


THE STORY OF CREATION

UNIT TWO: GOD MADE HUMAN BEINGS

Lesson 4: God Wants to Be Our Friend

CONTENT:

1. God made Adam and Eve, the first human beings. They lived in friendship with God and therefore they were 'in harmony' and at peace. (*This is known as original holiness and original justice.*) [CCC 2403, 374-76]
2. God made a garden for them to live in. They helped to look after the garden and ate the fruit growing there. God would come to meet them and talk to them. [CCC 378]
3. Jesus wants to be our friend. When some children were brought to him, he welcomed them, took them in his arms and blessed them.
-  4. We can come close to Jesus at any time by praying to him. When I am close to him I become happy inside and also live happily with others.

ASSIGNMENT: Read handout at home. Practice singing the song. Remember to visit Jesus in the 'garden of prayer' many times.

REFERENCES: Genesis 2:8; Mark 10:13-14, 16; CCC 374-78.

MATERIALS NEEDED: Handouts.

I. STARTER: (Recapitulation of previous lesson)

- Many people talk about Santa Claus. We know the true story about him. What was his real name? [*Saint Nicholas*]
- Do you remember the story about Saint Nicholas? Did you tell it to your family? [*Some children could tell the story in parts.*]
- Did you also make a secret parcel for a poor family? [*Children share what they have done.*]

II. DEVELOPMENT:

[Get two children to enact a short quarrel. For example:]

FIRST CHILD: This is my cup!

SECOND CHILD: No! Its mine! Mummy gave it to me.

FIRST CHILD: Daddy gave it to me! [*Grabs it*]

SECOND CHILD: Give back my cup. You think you're so strong...

[Tries to grab it back and pushes the other down, cup and all]

- Do you sometimes quarrel like that? [*Yes!*]
- Do big people also quarrel and fight? [*Yes!*]
- Do people get angry and hurt each other? [*Yes. There is a lot of fighting and hurting going on.*]

But right at the beginning it was not like that. When God first made man and woman, (they are called Adam and Eve) they didn't fight and get angry with each other. They were happy and peaceful. That's because they were friends with God.

God made a beautiful garden for them to live in, with lots of trees and plants with fruit and vegetables. He made a river in the garden, so they had water to drink. They would work in the garden and help to take care of the plants.

Every day God would come and walk and talk with Adam and Eve. God is so loving and good, so they also were loving and good. It was a very happy place and no one was sad, or angry or hurt.

[If there is time children could draw the garden with God walking and talking with Adam and Eve.]

NEXT CLASS:

- Do you remember the first man's name? [*Adam*] And the first woman's? [*Eve*]
Adam and Eve were our first parents. That means that all the people of the world came from them. First they had children, and then their children had children and so there were more and more people.
- When God made Adam and Eve, were they happy and peaceful, or did they fight with each other? [*Happy and peaceful.*]
- Why were they happy? [*Because they were friends with God.*] God made them a beautiful garden and there they would talk to God and he would talk to them.
- Have you ever been to a nice garden or park with your family, or alone with your Daddy or someone else? What did you do there? Did you have a good time? [*Allow children to share their experiences.*]

It is nice to be in a garden, but it is even better if you have a good friend with you. Once Jesus was very tired because he had been walking and teaching and healing people the whole day. His friends took him to a garden and made him sit down to rest under a tree. Two of them sat near the gate to make sure no one came to trouble him. Suddenly they heard the sound of children shouting and laughing.

‘We want to see Jesus! We want to see Jesus!’ Some of the children had their mummies with them. They said, ‘Open the gate! We want Jesus to bless our children.’

But the men said, ‘No! Jesus is tired. No one can come in now.’

One little girl began to cry. She had come from very far away and had been waiting to see Jesus.

Another boy said, ‘We won’t go back. We want to talk to Jesus!’

Suddenly they heard another man’s voice. It was Jesus. He looked angry. He said to the men, ‘Why are you stopping the children? They are my friends! Let them come in!’

Then Jesus turned to the children and smiled at them. He opened the gate and they all came running in. Jesus picked up a little baby who was sitting on his mother’s lap. Everyone went into the garden with Jesus.

What a happy evening they had together. The children played with Jesus and talked to him. He listened to them and told them wonderful stories. When it was time to go home, he put his hands on each one and blessed them.

That day those children were the happiest children in the world. They felt so happy and peaceful. They knew that Jesus loved them. They never forgot that evening in the garden with Jesus.

[Give out the handouts. Read the words written on the top.]

- Look at the picture of Jesus with the children. Which child would you like to be? Would you like to be the little one sitting on Jesus’ lap?... Or the one telling him about the butterfly?... or the one giving him a flower? [*Children could colour the picture and share.*]

III. REFLECTION & PRAYER:

- Would you like to meet Jesus in a garden? I’ll show you a ‘magic’ way. Just close your eyes. Now imagine you are standing outside a garden... Imagine Jesus coming and opening the gate for you... Then he takes your hand and you walk around the garden... there is no one else in the garden, just Jesus and you. Talk to him quietly... and listen to him... Keep your eyes closed and stay with Jesus for some time. [*Silence for 2 or 3 minutes.*]

How are you feeling? Happy? Whenever you are quiet and try to be with Jesus, he really comes to talk to you and listen to you. If you practice going into the garden of prayer, you will become happy and peaceful and you won’t fight or be angry any more.

Home assignment:

Read handout at home. Practice singing the song.

Remember to visit Jesus in the ‘garden of prayer’ many times.