

God Loves His Creation

PRO TIP
Download other grades for alternate activities!

CONNECTIONS TO THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

CCC 214, 221

MATERIALS

- ▶ Bibles
- ▶ [Creation in Greek Mythology](#)
- ▶ [Genesis 2 Reading Guide](#)
- ▶ [Greek Myth and Catholic Teaching T-Chart](#)

CHRISTIAN ANTHROPOLOGY STANDARDS

5.1.1 TOB Compare and contrast ancient myths of creation to Sacred Scripture and God's goodness in creating. (cf. TOB 13:2-4; CCC 285, 287-301)

SUGGESTED TIME

30 minutes

Teacher Background

The humans of Greek myth were cursed when Zeus split men and women into separate bodies. This conception of the mutual longing as a curse contrasts with Catholic teaching that love between man and woman was part of the original blessing of Creation. The truth is that man and woman were created for each other, to love each other. Marriage is an icon of the Trinity's self-giving love: the husband gives himself fully to his wife; the wife gives herself fully to her husband; the communion between them creates life. Love is a blessing and a share in the Lord's divine life, and not a curse.



HOW DOES THIS LESSON HELP INOCULATE STUDENTS AGAINST GENDER IDEOLOGY?

Gender ideology holds that we self-create our sexual identity. But the truth is that being male or female is a reality and not a feeling, no matter how that feeling may be sincerely experienced. Our sexual identity is a gift from God.

Activity

- Begin by asking if anyone in the class is familiar with the creation story of the ancient Greeks. *Allow students to share what they know.*
- Distribute [Creation in Greek Mythology](#). Give students time to review the summary of the creation story at the top and skim over the questions individually.
- Have students do a think, pair, share with questions 1-3. Give them time to finish their drawings, and then to respond to the reflection question.
- Help students understand that the Greek myth is based on the idea that humans were cursed with the need to wander the earth searching for their lost half.
- Then ask students to follow along in their Bibles as you read aloud Genesis 2:18-25. Then have them complete [Genesis 2 Reading Guide](#) with a partner.
- Go over the responses as a large group, helping students recognize the truth that the love between man and woman is not a curse, as the ancient Greeks thought, but rather a gift from God. God created us in His image, with intellect, free will. Free will gives us the capacity to love, that is, to give of ourselves for the good of another.

Creation in Greek Mythology

Directions: Read the selection and then answer the questions that follow.

According to Ancient Greek mythology, the first humans were made very differently from humans today. According to Greek myth, the first people were both male and female. These mythical beings were two persons in one body: complete with two heads, four arms and four legs! When they rebelled against the king of the gods, Zeus, he punished them by splitting them apart down the middle. The result was that men and women were now separated from their one flesh member of the human race who was destined to wander the earth searching for his or her "other half".

1. According to Greek myth, what did the first humans look like?

2. According to Greek myth, why do people no longer look that way?

3. What is the most interesting part of this story to you?

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Genesis 2 Reading Guide

Directions: Answer the questions based on your reading of Genesis 2:18-25.

1. Read verse 18. In all of His creation, what was the only thing God saw that was not good?

2. Why were the animals "not suited" to be helpers for Adam?

3. Read verse 21. How did God form Eve?


4. How does Adam feel when he sees Eve? How do you know?

5. Is the communion between man and woman a curse in this story, or is it a blessing of creation?

6. What does this story tell us about who God is?

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- G. Have a student stand and read aloud verse 24: "That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one body."
- H. Explain that here the sacred author teaches about marriage, which Jesus elevated to a Sacrament during His ministry. Man and woman were created for each other, to love each other. Marriage is an icon of the Trinity's self-giving love: the husband gives himself fully to his wife; the wife gives herself fully to her husband; the communion between them creates life. Love is a blessing and a share in the Lord's divine life, and not a curse.
- I. Finally, ask students to compare and contrast the Greek myth of half-humans searching for their "other half" with the reuniting of man and woman into one body in marriage as revealed in Genesis, and analyze the differences on [Greek Myth and Catholic Teaching T-Chart](#).



Greek Myth and Catholic Teaching T-Chart

Directions: Complete the T-chart by sorting the phrases from the bank below into two columns.

Greek Myth	Catholic Teaching

Phrase Bank

- The ability to love is a gift.
- The feeling of love is a curse.
- There is a single person each human must search for and be reunited with.
- We can choose to make a gift of ourselves for the good of another person.
- Love is an act of free will.
- Humans are not whole unless they are with their "other half."
- Each person has equal dignity.
- Love between man and woman is a blessing of creation.
- "Love" between man and woman was the result of a punishment.

PHRASE BANK FOR TEACHERS GO TO LOVE WE CELEBRATE

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According to Ancient Greek mythology, the first humans were made very differently from humans today. According to Greek myth, the first people were both male and female. These mythical beings were two persons in one body: complete with two heads, four arms and four legs! When they rebelled against the king of the gods, Zeus, he punished them by splitting them apart down the middle. The result was that man and woman were now separated. From then on, each member of the human race was destined to wander the earth, searching for his or her "other half."



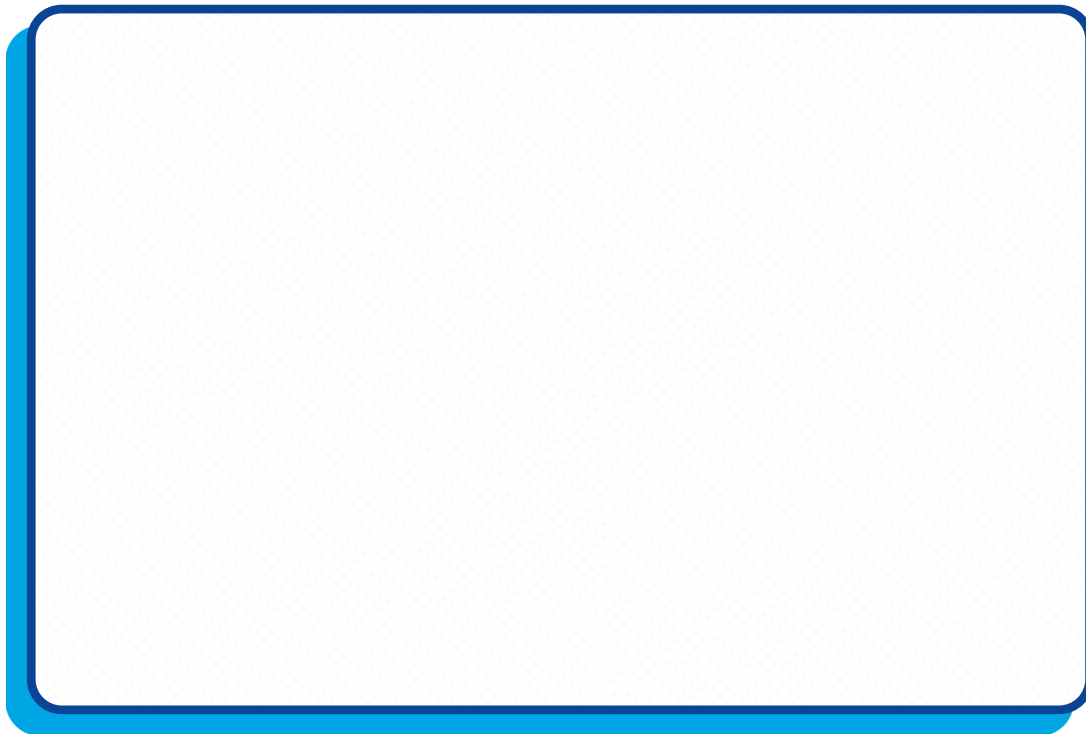
- 1 According to Greek myth, what did the first humans look like?
Two persons in one body

- 2 According to Greek myth, why do people no longer look that way?
Zeus split them in two.

- 3 What is the most interesting part of this story to you?
Accept reasoned answers.

STUDENT WORKSHEET ANSWER KEY

- 4 Draw a picture in the space below about what these first mythical people might have looked like.



Reflection Question

According to Greek myth, was the search for communion between a man and a woman a gift or a curse? Explain.

It was a curse. The separation of men and women was punishment for rebellion.

Genesis 2 Reading Guide

Directions: Answer the questions based on your reading of Genesis 2:18-25.

- 1 Read verse 18. In all of His creation, what was the only thing God saw that was not good?
That man was alone

- 2 Why were the animals “not suited” to be helpers for Adam?
They were not like Adam. Adam, created in the image and likeness of God, was fundamentally different from the animals.

- 3 Read verse 21. How did God form Eve?
He put Adam into a deep sleep and took a rib from Adam to form Eve: “the LORD God cast a deep sleep on the man, and while he was asleep, he took out one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. The LORD God then built the rib that he had taken from the man into a woman” (Genesis 2:21-22).

- 4 How does Adam feel when he sees Eve? How do you know?
Students may say Adam feels happy, relieved, satisfied, and so forth. His words “This one, at last, is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh” show us how he feels.

- 5 Is the communion between man and woman a curse in this story, or is it a blessing of creation?
A blessing of creation

- 6 What does this story tell us about who God is?
God is love. He created man and woman for each other, to love each other.

Greek Myth and Catholic Teaching T-Chart

Directions: Complete the T-chart by sorting the phrases from the bank below into two columns.

Greek Myth

The feeling of love is a curse.

There is a single person each human must search for and be united with.

Humans are not “whole” unless they are with their “other half.”

“Love” between man and woman was the result of punishment.

Catholic Teaching

The ability to love is a gift.

We can choose to make a gift of ourselves for the good of another person.

Love is an act of free will.

Each person has equal dignity.

Love between man and woman is a blessing of creation.

Phrase Bank

- ▶ The ability to love is a gift.
- ▶ The feeling of love is a curse.
- ▶ There is a single person each human must search for and be reunited with.
- ▶ We can choose to make a gift of ourselves for the good of another person.
- ▶ Love is an act of free will.
- ▶ Humans are not whole unless they are with their “other half.”
- ▶ Each person has equal dignity.
- ▶ Love between man and woman is a blessing of creation.
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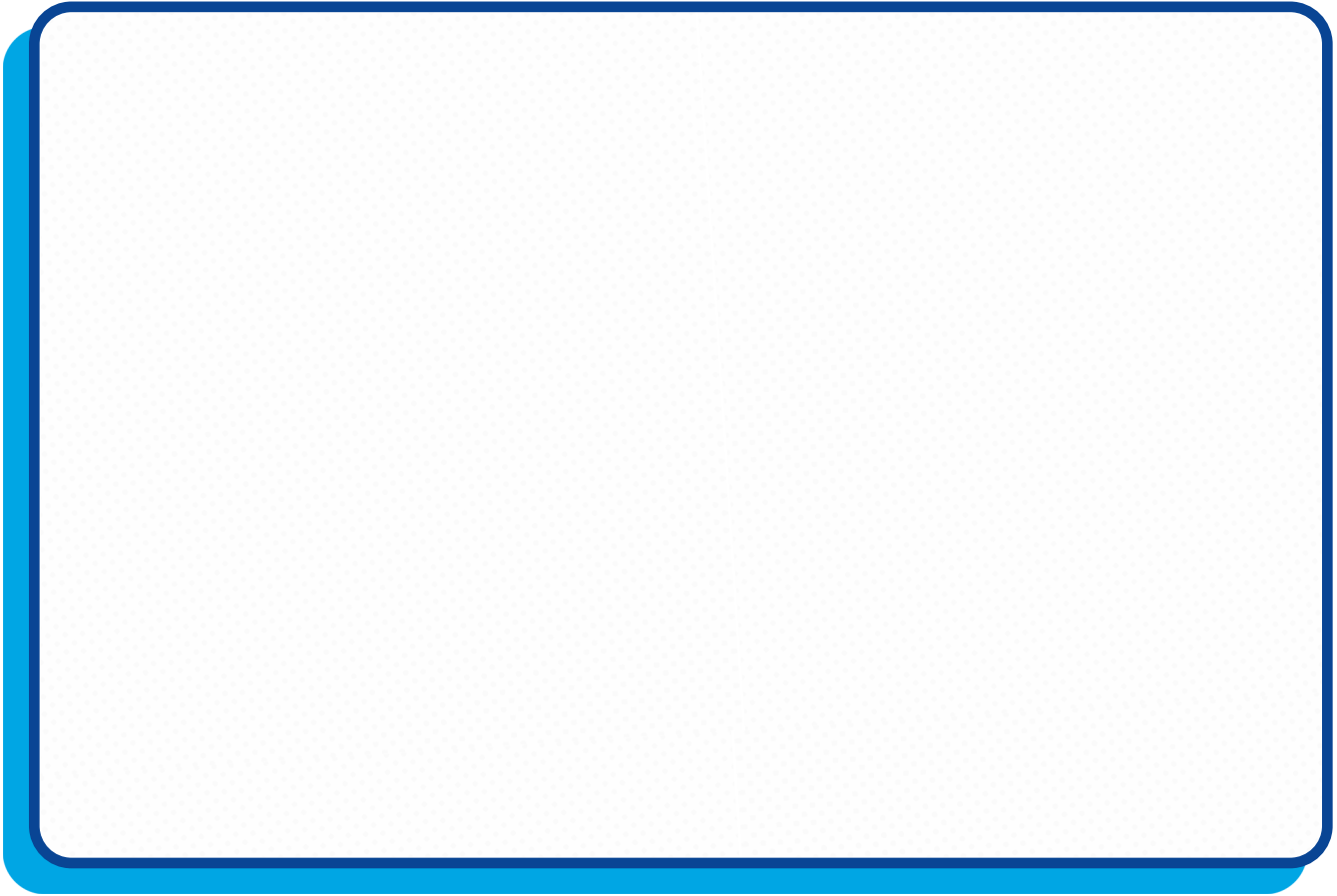


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Reflection Question

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