



## THE STORY OF CREATION

### UNIT TWO: GOD MADE HUMAN BEINGS

#### Lesson 3: The World is for Everyone!

##### CONTENT:

1. God made the world for everyone. He wants all human beings to have food, clothes and a home to live in. [CCC 2403]
-  2. Even though we have things that belong to us, we must remember that God wants us to use them for others too, not just for ourselves. [CCC 2404-5]
3. Jesus wanted to remind us about this, so he told us what will happen at the end of time: He will come as king, and welcome all those who shared with the poor. (We focus here on the sharing aspect of the parable: sharing food, drink, clothing.)
4. St. Nicholas shared with those in need. Many people remember him and try to follow his example of secret giving.
-  5. We too can share what we have with those who have less. If we do this quietly, without showing off, that would make God happy.

**ASSIGNMENT:** Read handout at home. Tell the story of St. Nicholas to your family. With your family, make a parcel of food/clothes/money etc and secretly give it to someone who needs it.

**REFERENCES:** Genesis 1:28-30; Matthew 25: 31-40. CCC 2403-7; 2446-7.

'Saint Companions for Each Day' by Mausolfe; [www.st-nicholas-indy.org](http://www.st-nicholas-indy.org), [catholic.org](http://catholic.org)

**MATERIALS NEEDED:** Handouts.

##### CLASS PROJECTS:

- Each child could wrap a toy bought with his/her pocket money and the gifts could be sent to an orphanage or poor family.
- On the 6<sup>th</sup> of December, the children could share what they know about St. Nicholas at the school assembly, making sure the message of 'the world is for everyone' is given.

#### I. STARTER:

At the last class we heard about Sheila's birthday surprise and how it got spoilt in the rain. We thought of ways to look after the world God has given us. Have you started doing any of those things?

- Did anyone pick up rubbish and put it in the dustbin? ...Well done!
- Did anyone use waste paper instead of throwing it away? ..Well done!
- Did anyone remind Mummy and Daddy to use a shopping bag? ...Good! God is happy with you!

[Mention the other ideas too. Allow children to share their efforts. Remember, God is interested in us living out his Word.]

#### II. DEVELOPMENT:

- Tell me, does your uncle or aunty or some guest come to your house sometimes and bring something nice for your family? [Let children share a time when this happened.]
- Suppose your uncle came over one day and you opened the door. And suppose he put a big box of laddoos in your hands. What would you do? Would you eat it all by yourself?... If Uncle saw you doing that, he would be upset, because he wanted everyone in the family to enjoy it. [This could be enacted as a short role-play]

- God is like that uncle. He gave us a wonderful world with lots of good things. He said, “This world is for all of you.” He has put some things in your hands: clothes, food, books, toys, a house, money.. But God wants you to share it with others, not just keep it for yourself. If you keep everything for yourself and don’t bother about anyone else, God will be sad.

#### GOSPEL STORY:

Jesus once told his friends a very important story. It was about sharing what we have. He said: ‘One day the world will end. When that time comes, I will come with all my angels and sit on my throne, because I am the King. Everyone in the whole world will stand in front of me.

Then I will call all those who were kind to the poor. I will say, “Welcome my dear friends. Come home to heaven. Because when I was hungry, you gave me food. When I was thirsty, you gave me something to drink. When I had no proper clothes, you gave me clothes to wear. You cared for me when I was sick and lonely.”

Then God’s friends will say, “But we don’t remember giving you food, or clothes or water to drink!” Then I will say, “When you shared anything with a poor person, you made me happy. I felt you were sharing with me!”

Then Jesus said, “After that all the people who shared with the poor will go into the Father’s house with me and we will be happy forever and ever, and those who didn’t share will be left behind.”

*[Give out handouts and read the words of Jesus. The children could colour the first picture. They could also enact the story they have just heard.]*

#### NEXT CLASS:

- When God made the world, he gave everything to us to use and enjoy. He loves everyone, so he wants everyone to have food and clothes and a home. He gives each one something in his hands. What did God give you? Can you tell me one thing that he gave you? *[Let each child mention one thing E.g. Home, bed, clothes, shoes, ball, pencil-box, food, sweater, TV etc. You could sketch them on the blackboard if you are quick.]*
- What does God want you to do with all these things? *[Use them and also share with those who have less.]*

#### STORY OF SAINT NICHOLAS:

Many hundreds of years ago there lived a boy called Nicholas. Maybe people called him Nick for short. His daddy and mummy loved God and taught Nick to love him too. Every Wednesday and Friday, Nick and his family would not eat breakfast or lunch, because they wanted to do something for God. They would share their food with the poor.

When Nick was still a boy, his mummy and daddy died. But Nick didn’t forget all they had taught him. He had a nice house, and money, clothes and good food. He decided that he would share all the good things he had with poor people.

Nicholas grew big and became a priest (*a Father in the church like Father \_\_\_\_\_*) One day he heard about a man who had lost all his money and had become very poor. He had three big daughters but he had no money to get them married. He didn’t know what to do. He felt bad to ask anyone for help.

Father Nicholas wanted to help him, but he didn’t want the man to feel ashamed. He asked God, “What can I do?” Then he had an idea. When it was dark, he quietly went to the man’s house with a bag of gold coins under his cloak. He found a window open, and he dropped the bag of coins into the house.

The next morning when the family woke up, they found the bag of gold on the floor. “Where did this come from?” the girls asked their father. But he didn’t know. He just thanked God and with the money got his eldest daughter married.

When the second daughter was old enough to get married, the man had no money for her marriage. Fr. Nicholas once more took a bag of gold coins and went at night to the man's house. This time he couldn't find any windows open. He didn't want to leave the gold outside, in case someone else picked it up. Then he had an idea. He climbed up onto the roof of the house and dropped the bag down the chimney.

The next morning, when the second daughter went to light the fire, she found the bag of gold. She was very excited and called out to her father. "Look Father! Another bag of gold!" "Oh thanks be to God! Now you can get married too!" the father said. So the second daughter was married.

When the third daughter was ready to be married, Father Nicholas took another bag of gold, waited for it to become dark, and quietly went round the man's house, looking for a place to put the money. Suddenly someone shouted out from the window, "So you are our good friend, who has been helping us secretly!" It was the father. He had been watching every night, because he wanted to find out who was giving them the gold coins.

"Father Nicholas, how can I thank you! You are really an angel from God!" The poor man was able to get his last daughter married. After that he had no more worries.

Father Nicholas did all he could for poor people. He was specially kind to children and would give them food and clothes. He even built a home and hospital for poor people. Later he was made a bishop.

Now he is in heaven. We call him Saint Nicholas and celebrate his feast on the 6<sup>th</sup> of December. Children in many countries put stockings and shoes out on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December and at night, someone secretly puts some sweets or chocolate gold coins in their shoes. Some people try to be like Saint Nicholas. They make presents for the poor and quietly put it in their houses. Many people call Saint Nicholas 'Santa Claus' and make up all sorts of stories about him.

*[Story based on legends and facts from various sources: 'Saint Companions for Each Day' by Mausolf; www.st-nicholas-indy.org, catholic.org]*

### III. REFLECTION & PRAYER:

- Would you like to be like Saint Nicholas? Would you like to help poor people secretly, without showing off about it? Let's ask God to help us. *[Children pray after the teacher:]*

Dear God, you gave us so many good things.

We know that you want us to share what we have with others.

Help us to be like Saint Nicholas and to share with the poor.

Saint Nicholas, pray for us. Amen.

*[Go through the rest of the handout.]*

#### Home assignment:

- Read handout at home.
- Tell the story of St. Nicholas to your family.
- With your family, make a parcel of food/clothes/money etc and secretly give it to someone who needs it.