

# Lesson 5 – The Creation and the Fall of Man

Grades 6-8

## Lesson Preparation:

Read Lesson 5 in the Baltimore Catechism. You will need to have a few Bibles on hand for this session. Also, you will need to print and make copies of the activity sheet.

## Opening Prayer:

Scripture: “God created man in His image; in the divine image He created him; male and female He created them.” Gen. 1:27

Leader: God our Father, You created us out of pure love, in your image and likeness. As we reflect today on that great gift, help us to show your image to the world. 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:

This will be a guided discussion to help students understand what a covenant is. Show the students the attached picture of a wedding and ask them what it is. Explain that a wedding is an example of a covenant. It is important to understand that a covenant is a sacred promise. But the parties to a covenant do not promise things, they promise themselves. When a man gets married, he promises to give his wife himself; when a woman gets married she promises to give her husband herself. Covenants establish family bonds.

Explain to the students that this session, you will be studying God’s creation of Man. God made a covenant with Man. He promised to be our God, and we promised to be His faithful people, and through this covenant, we become part of God’s family. But through sin, Man has broken the covenant, and Man does not have the power to repair it.

## Watch the Lesson 5 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) How did suffering and death enter the world?

*Sin brought suffering and death into the world.*

2) What is original sin?

*This refers to the sin of Adam and Eve, our first parents, which we all inherit.*

3) What (besides suffering and death) are some consequences of original sin?

*A darkening of the intellect, a weakening of the will, concupiscence - an inclination to sin*

4) What is the Immaculate Conception?

*The conception of Mary in her mother, St. Anne's, womb. By a special grace from God, she was preserved from original sin.*

**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 does original sin fit with the mystery of suffering?

*Sin brought suffering and death into the world. God permits it, but He can bring a greater good out of the evil of suffering. He also gives meaning to our suffering. By offering it with Jesus's suffering, our suffering can become a powerful prayer. By promising us a savior, God ensures that suffering and death are defeated in the end.*

2) Sin breaks Man's covenant with God, and Man can not restore it. What is God's solution?

*God sends His Son, Jesus, to bear the consequence of our sin and restore the broken covenant, so we can live with Him forever in Heaven.*

### **Go Deeper:**

Have the students break into small groups and look up the following Scripture passages: Hosea 2:16-22; Matthew 9:14-15; John 3:27-30. In their groups they should discuss the marriage imagery in the passages and how it relates to God's making a covenant with us. If there is time, the small groups can share their discoveries with the larger group.

### **Activity:**

Using the attached sheet, color the image of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Underneath, write the definition of the Immaculate Conception.

### **Closing Prayer:**

**Leader:** Lord God, we recognize that we are sinners. We often repay your love with disobedience. And yet, You never stop loving us. You continue to call us to a covenant relationship with You. Thank You for your undying love. 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.