

Religious Education & Positive Mental Health and Wellness: it is recommended this lesson takes place on or about **October 2** as this is the Feast Day of Guardian Angels. Advent or Lent are also wonderful seasons for gratitude celebration

Grade 3 - Lesson 5

Prior to this lesson, prepare Who **I AM template with gift of words for students*

Grade 3 Who I AM... Lesson 5 – The Presentation

The presentation of Who I AM and the gift of words.

Background

Today you will empower each student through the presentation of a Who **I AM Burning Bush**. You will need to prepare the message on the burning bush prior to this class. The affirmation message begins:

"Who you are makes a difference to all of us because..... Thank you for being who you are!"

Also, prepare enough burning bushes so that each student will receive two additional burning bushes for their pay-it forward challenge. Remind students that this project is titled Who **I AM** Makes A Difference Because Jesus Loves Me!

It is based on a pay-it-forward movement that demonstrates 'gratitude is contagious'.

Read Who **I AM** Makes A Difference Because Jesus Loves Me! information sheet to students.

Dedication –

In Memory of Shirley Beaubien - Who **she was** made a difference to everyone in her life because she gave of herself every single day without fail. She left behind a legacy of compassion and charisma that will never be forgotten. A true inspiration to all those who knew her especially those who were proud to call her Momma and Nana.

Curriculum Expectation – Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations, Overall and Specific Expectations

Ontario Catholic school Graduate Expectations

CGE1d - Develops attitudes & values founded on Catholic social teaching and acts to promote social responsibility

CGE2c - Presents information and ideas clearly and honestly and with sensitivity to others

CGE3a - Recognizes there is more grace in our world than sin and that hope is essential in facing challenges

CGE4a - Demonstrates a confident and positive sense of self and respect for the dignity and welfare of others

CGE5e - Respects the rights, responsibilities and contributions of self and others

CGE6e - Ministers to the family, school, parish, and wider community through service

Learning Goals:

- Students will learn how to demonstrate gratitude by using specific words and choosing special people in their lives.
- Students will learn about spreading a message of God's love and creating a ripple effect that may be felt very far away.

<p><u>Religion Overall Expectation</u></p> <p>ML1: Demonstrate an understanding of how God teaches us to be good and to reflect this goodness in our actions.</p> <p>LS2: Focus: Human dignity</p> <p>Understand that God created all persons in his one image; equal in their human dignity yet diverse in their being and this equality and diversity is to be respected.</p> <p><u>Religion Specific Expectation</u></p> <p>LS2.3: Describe ways that all human beings are equal and also are created with differences and identify ways that we can demonstrate our appreciation and respect for this diversity.</p>			
Instructional Components			
<p>Prior Knowledge</p> <p>Who I AM Makes A Difference</p> <p>Because Jesus Loves Me! project</p>	<p>Terminology</p> <p>Pay-it-forward</p> <p>Gratitude</p>	<p>Resources/Materials</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Copies of Who I AM burning bush2. Who I AM history3. Who I AM presentation information4. Who I AM challenge5. Who I AM Burning Bush6. Paper bags7. Coloured construction paper: Red and Yellow8. Prayer for presentation day9. Song for consolidation10. Who I AM Self Reflection	
Prayer/Scripture Focus			
<p>Feast Day of the Guardian Angels (October 2)</p> <p>Dear Guardian Angel,</p> <p>You help me to face each day with faith in God and hope that I am all that I am meant to be. You help me to face each day with love of others and love of self. Angel of God, my Guardian dear, God’s love for me has sent you here. Ever this day be at my side, to light and guard, to rule and guide.</p> <p>Amen</p>			

Minds On	Assessment
<p><u>On the day of presentation of the Gift of Words project:</u> Let us pray, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,</p> <p>Thank you God for all of the people who love me; for my parents and my friends. Thank you God for making me who I AM and for loving me just the way I am. I pray for the people that I am going to give my burning bush to. Help me to tell them how I feel about them, I pray, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Share the history of the Who I AM Makes A Difference Because Jesus Loves Me! project with students. [See: Who I AM Makes A Difference Because Jesus Loves Me!] 2. Discuss the term pay-it-forward. Explain how that concept is the success of this project. 3. Discuss how they can grow closer to Jesus when they tell the people they love how much they mean to them. "You are showing the people in your life that you are grateful for how their love and care." Remind them of when God chose Moses to help Him set his people free. "God showed Moses that he could grow closer to Him if he listened to God's words." Ask "Do you remember how Moses felt when he knew it was God calling to him from the burning bush? Today you will be called to grow closer to God and show others that they are special because Jesus loves them. You will get to experience some of the same feelings Moses did on that special day in the desert." 	<p>Pay-it-forward <i>A response to one person's kindness by reaching out in kindness to others.</i></p>
Action	Assessment
<p>Teacher will present a Who I AM burning bush [See: Who I AM Burning Bush handout] to each student. The student will receive two extra templates that they have to pray/think who will receive them outside of the classroom. Students will present their 'gift of words' to an individual saying "Who you are makes a difference to all of us because..... Thank you for being who you are!" [See: Who I AM presentation information] This is the 'gift of words' that becomes the expression of gratitude.</p>	<p>Self-Reflective assessment</p>

Remind students that they will be completing a self-reflection. They will need to remember the response/reaction from the individuals who receive a Who I AM burning bush from them.	
Consolidation	Assessment
<p>Inform students that their assignment is to create the biggest ripple effect they can by trying to spread their gift as far as they can. "Imagine you are standing before an immense ocean. You want to try and throw a stone as far as you can to create a big ripple. If you give your gift of words to someone in our class, the ripple will be small. Our goal is to change the world through gratitude with our gift of words and let as many people know Jesus loves them. The world is a pretty big place, so we have to try and reach farther than our school, our home maybe even our city to get started. Let's help to build our Catholic community so that we may gain strength from one another. This will help us build a solid foundation that we can draw from when we are confronted with difficult situations. God is counting on us!"</p> <p>Gather in a circle standing and perform a special prayer dance to the song "Change The World" by Johnny Reid. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T2ACmJPhz3Q</p> <p>The teacher begins with one movement, each student repeats the movement until everyone has had a turn. The teacher then leads with another move and repeat until the song is over.</p> <p>Dance moves: Clap side to side. Take two steps forward into the middle and return. Smile and the person next to you. Wave at the person next to you. Shake the hand of the person next to you. Make a heart with your two hands and bring from your heart up into the air. Take the hand that is next to yours and hold it. Raise your hands up. Hands down. Turn and face the other way. Turn back. One hand up and keep it up. The other hand up and keep it up. Bring hands down into prayer formation. With hands in prayer formation, get down on your knees. Bow. Head down.</p>	

<p>At the end of the song, students will be on their knees and their heads will be down. Guide them with their reflection as to who they give their gift of words to. Allow maximum of 3 days for the students to present their Who I AM gift boxes to others before completing their self-reflection.</p>	
Final Notes	
<p>The beauty of the Who I AM words and gift is it allows a ‘safe’ opportunity for students and teachers to express thankfulness. When Who I AM Makes A Difference Because Jesus Loves Me! is celebrated the week leading up to Thanksgiving, the project takes on a profound meaning. It becomes a thanksgiving within a Thanksgiving. By reaching out to others during a time that Christian faith calls us to spread unconditional love and thanksgiving through small acts of outreach, Who I AM refreshes the health and wellness with all of God’s children.</p>	

The Challenge!

Who I AM Makes A Difference Because Jesus Loves Me!

Please read this to your class.

*Biblical significance to the words **I AM** can be found when Moses was having a conversation with God on Mount Sinai. Moses asked God who should he tell the people God was. God replied “I AM WHO I AM.” The **I AM** in this conversation presents the value and importance of God within our life. The I AM has a double meaning.*

*The **I AM** in our personal context also represents the value of each of us to ourselves and to others. Your teacher, your classmates, your friends and family all recognize you as a precious gift. This assignment is a small reminder of how important each of you are to all of us.*

Each student is a V.I.P – Very Important Person. We have developed into V.I.P by the actions of others within our life – parents, priests, grandparents, teachers, extended family, and friends. Now it is your turn to share a ‘gift of words’ with others.

*Think of 2 Very Important People in your life who have helped you develop into the amazing person you are today. Think outside of the classroom and into your own personal life. Those two people can receive a **Who I AM** ‘gift of words’ from you.*

*Your challenge is to write a message on 2 **Who I AM** templates and present these to two individuals who make a difference in your life. Begin your message with the words "Who you are makes a difference to all of us because.....Thank you for being who you are!"*

Our goal is to Think Of Others by expressing our appreciation toward others and thanking them for being a special person in our life.

Please remember how they reacted and the words they said. We will be sharing this information through a student reflection.

Who I AM History

Dear Teacher

Who I AM Makes A Difference Because Jesus Loves Me!

This project is intended to be inclusive of all in the classroom. We believe you are a valued gift to others. Thank you for all that you do.

We ask that you present the 'gift of words' to any EA that assists in your class prior to presenting the gift of words to your students. This modeling will set the stage for students to understand how the 'gift of words' works and what gratitude or appreciation looks like in the 21st century classroom.

Next, you will call each student up individually. Presenting the student with the 'gift' you will say ...

**"Who you are makes a difference to all of us because.....
Thank you for being who you are!"**

Present the student with the 'gift of words'. Each grade has a uniquely crafted resource themed for that age group. Please write your message on the template so students can treasure this moment forever. Continue with entire class.

Discuss how they felt upon receiving the kind words.

Brainstorm with your students who they would give a 'gift of words'.

Who I AM Burning Bush



Tag for Burning Bush

Who you are
makes a difference to all of us
because_____.

Thank you for being who you are!

Presentation Day Prayer

Let Us Pray,

In the name of the Father
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Thank you God for all of the people who love me,
For my parents and my friends.

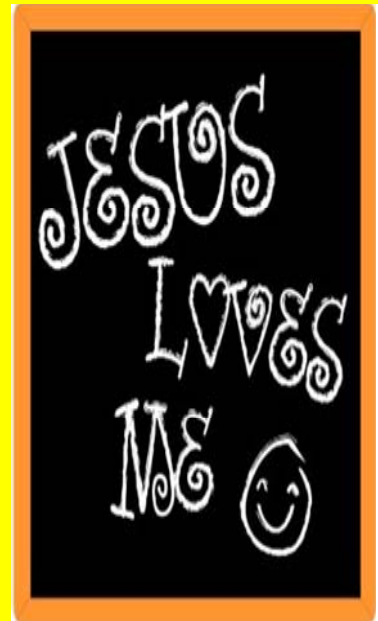
Thank you God for making me **Who I AM**
And for loving me just the way **I AM**.

I pray for the people that I am going to give
my Burning Bush to.

Help me to tell them how I feel about them.

I pray, in the name of the Father
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

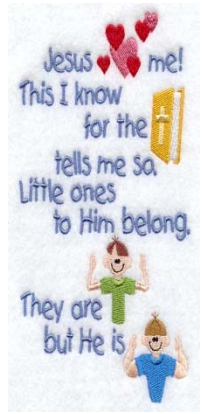




The Who I AM Self-Reflection

Name: _____

Draw the reaction of the people who received the gift of words in the boxes below. Don't forget to fill in the blanks.



My teacher
believes

Who I AM Makes a Difference
because I AM _____.

I chose _____
because _____.

I chose _____
because _____.

I felt _____
when I thought of others.