

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

GRADE 7

28 SEPTEMBER 2020

LET US PRAY



Dear Lord,

Today we bow before you Oh Lord,

We pray for all families who have lost loved ones over the past months Lord .

We ask you to provide each and everyone of them the comfort only You are able to provide in these most difficult times dear Lord.

We ask You to receive their souls, give them eternal rest in the house that You have prepared for us all.

We ask this in Your Holy Name,
Amen.

LESSON 59: Gender Discrimination

Different religious groups have different beliefs about gender issues. Strict **Muslims** believe women remain the property of their husbands. Old **Jewish laws** protected women but kept their status inferior. Christianity is more influenced by western democratic thinking, of **liberty, equality, fraternity**, though in some churches today, women still feel discriminated against.

A division occurs between women and men. This is because different roles are expected of men and women. People often try to explain by saying, "But it's my culture." However, culture changes. And so do the kind of jobs available to people. If you have younger brothers or sisters they may be thinking of doing work that your mother or father, or even you, would never have considered. Sometimes more money allows for further education and allows both sons and daughters to get their matric and to study further. This means that equal opportunities for women and men can become available.

(Second paragraph - John McCormick & Anne French. Catholic Institute of Education workshop)

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1. **Is it Fair?** Study the worksheet.
 2. Give **examples of discrimination** on the basis of gender, ideally from your own experience. Think about the reasons for this, including your own cultural and religious background, chauvinist or submissive attitudes, power, aggression and fear. Is this situation fair, correct and acceptable?

- 3 What **structures or Bills of Rights** defend the equal rights of men and women? Study relevant statements in documents such as the SA Constitution (article 9(3) of the Bill of Rights) and the UN Human Rights Charter (article 2).

Section 9 Equality

(3) The state may not unfairly discriminate directly or indirectly against anyone on one or more grounds, including race, gender, sex, pregnancy, marital status, ethnic or social origin, colour, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, conscience, belief, culture, language and birth.

Everyone can claim the following rights, despite

- a different sex
- a different skin colour
- speaking a different language
- thinking different things
- believing in another religion
- owning more or less
- being born in another social group
- coming from another country. **(UN Charter, article 2)**

Equal but different: It is not always possible to walk in one another's shoes as male or female, but male and female can wear the same T-shirt. Natural differences between men and women must be accepted. However people's potential and abilities should not be restricted.

TASKS TO BE COMPLETED:

- 4 **Scripture:** Study, reflect and discuss the creation story in Genesis 2 and compare it with Ephesians 5:21-33. Study also Galatians 3:28.
- 5 **Job Descriptions:** Consider the following questions:
- Can we say that all boys and girls should think alike?
 - Should they have the same likes and dislikes?
 - Should they do the same things?
 - Should they be prevented from doing the same things?
- Think of the most common stereotyped jobs assigned to boys or girls.
- 7 Find appropriate **newspaper articles** dealing with discrimination and oppression of women.
- 8 Write a **short essay** stating and defending their personal views about the rights of men and women.

IS IT FAIR?

Read the following passage and discuss the questions.

Dimpho, while carrying a bucket of water says, "It's not fair!. At home my sister and I do all the work - fetch the water, make food for the family, do the washing and see that everything is organised for when my mom comes home, while my brothers do as they please!. We even have to polish their shoes, and on top of it all, they boss us around!"

- Do you think that the situation at Dimpho's home is fair? Why? Why not?
- What do you think should be done to make the situation fair?
- Do you think the responsibilities of a home should depend on gender?
- Should there be 'job descriptions' in the home?

Think about your own lives and answer the following questions:

- Are you treated differently because you are a boy or a girl?
- Do you have to do different chores at home?
- Are there different rules for boys or girls?
- Where do these ideas come from?

Gender and Work

housework	cooking	fixing cars	changing tyres
catching bugs	driving	paying for movies	washing & ironing
washing dishes	braai-ing	modelling clothes	driving taxis
being a doctor	being a mathematician	being a scientist	doing the gardening
being a manager	minding the baby	being a pilot	being an engineer
being a shopkeeper	being a farmer	herding cattle	tidying the house
being a teacher	being a nurse	being a secretary	being a domestic worker
being a psychologist	being a librarian	being a dancer	being a singer in the church choir

5 OCTOBER 2020

LESSON 60: Acts of God

In biblical times, floods were considered punishments from God. Consider, for instance the story of Noah and the Ark in Genesis. Nowadays with our scientific knowledge we can explain these events better, but people still question God's providence and ask, "Why me, why us, how could God do this to us?"

David Hume in the 18th century put the question this way: Is God willing to prevent evil, but not able? Then God is impotent. Is God able to prevent evil, but not willing? Then God is malevolent. Is God both willing and able to prevent evil? Then why is there any evil in the world?

1 The story of the man caught in a flood. As the water rose higher and higher he climbed onto the roof of his house. There he sat and prayed to God to help him. A rowing boat came by and offered to help but the man turned the offer down, saying God would rescue him. The water rose even higher and a motor boat came by and offered help. Again the man refused. When the waters had risen so high that the man was sitting on the very top of his roof a helicopter came by, but again the man refused. The waters rose over the top of his house and he drowned. When he was met at the gates of heaven he said to God, "Where were you when I needed you. I trusted you would save me." God replied, "I sent you two boats and a helicopter didn't I, but you chose to drown."

2 **Acts of God:** While we acknowledge the man in the story's foolishness, we all know there are many occasions of suffering we cannot avoid.

Acts of God are events such as a natural disaster, an earthquake, a flood, or a lightning strike. God is creator, and ultimate master of creation, but we believe that God created a natural order, which runs its course and that God does not interfere or cause particular disasters for just any reason, especially to punish us. The term Act of God is actually misleading. It comes from pre-scientific days, when God was used as an explanation of anything we could not understand. At the same time, however, we believe that God cares for us. This is what Providence means.

3 Why are there disasters in the world? Doesn't God look after us? This is a question which has puzzled human beings for thousands of years. We can understand punishment for wrongdoing, and we can understand that our bad choices lead to bad consequences for ourselves and others, but we do not understand why so many people suffer what they do not seem to deserve.

- 5 **Job:** The biblical Book of Job concentrates on this problem. The song *Job/Where is Your Mercy?* From Marty Haugen's *Tales of Wonder*. The words are given below. They serve as a simplified version of the story. ⇨ Read the following passages from the Book of Job: 42:2-6, 10-16.
- 6 **Jesus:** This is a deep mystery. Does God give an answer to Job's question? The answer lies in the person of Jesus who shares our humanity. He shows us how to face suffering, trusting in God, though not understanding why. See Matthew 26:36-46.
- 7 Sing: *He's Got the Whole World in His Hands*.

TASKS TO BE COMPLETED:

1. Pray one of the **Psalms** that speaks of God's care and our trust in him - [Psalm 102, 121, 123, 130].
2. Read the story of **Noah's Ark** [Genesis 6:5-8:22], and compare it to other accounts, such as the Sumerian Gilgamesh Epic.
4. Think of a **solar or lunar eclipse** in the context of superstition. Do people believe such an event is caused by evil spirits and how do people react to such a phenomenon?

JOB/WHERE IS YOUR MERCY?

Once there was a man named Job,
so rich in children, land and flocks,
the greatest of all people in the East.
Yet Job was humble, kind and good,
and only sought to walk with God,
to follow in the ways of truth and peace.
And then disaster struck him down,
his children and his servants died, his cattle slain, his body racked with sores;
and Job cried out to God in anger
from deep within his pain:

“You who have formed and given me breath,
taught me to treasure this life;
Why must I wander the shadow of death:
Where is your mercy now?
Is there no comfort, no end to my grief,
no one to answer my cries?
If you are present, come be my relief:
Where is your mercy now?
Look to my aching heart, speak to my empty heart,
You are the only hope I cling to;
Where is your loving face, where is your saving grace,
where is your mercy now?”