

Lesson 1

Seek the Truth, Choose the Good, Love the Beautiful.

Lesson Objectives

- Explore our faith in God, who is good and who created a good world.
- Appreciate the gift of conscience: God's voice within us that helps us choose what is good and avoid what is evil.
- Learn how Saint Maron sought the truth, chose the good, and loved beauty.

Lesson Summary

In this lesson we will explore the beauty of the world that God created and how we can seek the good every day by following God's plan for us.

Lesson Plan

Introduction (Minutes 1-10)

- Pray the Opening Prayer together.
- Introduce yourself to the students. Have students introduce themselves to each other and tell something they most enjoyed about their summer.
- Review the introduction.
- Show a video or song.

Review Point 1: Maronite Catholic Inheritance and Tradition (Minutes 10-15)

For Additional Reflection:

- Ask the students: What gifts has God given especially to you?
- Follow-up question: How do you try to use them in your life?

Review Point 2: How to Seek the Truth, Choose the Good, Love the Beautiful (Minutes 15-20)

For Additional Reflection:

- Discuss what it means to seek the truth, choose the good, and love the beautiful.
- Ask the students: What are some beautiful things that you notice in the world?

Review Point 3: Learning How to Live With the Difficulties in Life (Minutes 20-25)

For Additional Reflection:

- Discuss how even though bad things can happen, God is always there to help us.
- Ask the students: Can you think of a time when something bad happened to you and God helped you through it?

Activity: Choose 1 or 2 (Minutes 25-30)

Activity 1: Finding Beauty in Nature

Go outside as a class and find three beautiful things. Share why they inspire you and make you happy.

- Answers will vary.

Activity 2: Draw the Days of Creation

God created many beautiful things when he created the universe. Pick one day of Creation and read about it in your Bible. Then, using the space below, draw what God created on that day.

- Day 1: Genesis 1:1-5
- Day 2: Genesis 1:6-8
- Day 3: Genesis 1:9-13
- Day 4: Genesis 1:14-19
- Day 5: Genesis 1:20-23
- Day 6: Genesis 1:24-31

Answers will vary.

Prayer and Role Model (Minutes 25-30)

- Discuss Saint Maron's gift of seeking the truth, choosing the good, and loving the beautiful.

Complete Recall Section

Answer Key:

1. The Genesis story of creation tells us that God created everything **good**.
2. We are **responsible** for our thoughts, words, actions, and the decisions we make.
3. The Bible is the Word of God and is **true** and therefore has no error. This term describes something that is trustworthy. This term speaks to our hearts
4. The voice of God within us, which helps us “to do what is good and to avoid evil” is our **conscience**.
5. When we make good choices, we grow in **holiness**; we become sharers in the life of God.
6. When we say something is **beautiful**, we mean it is pleasing to our senses, our mind, and our heart.

Review Weekly Journal

For Additional Reflection:

- Ask the students to notice when they make good decisions during the week.
- Encourage the students to look for signs of God's beauty around them.

Closing

Pray the Concluding Prayer together.

Optional

Use the Climbing Mountain Section and the Reaching the Summit Section.