

UNIT 2: JESUS AND THE NEW COVENANT

THE PROMISED ONE COMES

Lesson 1: Jesus the Word of God

CONTENT:

1. Every human being is created by God and longs for a relationship with him. [cf. CCC27]
2. Through creation, we realize, though imperfectly, the truth of God's existence. [cf. CCC31-34]
3. God wants to reveal himself to us and to lead us to share in his life and love.
4. He revealed himself in many ways, but the clearest and most complete way was through his Son. [cf. CCC51, 65.]
5. The prophets in the Old Testament times spoke of Christ's coming.
6. Some Jews received Jesus, others refused to believe.
- 😊 7. God has shown us his loving face through his Son. It is only right and fitting that we accept Jesus and believe in him. This is what God expects of us. [cf. CCC2087-89]

REFERENCES : John 1: 1,2,10-12,14,18. Hebrews1:1,2a. Isaiah9:2b.
CCC. Nos. 27;31-34;51,65;87-89.

ASSIGNMENTS: 1. Find at least 3 other prophecies in the OT which point to Christ.
2. Bring a picture/photograph of creation, including human-beings, that make you realize that God exists, is beautiful, wise, powerful etc.
[postcard size] Bring glue/fevicol to stick it.

MATERIALS NEEDED: Handouts; blackboard.

I. STARTER:

[Welcome the students to the new RE class. Tell them:]

- This year we are going to study the most important event in the history of the world. What do you think it is? [*The life of Jesus.*]
- We will find most of our subject matter from the most important part of the Bible. What would that be? [*The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.*]
- But before we talk about the Bible, let's talk about human beings in general. [*Give out handouts*] In your handout you will see a group of pictures. [1] Do they tell you anything about human beings in general?
[Students do not write yet. After a minute or two they share their ideas. Bring out:]
- All human beings seem to have an inner desire, a longing for God. In every part of the globe, in different cultures, people have recognized that God, a power greater than themselves, exists.
- Not only do they recognize his existence, but they feel that they must relate to him, worship him, talk to him.
- Saint Augustine, one of the great thinkers of the Church and a holy man, once prayed,
"O Lord, You have made us for yourself, and our heart is restless until it rests in you."
[Write on the BB and allow students to copy into block provided and think about it.]

- What Saint Augustine said is true of every human being, even today. We may not always recognize why we are restless, but deep down we all long for God, our Creator. That is because he made us to love him and live in friendship with him.

II. DEVELOPMENT:

- Another question to think about: How do you think people realized that there is a God, that he is powerful, great, good, beautiful?

[Students suggest. Bring out:]

One of the most basic ways is through creation and using their reasoning power. Just by looking at nature: the sky, the sea, animals, birds, trees, human beings, light and heat, the way everything works together... many people through the ages, even primitive man, have come to realize God's power, wisdom, beauty, love... *[Students write]*

- However, by reason alone, we cannot really come to know God in the way we desire. We want something more. What did God do about this? Did he just leave us feeling restless?... Read the verse from Hebrews [2] in your handouts. The writer says that God has spoken to us in many ways. The best and clearest way he spoke to us was by sending his Son to the world. When we see Jesus, when we listen to his words and see his actions, we come to know who God is, and what he is like.

- Before sending Jesus, God spoke through the prophets. They were people who sensed what God was saying and told people about it. They even prophesied that Jesus was coming. In the 'star' there is one such prophesy. *[Read it aloud]* At home you can look through your Bibles and see if you can find any more prophesies pointing to Jesus.

- Read the second passage of section [2]. Saint John begins his Gospel with these words. What do they tell you about Jesus? *[Students write, then share:]*

- Jesus was always with God.
- Jesus himself is God.
- He became a human being.
- He is called the 'WORD' because he has 'made God known'.

III. REFLECTION & PRAYER:

- Let's now read the last passage [3] which is also from the first chapter of John. Read it quietly by yourself and be in touch with your thoughts and feelings. Underline anything you feel is important. Then talk to God about it... Do you believe and accept Jesus as God's Son? Write to God about it. If you want to write more, turn the page over and continue.

[This exercise should be done in silence without any interruptions by the teacher or students.]

- End by reminding students about the assignment, which they could do as partners. Also to bring the picture of creation for the next class. (Anything that they feel reflects God's beauty, wisdom, power etc)

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