

FROM THE BALTIMORE CATECHISM:

Study Lesson Number 1.

Who Made us?

God made us.

Who is God?

God is the Supreme Being; infinitely perfect, who made all things and keeps them in existence.

Why did God Make us?

God made us to show forth His goodness and to share with us His everlasting happiness in heaven.

What must we do to gain the happiness of heaven?

To gain the happiness of heaven we must know, love, and serve God in this world.

From whom do we learn to know, love and serve God?

We learn to know, love, and serve God from Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who teaches us through the Catholic Church.

Where do we find the chief truths taught by Jesus Christ through the Catholic Church?

We find the chief truths taught by Jesus Christ through the Catholic Church in the Apostles' Creed.

Many false teachers will tell you that you are made in order to find happiness in wealth, pleasure, fame, or power. In reality, most people act as if they were made for these things rather than to love God. Listening to these false teachers and imitating their actions will only lead to unhappiness and the loss of heaven.

Discussion Questions:

1. Suppose a great movie actor does not know why God made him and a little child does. Which of the two is better off? Why?
2. To get to heaven we have to know, love and serve God. Which of these three things is most important? Why?
3. Is there anything on earth that we have to do that is more important than loving God?
4. What makes people unhappy?
5. Did God have to make us? Does God need us?
6. If we make something, we own it. God made us. Does He own us? Does he have a right to demand that we do what He expects of us?
7. Is it important to try to find out the meaning of the truths in the Apostles' Creed? Why?
8. Can we love God if we do not know Him? Explain.

READINGS: The purpose of life: Psalm 48; Matthew 6-19/33; 20-25/58;
22-36/40; John 17-3; Phil. 3-17-22; 1 John 2-15/17
Christ the Teacher: John 1-1/18; 7-16/30; 8-12/20
Christ teaches through the Church: Luke 10-16; Acts 5-12/42