

GABRIEL'S QUEST

Images

Lesson Link: God made man in His image, so we are similar to Him, especially in our souls. We also inherit traits from our parents, but we are each different too.

One day at school, Sister Mary brought in a big bowl of fruit. She placed it on a table at the front of the classroom. Then she hung large pictures of trees on the board. Gabriel was curious about what his teacher was doing.

"These are the kinds of trees that produce the fruit in the bowl," Sister Mary said, pointing to the pictures. "Can you match the trees to the fruit?"

Some of the kids raised their hands. Gabriel watched as they went forward. Apples were matched to the apple tree. Oranges to an orange tree. Pears to a pear tree. They struggled to put the apricots and almonds with the right tree. Gabriel didn't even know that almonds came from trees.

After that task, Sister Mary brought out three large books. She opened them on the table. Squeezed in the pages were pressed leaves. She asked the class to match each leaf to its tree. Gabriel began to wonder what Sister Mary was trying to teach them.

Sister Mary told her students to take their seats around the worktables. Gabriel was pleased. The worktables were used for art projects. Gabriel liked art.

"I have something special for you," Sister Mary said. She went to a large cupboard at the back of the room and brought out rolls of paper with different colors. Each one was tied with string. She handed a roll to every student. "You can take off the string when I tell you."

Gabriel's roll was made of thick green paper.

"Untie the strings and unroll your paper," Sister Mary said.



There was a rustle of effort and then loud gasps all over the room. Gabriel fumbled with the string until it came undone. He spread out the green roll.

He couldn't believe what he was seeing. A photo of his father was glued in the corner, with a smaller picture of his mother that had been taken before Gabriel was born. Next to the photos was a big blue handprint. Gabriel knew it was his father's. Next to that was a picture of his grandmother and her small handprint in red. Next to that was a large empty space.

Gabriel looked up at Sister Mary. How did she get these pictures and his father's handprint? He was stationed with the army somewhere far away. They must have come from his grandmother.

Sister Mary explained, “Your families gave me their pictures and handprints in secret.” Then she said, “Do you see the empty space? That’s where *your* picture and handprint will go.”

Sister Mary brought out a Polaroid camera and took pictures of each student. The Polaroid pictures were glued in the empty spaces on the pages. Then the kids took turns using paint to put their handprints under the pictures. The pages were left on the worktables to dry.

Once the students tidied up and went back to their desks, Sister Mary pointed to the fruit trees, the fruit, and the books of leaves. She said, “The trees produce leaves that have special shapes and marks from that tree. The trees produce fruit that the other trees can’t produce. It’s the same with us as humans.”

She motioned to the kids’ pages. “God is our Heavenly Father and created all of us in His image. That means we share a lot of His traits. In the same way, we share special traits with our parents. You look and act like them in a lot of ways. Yet, you are special too. No one else has the exact lines of your fingers and hands. No one else is exactly like you.”

At the end of the day, Sister Mary hung the pages up around the classroom. Some of the parents and other adults came in to look.

Grandma Rosa stood with Gabriel and gazed at his photo and handprint. She smiled. “You have your mother’s eyes and your father’s nose.”

Questions:

1. ***How are you similar to your parents?*** (Answers may vary.)
2. ***How are you different from your parents?*** (Answers may vary.)
3. ***How are you made in the image of God?*** (Answers may include we think, choose, and love, and we have souls.)