

**Grade 8 Safe Environment Lesson Plan**  
*Grade 8 Theological Concept – Temple of the Holy Spirit*

Lesson 1 of 3

**Objectives:**

1. To recognize that we are Temples of the Holy Spirit.
2. To value and respect ourselves.

**Resources:** Paper and pen/cils; Bible (1 Cor. 6)

**Estimated Time:** 20-30 minutes

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**INTRODUCTION/PRESENTATION OF MATERIAL:** The catechist will ask the students to listen carefully as he/she reads the paraphrased passage below. Students may want to put their heads down and close their eyes while the passage is being read. The catechist may want to read the passage more than once.

**READ: Adaptation of 1 Cor. 6**

... but you have been washed, consecrated, justified in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Spirit of our God. Do you not see that your bodies are members of Christ? You must know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is within - the Spirit you have received from God. You are not your own. You have been purchased, and at a price. So glorify God in your body.

**DISCUSSIONS AND REINFORCEMENT OF MATERIAL:**

The catechist leads the discussion by using the following:

- 1) What does it mean to say that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit? *By baptism, we believe that we share in the life of Christ. We believe that through grace, the Holy Spirit lives within us and guides us to choose the right and to grow ever closer to God.*
- 2) Ask “What does the statement ‘You are not your own’ mean?” Explain further: *All that we have is a gift, including our own bodies. We have a responsibility to cherish and protect this gift.*
- 3) Explain the meaning of "You have been purchased, and at a price." *Jesus’ death on the cross and resurrection opened the gates of heaven. Because of his sacrifice, our debt of sin has been paid, which could never do on our own. Because of that sacrifice we can now share in God’s life in heaven and on earth.*
- 4) Ask “What are some practical ways to glorify God with your body?” *Taking care of your body; use your body for the purposes for which it was intended; use it to help others.*

**ACTIVITY:**

Each student will write a paragraph explaining how he/she will treat his/her body as a Temple of the Holy Spirit.

**Grade 8 Safe Environment Lesson Plan**  
*Grade 8 Theological Concept –Our Lady of Guadalupe and Blessed Juan Diego*

Lesson 2 of 3

**Objectives:**

1. To become familiar with the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe.
2. To use the story as a guide for good decision making.

**Resources and Connections:** The story of Our Lady of Guadalupe. (see below) This should be taught in proximity to the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (December 12).

**Estimated Time:** 20-30 minutes

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**INTRODUCTION/PRESENTATION OF MATERIAL:**

- ? Ask if students are familiar with the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe.
- ? Ask them to share what they know. If desired, note information on board, poster, etc.
- ? The catechist then reads the story.

**DISCUSSIONS AND REINFORCEMENT OF MATERIAL:**

- ? Group students in pairs, have one member write at least three good decisions Juan Diego made and the other member write at least three good decisions that Our Lady made.
- ? Have students share and discuss their lists.

**ACTIVITY:**

Have students remain in their pairs and role-play situation that calls for a good decision, such as: Your friend wants you to stay out past your curfew.

# The Story of Our Lady of Guadalupe by Jack Wintz, OFM

St. Anthony Messenger -Dec. 1999. *Used with permission.* Also available at

<http://www.americancatholic.org/Messenger/Dec1999/feature2.asp>

The best way to understand the meaning of Guadalupe is to go back to the year 1531 and to those glorious days of December when Mary revealed herself and God's love to a simple Indian peasant:

*December 9, 1531 (Saturday).* Early in the morning, Juan Diego, a Christian convert, is on his way to attend Mass two and a half miles away at Tlatelolco, once an Aztec center and the place where the final battle of the Spanish conquest had taken place just 10 years earlier. Suddenly, Juan hears beautiful music and a woman's voice calling him to the top of Tepeyac Hill which he is just passing. At the top of the hill he sees a radiantly beautiful woman, who reveals that she is the Virgin Mary and instructs him to go to the bishop and tell him that a temple should be built in her honor at the bottom of the hill.

Juan Diego goes immediately to Tlatelolco to the palace of Bishop Juan de Zumárraga, a Franciscan friar. The bishop receives him kindly but, for the moment, is reluctant to believe Juan Diego's story. And so a discouraged Juan Diego goes back to the top of Tepeyac Hill and admits his failure to the Virgin. The Lady directs him to go back to the bishop and repeat the request.

*December 10, 1531 (Sunday).* Juan Diego returns to the bishop's palace to try again. The bishop asks many questions and tells Juan Diego that he needs some sign to believe that it is really the heavenly Lady who has sent him. Juan Diego tells the Virgin of the bishop's request, and she promises to fulfill it the next day when he returns to Tepeyac Hill.

*December 11, 1531 (Monday).* Juan Diego fails to keep his appointment with the Lady because his uncle has become gravely ill and Juan must spend the day looking for someone with medical skills. He fails to find anyone and tells his dying uncle that he will go to Tlatelolco the next morning and bring a priest who would hear his confession and prepare him for death.

*December 12, 1531 (Tuesday).* At a very early hour, Juan Diego is rushing toward Tlatelolco to find a priest for his dying uncle. Thinking it better not to let the Lady interrupt his mission of mercy, he tries to avoid her by going around the other side of Tepeyac Hill. The Lady, however, comes down the hill to meet him. She listens to Juan Diego's excuse for not keeping his appointment and tells him: "Your uncle will not die of this sickness; be assured that he is healthy." (That morning, the Lady also appears to his uncle and cures him.) Juan Diego is greatly relieved. Then the Lady tells him to go to the top of the hill and gather the flowers he finds there. He does as she says and discovers a miraculous garden of roses. He gathers them and takes them to the Lady who arranges them in his mantle and instructs him to take them to the bishop as the sign he had requested.

When Juan Diego finally arrives before the bishop, he opens his mantle and lets the roses fall to the floor. But then comes the greatest sign of all: A beautiful portrait of the Lady appears on the coarse fabric of the Indian's mantle. The bishop and his whole household are filled with amazement. And before long a temple is built in Mary's honor.

*Excerpted from "Why Everyone Comes to Guadalupe," St. Anthony Messenger, December 1984.*

**Grade 8 Safe Environment Lesson Plan**  
*Grade 8 Theological Concept – Mary and John, the Apostle*

Lesson 3 of 3

**Objective:** To use Mary's relationship with the disciple John as a model for appropriate relationships.

**Resources and Connections:** Bible: John 19, 26&27. This could be presented in connection with Good Friday or the Feast of St. John (December 27).

**Estimated Time:** 20-30 minutes

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**INTRODUCTION/PRESENTATION OF MATERIAL:**

- ? Have students read the passage, then get into pairs and find at least one other passage that describes how Jesus used appropriate relationships to show his caring for others. Example: Jesus' love for Lazarus and his family was manifested in the raising of Lazarus from the dead.

**DISCUSSIONS AND REINFORCEMENT OF MATERIAL:**

- ? Have each pair of students share the additional passage that they have chosen and explain it to the class.

**ACTIVITY:**

Everyone has relationships with a variety of people, some are positive and some are negative. Ask the students to describe what a positive relationship with each of the following looks like. Also describe what actions show caring for that person.

- 1) an elderly relative
- 2) a sibling
- 3) a friend