

Knowing God through Creation

Lesson Focus | Man knows God by both reason and faith. Reason tells us that he exists, that he has created a well-ordered world, and that he is powerful, beautiful, and knowable (to an extent) through his creation. Faith helps us believe what God has revealed about himself in Scripture and through the Incarnation—when God became man. We know he is a Trinity, all loving, all knowing, and present everywhere. Reason also helps us understand the things about God that we know by faith, while faith helps order our reason rightly.

1 | begin

- Pray the Glory Be with your child.
- Show your child a watch, cell phone, computer, or other household item with many working parts. Ask him if the item could have made itself. Does it have a designer? What can he know about the designer from the item? What can he not know?
- Read Matthew 16:13–20 aloud.

2 | summarize

Summarize this week's lesson for your child:

Example: Just as we know this item has a maker, we know that the world, which is vastly more complex, must have a maker too. From looking at the world, we can know some things about its maker. We can know other things only by faith. Reason and faith together help us to know God.

3 | review

Review this week's lesson by asking your child the following questions:

1. How do we know God wants to be known? (*He reveals himself to us by faith and reason.*)
2. What does God reveal about himself in the Bible? (*That he is everywhere, knows everything, and is pure spirit; that he is love.*)
3. What does Jesus reveal to us about God? (*That he is a Holy Trinity.*)
4. Define the gift of faith. (*The supernatural power we receive from God that helps us believe in all he has revealed through the Bible, Jesus, and the Church.*)
5. How do humans image God? (*We have intelligence, understanding, and free will, as well as a spiritual and immortal soul.*)

References

- Student Textbook: Chapter 1, pp. 13–17
- Sacred Scripture: Gen 1; Mt 16:13–20, 28:19; Acts 1:12–26, 15; 1 Tim 3:14–16; Heb 11
- *Catechism of the Catholic Church*: 27–28, 31–48, 153–65, 218–314, 688, 2810–12



4 | apply

Help your child apply this week's lesson by asking the following questions:

1. When you look at the world that God made, what does it tell you about him?
2. What is something that you know by faith to be true, and that your reason helps you understand?
3. How can you use your reason to understand your faith better?

5 | conclude

- With your child, pray the Our Father.

6 | follow up

During the week, do at least one of the following activities with your child:

1. Memorize 2 Corinthians 5:7.
2. Hold a mock trial, in which your child must argue the case for God's existence using arguments grounded in both reason and faith.
3. Set aside five minutes every evening to read a short passage from the New Testament.

*We walk by faith,
not by sight.*
—2 Corinthians
5:7

notes
