

# 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](http://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
<small>Close the book of the Immaculate Conception opening the gates.</small> <hr/>	<hr/>
<small>Genesis 3</small> <hr/>	<hr/>
<small>You and your parent’s own experience and observations</small> <hr/>	<hr/>

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# *The Immaculate Conception,* by Giovanni Battista Tiepolo



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## STUDENT WORKSHEET ANSWER KEY

1 What do you first notice about this painting?

**Accept all answers.**

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2 What is your favorite part?

**Accept all answers.**

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3 Who is the woman pictured here?

**The Virgin Mary.**

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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.**

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

**A globe, representing the world.**

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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.**

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# 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.

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# *The Immaculate Conception,* by Giovanni Battista Tiepolo



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