

THOUGH MANY, WE ARE ONE

UNIT 3

The Word Made Flesh (Advent)

Lesson 4

Mary and Joseph's Reality

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Mary and Joseph's Reality

Lesson Overview

Students will explore the theme of empathy, placing themselves in the shoes of Mary and Joseph, who have just learned of Mary's pregnancy.

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

ONTARIO CATHOLIC SCHOOL GRADUATE EXPECTATIONS & CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHINGS

Religious Education:

Grade 4:

CL 2.3: Identify certain gifts coming from God which, when we experience them in our lives, transform us and those who are in relationship with us (wonders of nature, the beauty of the arts, the laughter of a baby, the love of a parent or guardian).

Grade 5:

LC2.2: Identify Mary's role of discipleship using passages of the Old and New Testament, link this with the mystery of her Son Jesus Christ and identify the virtues that distinguish her as the first disciple (obedience and trust to God's will e.g. Magnificat). [CCC nos. 963-970]

Grade 6:

LC2.2: Articulate the reasons why our faith teaches us that Mary is the Mother of the Church. [CCC nos. 963-975; 2673-2682]

The **Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations** evident in this lesson include:

CGE1a -illustrates a basic understanding of the saving story of our Christian faith;

CGE2b -reads, understands and uses written materials effectively.

The **Catholic Social Teachings** evident in this lesson include:

Call to Family, Community, and Participation

	<p>Arts – Writing:</p> <p>2.5 identify their point of view and other possible points of view on the topic, and determine whether their information sufficiently supports their own view;</p> <p>3.7 use some appropriate elements of effective presentation in the finished product, including print, script, different fonts, graphics, and layout</p>	
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	<p>Guiding Questions</p> <p>Big Idea: Mary is the first among the Communion of Saints and as the Mother of Jesus is also the Mother of the Church.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How can I empathize with Mary and Joseph, and their circumstances leading up to the birth of Jesus? <p>Scripture Passages: Luke 2:1-7</p>
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	<p>LEARNING GOALS</p> <p>At the end of this lesson, students will know, understand and/or be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> describe in words and pictures how another person might feel under a unique set of circumstances. Understanding empathy. <p>Success Criteria, based on the Learning Goals, can be co-constructed as a class in language meaningful to students. The success criteria help students understand what to look for during the learning and what it looks like once they have learned. They identify the significant aspects of student performance that are assessed and/or evaluated (i.e., the “look-fors”) in relation to curriculum expectations.</p>
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	<p>INSTRUCTIONAL COMPONENTS AND CONTEXT</p> <table> <tr> <td data-bbox="280 1633 573 1831"> <p>Terminology:</p> <p>Empathy</p> </td><td data-bbox="573 1633 1429 1831"> <p>Materials: Computers/Devices (if not available, paper and drawing materials will suffice)</p> <p>Resources:</p> </td></tr> </table>	<p>Terminology:</p> <p>Empathy</p>	<p>Materials: Computers/Devices (if not available, paper and drawing materials will suffice)</p> <p>Resources:</p>
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	<p>Video - A Social Network Christmas: https://www.ignitermedia.com/products/1905-a-social-network-christmas</p> <p>Music Video - Mary Did You Know (Pentatonix): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U7Hu8dXHpvk#action=share</p>
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	<p>MINDS ON</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing a positive learning environment • Connecting to prior learning and/or experiences • Setting the context for learning <p><i>Note: The blogging activity in this lesson will have to be tailored to the needs of your class. Decide how in-depth you would like the writing assignment to be (draft, edit, final copy). Consider whether the students will be choosing their own blogging format, or whether a specific format will be provided (i.e: a mock Facebook page such as fakebook.com, a Twitter feed, Snapchat, Instagram, etc.)</i></p> <p>Introduce the video clip, ‘The Social Network Christmas’ as a modern day portrayal of what it would be like if Mary & Joseph had Facebook at the time of the annunciation. Invite students to watch the clip: https://www.ignitermedia.com/products/1905-a-social-network-christmas</p> <p>Invite students to share their reactions to the video. Discuss how Mary and Joseph would feel under their specific circumstances, including finding out about the baby as well as their feelings during the months of Mary’s pregnancy. (Joseph may have felt betrayed at first and angry; they may have felt embarrassed because they were not yet married; they may have felt nervous because they were responsible for the Son of God; they may have been anticipating Jesus’ arrival with joy; they may have felt tired or burned out, especially during the journey; they probably felt worried, especially when they were seeking a place for Jesus to be born)</p> <p><i>Note: This discussion may take anywhere from 5 minutes to 40 minutes, depending on the depth of conversation and participation of the students.</i></p>
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	<p>ACTION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introducing new learning or extending/reinforcing prior learning • Providing opportunities for practice and application of learning (guided & independent) <p><u>Day 1</u></p> <p>Pick a Role: Blog</p> <p>Discuss the term “Empathy” with the students. What is empathy? (Understanding how another person feels/placing yourself in another person’s “shoes” and feeling what they are feeling). What are some examples of how we can show empathy towards others? (Treating others the way we want to be treated, helping someone who is in need, comforting a person).</p> <p>Introduce the blogging assignment to the class. Inform students that they will be taking on the role of either Mary or Joseph, and will be given the opportunity to empathize with their situation. Their task is to create a ‘blog’ about the experience of finding out about Mary’s</p>
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pregnancy up until the birth of Jesus. It will be helpful for the students to reflect on the conversation that just took place.

Guiding questions for the students may be:

- What was your initial response to the news of becoming a parent?
- How do you feel about your fiancé?
- What does it feel like waiting for your baby, knowing that he is the son of God?
- How do you feel about having to travel to Bethlehem (which is a very long journey under difficult circumstances)?

Day 2

Class time should be given to students with the intent of completing their blogs.

Invite students to share their blogs with the large group or in small groups, whichever is most suitable given the dynamics of the class.

CONSOLIDATION

- Providing opportunities for consolidation and reflection
- Helping students demonstrate what they have learned

Discuss:

1. What new ways have you started thinking about Mary and/or Joseph's reality?
2. Did "A Social Network Christmas" help you empathize with their situation?
3. How can you relate to Mary & Joseph?
4. Do you think that you would be able to handle their challenge? (suggested topics could include pregnancy at such a young age including learning how to care for a baby, peer pressure, trust in God that everything will work out)
5. How do you think that their family/community could relate to them? How do you think they felt about them?

Conclude the lesson by inviting students to watch the music video, Mary Did You Know? by Pentatonix. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U7Hu8dXHpvk#action=share>

CONTINUED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Further extensions to this lesson might include:

Compare and contrast these three accounts of the events leading up to Jesus' Birth:

Luke 1:26 – 2:20

Matthew 1:18-25

John 1:1-18