

Transform Your Nature, Using Jesus as Your Example: *Me and God*

LESSON AT A GLANCE

Facilitator Notes:

I wonder...

- Why is a relationship with God, the Father; God, the Son; God, the Holy Spirit important?
- How do I develop this relationship?
- How will I benefit from this relationship with the Trinity?

I believe...

- God, the Father is my creator and sustainer; God, the Son is my redeemer; and God, the Holy Spirit is my comforter and helper, who leads into all truth. (Catechism Q&A question 5)
- Through prayer, experiencing God's word and sacraments in the divine services, and applying His wisdom, my relationship with God will grow. (Catechism Q&A question 613, 715)
- By being in a relationship with God, we become who God intended us to be. (Catechism Q&A question 178, 247)

Materials:

- IGNITE Bible
- Catechism Q&A

References:

- Bible: Exodus 29:45, Matthew 1:22-23, Romans 5:11
- Catechism Q&A questions: 5, 25-36, 178, 247, 613, 624, 715
- Articles of Faith 1, 2, 3 (Articles of Faith are found on page 251 of the Catechism Q&A)

PRE DISCUSSION MESSAGE TO PARENTS AND STUDENT (TO BE SENT VIA EMAIL OR TEXT)

Is it really possible to have a relationship with the triune God? What does that even mean? Join us tomorrow for small group at _____ where we'll be talking about our relationship with God.

MESSAGE TO PARENTS (TO BE SENT VIA EMAIL OR TEXT)

Facilitator Notes:

- Please feel free to add local information and customize as necessary.

Dear Parents,
 This week the "I Wonder...." questions ask why our relationship with God, the Father, God, the Son, and God, the Holy Spirit is important. Ask your son/daughter about a relationship they have that is very important to them, and what benefits they receive from the relationship. Share with your son/daughter a relationship that you treasure, and why.
 As always, if you have questions about the topic, please feel free to contact your Youth Leaders.
 Your Youth Leaders

SUNDAY SERMON REFLECTIONS (up to 10 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week.

- What Bible verse was used for the basis of last Sunday's sermon?
- What were some of the main takeaways? What did you learn?
- So far this week, how have you applied what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?
- Going forward, how will you apply what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

HOOK (up to 15 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- Allow 2-3 students to share their reflections. For larger groups, vary who shares from week to week.
- Write the following on chart paper: *Parent/Relative, Friend/Peer, Mentor/Coach.*
- **Be sensitive to students who may not have one or both parents in their life, and to students who struggle with their relationship with their parents.** Ask them to think about another relative/guardian with whom they have a relationship.
- Allow 2-3 students to share 1 of the important relationships they have in their life. Categorize the relationship into one of the 3 categories.
- Romans 5:11 *And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.*

- How are you and how are you feeling today?

Ask the students to write down the name of 1 person whom they have a good relationship with and is very important to them.

- Ask them what benefits they receive from this relationship.
 - *Parents/Relative* - unconditional love and support, financial support, food, clothing, shelter, boundaries
 - *Friend/Peer* - companionship, have fun together, someone to talk to, discuss problems with, cry together, laugh together
 - *Minister/Teacher/Coach* - Guidance, knowledge, advice, problem solving, helps me to understand
- Most relationships fall into one of these 3 categories *italicized* above.
 - Emphasize 1 good relationship in your life can be a great blessing.
 - Having all 3 of these types of relationships, would be AWESOME.

Then ask the students to categorize God, the Father; God, the Son; and God, the Holy Spirit into one of the 3 categories mentioned above and why they chose that category.

- God, the Father - Parent / Relative
 - He created us and provides unconditional love. He is the sustainer of our life
- God, the Son - Friend
 - We can share all our joys and sorrows with Him and He will help us carry our burdens
- God, the Holy Spirit – Counselor / Comforter
 - He gives us wisdom, clarity, guidance
- Emphasize, though 3 different types of relationships, we know they make up the Holy Trinity and that we are blessed that God has chosen us to have a relationship with Him. Read Romans 5:11.

SET THE STAGE (up to 1 minute)

Facilitator Notes:

- Preview the "I wonder" questions with the students.

I wonder...

- Why is a relationship with God, the Father; God, the Son; God, the Holy Spirit important?
- How do I develop this relationship?
- How will I benefit from this relationship with the Trinity?

LESSON (up to 25 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

- If any of the students were a part of the previous semester, "Embrace the promise of Christ's return", the facilitator can briefly touch on the Trinity discussions from that semester (E1, E2, E3, E4) as review.
- The facilitator can determine how much time to spend on each section if it is clear the students have a solid understanding of the material covered in this discussion guide.
- It is important to note to the students that the word "relationship" is not being restricted to a romantic relationship.
- For background information on the Apostolicum Creed, see Catechism Q&A questions 29-36.
- T8, T9, and T10 discussions will focus on sin, grace, and forgiveness.

Ask a student to read Exodus 29:45

then

Ask a student to read the "**Flashpoint: Relationships**" on page 102 of the IGNITE Bible.

"God wanted to have a good relationship with His people, the Israelites. He'd rescued them from slavery and delivered them to the Promised Land. However, God's people then-like us today-sinned and often forgot about God, His protection, and His great gifts. Throughout the Old Testament, God created traditions and practices to help the Israelites remember to not take their relationship with Him for granted. In the New Testament, Jesus provided the bridge for relationship with God. Do you ever take your relationship with God for granted? God constantly desires a relationship with you and wants to live every day with you!"

Ask the students:

Student Question #1 What is required in order to have a relationship with someone?

- In order to have a relationship with someone, we first must know that they exist.
- The first 3 Articles of Faith define what we believe about God, the Father; God, the Son; God, the Holy Spirit
 - The basis for these Articles of Faith is called the Apostolicum (Sometimes also referred to as the "Apostles' Creed" or "Apostolic Creed").

Student Question #2 How does Christ make our relationship with God possible?

- Read Matthew 1:22-23
 - God become man in Jesus Christ (Immanuel: God with us!)
- He demonstrated what a perfect relationship with God the Father looks like.
- He wiped away our sin when He died on the cross. Christ bridged the gap between us and God that was created by sin.

Student Question #3 What can we do to keep our relationship with God, the Father; God, the Son; God, the Holy Spirit strong; what do you do to keep your relationship with your friends strong?

- Communicate often – prayer
- Get to know each other – know the Word / study Scripture, spend time in divine services and small groups
- Do things together – apply His Word

Student Question #4 How will I benefit from this relationship with the Trinity?

- By being in a relationship with God, we become who God intended us to be.

Close the discussion by reiterating the 3 Persons of the Trinity and how our relationship with God, the Father; God, the Son; God, the Holy Spirit will provide everything we need in every situation or interaction.

- Our relationship with the Father – He is our creator, loves us unconditionally and can make all things possible, according to His will.
- Our relationship with Jesus – He is our redeemer, makes our relationship with God possible, grants us grace and forgiveness when we truly seek it, demonstrated how to live in a way that God intended.
- Our relationship with the Holy Spirit – He is our Comforter/Counselor and will provide clarity and understanding.

Remind the students that they must continuously develop this relationship by:

- Communicating often – PRAY
- Getting to know God – STUDY the Bible, BE PRESENT and ATTENTIVE when God speaks in divine services
 - Attendance is different than being present and actively listening.
 - As you are listening, think about how you can apply what you're hearing to your life
- Doing the Word – APPLY what you learn to your life

- The word STUDY is intentionally being used rather than READ. Explain to the students, we can't just read the Bible for the sake of saying we read the Bible. Reading the Bible should be an active process rather than passive. STUDY the Bible means we take apart the word, research the meaning of passages, and ponder how it applies to you and me.
- Encourage the use of the IGNITE Bible as it will assist students in their study of Holy Scripture. Point out the features of this Bible.
- You can find an explanation of the features at the front of the Bible on page 15-A.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME? (up to 15 minutes)

Facilitator Notes:

Close with the "I Believe..." statements

- As you review each statement, stop and check in with the group to be sure there are no misunderstandings or misconceptions.
- Allow the students to state an "I Believe..." statement for each of the "I Wonder..." questions in their own words.
- Remind the students that on their Confirmation day, they will or have already promised and committed to "renounce Satan and all his work and ways" / "and the earnest resolution to remain faithful to You until my end. Amen".

I believe...

- God, the Father is my creator and sustainer; God, the Son is my redeemer; and God, the Holy Spirit is my comforter and helper, who leads into all truth. (Catechism Q&A question 5)
- Through prayer, experiencing God's word and sacraments in the divine services, and applying His wisdom, my relationship with God will grow. (Catechism Q&A question 613, 715)
- By being in a relationship with God, we become who God intended us to be. (Catechism Q&A question 178, 247)

A Point to Ponder....

- What do you want out of a relationship with God? How has your relationship with God grown so far in your life?

A Call to Action...

- Identify challenges (actions, behaviors, attitudes) that are preventing your relationship with God from growing to a level that you want it to be at. Make a plan to address 1 of the challenges this semester. Feel free to ask a fellow student or a youth leader to help hold you accountable to the plan.

Weekly Reflections

What Bible verse was used for the basis of last Sunday's sermon?

What were some of the main takeaways? What did you learn?

So far this week, how have you applied what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

Going forward, how will you apply what you learned from the sermon last Sunday?

Point to Ponder.....

Call to Action.....

Transform Your Nature, Using Jesus as Your Example: *Me and God*

<p>I wonder...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Why is a relationship with God, the Father; God, the Son; God, the Holy Spirit important? ➤ How do I develop this relationship? ➤ How will I benefit from this relationship with the Trinity? 	<p>I believe...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ God, the Father is my creator and sustainer; God, the Son is my redeemer; and God, the Holy Spirit is my comforter and helper, who leads into all truth. (Catechism Q&A question 5) ➤ Through prayer, experiencing God's word and sacraments in the divine services, and applying His wisdom, my relationship with God will grow. (Catechism Q&A question 613) ➤ By being in a relationship with God, we become who God intended us to be. (Catechism Q&A questions 178, 247)
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1. What is required in order to have a relationship with someone?

2. How does Christ make our relationship with God possible?

3. What can we do to keep our relationship with God, the Father; God, the Son; God, the Holy Spirit strong; what do you do to keep your relationship with your friends strong?

4. How will I benefit from this relationship with the Trinity?

Point to Ponder: What do you want out of a relationship with God? How has your relationship with God grown so far in your life?

Call to Action: Identify challenges (actions, behaviors, attitudes) that are preventing your relationship with God from growing to a level that you want it to be at. Make a plan to address 1 of the challenges this semester. Feel free to ask a fellow student or a youth leader to help hold you accountable to the plan.