

## THE STORY OF CREATION

### UNIT TWO: GOD MADE HUMAN BEINGS

#### Lesson 1: God Made Us Like Himself

##### CONTENT:

1. God made people like himself ('in his likeness'). We are different and more precious than all the other creatures that God has made. [CCC342-343; 356-358.]
2. God gave us a body and a soul. My body is my hands, feet, head, stomach, blood. My soul is the person inside. When my body stops working, my soul is still alive. It will live forever. [CCC366]
3. Only people can know God and love him. We can choose to do good things. Animals can't do these things. [CCC356]
- ☺ 4. God formed me in my mother's womb. I must love and praise him because he has made me so well and given me a body and a soul. [2093-2094]

**ASSIGNMENT:** Read the handout at home. Ask your mother (or someone else) to write something she remembers about you as a little baby.

**REFERENCES:** Genesis 1:26-27; Psalm 139:13,14. CCC 342-343; 356-358; 366; 2093-94.

**MATERIALS NEEDED:** Handouts, soft toy or puppet.

#### I. STARTER:

[Hold a puppet or a soft toy like a teddy bear and move it around. Make it 'say':

"Hello children! I'm Teddy. Can I join your class?"

Then in your own voice ask:]

- Do you think Teddy can join our class?... Will he be able to study, and play, and be your friend?... Why not? *[He's not alive! He can't move by himself or play or think or answer questions.]*



#### II. DEVELOPMENT:

##### 1. STORY: A Toy Becomes A Boy.

Let me tell you a story about a very special toy and a toymaker. This is not a true story, but just made-up.

Once upon a time there was a toy-maker called Gepetto. He made toys of wood: cute little dogs and cats, ducks and dolls. He was especially good at making puppets. He would make their arms and legs and heads movable, and tie strings to them and then make them move by pulling the strings.

Everyone loved Gepetto's puppets and toys, especially the children. They would come to his shop every day and Gepetto would make his puppets dance for them. Gepetto also loved the children and was very kind to them. But in the evening, the children had to go home and old Gepetto would be all alone again.

One day, Gepetto made a cute little puppet with bright shining eyes and a cheeky smile. He dressed him up in real clothes and a little hat with a feather in it. Gepetto said, “What a cute little fellow you are! I think I’ll call you Pinocchio!” He pulled his strings and made him nod his head and dance. Then he put him on the shelf again and looked at the puppet sadly. “Oh how I wish you were a real boy! Then you could talk to me too and I would be your Papa!”

Gepetto got into bed and had a wonderful dream. He dreamed that Pinocchio was a real boy, and could talk to him. (*Do you sometimes dream nice dreams like that?*) As the old toymaker slept, something wonderful happened. One of the stars in the sky seemed to come closer and closer. It came right into the window of Gepetto’s shop, and it became a fairy!

The fairy had a magic wand in her hand. She looked at the sleeping Gepetto and said, “Good kind Gepetto, you shall have your wish!” She floated to the shelf where the puppets were kept, and touched Pinocchio with her wand. Then she disappeared out of the window.

Everything was quiet again, except for the sound of the old man snoring softly. Then suddenly, a little sound could be heard coming from the puppet’s chest. Dup-tup-dup-tup-dup-tup... (*What do you think that sound was?..It was its heart beating!*) The puppet’s chest started going up and down, up and down... the hard wood started changing colour and becoming soft and warm, like your body.. Pinocchio suddenly opened his eyes. He turned his head and looked all around... then he began to move his hands and legs...

“I’m alive!” he said. “I’m a real boy!” and he moved his legs faster and faster. “Let’s see if I can walk!” The little puppet stood up and began to walk on the shelf... then suddenly, CRASH! He was down on the floor. (*When you first tried to walk as a little baby, I’m sure you fell down too!*)

Gepetto woke up with the noise of the crash. “What’s happening? Oh, oh! My little Pinocchio has fallen off the shelf! Must be that naughty cat, chasing rats and breaking my toys! I hope my little puppet is not broken!”

He got out of bed and went to pick it up. Then he got the shock of his life! His little puppet jumped up and smiled at him. He said, “Hey Papa! I’m not broken! And I’m not a puppet any more. I’m a boy! I’m alive!”

Gepetto rubbed his eyes. He said, “I must be still asleep. I’m dreaming! I’d better get back into bed.” But Pinocchio jumped up and down. He pulled the old man’s shirt. “It’s true. You’re not sleeping. I’m a boy. A real boy!”

So the kind old toymaker got his wish. He was never lonely again, because he had little Pinocchio to look after and talk to and to sing and dance with.

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- What about you? How did you become alive? Did your Daddy and Mummy make a little wooden baby and did a fairy make you alive?... Or did you come from a baby factory?  
*[No, God made you. He made you inside your mummy. He planned what how you would be.. your hair, your eyes, your smile, your voice... and then very lovingly made you. ]*
  - The old toy maker could only make wooden toys, but he couldn’t make a real boy. God is the only one who can do that. He doesn’t need a fairy with a magic wand. He is God.
  - When God had finished making everything else in the world, he said, “Let’s make people in our image. (That means, like us). So he made people. He breathed in them and gave them life. He made them special, better than everything else he had made before. At the next class we’ll talk about how we are special. You can ask your mummy or daddy and see if they know the answer.

## NEXT CLASS:

- Do you remember the story I told you last time? What did the old toy-maker wish? [*He wished that his puppet was a real boy.*]
- What happened while he was sleeping? [*A fairy came and touched the puppet with her wand and he became a boy.*]
- Who made you a real boy or girl? [*God*]

[Give out handouts and read the words on the top. Then look at the 3 pictures. Talk about them as follows:]

- Look at your papers. There's a toy teddy bear, a dog and a boy. Are they all the same, or are they different? Let's see if you can tell me the difference between them.  
[Accept any ideas of the children, then say:]
- The teddy bear has a body. But is it alive? Can it move by itself? [*No. It is not alive.*]
- A dog has a body also. Is it alive? [*Yes*] It can bark and run and wag its tail and eat and drink.
- A boy is also alive. Boys and girls can run and jump and eat and make a noise. But God made people better than animals. We can know God. We can love him. We can choose what is good. That's because God gave us a SOUL. God made us a little bit like him.
- What is your body? [*It is your hands and feet and head and stomach, your blood and bones.*]
- What is your soul? [*It is the person inside... who can think and love.*]
- When a person's body stops working, everyone says, "Oh, he's dead!" But the person inside, the soul, doesn't die. It stays alive. If the person is God's friend, he goes to heaven to be with God.

## III. REFLECTION & PRAYER:

Look at the baby in the picture. You looked like that when you were inside your mother. Your mummy and daddy couldn't see you. They didn't say, "Let's give our baby black eyes, or round cheeks."

But God could see you. He is the one who made you, carefully and lovingly. He is the greatest artist. He made you wonderfully well!

Close your eyes... think of yourself as a little baby all bundled up inside your mummy. Imagine God watching over you and smiling as he makes your hands, your tiny feet, all the parts of your body. Imagine him breathing into you and giving you a soul, making you a real boy.. or a real girl...

Open your eyes. Let's say the prayer in your papers. It is from the Bible.

[Children pray after the teacher:]

Lord, you formed me in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am wonderfully made.

[Read all the words on the handout with the children. They could colour the pictures if there is time]

### Home assignment:

- Read the handout with someone at home.
- Learn the prayer from the Bible.
- Ask your mother (or any other older family member) to write something she remembers about you as a baby.