

Lesson Plan for Lesson 2

Knowing God: Reason and Revelation

Preparation and Supplies

- Study chapter 2, “Knowing God: Reason and Revelation,” in the handbook.
- Gather Bibles and envelopes, one of each for each participant. Locate a box with a lid, large enough to hold all the envelopes. For added effect, cover the box and lid separately with wrapping paper.
- Make copies of the handout “Prayer Card” (Document #: TX003363) on card stock, and cut it apart as scored. Make enough copies so that each young person will receive a prayer card. Place each prayer card in an envelope, and place the envelopes in the box covered with wrapping paper.

Pray It! (5 minutes)

Tell the participants that the opening prayer will begin with a reading from Scripture that illustrates God’s Revelation to us. **Select** a young person to read aloud 1 Samuel 3:1–10,19. After the reading, **lead** the class in the following prayer and have the participants respond “Here I am, Lord” after each statement.

- Good and gracious God, you call to us constantly, without ever giving up on us.
- Help us to open our hearts and minds and ears, and to never give up on your love.

Study It! (35 to 45 minutes, depending on your class length)

A. Our Need for God

1. **Tell** the participants that one way God reveals himself is through creation. **Read** the Pray It! “Story of the Man and the Birds,” on page 24 in the handbook. **Ask** the participants to share some other ways God reveals himself to us.
2. **Direct** the participants to read the chapter introduction and the sections “Our Need for God” and “Reason and Revelation,” on pages 22–25. The content covers points 1 through 4 on the handout “Lesson 2 Summary” (Document #: TX003362).
3. (*Optional*) When the participants have finished the reading, **direct** them to the Reflect directions on page 25. **Invite** them to share their responses to the question.

B. Scripture and Tradition

- **Write** the headings “New Testament” and “Old Testament” on the board. **Ask** the participants to call out as many names of the books of the Bible as they can think of. Write these on the board



under the appropriate headings. Afterward, **distribute** the Bibles, one to each young person, and **instruct** the participants to turn to the table of contents to see which books they missed.

- **Direct** the young people to read the sections “Scripture and Tradition” and “Biblical Inspiration and Interpretation,” on pages 26–28 in the handbook. The content covers points 5 through 10 on the handout “Lesson 2 Summary.”
- **(Optional)** When the participants have finished reading, **direct** them to the Reflect questions on page 28. **Discuss** as a class.

Live It! (15 to 20 minutes)

1. **Direct** the participants to form groups of four or five. **Invite** the participants to talk within their groups about the best gifts they have been given in their lives. **Ask** each group to create a list of these gifts and then to identify the best three gifts on the list. Ask each group to share its three best gifts, and **write** these on the board.

Lead a discussion on the following questions:

- What characteristics best describe these gifts?
- Do any of these characteristics describe what God gives to us?
- Which ones and why?

Point out that the best gifts are expressions of deep and personal love. God created us out of love and constantly calls us into relationship with him and with one another.

2. **Share** the following points in your own words:
 - Revelation is God making himself and his divine plan known to the human race through words and deeds in history.
 - The Church teaches everything we need to know about God; everything we need to know for our eternal union with him has been revealed in Christ.
 - God has provided for this by giving us two sources for coming to know Jesus Christ: Apostolic Tradition and Sacred Scripture.
 - The Holy Spirit inspired the biblical authors to write what God wanted us to know for our salvation.
 - The Bible is without error in communicating what God wants us to know for our salvation and is not meant to be read as historically and scientifically accurate.
3. **Draw attention** to the large gift box. **Explain** that it contains a gift for everyone. **Open** the box and **distribute** the envelopes, one to each young person. **Invite** the participants to open their envelopes and reflect on the messages written on the cards. **Ask** everyone to consider what their response is or will be to God’s gift of love to them.

Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

Following any announcements, close by **leading** the young people in praying Psalm 138:1–3.

Direct the participants to take turns reading the verses and to respond, after each verse is read, with: “I thank you, Lord, with all my heart.”

