

APPENDIX 2

PARENT / GUARDIAN CONNECTION

LEVEL I - JR. HIGH: TOB UNIT 4



THEME: ORIGINAL SOLITUDE

SOW THE SEED



Dear Parents,

In the coming unit, your child will dive deeply into the Theology of the Body (TOB) theme of **Original Solitude**. In the creation of man, Pope St. John Paul II saw and named three “original experiences” of Adam and Eve, and while we have many experiences in our lives, these “original experiences” reveal who we are at the deepest level. In the first, Adam experiences original solitude. Adam is alone, but *alone-with-God*, and in his solitude, he realizes his uniqueness of being made in the image and likeness of God. So, while it is “not good” that man is alone, solitude allows him to realize that he alone can understand, think, feel, choose, and love.

In the next few lessons, your child will continue to read and ponder the second creation account found in Genesis 2:4-17 (the two creation stories complement one another in revealing deep, theological truths). It is Adam’s experience of his body that helps him become aware of his solitude and all that it means. Man is part of creation, and yet also set apart.

As the lessons unfold, the class will participate in an activity that invokes the use of memory. Memory allows us to connect with our experience, especially to beauty, truth, and goodness. Adam first experienced original solitude, and accordingly our experience of original solitude means we have a unique and unrepeatable relationship with God and can only be truly fulfilled by Him alone.

GERMINATE THE SEED



FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTION:

Why is it so important to spend alone-time daily with God in prayer or adoration? **(Note to parents: Encourage the family to give up all electronics for a certain part of the day, dedicating that time to God. You could offer them a rosary, read a daily reflection or read through one of the gospels doing a little each day).*



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GROW THE SEED



FAMILY ACTIVITY:

Original Experience — Discuss a special event that every member of the family experienced and has a keen memory of. Pass out note cards/paper and have each person write down their own special memories of the event. First, share the objective reality of the event. Next, share each person's experience of the event. Ex: Objective reality — Tom and Kate's wedding. Personal experience — I cried at the wedding mass; I ate too much cake at the reception. Discuss the connection of how Adam had an experience of solitude with God, and how we each have our own experience of solitude with God.

FAMILY PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, still our hearts so that we may know that you are God. Help us to be faithful in spending time with you daily. Help us to be strong and of good courage and not fear as you are with us and will not forsake us.

Amen.

Blessed Chiara Badano, pray for us!

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