



Growing with **GOD**[™]

Safe and Sacred

LESSON 6
My Sacred Self

In This Lesson

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What the Church Says About

Welcoming New Life

The child becomes a gift to its . . . entire family. *Its life becomes a gift for the very people who were givers of life and who cannot help but feel its presence, its sharing in their life and its contribution to their common good and to that of the community of the family.*

Pope John Paul II,
Letter to Families (1994)

God’s Perfect Design

Your child is at a prime age for fostering a growing sense of awareness and of wonder at the many forms of life that God creates. Your child may watch and wonder at the lively creatures he or she sees each day, from tiny insects to a litter of new puppies or kittens. Your child may also take interest in caring for plants, watching them grow, and enjoying the fruit or flowers they produce. Through discovery and with your guidance, your child will begin to see that all living things have a way of reproducing and that new life is a beautiful part of God’s plan.

**In God’s design, life is precious and fragile—
a blessing to be valued and celebrated—
and we welcome new life with joy and hope.**

We know that God has a plan for each baby, just as he planned the Holy Family. God’s only Son is a gift to the world, and God chose Mary and Joseph to be Jesus’ parents. They nurtured him and welcomed him into their family. Teach your child that each new baby is a blessing to his or her parents in much the same way. He or she was born to be a son or a daughter and a brother, a sister, or an only child. Each child is precious, unique, and born with a special purpose. Encourage your child’s wonder and curiosity about all life to increase appreciation for the gift it is.





3 minute
RETREAT

Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but the One who sent me.

Mark 9:37

Reflection

Some children face a difficult life. Not all children are sheltered and loved as they should be. Children across the world suffer from a lack of food or clean water because of poverty or war. Some children have parents who are incapable of loving their children as they should be loved. Jesus reminds us that children are a gift from God, made in God's image. In welcoming them, we welcome God into our lives.

Questions

How can I help my child feel cared for and welcome? How can I help my child develop a loving and welcoming spirit?



Prayer

Pray to Jesus, using this prayer or one of your own.

Jesus, thank you for giving me the opportunity to receive, care, and share your love with the child (or children) you have sent me.

Lead Your Child to Grow with God: Spiritually, Socially, and Physically



Spiritual At the breakfast table or at dinnertime, have your child think of one or two things he or she is thankful for. Add your own ideas and express thanks to

God for his goodness and faithfulness in your lives.

Social Model for your child how to welcome others every time you meet someone new. Invite your children to help you include someone who may otherwise be left out of a group or gathering. With your child, brainstorm phrases he or she might use when meeting new children.

Physical Help your child identify the five senses and use them to explore God's creation in a new way. For example, take your child outside and invite him to cover his or her eyes. Tell your child to listen for sounds and to feel and smell the air. Ask your child to describe or identify the sounds, feelings, and scents. Encourage him or her to take time to use all the senses God has given us to appreciate his world.

Safe and Sacred at Home



Positively Catholic (Loyola Press)
by Michael Leach

Pope John Paul II compared God's love to the love that only a mother can give: "tender, merciful, patient, and full of understanding."

Big Ideas

In Lesson 6, your child will:

- identify all human life as a precious gift from God.
- tell that Mary and Joseph welcomed Jesus to their family as a baby.
- discuss what makes his or her family special.
- define *welcome* and *newborn*.

Words to Know

welcome · *To greet in a warm and friendly manner*

newborn · *A recently born human or animal*

Bringing the Lesson Home

Determine ahead of time when and where you and your child will engage with the lesson content. Read or complete Side A of the worksheet with your child.



STEP 1 ENGAGE & EXPLORE

SAY: Parents prepare for and welcome their babies with joy and excitement! Share with your child your experience of waiting for his or her arrival and the things you did to prepare for being a parent. **SAY:**

All of God's creatures have babies. Some babies, like sea turtles, can take care of themselves right away. Others need to be nurtured and taught for years before they start to do things for themselves. Talk to your child about the things you did for him or her as a newborn.

SAY: Tell me some things you have learned to do for yourself. Give your child time to answer. Add your own observations about ways in which your child already takes care of himself or herself.

SAY: I am so thankful that God made you and that I get to be your parent.



Bringing the Lesson Home *(continued)*

STEP 2 REFLECT & RESPOND

Read or complete Side B of the worksheet with your child.

SAY: Each new life is a blessing from God. You are a blessing to me and to our family. Tell your child the

story of his or her birth or adoption. Look at photos of your child as a newborn and of his or her Baptism.

If this is not possible, talk about how your child has blessed you and your family, and how you are grateful to God for his plan for each of us.

SAY: New friends are blessings to us too.

Use the blackline master to spark a discussion about ways to welcome a new friend.

SAY: Let us pray together. Pray the prayer from the Pray Together feature or a prayer of your own. Begin and end the prayer with the Sign of the Cross.



"Babies, Babies, Babies"



Scan this code to view a video for Lesson 6 with your child.



Pray Together

Lord Jesus, thank you for the blessing of family. Please help us to welcome others the way you welcomed us into your family through Baptism.

Scan this code and guide your child through a simple review of the lesson.

