

GABRIEL'S QUEST

Just Like Your Father

Lesson Link: Man and woman are made in the image of God to think, love, and choose.

One afternoon, Gabriel went to visit his grandmother at the Faded Flower Retirement Home. Grandma Rosa had suffered from a stroke a few months ago. “A stroke is when your brain and your body stop talking to each other the way they should,” Aunt Belle had told Gabriel. Grandma Rosa had trouble walking and using her right hand. The right side of her mouth hung down just a little.

Grandma Rosa was in her room. She was sitting in her favorite rocking chair next to the window. Gabriel sat in the chair across from her. They talked about school. Gabriel said that he was having trouble with math. “I get bored with science too,” he said.

Grandma Rosa nodded. “That’s just like your father,” she said. “It took him a long time to understand math. And science was always hard for him. He didn’t like them.”

“What did he do about it?” Gabriel asked.

“He knew he had to learn those subjects even though he didn’t like them very much,” she said. “He had to work harder.”

Gabriel didn’t like the idea of working hard on things he didn’t like.

Grandma Rosa asked, “What subjects do you like?”

“Stories and reading and art and history,” he said.

Grandma Rosa smiled. “You’re just like your mother. She was always reading and drawing. She loved going to museums.”

“How can I be like my mom when I never knew her?” he asked.

“You are a mix of your mother and father,” Grandma Rosa explained. “You share some of their traits and mannerisms.”



Gabriel ran his fingers through his hair as he thought about what she was saying.

Grandma Rosa laughed. “You run your fingers through your hair when you’re thinking. That’s what your dad always does.”

A few days later at school, Sister Teresa was teaching about being made in God’s likeness and image. “God made us to be like Him. We can think and ask why about our world. We can make choices. We can imagine stories and create music and solve problems and invent wonderful things. We love and want to be loved. We sacrifice ourselves for others. We have souls that can live forever. All because He made us to be like Him.”

Kind of like me and my parents, Gabriel thought.

That night, Gabriel sat at the desk in his bedroom. He struggled with his math homework. He was bored. *It's too hard*, he thought. He really wanted to be downstairs playing with his cousins. He closed his workbook. "I'll do it later," he said out loud.

Then he thought of what his grandmother had said. His dad worked hard to learn subjects he didn't like. Gabriel looked at his workbook. He opened it again.

As Gabriel was getting ready for bed, Uncle Jon peeked in the room. "Did you get your homework done?" he asked.

Gabriel nodded and pointed to the work on the desk. Uncle Jon looked at the pages. "Good job!" he said.

"I didn't want to do it," Gabriel said. "But my dad helped."

Uncle Jon looked puzzled. Gabriel's dad was far away with the army. Gabriel sometimes talked to his dad online on a laptop computer. But the laptop was not there. "You talked to your dad tonight?" he asked.

Gabriel smiled and said, "No, but he helped me work hard anyway."

Questions:

1. **What did Gabriel discover about the school subjects he struggled to learn?** (Answers may include that his dad wasn't good at them either and he had to work harder at them.)
2. **Was Gabriel able to get better at them? How?** (Yes. He acted like his father and worked harder at them.)
3. **Are there some ways that it is hard to live in the image of God?** (Answers may vary.)
4. **How can we live more in the image of God?** (Answers may include praying, practicing, asking for help, and looking to holy people for their examples.)