

# Grade 1 - Chapter 1

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## Discover

### Catechist Tips: God Created Humans (Genesis 1-2)

The Scripture stories about the creation of man and woman tell of the magnitude of God's love.

- Humans were created in God's own image and likeness.
- They were created to live together in joy and peace with God and with each other.

### Catechist Tips: In God's Image

God created humans "in our image, after our likeness" (Genesis 1:26). You show respect for people by addressing them by their name.

- A name is an important gift that has been given to a person by his or her family. Invite the children to learn each other's names as quickly as they can.

### Catechist Tips: Lump of Clay

The Church teaches that God created the universe and humans in his image. We come to know about God's love for us through Scripture (CCC, 287-288).

Gather the children in a circle. Distribute a lump of soft clay or play dough to each child. (Keep a lump for yourself too.) Invite the children to make something they love or like with the soft clay or play dough. Make something quickly yourself. As the children continue to make their creations, say, **I made this \_\_\_\_. I put lots of love in it because \_\_\_\_\_.** Invite several children to share what they made and why they put lots of love in it. Then say, **God made the world. He put lots of love in it because he wanted to. He made us and put lots of love in us, too! The Bible tells us that.** Hold up the Bible and ask the children if they know what it is. Affirm that this is the Bible and it tells the story of God creating the world and humans. Say, **When God created the world and**

**humans, God said, "It is good!"**

### **Glossary Activity: Creation**

To understand *creation*, have the children work in groups to list gifts of God in nature. Remind them that all that God made is good.

- Take the children outdoors or have them look out the windows.
- Have each group write or draw five things they see in nature that are gifts from God.

### **Additional Activity: Beginning the Year**

Here are two ideas for children's first gathering of the year:

- Give them some time to explore their new books. Invite children to point out things that look interesting or fun.
- Make simple name tags for children. Greet each child with a handshake and present his or her name tag.

### **Additional Activity: Image of God**

You may want to read aloud the book *On the Day You Were Born* (Harcourt, 1991).

- After reading, have the children draw self-portraits on drawing paper.
- Display the children's artwork.
- Remind the children that every person is an image of God.

### **Additional Activity: Sign Language**

The children have learned that God loves them. Teach them the American Sign Language for "I love you."

- Extend thumb, index finger, and little finger toward the person addressed.

### **Additional Activity: Celebrating Uniqueness**

Give the children an opportunity to reflect upon and celebrate the qualities that make each of them unique.

- Distribute crayons and a blank piece of paper cut into the shape of a simple human figure to each child.
- Ask the children to color their figures to depict a special interest, skill, or talent.

### **Additional Activity: Make a Bulletin Board**

Title a bulletin board or poster with *We Are God's Gifts*.

- Give each child a small square of gift wrap and a "bow" cut from construction paper.
- Help them tape drawings of themselves to the gift-wrap squares and attach the paper bows. Then attach the "gifts" to the bulletin board or poster.

### **Parish Video Connection: Creation**

Before reading God's World on page 51, play this video for the children. After you complete the Catechist Edition instruction for this page, play it a second time and invite the children to sing along.

*Ask:* What are some parts of creation that you saw in the video?

YouTube Link: <http://bit.ly/1KdwYQG>