

Sixth Grade: Lesson 16

Morality and Human Dignity

Lesson Objective:

Now that youth have a better understanding of the natural moral law, they are prepared for the lesson on human sexuality. Sex is an expression of committed love within marriage that brings life into the world. As children enter adolescence, it is helpful for them to have clarity on physical and emotional boundaries as well as guidance in relation to behavior, dress, and speech.

Learning Outcomes: Students will ...

- Know that we are created in God's image as male or female (Gen 1-3; CCC 369-372).
- Discuss why it is a good thing that God created man as male and female.
- Give examples of how the body reveals man (TOB 2:4, 6:3, 7:1, 8:1, 9:4, 12:5, 14:4, 19:4).
- Describe how the human body is the temple of the Holy Spirit and why it is necessary to glorify
- God in your body (TOB 57:2).
- Discuss sexuality as a gift from God (CCC 2360-2362).
- Recognize how the 6th and 9th commandments apply to young people (Matt 5:27-28; CCC 2333-2336, 2514).

Materials Needed:

- Prayer space items, Bibles, pencils,
- Copies: Human Dignity Word Search (optional), God's Grace in Your Life activity

As Students Enter Class:

- Consider having an activity ready for students while they wait for class to begin.
- [Human Dignity Word Search](#)

Beginning of Class:

- Gather around your prayer space and pray a traditional Catholic prayer.

Lesson Order	Implementation Ideas
Lesson 16 Video	<p>This video is 1:38 in length.</p> <p>Highlights: Last week, we learned of the importance of respecting the life and dignity of each person, because all people are created in the image and likeness of God.</p> <p>Today, we are going to explore the Church's teaching on marriage, family, and sexuality.</p> <p>Each person is part of a larger family of God. But you also have your family, too. Family has an important role in society. Families help us to know God better and to live out our faith.</p> <p>We will also focus on learning to live out our lives that reflect our dignity given to us by God. We need to have boundaries, so we respect others and others respect us. We have a responsibility with our actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dress modestly • Good behavior • Be respectful • Have dignity <p>When two people are married and in a committed relationship, their expression of love is special to just that state in life. It is so special because it is through married life that God creates new life. Married love through sexuality is a special love that should be reserved for this sacramental vocation.</p>
What is Modesty?	<p>This video is 2:10 in length.</p> <p>Highlights: Middle or High School students narrate this engaging video.</p> <p>Modesty is acting and dressing in a way that is respectful to God.</p>

	<p>An example from the Old Testament is from Proverbs 31:30:</p> <p style="color: red;">Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting; the woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.</p> <p>An example from the New Testament is 1 Corinthians 6:19-20:</p> <p style="color: red;">Do you not know that your body is a temple of the holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been purchased at a price. Therefore, glorify God in your body.</p> <p>An example of immodest dress is wearing tight fitting or short clothing that shows more skin than necessary to seek attention. An example of immodest behavior is bragging, being rude, using inappropriate language, exploiting another person's body, and seeking attention negatively. The video ends with a skit about modesty in school.</p> <p style="color: red;">REFLECTION/DISCUSSION: Allow some time for students to share their thoughts and/or ask questions. If they are quiet, encourage discussion by prompting them. For example: Do you see immodest behavior in your school? What are some examples?</p>
What is Grace?	<p>This video is 1:39 in length.</p> <p>Highlights: Grace is a gift from God that is freely given and undeserved. There are two types of grace: sanctifying and actual.</p>

	<p>Sanctifying grace is the type that is received from the sacraments. Sanctifying grace is literally God's own life within us. This strengthens us against temptation and is pleasing to God. Without sanctifying grace in our souls, we cannot enter Heaven.</p> <p>Actual grace is sent to us in specific circumstances to fight temptation. Actual grace is a supernatural shove in the right direction.</p> <p>Grace is spiritual equipment sent from God to help us through our daily battles.</p> <p>REFLECTION/DISCUSSION: How have you experienced God's grace in your lives?</p>
What is Chastity?	<p>This video is 1:25 in length.</p> <p>Highlights: I first thought chastity or purity was a list of noes. But I learned that chastity and saving all intimate acts until marriage is actually freeing and leads to happiness. St. Josemaria Escriva said: When you decide firmly to lead a clean life, chastity will not be a burden on you. It will be a crown of triumph.</p>
Life and Dignity Video	<p>This very powerful video is 3:28 in length. It is well done and should provoke students into some deeper thinking. There are many meaningful quotes in this video. I have done my best to highlight the ones that stood out, in hopes of helping you facilitate conversation.</p> <p>Highlights: Children resemble their parents so as children of God, we bear the likeness of God. Therefore, every human being has a purpose and mission and is part of God's plan.</p> <p>At the root of our dignity is our right to life and this extends from conception until natural death. When we see people trying to justify treating people a certain way because they are so small,</p>

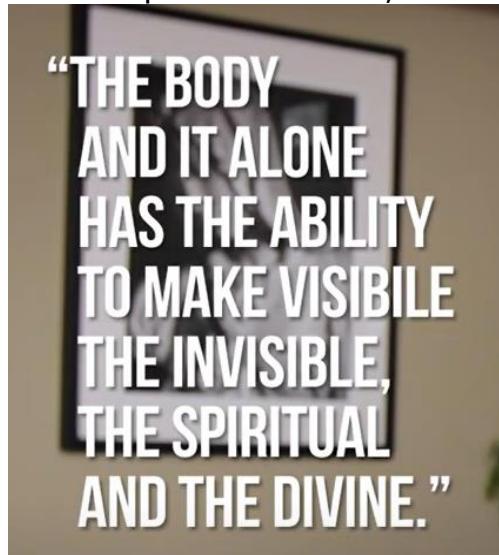
	<p>or not born yet, skin another color, so disabled, whenever we see people being spoken of like objects, then we know the principle of radical equality of every human person is being violated.</p> <p>When people are being spoken of as objects, then we know the radical equality of every person is being violated.</p> <p>Every human being is worthy of reverence and protection, especially the weakest. Our dignity also includes the freedom to become everything God intended us to be.</p> <p>CST urges us to operate at individual and global levels. How will you – how can you make a difference in 1:1 and in small group levels in realizing those parts of human dignity that are in short supply?</p> <p>It comes back to the question: What will fulfill life for every human as God as intended?</p> <p>STOP AND DISCUS: Using the statements in bold and questions, encourage students to share their thoughts.</p>
Lesson 16, Part 2 Video	<p>This video is .54 in length.</p> <p>Highlights: The Holy Spirit gives us strength through our Baptism to live holy lives. The Holy Spirit can help us to live modestly, chastely, and with self-control. God also guides us with sacred scripture and the 6th and 9th commandments. (Review these two commandments with your students).</p> <p>These commandments tell us know to live with physical and emotional boundaries.</p>

Theology of the Body
with Fr. Mike

This video is 10:06 in length. Fr. Mike Schmitz is the narrator. The video starts at 2:00 minutes in the talk; so, it's approximately 8 minutes long.

Highlights:

- God made this world and you on purpose and out of love. God willed to create a world so He can share His love.
- God made humanity in his image and likeness. Originally, in this unity with a right relationship with Him, ourselves, and others.
- God made human beings with a body-soul composite. You are your soul and your body together. (Fr. Mike explains this further).
- Therefore, what you do with your body matters!
- Pope John Paul II, said:



- God is an eternal exchange of love. Father, Son and Holy Spirit, God is a communion of persons. The very core of who God is, His innermost secret, is that He is love. Therefore, your deepest identity is love.
- Jesus came to restore the brokenness that happened with the Fall. (Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.) Jesus gave us

	<p>himself as a gift. Then He also gave us the Holy Spirit to help us live the way He lived.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> When we walk with Jesus, in the power of the Holy Spirit, our relationship with the Father is reestablished, our relationship with others is healed, and our relationship with ourselves is brought into order. <p>Provide time for students to share their thoughts or ask questions.</p>
God's Grace in Your Life Activity	<p>Students are looking up passages in the Bible and relating them to the purpose of Grace.</p> <p>There are many passages to look up. Some ideas to implement this activity are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pick 2 or 3 to complete all together as a class. Partner up students and assign each of them 1-2 different passages. Then come together as a group and share.
Closing Prayer	<p>Consider modeling a prayer of thanksgiving, thanking God for the many graces He has given you. Invite students to thank God for an individual grace they have received.</p>