

## Unit 1 “God and Me” Lesson 3

# God Cares about Me

**Objective:** The students will be able to state that God cares about the way they feel and wants them to talk to Him.

### **For the Catechist**

It would be wonderful if all young children felt happy all the time. Unfortunately, even young ones can feel hurt and disappointment—when a friend hurts their feelings, when parents separate, when their friends at school don’t include them in a game. This lesson teaches that God cares about the way they feel at all times.

**Responsibility.** The concept of our actions affecting another is the foundation for moral living. In this lesson the child learns that he or she has power in the lives of others—power to do good. Later lessons will raise more clearly the idea of “doing good” and, conversely, “making mistakes.” The lesson provides merely an introduction to the idea of responsible living.

**God hears our prayers.** All prayers are not answered as we would wish. While it may not occur to most children to fault God for this, some may indeed ask why a prayer request was not granted. It is important to reassure the child that God always does hear our prayers. God is God. We do not know why some prayers are answered as we would wish, and others are not. Some day, when we are together with God in heaven, we will know the answers to many things.

### **Background Reading**

*(Direct quotations from the sources noted)*

#### **Caring God**

“The Biblical story of creation is an affirmation that our Creator is the intimate, caring God who is involved with everything happening, for ‘not a single sparrow falls to the ground without your Father’s consent’ (Mt 10:29 NAB). How much greater is His concern for us, who are made in His image and likeness and are able to marvel at Creation’s beauty

### **Lesson Plan Overview**

**Opening:** “To You, O Lord.”

**Introduction:** Discussion of prayer

**Read Text Aloud:** Hold text up for students to see as you read each page aloud. After each page, use the questions in the shaded box at the bottom of that page to discuss the lesson with the students.

#### **Activity Tracks:**

Choose a basic, group, or craft activity to reinforce the lesson (detailed on the pages that follow).

- **Basic:** “Where Adam and Eve Lived”
- **Group:** “God Cares” Poster
- **Craft:** “God Cares about Me” Stand-Up

**Closing:** The Sign of the Cross

### **Come Bless the Lord Icon:**

Packet I:

Packet II:

and to praise the one Creator. It is to us who can perceive and express the beauty of God's work that 'The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament proclaims his handiwork' (Ps 18/19:1)" (*LLI* 24).

# The Lesson Plan

## Opening

*Let's talk about praying to God. The first thing we do is stand quietly. Let's try it. Let's stand quietly before the icon. [Gather the children before the icon.] Next, we hold our hands palms up. Let's try it; this is our prayer position. When we hold our hands open, we are telling God, "I am giving myself to you." That's how we'll pray right now—hands open, together, and palms up. When we pray, we give ourselves to God. [Move hands upward and outward toward icon as you say] "To You, O Lord." We also are ready to receive what God gives us. [Move hands back to self.] Let's all say together, "To You, O Lord." Now let's try it as our prayer. Let's be quiet for a moment and look at how beautiful our icon is. [Say prayer with children.]*

## Introduction

*We've just begun learning about our wonderful God. In our first class we learned that God made us and God loves us. Last week our lesson title was "God Gave Me His Friendship." We learned that God wants us to talk with Him like a friend. What is it called when we talk to God? (Prayer) Today we'll learn more about prayer or talking to God. Let me ask you this: what can we pray about? [Allow responses.] Here is another question: what parts of our body do we use when we pray? (Hands and fingers to make the sign of the cross, our head to bow.) We also use this part of our body, our heart [point to heart]. We talk to God from our heart, telling Him what is important to us or asking Him for help. And God can talk back to our heart. [Share a prayer experience where God spoke to your heart. For example, when you were hurt and needed to forgive someone, or when you had a decision to make and didn't know which way to turn. This may lead children to share. Allow their sharing about prayer.] When we use our heart to pray, we know that God is with us. God is as close as a prayer. Let's read and learn more about praying.*

## Reading of Text

Hold text so that children can see the page as you read it to them. Read slowly and draw their attention to the illustrations. After reading each page, use the questions below (given also on the bottom of the student text) to review what you have read.

### Page 1

- *When you talk with your friends, what do you talk about? (Something that happened, a gift, what you're doing that day.) When we talk with God, we can talk about these things, too. God gave us His friendship. God wants us to talk with Him.*
- *What is it called when we talk with God? (Prayer)*
- *Let's find out what else we can talk about to God.*

## Page 2

- *Let's look at the top picture. What do you think the child needs help with? (Riding a bicycle) Have you ever needed help learning something? [Allow responses.]*
- *Have you ever asked God to help someone who was sick? [Allow responses.]*
- *Let's look at the last picture. What might have happened here? (The boy is mad at the girl. Maybe she did something to hurt him. OR The boy doesn't want to play with the girl. She is sad.) Have you ever been mad or sad? [Allow responses.]*

## Page 3

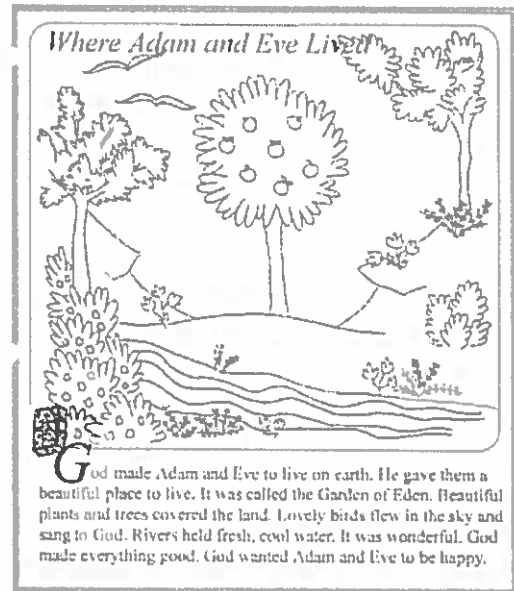
- *In our last two lessons we learned that God wants us to talk with Him. We can talk with Him like a friend. God is better than a friend. Do you know why? [Allow responses.] We don't always have a friend to talk to, but we always have God. We know in our hearts that God is always with us. Even though we can't see Him, God is as close as a prayer.*

## Activity Tracks

### Basic: "Where Adam and Eve Lived"

The basic activity is the fourth page of each student text. It is a paraphrase of the Bible story of the creation of Adam and Eve. Read the title and the story to the children. They may color the illustration. Questions to reinforce the reading are as follows:

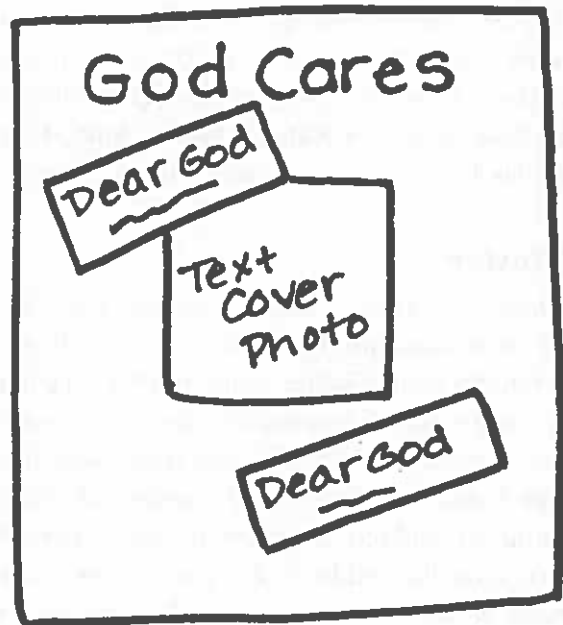
- *God made a beautiful place for Adam and Eve to live. What was it called? (Garden of Eden)*
- *Close your eyes and imagine you are in a beautiful garden. What do you see/hear/smell/feel? [Allow responses.] It must have been delightful in the Garden of Eden.*
- *God wanted Adam and Eve to be happy. God cares about us.*



### Group: "God Cares" Poster

**Materials:** Front cover of text enlarged on a color copier (1.29%), poster board, glue, "Dear God" worksheet, markers, glue, sequins or glitter, other decorating materials

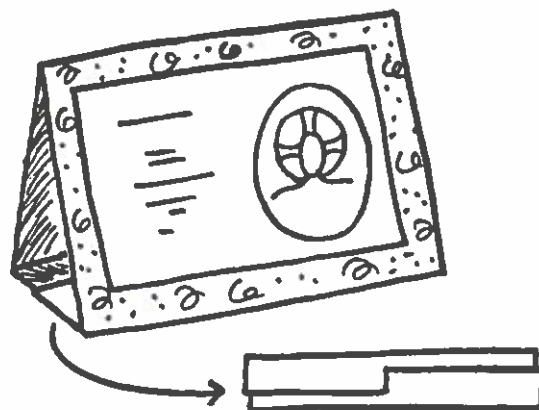
[Ahead of time put the title on the poster board, "God Cares." From the copy of the book cover, cut out the photo and paste it in the center of the poster.] *Today we learned that God is very interested in how we feel and what is happening in our lives. He wants us to talk with Him about anything that is important to us—about why we feel sad or mad or happy, about what is happening around us especially if people are having problems, and about what help we need. We use our hearts to talk with God in prayer. God is always with us and as close as a prayer. For our project today, we'll make a poster for our classroom to remind us to pray to God often because God cares about us. [Hold up poster; read title.] We need to complete this poster. To each of you, I'll pass out papers that are the beginning of a prayer. They read, "Dear God." I want you to think about some things you can pray about. Then you can write them, or I can write them for you on the papers. For example, "Dear God, please help my friends stop fighting." We'll paste all our prayers on the poster board. What are some things that we learned we can pray about? [Allow sharing before beginning the project. As children work, compliment them on their ideas and expand on them so children see that they can pray about everything.]*



## Craft: "God Cares about Me" Stand-Up

**Materials:** Icon of Jesus and poem (cut as indicated, plus snip 1/4 inch in the center of each folded bottom piece to make the bottoms fit together) from the back cover of each child's book, tape, markers, glue, sequins or glitter, other decorating materials.

[Ahead of time you may want to fold and snip as indicated so that the children need only decorate and tape together the bottom sides.] *Today we learned that God is very interested in how we feel and what is happening in our lives. He wants us to talk with Him about anything that is important to us: about why we feel sad or mad or happy, about what is happening around us especially if people are having problems, and about what help we need. We use our hearts to talk with God in prayer. God is always with us and as close as a prayer. For our project today, we'll use the icon of Jesus to remind us that God cares about us. We'll make a beautiful decorated border for the icon and the poem that goes with it. You can put it on your dresser.* [Help children cut out back cover and decorate the border. Snip at the center of each bottom side and fold and connect the bottom.]



Use tape to secure bottom

## Closing

*When we prayed earlier, we learned that the first thing we do is stand quietly. Let's try it. Let's stand quietly before the icon.* [Gather children before the icon.] *Remember last week we learned the sign of the cross. Let's practice it this week. With our right hand let us hold our thumb and first two fingers together like this* [show the children], *and put our other two fingers in our palm like this* [show the children]. *For our closing prayer let's make the sign of the cross and bow as we say "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."*

Dear God,

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Dear God,

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Dear God,

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Dear God,

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Dear God,

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