

Immaculate Conception Lesson

Lesson Goal: This lesson's goal is for the student to understand that Mary was free from the stains of original sin from her conception in her mother's womb.

Overview: On December 8th the Church celebrates Mary's Immaculate Conception in the womb of her mother, St. Anne. This feast is NOT to be confused with Jesus' virgin conception through the Holy Spirit in the womb of Mary. Immaculate means that Mary was conceived without the stain of original sin on her soul. We are all born with original sin on our soul; however, God gave Mary the special privilege of being free from this sin because she was to carry in her womb, Jesus the Son of God.

Pre-Video Discussion: Explain to the children that before the Blessed Mother Mary was born her parents, St. Anne and St. Joachim, greatly desired a child. They prayed and prayed to God to send them a child. Finally, St. Anne became pregnant with Mary. On December 8st, the Catholic Church celebrates the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This is the day Mary's life began in her mother's womb - her conception. Watch the video to see what makes this day an extra special day for the Church.

Watch "The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception" on Catholic Brain

Comprehension and Discussion Questions:

Note: These questions are asked after the video to check student comprehension and to clarify and further discuss and explain what was seen on the video.

- 1) What does the Church celebrate on the feast of the Immaculate Conception?

The Church celebrates the special privilege God granted to Mary - she was conceived without the stain of original sin. This means from the time she began her life in St. Anne's womb, she was free from original sin. Immaculate mean "perfect". So Mary was "perfect" or sinless from the time of her conception.

2) Who is conceived with original sin?

We are all conceived and born with original sin on our souls. Original sin is the sin of Adam and Eve while they were in the Garden of Paradise. They disobeyed God by eating from the tree that God had forbidden them to eat. All the grace that God had given them was lost. This made it hard for them to resist sin. Because Adam and Eve are our first parents, this original sin is passed down to all of us. We do not have God's grace in us. When we are baptized original sin is washed away and we received God's grace in us; however, we still have that tendency to sin.

3) Who was conceived without original sin?

Mary, the Mother of God, is conceived without original sin. This special grace is called her Immaculate Conception.

4) Why did God keep Mary free from original sin?

Adam and Eve were created without sin and filled with God's grace; however, they sinned and lost that grace. By keeping Mary free from original sin, Mary would become the "new Eve". Mary never sinned and said "yes" to God's plan for her. She would give birth to Jesus, the "new Adam". Mary was kept from original sin because God wanted a perfect vessel to carry His Son, Jesus. Wouldn't God want the body and womb of the person who would carry His Son to be a perfect and sinless place? Mary would give birth to His Son. Wouldn't God want her to be special?

5) What will be celebrated nine months from now?

Since a baby is usually carried for nine months in the womb before birth, the feast of the Immaculate Conception is celebrated nine months before the birthday of Mary, which is celebrated nine months from now on September 8th.