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CHAPTER THREE
LEARNING ABOUT GOD

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Summary of Lesson Content

Lesson 1

From the world around him and by the use of his reason, man can know that God exists.

Man can also, by reason, know some of God’s perfections.

Lesson 2

God chose to reveal Himself to man through the prophets.

Prophets speak God’s truth to their fellow human beings, in order to bring them closer to God.

Moses was the greatest of the Old Testament prophets.

Lesson 3

God also chose to reveal Himself (more directly) through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Jesus revealed God to man through all He said and did and by Who He was.

Jesus taught man about God and His kingdom through parables.

Lesson 4

The Bible is made up of the Old Testament and the New Testament.

Jesus founded the Church. The Pope is the Vicar of Christ.

The bishops of the world, in union with the Pope, help govern and teach the Church.

The Church safeguards God’s revelation in Scripture and Tradition.
1. Teach the children to sing “Of the Father’s love begotten,” Adoremus Hymnal, #331.

2. End class by praying a Litany of Creation and the Glory Be (see Teacher’s Manual, p. 380).

In the next lesson, the students will learn more about revelation and how God revealed Himself through the prophets.

3. Explain that although not all people recognize the truth about God as taught through the Catholic Church, God is still the one true God, and He loves them. He wants all people to know and love Him. Even people who have no religion can come to know that God exists because all creation reflects the Creator.

4. Lead the children in giving thanks to God for the beauty of His creation, which is also a way in which we can come to know Him.

5. Next, ask the children if they can know through creation that God is a Triune God. No. Can they know that Jesus Christ is the Son of God through creation? No. Can they know that God wants us to receive the sacraments through creation? No. Explain that through creation, we can know that God exists, and we can know some of His perfections. We needed God to reveal Himself to us in the Person of His Son, Jesus Christ, in order to know more about God and His plan for us.

3 Learning about God

“This is eternal life, that they know the one true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent.”

John 17:3

We believe God is with us because He gives us many signs of His presence. One of the best signs is the world all around us. Everything in nature acts for a purpose, it has order, and it has great beauty. Even a person who has never heard about God can figure out that someone very wise and powerful must have put nature together. The different parts of creation give us many clues about God, our Creator.

Mountains and vast forests reveal that our Creator is majestic and great. Oceans and rushing waterfalls tell us of His power. Fresh rivers and sunsets reflect God’s beauty. The growth and seasons of living things show us that God is wise. And the company of good, loving people teaches us more about God’s own goodness and love. God made sure we had many ways to discover Him, since He created us to know and love Him. Long ago, before the coming of Jesus, God sent messages to people through holy men called prophets. Prophets were men who prepared the people for the coming of the Savior. Moses, for example, was a great prophet. Through Moses, and other Old Testament prophets, God taught people to be good, to stop sinning, and to trust in Him.

God later revealed Himself to us most directly through Jesus Christ. His Son, Our Savior. Remember. Jesus is God the Son, the Second Person of the Trinity. His way of life on earth showed us what God is really like. We learn through Jesus that God is gentle as well as just, slow to anger, rich in mercy, and full of love. We learn that He forgives the greatest sins if we are sorry for them. We learn that He is always ready to help us, help us and be our friend. Jesus often taught these things through parables. Parables are stories about ordinary people that teach us something about the Kingdom of God. Each parable is different, but they all teach one clear message from God: “Love God with all your heart and soul and might, and love your neighbor as yourself.”

We find Jesus’ parables and other things He said and did in a huge book entitled the Bible. The Bible is the holy book God gave us. It has two parts, the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament is the first part of the Bible. It teaches us about creation, our first parents, and the long wait and preparation of God’s people for the Savior. The New Testament is the second part of the Bible. It tells the story of Jesus and how the Church began. It teaches us that the Church is our savior in Heaven. God inspired holy men from earliest times to write down His Law and teachings. These sacred writings are the Bible. That is why we call it the Word of God. We also call it Scripture. God’s teaching was also passed on through words and deeds that weren’t written in the Bible. That teaching is called Tradition. Scripture and Tradition teach us everything we need to know to live a good and happy life that is pleasing to God.

Jesus, our Teacher, once called Himself the Good Shepherd because He watches over us and leads us to the Father. After Jesus left the earth, He gave us another shepherd to take His place. We call this shepherd the Vicar of Christ or the Pope. The Pope teaches and guides the Church for Christ. He encourages us to become saints. He is the head of the bishops all over the world. He helps them in their missions to help us keep learning and growing in our faith.

EXAMPLES OF HOW WE SEE THE PERFECTIONS OF GOD IN NATURE

- **Wisdom:** the changing seasons and tides; a spider’s web
- **Goodness:** a bird caring for its young; the rising sun
- **Power:** the roaring ocean; a thunderstorm; an earthquake
- **Order:** the stars in the sky; mathematics
- **Beauty:** the great forests; waterfalls; rainbows
- **Infinity:** the night sky
- **Justice:** natural wonders throughout the world
- **Truth:** clear water that reflects your face

1. Show the children various pieces of art and discuss how they differ from each other. An impressionist uses bold strokes and colors to give the image the desired effect. A piece from the Renaissance period may look “romantic” or idealized. As you hold up each work of art, ask the children what it tells us about God and man. For example, a religious work of art may inspire us to a deeper love of God.

2. Explain to the children that creation works the same way. By looking at creation, we can use our reason to know something of the Creator. First, we can know that because all of creation works together, it could not have been just accidentally thrown together and left abandoned. Someone very intelligent must have made the world and still cares for it. We can look at the power of waterfalls and storms and know that the Creator must be more powerful than these. We can look at the beauty of mountains and sunsets and know that the Creator is more beautiful. Read the first two paragraphs of the chapter.

Develop

1. Show the children various pieces of art and discuss how they differ from each other. An impressionist uses bold strokes and colors to give the image the desired effect. A piece from the Renaissance period may look “romantic” or idealized. As you hold up each work of art, ask the children what it tells us about God and man. For example, a religious work of art may inspire us to a deeper love of God.

2. Explain to the children that creation works the same way. By looking at creation, we can use our reason to know something of the Creator. First, we can know that because all of creation works together, it could not have been just accidentally thrown together and left abandoned. Someone very intelligent must have made the world and still cares for it. We can look at the power of waterfalls and storms and know that the Creator must be more powerful than these. We can look at the beauty of mountains and sunsets and know that the Creator is more beautiful. Read the first two paragraphs of the chapter.

3. Either look at pictures or take the children outside to show them God’s perfections in nature, such as wisdom, power, beauty, infinity, holiness, love, justice, and truth. Have the children present what they find and then describe how their findings reflect God’s perfections.

4. Lead the children in giving thanks to God for the beauty of His creation, which is also a way in which we can come to know Him.

5. Next, ask the children if they can know through creation that God is a Triune God. No. Can they know that Jesus Christ is the Son of God through creation? No. Can they know that God wants us to receive the sacraments through creation? No. Explain that through creation, we can know that God exists, and we can know some of His perfections.

We needed God to reveal Himself to us in the Person of His Son, Jesus Christ, in order to know more about God and His plan for us.

Reinforce

1. Lead the children in a nature hunt.


3. Have the students work on the first two Memorization Questions for this chapter (see Teacher’s Manual, p. 33).

4. Make a display with the students’ findings showing God’s perfections as reflected in nature.

Conclude

1. Teach the children to sing “Of the Father’s love begotten,” Adoremus Hymnal, #331.

2. End class by praying a Litany of Creation and the Glory Be (see Teacher’s Manual, pp. 380).
Moses was the greatest prophet of the Old Testament. Born to a poor Israelite girl, Moses was placed among the rushes on the Nile River in a basket. Discovered by Pharaoh's own daughter, Moses was raised as a son within the royal house of Egypt. When he defended an Israelite slave and killed an Egyptian, Moses fled his royal position. God called to Moses from a burning bush and gave him an important job. God told Moses to lead His people out of Egypt. Moses was not a good speaker and was afraid to do what God wanted, but Moses obeyed God and led the Israelites out of Egypt.

1. Ask the children some of ways in which we can come to know people. We can know them by what they do (e.g., if Johnny is always mean to others, we might say that Johnny is a mean boy). We can know them by what others say about them (e.g., if your mother says that Suzy is a nice girl and that you may spend more time with her, then you may think Suzy is a nice girl). We can know them by what they say (e.g., if I say that lying hurts my feelings, then you can know that I like the truth).

2. Explain to the children that God chose to reveal Himself to man. This means that God wants us to know Him better. We can know God by what He does (e.g., He created the world so we can say God is the Creator). We can know God by what others say about Him (e.g., Jesus told us to call God our Father). We can know God by what He says about Himself (e.g., what He revealed to the prophets). 

3. Stress how God uses natural and supernatural means to communicate with us. Speaking through the prophets and working miraculous events are supernatural. This revelation helps us come to know God.

4. Ask the children if they have any close friends or family members. Do they like to speak with them? What about? Do they find joy in talking about themselves, their likes and dislikes, as well as their desires? God, too, wants us to know Him. He wants to share with us Who He is and what His plan is for us.

Moses was the greatest of the Old Testament prophets. (Exodus 19:5–6, 20). Moses delivered to us the Ten Commandments, God’s Laws, so that we may live in a good relationship with God and neighbor. Point out that God communicates Himself to man by words and deeds.

3 Learning about God

“This is eternal life, that they know that the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent.”

John 17:3

We believe God is with us because He gives us many signs of His presence. One of the best signs is the world all around us. Everything in nature acts for a purpose. It has order, and it has great beauty. Even a person who has never heard about God can figure out that someone very wise and powerful must have put nature together. The different parts of creation give us many clues about God’s Creator. Mountains and vast forests reveal that our Creator is majestic and great. Oceans and rushing waterfalls tell us of His power. Fresh roses and sunsets reflect God’s beauty. The growth and seasons of living things show us that God is wise. And the company of good, loving people teaches us more about God’s own goodness and love.

God made man to have many ways to discover Him, since He created us to know and love Him. Long ago, before the coming of Jesus, God sent messengers to His people through holy men called prophets. Prophets were men who prepared the people for the coming of the Savior. Moses, for example, was a great prophet. Through Moses, and other Old Testament prophets, God taught mankind to be good, to stop sinning, and to turn to Him.

God later revealed Himself to us more directly through Jesus Christ, His Son, Our Savior. Remember, Jesus is God the Son, the Second Person of the Trinity. His way of life on earth showed us what God is really like. We learn through Jesus that God is gentle as well as just, slow to anger, rich in mercy, and full of love. We learn that God

Moses was the greatest prophet of the Old Testament. We will learn that God chose to reveal Himself to man. We will learn that God chose the prophets to speak God’s truth to man in order to bring man closer to God. Moses was the greatest of the Old Testament prophets.
In the next lesson, the students will learn about Scripture, Tradition, and the Church.

1. Sing with the children “Of the Father’s love begotten,” *Adoremus Hymnal*, #331.

2. End class by praying the Our Father and the Glory Be (see *Teacher’s Manual*, p. 380).

**PARABLES FOUND IN THE GOSPELS**
- The Sower and the Seeds (Matthew 4:9–10; Luke 8:6–9)
- The Dishonest Steward (Luke 16:1–12)
- The Two Debtors (Luke 7:41–43)
- The Hidden Treasure (Matthew 13:44)
- The Pearl of Great Price (Matthew 13:45)
- The Ten Virgins (Matthew 25:1–10)
- The Wedding Garment (Matthew 22:11–14)
- The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:35–37)
- The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11–32)

We believe God is with us because He gives us many signs of His presence. One of the best signs is the world all around us. Everything in nature acts for a purpose. It has color, and it has great beauty. Even a person who has never heard about God can figure out that someone very wise and powerful must have put nature together. The different forms of creation give us many clues about God, our Creator.

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God made sure we had many ways to discover Him, once He created us to know and love Him. Long ago, before the coming of Jesus, God sent messages to His people through holy men called prophets. Prophets were men who prepared the people for the coming of the Savior. Moses, for example, was a great prophet. Through Moses, and other Old Testament prophets, God taught mankind to be good, to stop sinning, and to trust in Him.

God later revealed Himself to men directly through Jesus Christ, His Son, Our Savior. Remember, Jesus is God the Son, the Second Person of the Trinity. His way of life on earth showed us what God is really like. We learn through Jesus that God is gentle as well as just, slow to anger, rich in mercy, and full of love. We learn that He forgives the greatest sins if we are sorry for them. We learn that He is always ready to heal us, help us, and be our friend.

Children often told these things through parables. Parables are stories about ordinary people that teach us something about the Kingdom of God. Each parable is different, but they all teach one clear message from God: “Love God with all your heart and soul and might, and love your neighbor as yourself.”

We find Jesus’ parables and other things He said and did in a big book called the Bible. The Bible is the holy book God gave us. It has two parts, the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament is the first part of the Bible. It teaches us about creation, our first parents, and the long wait and preparation of God’s people for the Savior. The New Testament is the second part of the Bible. It tells the story of Jesus and how the Church began. It teaches us that the Church is our ladder to Heaven.

God inspired holy men from earliest times to write down His Law and teachings. These are recorded in the Bible. That is why we call it the Word of God. We also call it Scripture. God’s teaching was also passed on through words and deeds that weren’t written in the Bible. That teaching is called Tradition. Scripture and Tradition teach us everything we need to know to live a good and happy life that is pleasing to God.

Jesus, our Teacher, once called Himself the Good Shepherd because He watches over us and leads us to the Father. After Jesus left the earth, He gave us another shepherd to take His place. We call this shepherd the Vicar of Christ or the Pope. The Pope teaches and guides the Church for Christ. He encourages us to become saints. He is the head of the faithful all over the world. He helps them in their mission to help keep learning and growing in our faith.
In the next lesson, the students’ knowledge of the material covered this week will be reviewed and assessed.

CHALK TALK: GOD’S LETTER TO US

The children will learn that the Bible is made up of the Old Testament and the New Testament. God is its primary author.

They will learn that Jesus founded the Church. The Pope is the Vicar of Christ. The bishops of the world, in union with the Pope, help govern and teach the members of the Church.

They will learn that the Church safeguards God’s revelation in Scripture and Tradition.

Aims

1. Do a general review of the content taught from the entire chapter to prepare them for their quiz in the next lesson.
2. Sing “Of the Father’s love begotten,” Adoremus Hymnal, #331.
3. End class with a prayer.

Materials

- Class set of Bibles
- Activity Book, p. 12

Optional:
- “Of the Father’s love begotten,” Adoremus Hymnal, #331

Begin

Distribute a class set of Bibles to the students. Teach the children that the Bible should be treated with respect, because it is the Word of God. Show the children that the Bible is made of two parts, the Old Testament and the New Testament.

Develop

1. Read the rest of the chapter with the children.
2. Have the children mark the Gospels on their list of books of the Bible. Note that these are the first four books of the New Testament. Stress that the Gospels are very important because they record the words, parables, and miracles of Jesus Christ. Have the students look up some of the parables listed on p. 31 of the Teacher’s Manual.
3. Explain to the students that God is the author of the Bible. Although the Bible is made up of many different books and many men wrote them using different styles, it is God Who inspired their writings. They wrote no more and no less than what God wanted. The Scriptures reveal God to us in recorded word and deed.
4. Read John 21:25. Explain to the students that not everything is written in the Bible. As Catholics, we rely on both Scripture (Bible) and Tradition (the Word of God passed on through the Church but not written in the Bible). In order for the truth to be passed on without error, Jesus established the Church with Saint Peter as the head. His Church protects the truth. You may read Matthew 16:13–20 with the students.
5. Explain that the current Pope has the role of Saint Peter, the Vicar of Christ. All the bishops united with him help protect the truth passed on through Scripture and Tradition. Their special work is to help all to learn and grow in the faith through the Church. You may identify the Pope, your diocesan bishop(s), and parish priest(s). Have the children understand the roles of their local hierarchy.
6. Reinforce that we learn about God and His teachings through Scripture and Tradition and that it is safeguarded by the Magisterium (the Pope and the bishops united with him).

Reinforce

1. To demonstrate that something can be passed on either orally or in written form, use the example of passing a note. Then play the game “telephone.” In this example, one person tell the message to another. As the teacher, you will play the part of the Holy Spirit, repeating the original message at every link in the chain (just as the Church has the help of the Holy Spirit to guard the truth). This will ensure that the message is the same at the beginning and at the end of the “telephone line.”
2. Have the students complete Activity Book p. 12 (see Teacher’s Manual, p. 35).
3. Have the students work on their Memorization Questions.
CHAPTER THREE: LEARNING ABOUT GOD

Review and Assessment

Aims

The students’ knowledge and understanding of the material covered this week will be reviewed and assessed.

Materials

• Quiz 3, Appendix, p. A-3

Optional:

• “Of the Father’s love begotten,” Adoremus Hymnal, #331

Review and Enrichment

1. Review with the children that God reveals Himself in nature, and discuss how nature reflects the perfections of God.

2. Review with the children that God reveals Himself Supernaturally. He has spoken through the prophets and has revealed Himself more directly in the Divine Person of Jesus Christ, the Son of God made Man.

3. God’s revelation is passed on to man in Scripture and Tradition. This revelation is kept free from error through the work of the Magisterium, which is the teaching authority of the Church (the Pope and the bishops in union with him).

4. The Bible is made up of many books. The Bible has two main parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament. The first four books of the New Testament are called the Gospels. They are Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The Gospels record the words and deeds of Jesus. The parables are also found in the Gospels. God is the author of the Bible. He inspired the writers to record only what God wanted recorded—no more and no less.

5. Review the Words to Know for this chapter (see Teacher’s Manual, p. 33).

Assess

1. Distribute the quizzes and read them with the children to ensure they understand the questions.

2. Administer the quiz. As students hand in their work, orally quiz them on the Memorization Questions for this chapter (see Teacher’s Manual, p. 33).

3. After all the quizzes have been handed in, you may wish to review the correct answers with the class.

Conclude

1. Sing “Of the Father’s love begotten,” Adoremus Hymnal, #331.

2. The students may dramatize the parables for one another.

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CHAPTER THREE: LEARNING ABOUT GOD

ACTIVITY BOOK ANSWER KEYS

Name:___________________

Who is God?

Take time to notice God all around you!

1. There are things all around you that are powerful. Can you name some of them?

Answers will vary.

2. There are things all around you that are beautiful. Can you name some of them?

Answers will vary.

3. There are things all around you that work together. Can you think of some examples?

Answers will vary.

4. There are things all around you that are good. Can you think of some of them?

Answers will vary.

5. There are things all around you that make you feel God is close. Can you think of some of them?

Answers will vary.

Faith and Life Series • Grade 3 • Chapter 3 • Lesson 2

Name:___________________

The Prophets!

If you were a prophet, what message do you think God would ask you to give? Write your thoughts below.

Answers will vary.

Faith and Life Series • Grade 3 • Chapter 3 • Lesson 1

Name:___________________

God’s Revelation

1. Where do we find Jesus’ parables and other things He said and did?

The Bible.

2. What are the two parts of the Bible?


3. About what does the Old Testament teach?

The Old Testament teaches about Creation, our first parents, and the long wait and preparation of God’s people for a Savior.


The New Testament teaches the story of Jesus and how the Church began and that the Church is the ladder to Heaven.

5. Who inspired the Bible? Who wrote down everything in the Bible?

God inspired holy men from earliest times to write down everything in the Bible.

6. What are other names for the Bible?

The other names for the Bible are the Word of God and Scripture.

7. What two things teach us everything we need to know to live a good and happy life that is pleasing to God?

Scripture and Tradition.

Faith and Life Series • Grade 3 • Chapter 3 • Lesson 3

Name:___________________

Learning about God

1. How can someone come to know God?

Answers will vary.

2. Did God send messages to His people? If so, why?

God sent messages to prepare His people for the coming of the Savior.

Answers will vary.

3. What do we learn from the Parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders?

Answers will vary.

4. What do we learn from the Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus?

Answers will vary.

5. What do we learn from the Parable of the Good Samaritan?

Answers will vary.

6. Of whom is the Pope head?

The Pope is head of the bishops and the Church.

Answers will vary.

7. Who safeguards the truths of Scripture and Tradition?

The Church safeguards Scripture and Tradition.

Answers will vary.

Faith and Life Series • Grade 3 • Chapter 3 • Lesson 3

Aims

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Kimball, Constance. Faith and Life Series • Grade 3 • Chapter 3 • Lesson 1

Aims

The students’ knowledge and understanding of the material covered this week will be reviewed and assessed.

Materials

• Quiz 3, Appendix, p. A-3

Optional:

• “Of the Father’s love begotten,” Adoremus Hymnal, #331

Review and Enrichment

1. Review with the children that God reveals Himself in nature, and discuss how nature reflects the perfections of God.

2. Review with the children that God reveals Himself Supernaturally. He has spoken through the prophets and has revealed Himself more directly in the Divine Person of Jesus Christ, the Son of God made Man.

3. God’s revelation is passed on to man in Scripture and Tradition. This revelation is kept free from error through the work of the Magisterium, which is the teaching authority of the Church (the Pope and the bishops in union with him).

4. The Bible is made up of many books. The Bible has two main parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament. The first four books of the New Testament are called the Gospels. They are Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The Gospels record the words and deeds of Jesus. The parables are also found in the Gospels. God is the author of the Bible. He inspired the writers to record only what God wanted recorded—no more and no less.

5. Review the Words to Know for this chapter (see Teacher’s Manual, p. 33).

Assess

1. Distribute the quizzes and read them with the children to ensure they understand the questions.

2. Administer the quiz. As students hand in their work, orally quiz them on the Memorization Questions for this chapter (see Teacher’s Manual, p. 33).

3. After all the quizzes have been handed in, you may wish to review the correct answers with the class.

Conclude

1. Sing “Of the Father’s love begotten,” Adoremus Hymnal, #331.

2. The students may dramatize the parables for one another.

34