

## **Class #2:**

### BEGINNING PRAYER:

Come Holy Spirit

### TOPIC:

- God has created us out of love
- He wants to make contact with us
- He wants to spend eternity together with us

Print out the 8 cards and hang them up next to numbers.

Give kids paper & pens = what number do they see represents God?

- Pass in papers
- Discuss

**Now that we have all thought about our own ideas of God...lets look at what God says about himself.** *God HAS given us a few indications of what he is like & you probably heard of some of them.* DIVIDE class into three groups

- *(What your Bible text tells us about God and his relationship to man?)*

1. God as Creator (Gen 1:26-31) ADAM & EVE
  - God finds man is good
  - God created man without seeking to harness him for a particular purpose/out of love
2. God reveals himself to man (Ex 3:1-6, 13-14) MOSES AND BURNING BUSH
  - God wants to make contact with man
3. God reveals himself in Jesus (John 14: 8-11) GOD IN JESUS
  - "He who sees me has seen the Father"
  - We see Jesus what God is like

**Now we've heard what God reveals to us about himself, now lets look at how he actually sees us.**

-John 15:15 (*No longer do I call you servants.....*)

- God sees us as his friends

-John 3:16 (*For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son.....*)

- Replace "the world" for "you"
- Every one of us is important every single one of us is in God's eyes

**What does God want for me? What plan does God have in mind for me?**

-John 17:24 ("Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me....")

- God wants to have communion with us (be united) in eternity

### REAL LIFE CONNECTION:

Worrying about not getting to heaven - Anyone?

Why is this? Do you think: "We don't deserve it." BUT you are wrong. We are told over and over not to worry so much. We need to discover who we are and what we were made to do.

LIVE BY THE GOLDEN RULE By Jesus being born and living on Earth to show us the way and dying for us/our sins, he was resurrected = opened heaven for all. His life, through his death, granted all of us access to heaven. IF we are true to who we've been made to be (loved) and allow ourselves to be lead by the Holy Spirit = we have a pathway to heaven by following the way (Jesus).

## 1. Scripture and Church Teaching

- a. Historic records exist to verify and support the existence of Jesus.
  - The historical evidence for Jesus of Nazareth is both long-established and widespread. Within a few decades of his supposed lifetime, he is mentioned by Jewish and Roman historians, as well as by dozens of Christian writings.
  - The value of this evidence is that it is both early and detailed. The first Christian writings to talk about Jesus are the epistles of St Paul, and scholars agree that the earliest of these letters were written within 25 years of Jesus's death at the very latest, while the detailed biographical accounts of Jesus in the New Testament gospels date from around 40 years after he died. These all appeared within the lifetimes of numerous eyewitnesses, and provide descriptions that comport with the culture and geography of first-century Palestine.
  - There was never any debate in the ancient world about whether Jesus of Nazareth was a historical figure. In the earliest literature of the Jewish Rabbis, Jesus was denounced as the illegitimate child of Mary and a sorcerer. Among pagans, the satirist Lucian and philosopher Celsus dismissed Jesus as a scoundrel, but we know of no one in the ancient world who questioned whether Jesus lived.
- b. Jesus was Jewish and practiced the traditions of his ancestors.
- c. Jesus grew in awareness of himself and his mission.
  - Mary as his mother = disciple full of grace & Joseph knew of his divine grace
  - Gabriel came to Mary to tell her of her son
  - Angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream telling him to marry Mary & don't be afraid as the child was created from Holy Spirit & his name shall be called "Emmanuel" (God with us until the end of age)
- d. Jesus is the second person of the Holy Trinity; he is fully human and fully divine.
- e. Jesus came to proclaim God's reign of love and justice for all.
- f. The Holy Trinity is the central mystery of our Christian faith. The resurrection of Jesus is the work of the Holy Trinity.
- g. The Holy Spirit is the Advocate promised by Jesus to be with his disciples.
- h. The Holy Spirit is active in our lives through sanctifying grace.
- i. Jesus is the full revelation of God's saving love.
- j. Jesus came to save all people.
- k. Jesus freely offered his life and experienced death for our salvation.
- l. Jesus will come again to judge the living and the dead.
- m. Those who have died remain united with us through Jesus and his Church (Communion of Saints).
- n. Through Baptism, Jesus calls us to be his disciples and carry on his mission.
- o. Faith is God's gift to us and our response to God.

### END PRAYER:

Loving God,

You have created us all out of love. You want to be close to us and to live together with us.

Help us to behave like your friend, so that we may have everlasting life.

AMEN