

God Made Me to Be Wonderful!

Allelu!

Growing and Celebrating with Jesus

Lesson 3, ages 3-4

Lesson 3 Goal

- Your child will express understanding that God made each one of us.

Key Points

- God made people.
- God made me.



Parent Reflection

Scripture tells us that God forms us in our mother's womb and knows us from the very beginning of our life (Jeremiah 1:5). We are all called to show forth God's love in our own unique way. God has a plan for our lives and will help us to know that plan if we seek him.

Three- and four-year-olds live very much in the present, having little concept yet of the past and future. Because of this, they would not tend to ask where they came from. They do, however, have a beginning understanding of something existing because somebody made it, as they have their own experiences with making things—pictures, projects, and even messes.

It's important to tell our children often that God made them and gave them as a gift to mom and dad. Right now, the idea of being "created by God" is still largely a mystery to children this age. But over time, this understanding will convey to your child both a sense of self-worth (they must be valuable if God gave them as a gift) and a sense of purpose (God had a reason for making them).

Reflection Question

What is God's plan for my life right now, and in the future? How can I seek to follow God's plan for my life more fully?

Lesson Preparation

Before inviting your child to sit with you for lesson time, prepare all materials.

Materials

- Family Activity Sheet
- crayons or colored pencils
- picture of your child as a baby
- glue

- mirror
- Lesson 3 Activity Master – Saint Page (included with this lesson)

(Keep the saint page from each lesson to gather together a Communion of Saints Book created by your child.)

Gathering

Create a prayerful space. You might place a candle on the table, or set a cross in front of you. Invite your child to join you in quietly preparing for prayer.

Begin in prayer:

Make the Sign of the Cross together or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead: “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

Pray together: *“Thank you, God, for making each one of us. We praise you for making us so special. Amen.”*

Discovering

God Made Me! Turn to the first page of the Activity Sheet and read “God Made Me!”

Ask, “What is special about the way God made you?”

Turn to the second page of the Activity Sheet. Ask your child the “Ask Me!” questions and review the answers.

Exploring

Use the following activities to enrich your child’s understanding of the lesson and of our Catholic faith.

1. God Made Wonderful Me. Turn to the draw-

ing in the main activity of the Activity Sheet (center pages) and invite your child to describe what he or she sees. Give your child crayons or colored pencils, his or her baby picture, and glue. Explain the activity to your child and assist him or her in completing it.

2. “Me in the Mirror.” Play “I see” games with your child (I see happy, I see sad, I see shy) by making such expressions in the mirror. Point out similarities and differences in expression between the two of you. When finished, face the mirror together and say, “Let’s peek at God’s greatest gift to the world... each one of us!”

3. The Communion of Saints: Saint Rose of Lima. Show your child the picture of Saint Rose of Lima on the Family Activity page and read about her. Then read more about Saint Rose to your child (see page 3).

Ask your child: “How can you try to pay attention to God?”

Have your child draw about Saint Rose of Lima using the Lesson 3 Activity Master.

Sending

Pray with your child. Begin by making the Sign of the Cross together, or bless your child by tracing a cross on his or her forehead. Pray aloud with your child:

“Dear God, we love and praise you! Thank you for making each of us to be like you! Help us to be good, amazing, and wonderful! Amen.”

Saint Rose of Lima

Putting Jesus above Herself

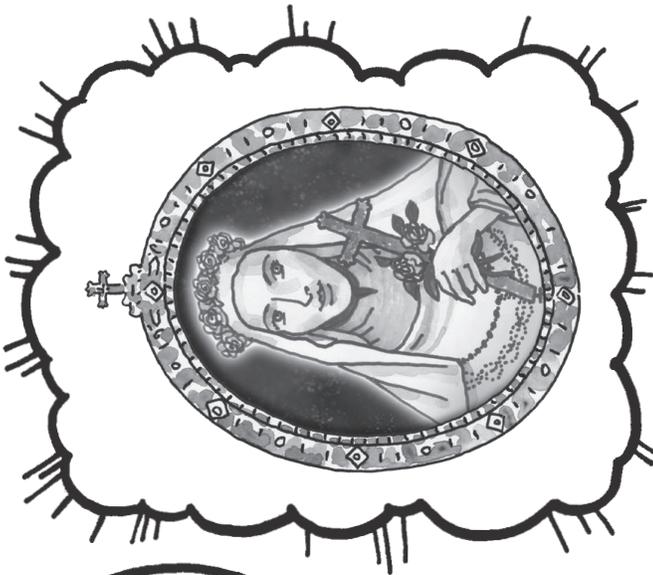
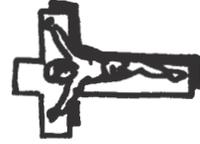
Baby Isabel was loved very much by her parents and servants. People were surprised by her beauty, and wanted to treat her like she was more special than other people. Some people even compared her to the beauty of a rose. So that is what they called her.

Rose, as she became known, lived in Lima, Peru. That is a country in South America. Her family wanted her to dress in pretty clothing and wear a wreath of flowers around her head to make her look special. They thought that many men would want to marry her. This bothered Rose. She loved Jesus very much and believed that he wanted people to notice her for what was in her heart. She did not want to marry anyone because it would distract her from the

time she spent thinking about God. She tried very hard to make herself unattractive to other people—and even cut off her beautiful hair. She hoped that that would make them leave her alone.

Rose loved to plant flowers and vegetables in her garden. She also loved to embroider beautiful patterns with a needle and colorful thread. She spent many hours sitting quietly in her garden, so she could concentrate on her prayers. Rose of Lima was often sick, but she tried to let people know that this was okay. She told them that being sick helped her pay attention more often to God. She wanted them to make time for God, too.

DRAW



**Saint
Rose of Lima,
pray for us!**