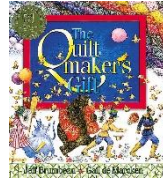


# SECOND GRADE SUGGESTIONS: WHEN TO TEACH THE THEMES



**THE QUILTMAKER'S GIFT**  
By Jeff Brumbeau



Theme:	When to Teach:	Explanation of Theme:
<p><b>DIGNITY OF THE PERSON</b></p>	<p><b>Beginning of the year</b> (EXPERIENCE 2 pg. 39 Make birthday book to reference throughout the year.)</p> <p><b>Respect Life Month</b> (October)</p> <p><b>First week of Advent</b> (EXPRESSION 2 pg. 33 Writing a letter to the Christ Child on the first Sunday of Advent is a tradition in Austria. In the letter each person writes his secret desires to the Christ Child and makes a personal promise. The letter is placed on the windowsill before bed.)</p> <p><b>January</b> (EXPRESSION 1 pg. 31 Gifts of the Magi. The three Magi Feast Days are Jan. 1, 6, &amp; 11<sup>th</sup>)</p>	<p>God willed human persons into existence. Because man and woman bear the image of God, their worth does not come from the things they do, but from the persons they are. Each person is unique and unrepeatable.</p> <p>Adam was alone in the garden with God before original sin. His experience of being alone or “solitude” is called <b>ORIGINAL SOLITUDE</b>.</p> <p>Through ORIGINAL SOLITUDE, Man discovers his identity as being a human person set apart from the rest of creation. Man learns he is created for a unique relationship with God.</p>
<p><b>CREATION IS A GIFT</b></p>	<p><b>When teaching about sin in connection with First Reconciliation</b></p>	<p>All of creation is a loving gift from God to mankind. Through the lens of the <i>Theology of the Body</i>, we are able to clearly see God’s creation (animals, nature, each other, etc.) as a sign of God’s gift in love.</p> <p>One of the simplest prayers we can say to God is “Thank you.” There is a beautiful transformation that happens when we begin to view the world as a loving gift from God. Every raindrop, songbird, or rainbow is realized for what it is: <i>God’s burning desire to give good gifts to us because he loves us.</i></p>

## Theme:

## When to Teach:

## Explanation of Theme:

### CREATION IS A GIFT

(Continued)

#### Feast of St. Lucy

(December 13<sup>th</sup> St. Lucy is said to have carried food to Christians hiding in the catacombs during the persecutions of the Emperor Diocletian. In order to free up her hands for carrying food, she placed a wreath of candles on her head to light up the dark tunnels. She could be lifted up as a real life example of the quilt maker. See EXPERIENCE 1 pg. 53)

God not only gives us his beautiful creations as a gift, he gives us the ability to create. When we create artwork, poetry and music we mirror God's creative nature. Moms and dads image God in a special way by having babies. Procreation is a special way that God allows us to participate in the continuation of his creation!

### GIFT-OF- SELF & TRUE HAPPINESS

#### When teaching about the Eucharist

(The Eucharist is Christ's total gift of self to us)

#### The Feast of St. Wenceslaus

(September 28<sup>th</sup> He was a just ruler known for giving alms to widows, orphans and the poor. He would leave his bed at night and give so generously to those in need that he was considered a father of all the poor and suffering. The Christmas carol "Good King Wenceslaus" is based on his life. See p. 65 of the *Teacher Companion Guide*)

#### The Feast of Blessed Charles the Good

(March 2<sup>nd</sup> He was known for feeding 100 poor men at his castle every day. See p. 67 of the *Teacher Companion Guide*)

*"God has revealed his innermost secret: God himself is an eternal exchange of love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and he has destined us to share in that exchange."*  
(CCC 221)

God has revealed that he is a total gift of self. Humans, male and female, have been created in the image of God (A Total Gift of Self) and thus bear the imprint of their creator's call to self-gift within their very anatomy.

We are called to give of ourselves to others out of love. St. Pope John Paul II repeats the quote, "Man cannot fully find himself except through a sincere gift of himself." (*Gaudium et Spes* 24:3) many times throughout the *Theology of the Body*. We understand that true happiness is not found in taking from others, but in the very act of giving to others out of love.

Teachers can incorporate this fundamental truth into their everyday language by asking, "*Who would like to make a gift of themselves by holding the door today?*"

Theme:	When to Teach:	Explanation of Theme:
<p><b>FREEDOM &amp; HAPPINESS</b></p>	<p><b>Preparing for First Reconciliation</b></p> <p><b>Lent</b> (Students use their freedom to make sacrifices for the good during Lent.)</p>	<p>We often think of freedom as a right to do whatever we want. However, this narrow view of freedom often leads to addiction and slavery. True freedom finds its perfection when one chooses to do what is morally right according to God’s will.</p> <p>Freedom does involve the power to choose, but freedom is perfected by choosing the good. Choosing to do evil leads to less freedom. Choosing to do the good leads to more freedom. (See <i>Catechism of the Catholic Church</i> 1733)</p>
<p><b>THE BODY REVEALS THE PERSON</b></p>	<p><b>Divine Mercy Sunday</b> (The Sunday after Easter is Divine Mercy Sunday. In the 1930s Jesus appeared to a nun in Poland, Sister Faustina, and revealed his unlimited merciful love that he desires to give to all people. In the image that Jesus asked St. Faustina to share with the world, there are two rays coming from his side that represent blood and waters.</p> <p><b>When Learning about Sacraments</b></p>	<p>A sacrament is a visible sign of invisible grace. In this way, the body acts as a sacrament. John Paul II said, <i>“The body, in fact, and only the body, is capable of making visible what is invisible: the spiritual and the divine.” (TOB 19:4)</i></p> <p>The body allows us to communicate with others through words, body language and emotion. It allows for us to be in relationship with others through physical touch, making and offering gifts with our hands and offering our work and service to others.</p>
<p><b>CONSCIENCE</b></p>	<p><b>Preparing for First Reconciliation</b> (Students are learning to examine their conscience.)</p> <p><b>When Teaching the 10 Commandments</b> (Exodus 20)</p> <p><b>When Teaching the Beatitudes</b> (Matthew 5)</p> <p><b>Lent</b></p>	<p><i>“Conscience is a judgement of reason whereby the human person recognizes the moral quality of a concrete act that he is going to perform, is in the process of performing, or has already completed.” (CCC 1778)</i></p> <p>Christianity is marked by a transformation of the person’s conscience and attitudes to realize God’s original plan.</p>

Theme:	When to Teach:	Explanation of Theme:
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ORIGINAL UNITY</b></p>	<p><b>Grandparents Day</b> (September) Children can learn more about themselves through their relationship with their grandparents.</p> <p><b>In Accord with Feast Days of Saints Featured:</b> (EXPRESSION 2: pg. 118-126. Example St. Perpetua &amp; St. Felicity March 7<sup>th</sup>, St. Cosmas &amp; St. Damian September 26<sup>th</sup>)</p>	<p>We learn about ourselves through our relationships with others. We can enter into their experience and see the world from their point of view.</p> <p>God presented Adam and Eve to one another in the garden before original sin. Their experience of being created for each other, to be a true communion of persons is called <b>ORIGINAL UNITY</b>.</p> <p>Through ORIGINAL UNITY, Man and woman discover masculinity &amp; femininity are each complete ways to be a human person. (TOB 10:1) We are called to give ourselves to God and others in love. Every student's path of <i>giving themselves to God and others</i> will be slightly different (ie. husband, wife, priest, religious sister, nurse, teacher, firefighter, businessman and woman etc.)</p> <p><b>Women are called in a unique way to be a:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Daughter</b> of God and a daughter of their earthly parents.</li> <li>• <b>Bride</b> of Christ (all women) and bride of their earthly husband (some women).</li> <li>• <b>Mother</b> of many souls by caring for them through spiritual motherhood (all women) and mother of their physical children (some women).</li> </ul> <p><b>Men are called in a unique way to be a:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Son</b> of God and a son of their earthly parents.</li> <li>• <b>Husband</b> of their earthly wife (some men). *</li> <li>• <b>Father</b> of many souls by caring for them through spiritual fatherhood (all men) and father of their physical children (some men).</li> </ul> <p>*In the order of grace, men and women are both called to be a bride of Christ as a member of the Church, which is the mystical bride of Christ.</p>