

# Lesson 2 – God and His Perfections

Grades 6-8

## Lesson Preparation:

Read Lesson 2 in the Baltimore Catechism. You will need to make sure each student has a Bible in class for this session.

## Opening Prayer:

Scripture: “Thus says the Lord, Israel’s King and redeemer, the Lord of hosts: I am the first and I am the last; there is no God but me.” Isaiah 44:6

Leader: God, You are perfect. You created us, and You share your life with us. Touch our minds today so that we can know You, love You, and serve You better. Amen.

Together: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created, and You shall renew the face of the earth. O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit, we may be truly wise and ever rejoice in His consolations, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Opening:

Explain to the students that you will be discussing God and His perfections. Ask them to think of adjectives they would use to describe God. Allow them to share some of these. Let them know that you are seeing what they know, or at least think they know, about God. You will not be correcting them at this time, but at the end of the lesson, they should consider which of their adjectives they would still use. *Note: Take note of any ideas that are off base. Without embarrassing any students, you should make sure that your lesson today corrects them.*

## Watch the Lesson 2 Video on Catholic Brain

**Comprehension Questions:** *Note: These questions are asked after the video, just to check student comprehension. They are not discussion questions, but be sure students understand the answers to these questions before moving on*

1) What are some of God's perfections?

*God is eternal, all-good, all-knowing, all-present, and almighty.*

2) What does it mean to say that God is eternal?

*God has always existed, He has no beginning; and He always will exist, He has no end.*

3) Can we know about God through use of our reason?

*We can know many things about God through our reason, but some things are beyond our reason and need to be revealed to us by God.*

4) What is the Bible?

*The Bible is the inspired, written Word of God.*

5) What is Divine Tradition?

*Truths revealed by God, not written in the Bible, but given to the Church by Jesus or the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.*

**Discussion Questions:** *Note: These questions are for student discussion. The students should consider these questions and comment on them. There are some key points included in this lesson, after each question, that you can use to help guide their discussion toward truth. It's important that the students think about and discuss these things, but that they don't leave the discussion with false impressions about what is true.*

1) How can we know about God?

*There are many things we can know about God through use of our reason, first of all, that He exists. Also, God has given us revelation through the Catholic Church. We have the Bible, the inspired written Word of God, and Sacred Tradition, the teachings of Christ, given to the Apostles but not written in the Bible, that have been passed down to us through the Church.*

2) Instead of another question, we will explore and become familiar with the Bible. Read and discuss questions 23A – 23H in the Baltimore Catechism, or watch that section of the Catholic Brain video again. Be sure to ask questions frequently to check student understanding. It will be helpful if each student has a Bible.

At question 23 D, which discusses how the Bible is divided, have the students look at the list of books – 46 in the Old Testament, and 27 in the New Testament. Show them how the books of the Bible are divided into chapters and

verses, to help us look up particular passages. Practice looking up a couple so students are familiar with how to do it.

### **Go Deeper:**

Ask students what they think question 10 means by: “God is self-existing.” Use the examples in the catechism to help them understand. You can also draw a simple family tree to demonstrate:

You can trace yourself to your parents; they trace themselves to your grandparents; they trace themselves to your great-grandparents, all the way back to Adam and Eve, who, of course, trace themselves to God. But what about God? People occasionally ask where God came from, but that question itself misunderstands the nature of God. God did not come from anywhere; He is eternal; He has always existed; even before time itself existed. That is one of the things that separates His divine nature from our human nature.

Everything in the universe is contingent, meaning it depends on something else for its existence. You, for example, would not exist without your parents. For God, however, to exist is part of His nature. He is not contingent; He is what we call necessary. He is the source of everything else that exists, and He does not depend on anything else for His existence.

Read together Exodus 3:11-14, in which God sends Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. Notice what God tells Moses His Name is: I am who am. God is revealing the heart of His nature – to exist.

Acknowledge that this may be a little difficult to comprehend, since we are not necessary beings, like God is. However, we should expect God Himself to be beyond our own human experience.

### **Activity:**

Now students get to practice looking up passages in the Bible with a game. Students can be divided into teams, or play individually. Let them know that you will be writing a Bible verse on the board and the first person to find it is to stand up and read it out loud, earning a point. At the end, the team with the most points wins. Attached are some Bible citations, which give us a view to who God is, the topic of today’s lesson. If there’s time, point out to the students what each verse reveals to us about God, once it has been found.

## **Closing Prayer:**

Leader: O Lord, our God, we thank You for the gift of our reason. And we thank You for the Bible and for the Catholic Church, the beautiful gifts You have given us so that we can know You. Amen.

Together: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.