

God Creates Us

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Unit 1, Session 1**.

PAGE 3

Augustine's writings in his book *Confessions* have helped Catholics across the ages understand how much God loves them.

PAGE 6

The first book of the Bible, Genesis, tells how God created the earth from what was disorder and chaos.

PAGE 6

We can come to know God in two ways: by observing his visible creation around us and by looking inside ourselves and realizing that we need God and are part of his plan.

PAGE 7

The Trinity is God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. There is only one God, yet he reveals himself as Three distinct Persons.

PAGE 7

Each person of the Trinity has a special mission. The Father creates the world. The Son became man to save us. The Holy Spirit gives us grace to believe and understand.

PAGE 7

We can show our belief in the Trinity by praying the Sign of the Cross. A prayer of praise to the Trinity is called a doxology. At Mass our sung expression of praise to the Trinity is the *Gloria*.

PAGE 8

The Preface, which recalls God's work in creation, begins the Eucharistic Prayer.

PAGE 8

Although God holds us and all his creatures in his safekeeping, he wants us to be custodians of his creation on earth. We have the responsibility to love and care for the world that God so lovingly created.

PAGE 9

Prayer is time that we spend with God in our minds and hearts.

PAGE 10

The beauty and order of creation tell us that God is good and beautiful like the world he creates.

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God Saves Us

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Unit 1, Session 2**.

PAGE 14

The contradictory nature of the human condition is that we are basically good but have a tendency to sin or do wrong.

PAGE 14

To explain human weakness, the Book of Genesis tells the story of Adam and Eve, the parents of the human race. Their sin, which resulted in Original Sin, damaged the human family. As a result, we are born inclined to do wrong.

PAGE 15

In his letters, Saint Paul tells how sin came into the world and describes God's promise of a Savior. Victory over sin and death comes from Jesus, who reconciles us to God the Father.

PAGE 15

Because God creates us, our lives are good. Hurting others or ourselves is not part of God's good plan for us.

PAGE 16

Saint Peter Claver was a missionary to enslaved people in South America.

PAGE 16

When we confess our sins, we are forgiven and are able to start anew. Each day is an opportunity to do our best, to be courageous, to defend those who are weak, and to be more like Jesus.

PAGE 16

Imagining that we are with Jesus when he is speaking to a crowd is a form of prayerful reflection.

PAGE 17

We try to do good, but sometimes we fail.

PAGE 18

We have a responsibility to love one another and to treat one another fairly.

PAGE 19

The human family is in a weakened condition and is inclined to do wrong.

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God's Revelation

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Unit 1, Session 3**.

PAGE 22

Jesus' ancestry could be traced back to Abraham's family.

PAGE 22

God told Abraham about a covenant he wanted to make with Abraham in which Abraham was to become the father of many nations. Abraham accepted this covenant from God.

PAGE 22

Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, and Jacob were the ancestors of a people known as the Hebrews. The story of salvation on earth begins with Abraham. He is considered a holy person by the religions of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.

PAGE 23

The Old Testament has 46 books that are important to Jews, Christians, and Muslims. These stories, teachings, and prophecies tell of God's people before the time of Jesus.

PAGE 23

Christians believe that the Old Testament is God's Revelation, or communication of himself to us through words and deeds.

PAGE 23

Saint Jerome taught that ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ.

PAGE 23

The New Testament has 27 books and tells the story of how God fulfilled his promise by sending his Son, Jesus.

PAGE 24

You can look up any Scripture passage if you know its book, chapter, and verse.

PAGE 25

The Lord's Prayer is a prayer that was taught by Jesus in the Gospels.

PAGE 26

God gave Moses the Ten Commandments, which tell us how to live as God wants us to live.

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God Directs Our Lives

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Unit 1, Session 4**.

PAGE 30

To enter the Kingdom of God, we must become like children—totally dependent and trusting.

PAGE 30

Humility means that we recognize our dependence on God and trust in him. To become humble, we must let go of selfish ambitions.

PAGE 31

Members of God's kingdom accept God's direction for their lives.

PAGE 31

God's direction for us was first revealed in the Old Testament, especially in the Ten Commandments.

PAGE 31

The Son of God became human to proclaim the Kingdom of God.

PAGE 31

When we live the Beatitudes, we are living as members of God's kingdom. We are acting as a sign of God's goodness in the world.

PAGE 32

Saint Philip Neri encouraged people to be happy.

PAGE 33

We can pray the Morning Offering to greet God and dedicate our day to him. By praying the Morning Offering, we can spend time with God.

PAGE 33

We can ask God for the grace we need to practice Christian values.

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Celebrating Ordinary Time

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Unit 1, Session 5**.

PAGE 37

Christ gives his Holy Spirit to us and allows us to share in his Resurrection through the sacraments.

PAGE 37

Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to the Apostles after he ascended into heaven.

PAGE 38

Ordinary Time is a time to grow in our faith. We use this time to focus on our celebration of the seven sacraments and on living the way Jesus wants us to live.

PAGE 38

During Ordinary Time we focus on our celebration of the seven sacraments.

PAGE 38

Baptism, Confirmation, and Matrimony are examples of sacraments.

PAGE 38

When we celebrate a sacrament, we experience the grace of God.

PAGE 39

At Mass during Ordinary Time, there are readings about Jesus' life and his teachings.

PAGE 39

Sacramentals are sacred signs instituted by the Church, and they help us grow in the grace we receive in the sacraments. Examples of sacramentals can include objects or devotions such as praying the Rosary.

PAGE 39

Sacramentals such as holy water are used during the sacraments as physical reminders of how God blesses us and touches our lives.

PAGE 39

The liturgical color for Ordinary Time is green.

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