gift just by the fact that it exists. (TOB 14:4; CCC 357, 364)

8.1.1 TOB Propose that creation should be received as a gift and not manipulated, dominated and controlled. (cf. TOB 13:3-4, 59:3; CCC 358, 373)

Teacher Background

In his encyclical, *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis writes, “Acceptance of our bodies . . . is vital for welcoming and accepting the entire world as a gift. . . , whereas thinking that we enjoy absolute power over our own bodies turns, often subtly, into thinking that we enjoy absolute power over creation. Learning to accept our body, to care for it and to respect its fullest meaning, is an essential element of any genuine human ecology.” The Pope’s words speak to one of the key ways the human person can live out the universal call to Holiness and discover how to be good stewards.



HOW DOES THIS LESSON HELP INOCULATE STUDENTS AGAINST GENDER IDEOLOGY?

Gender ideology asserts that we own our bodies, and that they are ours to do with as we wish. But the truth is that being good stewards of creation begins with accepting the gift of our own bodies and taking care of them. Our bodies, like all of creation, should be received as a gift and not manipulated, dominated and controlled.

Activity

- A. Begin by calling on/asking different volunteers to read the following passages from the book of Genesis. Whenever possible, have students look these up and read them from their own Bibles. If Bibles are not available, the verses are printed on the [Genesis Verses](#) **handout**.

■ Genesis 1: 26-30

Then God said: Let us make human beings in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the tame animals, all the wild animals, and all the creatures that crawl on the earth. God created mankind in his image; in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and God said to them: Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it.* Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that crawl on the earth. God also said: See, I give you every seed-bearing plant on all the earth and every tree that has seed-bearing fruit on it to be your food; and to all the wild animals, all the birds of the air, and all the living creatures that crawl on the earth, I give all the green plants for food. And so it happened. God looked at everything he had made, and found it very good. Evening came, and morning followed—the sixth day.

Genesis Verses

Directions: If you don't have your Bible with you, you may read the assigned verses below.

Genesis 1:26-30

Then God said: Let us make human beings in our image, after our likeness, let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the tame animals, all the wild animals, and all the creatures that crawl on the earth. God created mankind in his image; in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and God said to them: Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that crawl on the earth. God also said: See, I give you every seed-bearing plant on all the earth and every tree that has seed-bearing fruit on it to be your food; and to all the wild animals, all the birds of the air, and all the living creatures that crawl on the earth, I give all the green plants for food. And so it happened. God looked at everything he had made, and found it very good. Evening came, and morning followed—the sixth day.



Genesis 2:4-7

This is the story of the heavens and the earth at their creation when the LORD God made the earth and the heavens—there was no field shrub on earth and no grass of the field had sprouted, for the LORD God had sent no rain upon the earth and there was no man on the ground. But a stream was flowing out of the ground—then the LORD God formed the man out of the dust of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

Genesis 2:18-20

Then the LORD God took the man and set him in the garden of Eden, to cultivate and care for it. The LORD God gave the man the order: You are free to eat from any of the trees of the garden except the tree of knowledge of good and evil. From that tree you shall not eat, when you eat from it you shall die. The LORD God said: It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suited to him. So the LORD God formed out of the ground of the wild animals and the birds of the air, and he brought them to the man to see what he would call them; whatever the man called each living creature was that to name. The man gave names to all the tame animals, all the birds of the air, and all the wild animals, but none proved to be a helper suited to the man.

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■ **Genesis 2: 4–7**

This is the story of the heavens and the earth at their creation. When the LORD God made the earth and the heavens—there was no field shrub on earth and no grass of the field had sprouted, for the LORD God had sent no rain upon the earth and there was no man* to till the ground, but a stream* was welling up out of the earth and watering all the surface of the ground—then the LORD God formed the man* out of the dust of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

■ **Genesis 2: 15–20**

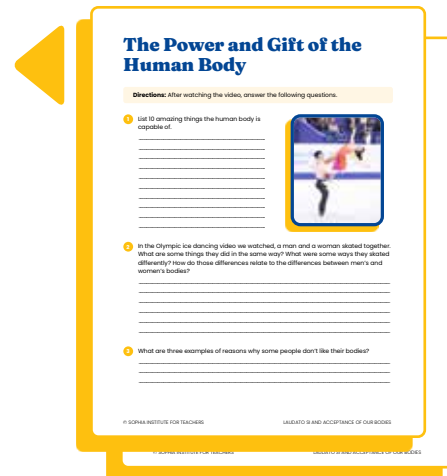
The LORD God then took the man and settled him in the garden of Eden, to cultivate and care for it. The LORD God gave the man this order: You are free to eat from any of the trees of the garden except the tree of knowledge of good and evil. From that tree you shall not eat; when you eat from it you shall die. The LORD God said: It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suited to him. So the LORD God formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds of the air, and he brought them to the man to see what he would call them; whatever the man called each living creature was then its name. The man gave names to all the tame animals, all the birds of the air, and all the wild animals; but none proved to be a helper suited to the man.

■ **Genesis 2: 21–25**

The LORD God then built the rib that he had taken from the man into a woman. When he brought her to the man, the man said: “This one, at last, is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; This one shall be called ‘woman,’ for out of man this one has been taken.” That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one body. The man and his wife were both naked, yet they felt no shame.

- B.** Have the students raise their hands and share what truths these passages tell us about human beings. *Accept reasoned answers. If needed, prompt them with ideas such as: human beings need companionship; we are made in the image and likeness of God; God gives human beings dominion over creation; He tells us to be fruitful and multiply; God settled man in a Garden; human beings are created with a body; there is a difference between men’s and women’s bodies.*
- C.** Explain that after reading Genesis, we can conclude that men and women have bodies, which are part of God’s design for each of us and are a gift we are to take care of.
- D.** Show a video of Olympic couples’ ice dancing such as the one available at **SophiaOnline.org/IceDancing** and watch the video together. While or after you watch, discuss how many of the movements the pair did seemed designed to highlight the strength and stability of the man, alongside the grace and beauty of the woman. Of course, they are both strong and graceful to be able to skate in the Olympics. But their bodies complement each other in this ice dancing routine.

- E. Distribute the handout [The Power and Gift of the Human Body](#). Have students complete this handout with a partner.
- F. Go over the answers to the handout as a large group.
- G. After going over the answers to the handout refer back to the video and point out that what we saw in the video reveals the results of years of discipline, dedication, and hard work. It shows the awesomeness of how God has designed us. While many of us can't do those specific things, we have all been uniquely designed by God and have been given our bodies as an incredible gift.



- H. Conclude by emphasizing that we can know our bodies are a good gift simply because they exist. God gave us our bodies as a gift and so they are good in and of themselves. We should recognize our bodies, like all of creation, are a precious gift to care for lovingly.

Genesis Verses

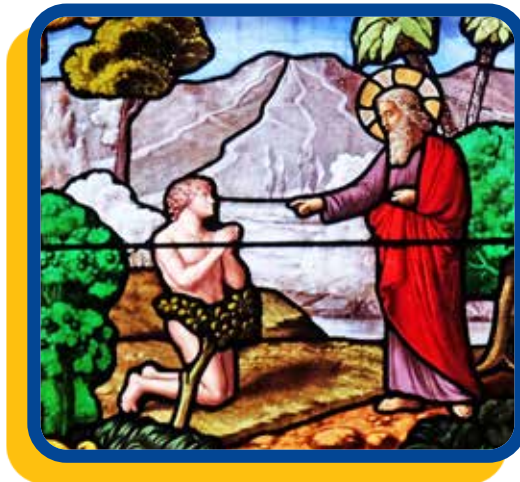
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Then God said: Let us make human beings in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the tame animals, all the wild animals, and all the creatures that crawl on the earth. God created mankind in his image; in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and God said to them: Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that crawl on the earth. God also said: See, I give you every seed-bearing plant on all the earth and every tree that has seed-bearing fruit on it to be your food; and to all the wild animals, all the birds of the air, and all the living creatures that crawl on the earth, I give all the green plants for food. And so it happened. God looked at everything he had made, and found it very good. Evening came, and morning followed—the sixth day.

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The LORD God then took the man and settled him in the garden of Eden, to cultivate and care for it. The LORD God gave the man this order: You are free to eat from any of the trees of the garden except the tree of knowledge of good and evil. From that tree you shall not eat; when you eat from it you shall die. The LORD God said: It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suited to him. So the LORD God formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds of the air, and he brought them to the man to see what he would call them; whatever the man called each living creature was then its name. The man gave names to all the tame animals, all the birds of the air, and all the wild animals; but none proved to be a helper suited to the man.

STUDENT WORKSHEET ANSWER KEY

Genesis 2: 21-25

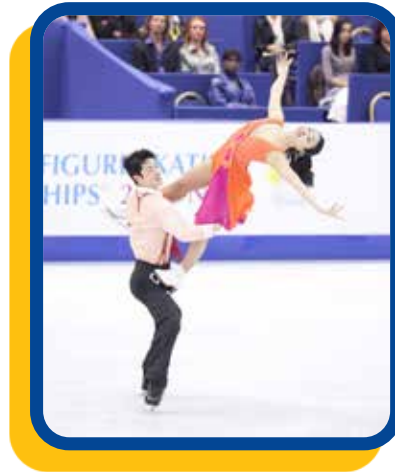
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The Power and Gift of the Human Body

Directions: After watching the video, answer the following questions.

- 1 List 10 amazing things the human body is capable of.

Accept reasoned answers.



- 2 In the Olympic ice dancing video we watched, a man and a woman skated together. What are some things they did in the same way? What were some ways they skated differently? How do those differences relate to the differences between men's and women's bodies?

Many of the movements they made were the same, such as when they would skate in a particular direction or spin; other times, the man would lift the woman, providing a stable base and showing men's greater strength. Many of the movements highlight the strength and stability of the man, alongside the grace and beauty of the woman. None of this is to say that women cannot be strong and men cannot be graceful. Of course, men and women can both be strong and graceful. But their bodies are designed to complement each other, as shown in couples ice dancing.

- 3 What are three examples of reasons why some people don't like their bodies?

They may dislike their facial features, or hair, they may think they are too skinny, too fat, not coordinated or athletic enough; accept additional reasoned answers.

STUDENT WORKSHEET ANSWER KEY

- 4 What are the culture's standards for determining what makes a body "good"?
- Allow discussion. Some may say a body is thought of as good if it is attractive to others; Others may say each individual decides for themselves if it is good.**
- 5 What does God tell us makes our bodies good?
- Simply that it exists. God gave us our bodies as a gift and so they are good in and of themselves.**
- 6 What are some examples of things that are good for us to do that can keep our bodies healthy?
- Exercise, a healthy diet, adequate sleep, drinking plenty of fluids, brushing our teeth, practicing good hygiene, getting fresh air and sunshine, getting glasses if we need help seeing; accept additional reasoned answers.**
- 7 What are some examples of things that our culture tells us is good to do to our bodies, but which are actually harmful?
- Allow discussion depending on student maturity. Possible answers include drug use, excessive alcohol intake, excessive plastic surgeries, puberty blockers or high-dose, cross-sex hormones, "gender-affirming care" surgeries; accept additional reasoned answers.**
- 8 In his encyclical, *Laudato Si*, Pope Francis writes, "Acceptance of our bodies...is vital for welcoming and accepting the entire world as a gift..., whereas thinking that we enjoy absolute power over our own bodies turns, often subtly, into thinking that we enjoy absolute power over creation. Learning to accept our body, to care for it and to respect its fullest meaning, is an essential element of any genuine human ecology."
- a. What does the pope say is the result of thinking you have absolute power over your body?
- That we have absolute power over all of creation.**
- b. What is the proper attitude we should have towards all of creation, including our bodies?
- Viewing it as a precious gift to care for lovingly.**

Laudato Si and Acceptance of Our Bodies

Genesis Verses

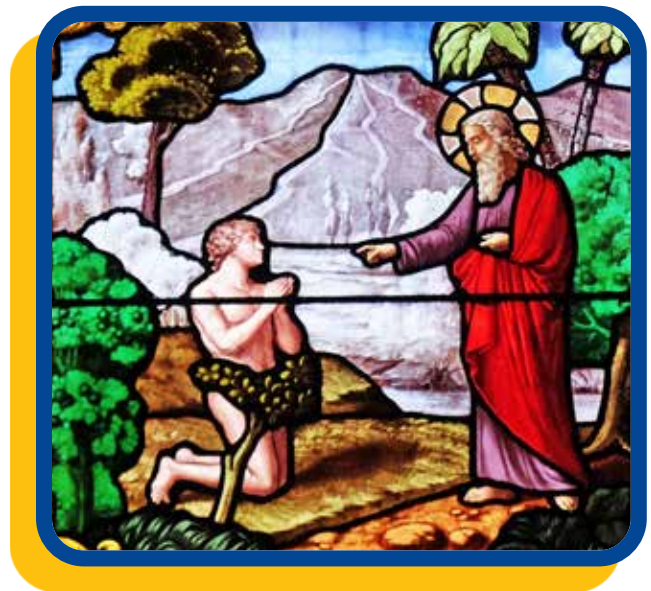
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6 What are some examples of things that are good for us to do that can keep our bodies healthy?

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a. What does the pope say is the result of thinking you have absolute power over your body?

b. What is the proper attitude we should have towards all of creation, including our bodies?

Creation Is Redeemed

PRO TIP
Download other grades for alternate activities!

CONNECTIONS TO THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

CCC 400, 410-412, 422, 1045-1048

MATERIALS

- ▶ [The Immaculate Conception](#), by Giovanni Battista Tiepolo
- ▶ [Consequences of the Fall](#)
- ▶ [God's Love Endures after the Fall](#)

CHRISTIAN ANTHROPOLOGY STANDARDS

7.1.1 TOB Explain that even after the Fall, creation remains a good gift and is not totally corrupted; it is able to be redeemed. (cf. TOB 32:3, 86; CCC 410-412, 422, 1045-1048)

SUGGESTED TIME

30 minutes

Teacher Background

When God created man and woman, they existed in perfect harmony with God, with creation, and with each other. This harmony was destroyed by the Fall, when man, tempted by the devil, failed to trust God and chose his own will and pride. The consequence of the first sin was that the original harmony among God, creation, and each other was broken. The union of man and woman became subject to tensions, visible creation became hostile to man, and death made its entrance into human history (CCC 400). But God, in His mercy, desires union with man. Even after the Fall, creation remains a good gift and is not totally corrupted; it is able to be redeemed.



HOW DOES THIS LESSON HELP INOCULATE STUDENTS AGAINST GENDER IDEOLOGY?

Gender ideology is built on the worldview that everyone is either oppressed or an oppressor; therefore the only solution to suffering is to dismantle unjust power structures. But the truth is, all of us are broken, afflicted by sin, with our own weaknesses. These burdens don't make any one person better or less than any other. But God doesn't leave us in our weakness and sin – He sent Jesus to die for us and to rise again, conquering sin. He promises us His grace and mercy to help us bear the burdens of human life, to persevere in virtue, and to overcome sin. Though often well-intended, educational or political approaches to injustice that fail to acknowledge our wounded human nature and need for God's grace will inevitably fall short or even make things worse.

Activity

- Begin by distributing a copy of [The Immaculate Conception](#), by Giovanni Battista Tiepolo to each student. You may also wish to project a digital version of the image available at SophiaOnline.org/Tiepolo.
- As a large group, discuss the questions on the worksheet, using the answer key to guide discussion.
- Then arrange your students into pairs and distribute the [Consequences of the Fall](#) worksheet. Have your students read Genesis 3 and complete the activity.

The Immaculate Conception, by Giovanni Battista Tiepolo



Consequences of the Fall

Directions: Read Genesis 3 (DVCE) and then complete the chart, identifying the ways that sin harmed mankind's relationship with God, creation, and each other.

The First Sin and its Punishment
How the serpent was more subtle than any other wild creature that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat of any tree of the garden?'"

And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden, but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden; neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'"

But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves aprons.

And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid



Adam and Eve Chased out of the Terrestrial Paradise, from Achille Benvenuti

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CREATION IS REDDED

D. After they have finished the activity, go over the correct answers using the Answer Key. Then lead a brief discussion about how sin has impacted how we view and interact with God, creation, and each other, and how this impact of sin is evident in our modern world today.

E. After students have offered a few examples, explain that although we see the effects of sin all around us, we can see in the story of the Fall itself that all hope was not lost. God’s love for mankind endured. Direct students’ attention to Genesis 3:15. Read it aloud, reminding them that here we are listening to God speaking to the serpent (or Satan).

***I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your seed and her seed;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel.***

F. Ask if anyone can guess why this verse from Genesis is known as the protoevangelium, or first gospel. *This verse foreshadows how God will send a Savior, His Son Jesus Christ, to defeat sin and death.*

G. Have students look back at the image of the painting and see if they can find a clue the artist has given us that points us to this promise of God’s. *The artist has painted Mary with her foot crushing the serpent. The seed of the woman, that is, mankind descended from Eve, will eventually gain the victory over the powers of evil. Mary, too, has a special share in the victory, inasmuch as she was mother of the Savior.*

H. Lead a brief discussion on other ways we know God’s love for us endures. Most importantly, of course, is that He sent His Son to suffer and die, and rise again for the sake of our salvation. He also leaves us His Church, the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist. If you feel comfortable doing so, mention examples from your own life of a sense of God’s love for you.

I. Wrap up by explaining that the modern, secular world-view is that everyone is either oppressed or an oppressor; therefore the only solution to suffering is to dismantle unjust power structures. But the truth is, all of us are broken, afflicted by sin, with our own weaknesses. These burdens don’t make any one person better or less than any other. But God doesn’t leave us in our weakness and sin – He sent Jesus to die for us and to rise again, conquering sin. He promises us His grace and mercy to help us bear the burdens of human life, to persevere in the pursuit of justice and virtue, and to overcome sin.

J. Have students begin work on [God’s Love Endures after the Fall](#) during the time remaining, and complete it for homework discussing the last question with their parents.

God’s Love Endures after the Fall

Directions: All of us are broken, afflicted by sin, with our own weaknesses. But God doesn’t leave us in our weakness and sin – He sent Jesus to die for us and to rise again, conquering sin. He promises us His grace and mercy to help us bear the burdens of human life, to persevere in the pursuit of justice and virtue, and to overcome sin. Use the artwork, Genesis 3, ideas from class discussion, and your own ideas to complete the chart.

Source	Signs that God’s Love for Us Endures after the Fall
Close the book of the Immaculate Conception painting you gave us.	
Genesis 3	
You and your parents’ own experience and observations	

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The Immaculate Conception, by Giovanni Battista Tiepolo



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CREATION IS REDEEMED

STUDENT WORKSHEET ANSWER KEY

1 What do you first notice about this painting?

Accept all answers.

2 What is your favorite part?

Accept all answers.

3 Who is the woman pictured here?

The Virgin Mary.

4 Why do you think the artist painted a dove above her head?

The dove is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. Mary is Jesus' mother, and the dove in the painting is a sign of Jesus' conception. By the Holy Spirit, the Savior was incarnate (made flesh) of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

5 What is the large, round item she is standing on top of? What do you think it represents?

A globe, representing the world.

6 What is the creature the woman is crushing under her right foot? What is in its mouth?

A serpent, with an apple or other piece of fruit in its mouth. This imagery is symbolic of the serpent in the Garden of Eden.

Consequences of the Fall

Directions: Read Genesis 3 (RSVCE) and then complete the chart, identifying the ways that sin harmed mankind's relationship with God, creation, and each other.

The First Sin and Its Punishment

Now the serpent was more subtle than any other wild creature that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat of any tree of the garden?'"

And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'"

But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die. For God knows that when you

eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves aprons.

And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid



Adam and Eve Chased out of the Terrestrial Paradise, Jean-Achille Benouville

STUDENT WORKSHEET ANSWER KEY

themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" And he said, "I heard the sound of thee in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"

The man said, "The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent beguiled me, and I ate." The Lord God said to the serpent,

*"Because you have done this,
cursed are you above all cattle,
and above all wild animals;
upon your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.
I will put enmity between you and the
woman,
and between your seed and her seed;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel."*

To the woman he said,

*"I will greatly multiply your pain in
childbearing;
in pain you shall bring forth children,
yet your desire shall be for your
husband,
and he shall rule over you."
And to Adam he said,*

*"Because you have listened to the voice
of your wife,
and have eaten of the tree
of which I commanded you,
'You shall not eat of it,'
cursed is the ground because of you;
in toil you shall eat of it all the days of
your life;
thorns and thistles it shall bring forth to
you;
and you shall eat the plants of the
field.
In the sweat of your face
you shall eat bread
till you return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;
you are dust,
and to dust you shall return."*

The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins, and clothed them.

Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil; and now, lest he put forth his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever"— therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from which he was taken. He drove out the man; and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

—Genesis 3:1-24

STUDENT WORKSHEET ANSWER KEY

Directions: After reading Genesis 3, complete the chart with the ways that sin harmed mankind's relationship with God, creation, and each other.

Relationships broken by sin	Examples from the Fall narrative
Humanity's relationship with God	Fear of God, walking in garden and hiding from Him, forced to leave the garden.
Humanity's relationship with creation	Toil to work the land (no longer having everything in abundance), forced to leave the garden
Humanity's relationship with each other	Shame of nakedness, pain in childbearing.

God’s Love Endures after the Fall

Directions: All of us are broken, afflicted by sin, with our own weaknesses. But God doesn’t leave us in our weakness and sin – He sent Jesus to die for us and to rise again, conquering sin. He promises us His grace and mercy to help us bear the burdens of human life, to persevere in the pursuit of justice and virtue, and to overcome sin. Use the artwork, Genesis 3, ideas from class discussion, and your own ideas to complete the chart.

Source	Signs that God’s Love for Us Endures after the Fall
Clues the artist of the <i>Immaculate Conception</i> painting has given us	The dove reminds us that by the Holy Spirit, our Savior Jesus was made man. Mary crushing the head of the serpent reminds us that God promised a Savior in Genesis 3:15.
Genesis 3	God promises a Savior. God gives Adam and Eve clothing.
You and your parents’ own experience and observations	Students and their parents may mention going to Mass and confession, consolations they have received in prayer. Accept additional reasoned answers.

Creation Is Redeemed

The Immaculate Conception, by Giovanni Battista Tiepolo



1 What do you first notice about this painting?

2 What is your favorite part?

3 Who is the woman pictured here?

4 Why do you think the artist painted a dove above her head?

5 What is the large, round item she is standing on top of? What do you think it represents?

6 What is the creature the woman is crushing under her right foot? What is in its mouth?

Consequences of the Fall

Directions: Read Genesis 3 (RSVCE) and then complete the chart, identifying the ways that sin harmed mankind's relationship with God, creation, and each other.

The First Sin and Its Punishment

Now the serpent was more subtle than any other wild creature that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat of any tree of the garden'?"

And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'"

But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die. For God knows that when you

eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves aprons.

And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid



Adam and Eve Chased out of the Terrestrial Paradise, Jean-Achille Benouville

themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" And he said, "I heard the sound of thee in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"

The man said, "The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent beguiled me, and I ate." The Lord God said to the serpent,

*"Because you have done this,
cursed are you above all cattle,
and above all wild animals;
upon your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.
I will put enmity between you and the
woman,
and between your seed and her seed;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel."*

To the woman he said,

*"I will greatly multiply your pain in
childbearing;
in pain you shall bring forth children,
yet your desire shall be for your
husband,
and he shall rule over you."
And to Adam he said,*

*"Because you have listened to the voice
of your wife,
and have eaten of the tree
of which I commanded you,
'You shall not eat of it,'
cursed is the ground because of you;
in toil you shall eat of it all the days of
your life;
thorns and thistles it shall bring forth to
you;
and you shall eat the plants of the
field.
In the sweat of your face
you shall eat bread
till you return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;
you are dust,
and to dust you shall return."*

The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins, and clothed them.

Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil; and now, lest he put forth his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever"— therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from which he was taken. He drove out the man; and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

—Genesis 3:1-24

Directions: After reading Genesis 3, complete the chart with the ways that sin harmed mankind's relationship with God, creation, and each other.

Relationships broken by sin	Examples from the Fall narrative
Humanity's relationship with God	
Humanity's relationship with creation	
Humanity's relationship with each other	

God's Love Endures after the Fall

Directions: All of us are broken, afflicted by sin, with our own weaknesses. But God doesn't leave us in our weakness and sin – He sent Jesus to die for us and to rise again, conquering sin. He promises us His grace and mercy to help us bear the burdens of human life, to persevere in the pursuit of justice and virtue, and to overcome sin. Use the artwork, Genesis 3, ideas from class discussion, and your own ideas to complete the chart.

Source	Signs that God's Love for Us Endures after the Fall
Clues the artist of the <i>Immaculate Conception</i> painting has given us	
Genesis 3	
You and your parents' own experience and observations	

Our Bodies Are a Gift

PRO TIP
Download other
grades for alternate
activities!

CONNECTIONS TO THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

CCC 347, 364, 1700

MATERIALS

- ▶ [Wonder and Awe](#)
- ▶ Music Video available at [SophiaOnline.org/Renegades](https://www.sophiaonline.org/renegades)
- ▶ [Renegades Video Discussion Questions](#)

CHRISTIAN ANTHROPOLOGY STANDARDS

7.8.1 TOB Describe how the body, by its mere existence, communicates that the human person is a gift just by the fact that it exists. (TOB 14:4; CCC 357, 364)

SUGGESTED TIME

20 minutes

Teacher Background

Human beings occupy a unique place in creation — created body and soul in the image of God. Established in His friendship, men and women are the only visible creatures able to know and love our Creator. God created mankind for its own sake, and only human beings are called to share in God’s own life. When we can approach the body with proper wonder and awe, we begin to see the image of God in ourselves and in others.

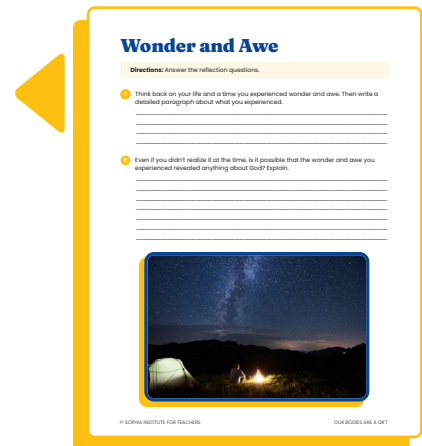


HOW DOES THIS LESSON HELP INOCULATE STUDENTS AGAINST GENDER IDEOLOGY?

Gender ideology asserts that our bodies have no meaning, and is simply a tool for self-expression. It also asserts that dignity comes to us externally: from being affirmed by others. The truth is that, made in His image, our bodies reveal who God is. Our approach to the body needs to be one of wonder and awe. Our human dignity comes from being made in God’s image, and this dignity is ours by nature. It can never be taken away.

Activity

- A. Begin by distributing [Wonder and Awe](#), and asking students to write a detailed paragraph about a time they experienced wonder and awe. You might prompt them with examples, such as seeing a beautiful sunset, a view from a mountain, witnessing a sibling being born, and so forth.
- B. When they have finished writing, call on students to share about their experiences. Lead a discussion about why their experiences were full of awe and wonder. How did their experiences reveal God?
- C. Next, discuss the following question with your students: When have you been amazed or in awe of another human being? *Allow discussion.*
- D. Then, explain that human beings occupy a unique place in creation — created body and soul in the image of God. Established in His friendship, men and women are the only visible creatures able to know and love our Creator. God created mankind for its own sake, and only human beings are called to share in God’s own life. So we should approach our bodies with wonder and awe! When we can approach the body with proper wonder and awe, we begin to see the image of God in ourselves and in others. But sin clouds our ability to recognize God and His image in others.



- E. View with your class the music video for the song “Renegades” by X Ambassadors, which can be found at the following link: SophiaOnline.org/Renegades.
- F. Have students work individually or in small groups to respond to the questions on [Renegades Video Discussion Questions](#).
- G. Go over responses as a class, using the Answer Key to guide discussion.

H. Wrap up by explaining that every human being is made in God’s image and likeness, with infinite worth, and that is something that can never be taken away from us. Even more, as Christians, we know that our identity is rooted in being a son or daughter of God, and, again, nothing can change that. But in the worldview of transgender ideology, a person’s dignity comes from the approval of other people, and so it can be taken away. The mistaken idea that our dignity comes from the approval or affirmation of other people is full of dangerous serious consequences for individuals, and for society as a whole.



Wonder and Awe

Directions: Answer the reflection questions.

- 1 Think back on your life and a time you experienced wonder and awe. Then write a detailed paragraph about what you experienced.

Accept reasoned answers.

- 2 Even if you didn't realize it at the time, is it possible that the wonder and awe you experienced revealed anything about God? Explain.

Accept reasoned answers.



Renegades Video Discussion Questions

Directions: Watch the music video for the song “Renegades” by X Ambassadors, which can be found at the following link: SophiaOnline.org/Renegades. Then discuss the questions.

- 1 What did you think was the most moving part of the video? In what ways were you amazed by the ability of the body and spirit of the people featured?

Accept reasoned answers.

- 2 The music video reveals the band’s inspiration for the song lyrics. What did you think of their hidden story?

Accept reasoned answers.

- 3 How does this video help you recognize the inherent dignity of all persons, despite physical or mental limitations?

Accept reasoned answers.

- 4 Our bodies are gifts from God. God designed our bodies to be able to do many good things, like some we saw in the video. We have a duty to care for all creation, including our bodies, so creation can flourish. If someone has a mistaken belief about their body, for example, a person suffering from anorexia who believes they are overweight, what is the proper response to that mistaken belief? Why?

The proper response is to share the truth with charity. You would not affirm the mistaken self-image of their body. We have a duty to care for our bodies as the precious gifts they are.

STUDENT WORKSHEET ANSWER KEY

- 5 How would you respond to someone who said that our bodies are simply tools for expression, for us to do whatever we want with?

Accept reasoned answers, guiding students to understand that in truth, we are stewards of the gift of our bodies as we are stewards of all creation.

- 6 Sin has damaged the way we see ourselves. Our modern society values what a person does, or what he or she contributes to society, and attaches his or her worth to productivity. But all people have inherent worth and dignity. The dignity of the human person is rooted in our creation in the image and likeness of God (CCC 1700). The mistaken idea that our dignity comes from what we can do, or even from the affirmation of other people, leads to dangerous consequences. If human dignity comes from being affirmed by others, what could that mean for the following groups of people? **Choose one and write a brief defense of their dignity, flowing from their being made in God's image and likeness.**

- a. Disabled people
- b. People who are sick, depressed, or frail
- c. People who are poor
- d. Immigrants
- e. The unborn

All these vulnerable groups would be further marginalized and even removed from society if we accepted the false notion that dignity comes from affirmation or approval of others.

Our Bodies Are a Gift

Wonder and Awe

Directions: Answer the reflection questions.

- 1 Think back on your life and a time you experienced wonder and awe. Then write a detailed paragraph about what you experienced.

- 2 Even if you didn't realize it at the time, is it possible that the wonder and awe you experienced revealed anything about God? Explain.



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Sin has damaged the way we see ourselves. Our modern society values what a person does, or what he or she contributes to society, and attaches his or her worth to productivity. But all people have inherent worth and dignity. The dignity of the human person is rooted in our creation in the image and likeness of God (CCC 1700). The mistaken idea that our dignity comes from what we can do, or even from the affirmation of other people, leads to dangerous consequences. If human dignity comes from being affirmed by others, what could that mean for the following groups of people? **Choose one and write a brief defense of their dignity, flowing from their being made in God’s image and likeness.**

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