

Lesson 3: Circle of Grace

Online: <https://bit.ly/45fRZM8>

Come, Holy Spirit

*Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in them the fire of your love.*

*Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created,
and you shall renew the face of the earth.*

*O God, who have taught the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit,
grant that in the same Spirit we may be truly wise and ever rejoice in his consolation.*

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Prayer to Saint Joseph

*O blessed Joseph, faithful guardian of my Redeemer, Jesus Christ, protector
of thy chaste spouse, the virgin Mother of God, I choose thee this day to
be my special patron and advocate and I firmly resolve to honor thee all
the days of my life. Therefore I humbly beseech thee to receive me as thy
client, to instruct me in every doubt, to comfort me in every affliction,
to obtain for me and for all the knowledge and love of the Heart of Jesus,
and finally to defend and protect me at the hour of my death. Amen*

Reflection

1. Why did Jesus die for us?
2. What does Paul mean by “dying to sin”?
3. What is a sin?
4. What is redemption?

Genesis:

The LORD God then called to the man and asked him: Where are you?

He answered, “I heard you in the garden; but I was afraid, because I was naked, so I hid.”

*Then God asked: Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I
had forbidden you to eat?*

*The man replied, “The woman whom you put here with me—she gave me fruit from the tree, so I
ate it.*

The LORD God then asked the woman: What is this you have done?

The woman answered, “The snake tricked me, so I ate it. ([Gen 3:9-13](#)):

Cain said to his brother Abel, “Let us go out in the field.” When they were in the field, Cain
attacked his brother Abel and killed him.*

*Then the LORD asked Cain, Where is your brother Abel? He answered, “I do not know. Am I my
brother’s keeper?”*

*God then said: What have you done? Your brother’s blood cries out to me from the ground ... You
shall become a constant wanderer on the earth. ([Gen 4 6-12](#))*

Catechism on Freedom and Sin

- Man's freedom is limited and fallible. In fact, man failed. He freely sinned. By refusing God's plan of love, he deceived himself and became a slave to sin. This first alienation engendered a multitude of others. From its outset, human history attests the wretchedness and oppression born of the human heart in consequence of the abuse of freedom. ([CCC 1739](#))

Catechism on Justification

From [CCC 1987-1991](#)

- The grace of the Holy Spirit has the power to justify us, that is, to cleanse us from our sins and to communicate to us "the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ" and through Baptism:
 - *But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. For we know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves as dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.* (Paul from [Rom 6:8-11](#))
- Through the power of the Holy Spirit we take part in Christ's Passion by dying to sin, and in his Resurrection by being born to a new life; we are members of his Body which is the Church, branches grafted onto the vine which is himself.
- The first work of the grace of the Holy Spirit is conversion, effecting justification in accordance with Jesus' proclamation at the beginning of the Gospel: "*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*" ([Mt 4:17](#))
- Justification detaches man from sin which contradicts the love of God, and purifies his heart of sin. Justification follows upon God's merciful initiative of offering forgiveness. It reconciles man with God. It frees from the enslavement to sin, and it heals.
- Justification is at the same time the acceptance of God's righteousness through faith in Jesus Christ. Righteousness (or "justice") here means the rectitude of divine love. With justification, faith, hope, and charity are poured into our hearts, and obedience to the divine will is granted us.

Catechism on Grace

- Our justification comes from the grace of God. Grace is favor, the free and undeserved help that God gives us to respond to his call to become children of God, adoptive sons, partakers of the divine nature and of eternal life. ([CCC 1996](#))

Jesus on avoiding sin

"If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one of your members than to have your whole body thrown into Gehenna.

And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one of your members than to have your whole body go into Gehenna." ([Mt 5:29-30](#))

"Pray that you may not undergo the test." ([Lk 22:40](#))

"Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test. The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak." ([Mk 14:38](#))

Note: "undergo the test" is also translated as "fall into temptation" (fall into sin)

Circle of Grace



CIRCLE OF GRACE

*Raise your hands above your head and then bring
your outstretched arms slowly down.*

*Extend your arms
in front of you
and then behind you
embrace all of the space around you
then slowly
reach down to your feet.*

*Knowing that **God** is in this space with you.*

*This is your
Circle of Grace.
You are in it.*

What would our world look like if we all lived believing and truly knowing that God is that close?

“The love and goodness of God that always surrounds me and all others.”

(for Symbolic analysis: [COG9 Philosophy unit](#), p 55)

Circle of Grace Agenda

1. Circle of Grace concept review
 - a. [COG9 Philosophy unit](#), pp.1, 3

2. What is “Grace”? ([CCC 1996](#))
 - a. *Imago dei* (Image of God)

3. Grade-level vocabulary review
 - a. [COG9 Philosophy unit](#), pp. 4-7
 - i. What are your parents afraid might happen to you... ages 2, 10, 15, 25...?
 - ii. What does God want to happen to you, ages 2, 10, 15, 25...?

4. Technology
 - a. Tech Savvy or [Tech Safe Evaluation](#) p. 14

5. Mary and Joseph say, “Yes”
 - a. Mary: [Lk 1:26](#)
 - b. Joseph: [Mt 1:18](#)
 - c. [COG9 Philosophy unit](#), pp. 16-17

6. Modesty
 - a. What is your [Modesty IQ](#)? Quiz (p 14)
 - b. Group discussion and class presentation