

PARENT COMMUNICATION



Dear Parents,

Your child will be learning Theology of the Body (TOB) this year. These supplemental lessons will be taught alongside our religion curriculum. TOB is an understanding of what it means to be human. Together, we will discover the very foundations of our authentic identity as human persons created in the image and likeness of God, male and female.

Why are we here? What does it mean to love? How do we find real happiness?

Through prayer, stories, thought-provoking questions, and activities we will begin to explore the wonderful answers to life's questions through the lens of God's design, plan and purpose.

WHAT TOB IS...


TOB is an integral understanding of the human person developed by Pope St. John Paul II, published under the title ***Man and Woman He Created Them: A Theology of the Body***. These Scripture-based reflections about God's original design for the human person provide a needed Christian anthropology for our times. TOB conveys the inestimable worth and dignity of the human person and the road to happiness, which involves the gift-of-self, communion with others and with the Blessed Trinity.

WHAT TOB IS NOT...

- A chastity program
- Sex education
- Only focused on human sexuality
- A bunch of rules
- Just for married people
- Just for young people



The body, in fact, and only the body, is capable of making visible what is invisible: the spiritual and the divine. TOB 19:4

Stay up to date with the TOB lessons your child is learning in the classroom. Look for the  (leaf) at the bottom of your child's worksheets to see a summary of their current TOB lesson labeled "THEOLOGY OF THE BODY TIDBITS."

Want to learn more? Visit RuahWoodsInstitute.org/Parents to view a TOB parent presentation.



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WHAT THEOLOGY OF THE BODY (TOB) THEMES WILL MY CHILD LEARN THIS YEAR?

Your child is about to begin a beautiful journey to discover who they are as a human person created in the image and likeness of God as male or female with a plan and a purpose. The *Ruah Woods Institute's K-5 Curriculum* uses classic children's storybooks to bring to life 12 age-appropriate Theology of the Body themes as outlined in our Christian Anthropology Standards.

Why classic children's stories?

Classic children's stories provide a unique and memorable experience. Dr. Andrew Sodergren, Director of the Ruah Woods Institute's psychological services affirms that utilizing story as an educational tool is an exceptional method to teach TOB to children. Teaching through story engages both sides of the brain. Additionally, this method is modeled after Pope St. John Paul II's approach. Pope St. John Paul II, the second longest sitting Pope, and now a great saint, often stated "Faith must become culture." When elaborating further he said, "Faith that does not become culture is not wholly embraced, fully thought, or faithfully lived."

The Greatest Teacher to ever live, Jesus Christ, used parables and Jewish stories, to teach deep, universal truths regarding the greatest of all God's creations, the human person. Jesus did not use the words of learned scholars, but spoke in everyday language about everyday things so that his audience could relate and draw conclusions more readily. Jesus taught through use of easily recognized mental images such as birds, seeds, farmers, lamps, kings and queens.

We will use this proven method of teaching to introduce your 2nd Grader to 7 TOB themes this year:

1. **Creation is a Gift** – Your child will be able to explain that God gives us the gift of creation because he loves us. The student will recognize that humans have infinite value and are to be treated with respect and dignity at all stages of life (TOB 13:3; CCC 339, 342).
2. **Original Unity** – Your child will relate how we learn more about ourselves through our relationships with others and discuss reasons why God made man male and female in Gen 1:27 and Gen 2:18-22a. The student will state that generosity in giving (rather than selfishness) leads to happiness and we need one another to become saints (TOB 9:4, cf 2-3; 13:2; CCC 371-372).
3. **Communion of Persons** – Your child will discuss how we are created in the image and likeness of the Trinitarian God— three persons one God and that the family is a symbol of God's love in the Trinity (TOB 9:2-9:3, 13:2, 19:1; CCC 355-357).
4. **Gift-of-Self** – Your child will express that man is called to give himself through love as "Gift." And discuss how Jesus is the model of what it means for a person to be a selfless gift to others (TOB 15:1, 90:5-6; CCC 357, 519-520, 1878, 2196; Gaudium et Spes 24:3).
5. **Body-Soul Unity** – Your child will discuss how the character of a person is embodied in their behavior. And that their body is a temple of the Holy Spirit (cf 1Cor 6:19-20, 1 Thess 4:4, TOB 57:1-3; CCC 2521-2524).
6. **Body Reveals the Person** – Your child will analyze how the body reveals that each person is made for relationship, a giving and receiving of love, with God, others, and the world (TOB 12:1, 13:4; CCC 340, 344, 371-373).
7. **Vocation/Marriage** – Your child will state that marriage is a visible sign of God's love on earth and identify ways a husband and wife are symbols of God's love (TOB 10:4, 95b:1; CCC 1303).

