

APPENDIX 2

PARENT / GUARDIAN CONNECTION

LEVEL I - JR. HIGH: TOB UNIT 1



THEME: CREATION IS A GIFT

SOW THE SEED



Dear Parents,

In this Theology of the Body (TOB) lesson, your child will learn how **Creation is a Gift** at a deeper level. Pope St. John Paul II saw something special in the creation account of Genesis. Not only is it something that happened long ago, but it is our own story of what it means to be human. John Paul II began to see that this divinely inspired narration of the very onset of creation would help us to understand God, ourselves, and the world around us in a much richer way. He wrote about these scriptural reflections in a book entitled *Man and Woman He Created Them: A Theology of the Body*. Our lives and all of creation are the result of a generous, free gift because God is love (1 John 4:8).

In the next few lessons, your child will read and ponder the meaning of Genesis 1:1-19. In the account of Genesis, God reveals Himself as the Creator, who brings light into darkness, and creates every living thing. To the human person, he gave a very special gift: the gift of being created in the image and likeness of God. The class will discuss that in receiving and living in this gift of creation, we are connected to God, the Giver of the gift.

As the lessons unfold, the class will participate in activities that will help them connect to the gift of creation. Your child will have the opportunity to experience the 'wonder of creation' by focusing on the miracles that surround us every day. The class will also have the opportunity to participate in God's generosity by hand-making a gift to offer to someone else.

GERMINATE THE SEED



FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

What is the best gift you have ever received? Why? What was your response to this gift? ***(Note to parents: Discuss how a gift can be something more than something material, such as a surprise visit, or an encouraging word).**



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GROW THE SEED



FAMILY ACTIVITY:

Go outside and take a walk. Tell each family member to look for things they find amazing that reveals God's creativity, beauty and power. Afterwards, go around and share one another's experience. If going outside is not possible, watch a video that shows the wonder of creation. For example, view as a family the YouTube video *The Beauty of Earth*.

FAMILY PRAYER:

In silence, think of who or what God has created that you are thankful for.

Each family member says aloud, "Heavenly Father, I thank you for creating _____."

Glory be to the Father, to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

St. Giorgio Frassati, Pray for us!

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