

Creation

Lesson Focus | God is the Creator of heaven and earth. He made all things in existence out of nothing. The high point of creation was the human person, who uniquely images God through the powers of the intellect and the will. Although the first man and woman enjoyed perfect friendship with God and one another, they used their gift of free will to reject God's good plan and disobeyed him. For that sin—called Original Sin—they lost many of God's gifts and all their descendants inherited the wounds of their sin.

1 | begin

- Pray the Glory Be with your child.
- Tell your child about a particular virtue with which you struggle (e.g., being patient, not losing your temper, staying focused on your work, etc.).
- Read Genesis 3:1–8 aloud.

2 | summarize

Summarize this week's lesson for your child:

Example: *The world that God created was perfect, but because he wanted us to choose to love him, he gave us the gift of free will. Our first parents misused that gift, and all of creation suffered the consequences. That's what makes virtue difficult for us.*

3 | review

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

1. Out of what did God create the world? (*Out of nothing.*)
2. What did God create? (*Material things, such as water and earth, and spiritual things, such as angels and human souls.*)
3. What are angels? (*Creatures who are pure spirit and are more intelligent and powerful than humans.*)
4. A human being is made up of what two things? (*A physical body and spiritual soul.*)
5. What are the effects of Original Sin on us? (*Separation from God, loss of grace, a tendency to sin, sickness, death.*)
6. What does the Redeemer of the human race do? (*Reconciles us to God and restores sanctifying grace to our souls.*)

References

- Student Textbook: Chapter 3, pp. 24–30
- Sacred Scripture: Gen 1–3; Rev 12:1–10
- *Catechism of the Catholic Church*: 280–412, 1023–37, 1730–48



4 | apply

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

1. As a person, how are you different from animals? What can you do that animals can't do?
2. The gift to choose and do good comes with great responsibilities toward the rest of creation. How can you use those gifts in the world?
3. What virtue is the hardest for you to practice? What can strengthen that virtue in you?

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 Romans 5:19.
2. Before bed, pray the Prayer to Saint Michael Prayer (see Appendix).
3. Find online a recording of Joseph Haydn's oratorio *Creation* and listen to part or all of it. Ask your child to describe how it makes him feel. What does he imagine when he hears the music?

For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience many will be made righteous.
—Romans 5:19

notes
