

# God Blessed Them

**PRO TIP**  
Download other grades for alternate activities!

## CONNECTIONS TO THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

CCC 355-357  
CCC 362-366

## SUGGESTED TIME

40 minutes

## MATERIALS

- ▶ Bibles
- ▶ [Creation of Adam](#)
- ▶ [Image and Likeness Journal](#)

## Teacher Background

Genesis 1 is the theological account of creation, and tells us what we are: God created humans in His image and Likeness. God created human beings male and female, and commanded them to be fruitful and multiply. Man and woman are made for each other, and in marriage, cooperate with God's creative power to help bring children into the world.



### HOW DOES THIS LESSON HELP INOCULATE STUDENTS AGAINST GENDER IDEOLOGY?

Gender ideology asserts that there is no design to the body, we just happen to have "parts" that have no meaning for being male or female. But both Scripture and reason tell us that men and women are designed for specific roles in procreation. Male and female reproductive systems only make sense in light of the other's.

## Activity

- A. Read aloud Genesis 1 from your Bible while students follow along. Before you read, share with the class that the aim of this narrative is not to present a scientific picture, but to teach religious truth.
- B. After reading the chapter, summarize for the class what you read. You may use the mini-lecture notes below, or put them into your own words.
  - God first formed the earth, heavens, and the seas.
  - Then He said, "Let there be light."
  - Then God formed the plants. For the well-being of the plants He made day, night, and the seasons, then the four rivers of water so that the plants might grow.
  - Then He made the animals.
  - Finally, God made man and woman in His image and likeness and gave him dominion over all things, including naming the animals.
  - On the seventh day, He rested.
- C. Explain that in this theological account of creation from the Book of Genesis, we learn much about the structure of God's creation. It is a hierarchy: some creatures are more complex than others.



# Creation of Adam

**Directions:** Take some time to quietly view and reflect on the art. Let yourself be inspired in any way that happens naturally. Then think about the questions below, and discuss them with your classmates



*Creation of Adam, Jan Breughel the Younger*

- 1 Describe what you see in this painting. What do you first notice about it? What is your favorite part?

**Accept all answers.**

## STUDENT WORKSHEET ANSWER KEY

- 2 Think back on the order of creation. What examples of each type of being can you find?  
**Minerals (Genesis 1:1 to 1:10); Plants (Genesis 1:11 to 1:12); Animals (Genesis 1:20 to 1:25); Human beings (Genesis 1:26 to 1:30).**
- 3 What are the kinds of things we can say about the earth, plants, animals, and humans based on this theological account of creation?  
**There is a hierarchical organization to it from simple to complex. There is an intelligence behind the order of the universe. God is an artist. Accept additional reasoned answers.**
- 4 Who are the two men in the painting? What appears to be happening?  
**God the Father, represented here as a man, appears to be speaking to Adam. They look similar, perhaps indicating how man is made in God's image and likeness. The Father's arm is outstretched, as if He is pointing at something. Perhaps this is the moment when God gave dominion over all of nature to man, His highest creation. Accept additional reasoned answers.**
- 5 Genesis 1:1 it is revealed to us that God made the universe. What kind of difference does it make in our lives if we reject this?  
**If God did not create the universe, it changes everything about our origins, our natures, our dignity, our moral responsibility! This single issue touches every aspect of our lives, religious, intellectual, political, and material. You could take one aspect of life at a time and discuss it: For example, if there is no Creator, then it is appropriate to worship ourselves. There would be no moral law, and therefore no objective right and wrong, and so forth.**
- 6 God created human beings male and female, and commanded them to be fruitful and multiply. What can we learn from this about how God feels about humanity?  
**God loves human beings. He wants there to be more of us! And not only that, He invites man and woman to share in the work of creation! God creates each soul, of course, while parents cooperate with God to bring children into the world. He invites us to play a role in His loving, creative work.**
- 7 Why do you think God did not create human beings to be able to reproduce on their own?  
**Allow discussion on this question, encouraging students to think about how the love between spouses mirrors divine love. Married love, like the Trinity, is free, total, faithful, and fruitful.**
- 8 Our bodies are not simply made up of random parts; our bodies have meaning and purpose. How do you know?  
**Scripture, observation, and reason reveal that men and women have specific roles to play in procreation. Men and women have different reproductive systems that only make sense in light of the other's.**



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