

**Religious Education & Positive Mental Health and Wellness:** end of September to Thanksgiving

May also be used during Advent or Lent as a Gratitude project.

## Grade 12 - Lesson 1

### Grade 12 Who I AM ... Lesson 1 – The PRAYER SERVICE

**CHURCH AND CULTURE** - “gratitude is contagious”

Who I AM Makes A Difference Because Jesus Loves Me!

#### Background

*God promised Moses, “I will be with you.” God has made the same promise to each of us because He considers us His children. He loves YOU without conditions. His presence in YOUR life is constant. Through God, the circle of compassion is unconditional love, unconditional forgiveness and the celebration of life.*

#### Curriculum Expectation – Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations, Overall and Specific Expectations from related Subjects

##### Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations

**CGE1c** - Actively reflects on God's Word as communicated through the Hebrew and Christian scriptures

**CGE2a** - Listens actively and critically to understand and learn in light of gospel values

**CGE3d** - Makes decisions in light of gospel values with an informed moral conscience

##### Religion Overall Expectations

Use various forms of prayer to express the spiritual implications of striving to live a moral life

##### Religion Specific Expectations


Participate in various forms of theological reflection and prayer


##### **Learning Goals**

- Students will identify ways in which prayer service can sustain an ethical stance in life and promote personal moral living.
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of the Theological Virtue of Love as being the core virtue of God.

*Success Criteria (possible suggestion)*

*I achieve success by taking an active role in Who I AM prayer service through reading, reflecting, listening attentively and responding with appropriate words or*

		<i>gestures in order to fully understand significance of moral living and the value to the virtue of love.</i>
<b>Instructional Components</b>		
<b>Prior Knowledge and/or Skills</b> <b>Who I AM</b> Makes A Difference Because Jesus Loves Me! project  <b><u>Suggested Teacher Daily Reflection</u></b>  Gus Lloyd 60 Second Reflections <a href="http://guslloyd.com">http://guslloyd.com</a>	<b>Terminology</b> Theological Virtue of Love	<b>Resources/Materials</b> <b>Who I AM</b> Prayer Service for Grade 12  <a href="http://www.godtube.com/watch/?v=7PKZG7NX">http://www.godtube.com/watch/?v=7PKZG7NX</a>
<b>Prayer/Scripture Focus</b>		
Scripture focus will be rooted in Exodus 3:14 but the Gospel of Matthew will compliment understanding.		
<b>Minds On</b>	<b>Approximately 10 Minutes</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
Please distribute a copy of prayer service to each student.  The phase Who <b>I AM</b> originated in a conversation between God and Moses...on a Mount...through a Burning Bush. The value of Who <b>I AM</b> has two meanings. The first meaning speaks to the importance of God as being the center of our life. I AM = value of God. The second meaning speaks to the priceless gift we are to self and others. I AM = value of Me. God makes a difference to us. Through His Son Jesus, unconditional love was offered to all. Who you are makes a difference to others because God blessed you with resiliency, talents and gifts. The Who <b>I AM</b> project is a Golden opportunity to express the combination of a Religion project with a Positive Mental Health and Wellness project.  <u>Welcome and Introduction:</u> <u>Opening Prayer:</u> Let us pray, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Loving God, the Great <b>I AM</b> , we thank you for all of the good things that you have given us; for the beauty of your creation, for our school community, our teachers, our own resiliency, and for the love of our family and friends. Thank you for loving us all unconditionally and for making each one of us the special gift that we are, Amen.		A brief introduction to a Prayer Service intended to bring students to a new form of learning.  <b><u>Anecdotal /observations</u></b>  

Continue to follow the Prayer Service script.		
<b>Action</b>	<b>Approximately 45 Minutes</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
<p><b>Teacher Voice</b></p> <p>One of the learning goals for the Who <b>I AM</b> prayer service was to understand the Theological Virtue of Love as being the core virtue of God. Share with your elbow partner, how you (we) have achieved success. (Allow a few minutes for conversation)</p> <p>Now I am going to call upon you to share what YOUR PARTNER’S response was to the reflective question.” (Be inclusive of all students. Some students will have ‘forgotten’ what their partner said – allow the whole class 2 minutes to ‘listen’ again to their partner).</p>		<p>The main portion of the prayer service will probe students’ thinking through a purposeful activity.</p> <p><u><b>Anecdotal / observations</b></u></p>
<b>Consolidation</b>	<b>Approximately 15 Minutes</b>	<b>Assessment</b>
<p>Close with: <a href="http://www.godtube.com/watch/?v=7PKZG7NX">http://www.godtube.com/watch/?v=7PKZG7NX</a></p> <p>Names of God Inspirational Video</p> 		<p>Teachers support students with making connections to the learning goal.</p> <p><u><b>Anecdotal / observations</b></u></p>
<b>Final Notes</b>		
<p>Prayer service is inclusive of all. Invite students to actively participate by sharing a reading role, listening, or using appropriate hand gestures when required to do so.</p> <p>Allow time for elbow partner sharing. This is a great listening activity.</p> <p>Capture student involvement by taking pictures. Display pictures to celebrate Who <b>I AM</b>.</p> <p>Ask students to share the many names of God found in the prayer service. What are additional names of God that are not listed in the prayer service?</p> <p><b>Powerful Extension:</b></p> <p>At the end of the prayer service hand each student a personally addressed envelope that contains a copy of the DESIDERATA. <a href="http://www.cs.columbia.edu/~gongsu/desiderata_textonly.html">http://www.cs.columbia.edu/~gongsu/desiderata_textonly.html</a> Allow time for students to read it quietly. Use choral reading to read together as a large group. Discuss</p>		

where God's voice is in the poem. How can the Desiderata be connected to a positive mental health attitude?

Or listen to the DESIDERATA at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HDHoflDhAOo>

This is a powerful poem that allows for deep self-reflection.

**Text Extension:**

**Moses** *The Long Road to Freedom* by Ann Keay Beneduce

*"Teachers are like gardeners. They provide the things needed for growth: knowledge, wisdom, advice, comfort, support, and love, enabling students to develop to their full potential. In and through this delicate act of gardening, of caring and giving, the teacher facilitates the beautiful development of the life within the seed."*

(from: Filomena Tassi & Peter Tassi, 500 Prayers for Catholic Schools & Parish Youth Groups, Twenty-third Publications, 2004.)



## Who I AM Prayer for Senior Division (Grade 12)

*Note: Give each student a copy of the prayer services.*

### Welcome and Introduction:

#### Opening Prayer:

Let us pray, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Loving God, the Great I AM, we thank you for all of the good things that you have given us; for the beauty of your creation, for our school community, our teachers, our own resiliency, and for the love of our family and friends. Thank you for loving us all unconditionally and for making each one of us the special gift that we are, Amen.

Reading: A reading from the book of Exodus [adapted and selected verses from Exodus 3.15 NRSV] God called to Moses out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And Moses said, "Here I am." Then God said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "Come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" God said, "I will be with you". But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you', and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations."

Reflection: *Pause for a moment for silent reflection.*

Reading: A reading from The Gospel according to Matthew [7.7-12 NRSV] Jesus said to them, "Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone? Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in

heaven give good things to those who ask him! 'In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets.'

Reflection: *Pause for a moment for silent reflection.*

NRSV New Revised Standard Version of the Bible

Reflection Questions: Write your answers on the back of this sheet. Be prepared to share your answers with a small group (4-6 students).

Whose voice was heard from the burning bush and what was it that God first asked of Moses?

What was the name that Moses was given to identify the voice within the burning bush?

Name two similarities between the scriptures? Think about the story of what God did through Moses to free the Israelites.

Reread the Gospel verse. Which verse stands out to you? Why did you feel drawn to that verse? What does it mean to you?

What very famous verse is contained within this Gospel reading?

Intentions: *Note: prepare them to think about one or two people who are special to them for the fourth intercession*

The response to the prayer is; Lord, hear our prayer

For the Pope, our church and all Christians; that they know that God, the Great I AM, loves them unconditionally, we pray Lord, hear our prayer

For our school principal, teachers, EAs, secretaries and custodians; that they know that God, the Great I AM, loves them unconditionally, we pray Lord, hear our prayer

For our families and our friends; that they know that God, the Great I AM, loves them unconditionally, we pray Lord, hear our prayer

For the special people that we now pause to think of [*pause*].....; that they know that God, the Great I AM, loves them unconditionally, we pray Lord, hear our prayer

Closing Prayer:

Loving God, the Great I AM, we thank you that you are always with us, helping us, guiding us, leading us, keeping us safe, and providing us with resilience to bounce back when we encounter difficulties. We also thank you for the unconditional love that you give to us. We ask you to show us the special people in our lives to whom we should show our gratitude with our words and actions. Help us to be the best person we can be and to remember that, who we are makes a difference to others and to you, we pray, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen

On the following days: *[pronouns change to reflect the more personal nature of the WHO I AM]*

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Loving God, the Great I AM, I thank you that you are always with me, helping me, guiding me, leading me, and keeping me safe. I also thank you for the unconditional love that you give to me. Bring to my mind two people in my life who I am grateful for, people who have helped me, guided me or loved me in a special way. I pray now for those two special people. Help me to remember that, **who I am** makes a difference to others and to you, I pray, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen

On the day of presentation of the Gift of Words project:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Loving God, the Great I AM, I thank you that you are always with me, helping me, guiding me, leading me and keeping me safe. I also thank you for the unconditional love that you give to me. I pray now for the two special people in my life to whom I can say thank you with my **Gift of Words**. Please give me the courage to speak to them and tell them what they mean to me. Help me to remember that, **who I am** makes a difference to others and to you, I pray, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen

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