

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 4th Grader to 9 TOB themes this year:

1. **Original Solitude** – Your child will recognize that the human person has value and state ways to respect this value at every age and stage of life (TOB 19:3, CCC 1700-1709).
2. **Original Unity** – Your child will interpret the significance of Genesis 2:18: "It is not good for man to be alone. I will make a helper fit for him." Your child will then compare Adam's joy at the creation of Eve to his response to the creation of the animals and understand why God made human persons in 2 complimentary ways: male and female (TOB 9:2, 10:1; CCC 371-372).
3. **Communion of Persons** – Your child will extrapolate how man is created in God's image through communion of persons to give and receive love and be able to identify authentic love as to "will the good of another" (TOB 9:3; CCC 355-357).
4. **Body-Soul Unity** – Your child will connect how virtues (which have to do with man's inner life) are expressed through the body and be able to identify virtuous acts (TOB 51:5-6, 53:4, 54:2-55:7; CCC 2516, 2520-2524).
5. **Historical Man/Fall and Redemption** – Your child will recognize that suffering is a result of the Fall and that suffering can make it difficult for us to see the gifts of God (cf. TOB 26:4-5, 27:1-2; CCC 385,400,402, 404-405).
6. **Vocation** – Your child will demonstrate how through our work we make a gift of ourselves and relate how work helps us fulfill a mission (cf. TOB 6:4, 7:2; CCC 373, 2427-2428).
7. **Virginity for the Sake of the Kingdom: Vocation** – Your child will state ways that Jesus loves the Church, recognize that in the vocation to the priesthood, ordained men vow to love the Church like Christ loves the Church and state ways that priests love the Church (TOB 79:9, 80:1; CCC 1551).
8. **Sacramentality of Marriage: Vocation** – Your child will recognize that God calls husbands and wives to love one another like Jesus loves the Church. He/she can state examples of how the love of a husband and wife in the Sacrament of Marriage resembles the love of Jesus for his spouse, the Church, and recognize that the love between husbands and wives in the Sacrament of Marriage makes Jesus' love visible (TOB 10:4, 95b:1; CCC1604).
9. **Eschatological Man/Resurrection** – Your child will discuss how at the Resurrection we will become one with God and the communion of saints in heaven, will remain either male or female, and be able to identify ways where God is, or was, present in their own life (cf. TOB 65:5, 68:1-4; CCC 996-997, 1023-1025).