A Lesson in the Virtue of Humility and the Cultivation of Wisdom

Prepared by Louis Jones

Lesson Overview

In this lesson, students will learn the necessity of an open mind in cultivating wisdom and knowledge, no matter the subject. First, ask the students to tell the teacher something they do not already know. After the pauses of confusion that will occur, explain the meaning. Until we come to the complete and full realization that we do not know everything, something that even Socrates came to acknowledge, our minds become open to being taught that which is new, expanding our possibilities in this life. Follow this with a question: what is a phrase or "nugget of wisdom" that has been the most helpful in times of struggle, or in general? Let the teacher begin, and expound upon how it has helped and why it is important. Go around the room and allow everyone to share. Perhaps include anecdotes.

Lesson Details

Subject area(s): Religion, Moral Theology

Grade Level: High School

Resource Type: Close Reading/Reflection, Debate, Role-Play

Special Learners

This resource was developed with the following special learners in mind:

- Traditional Classroom
- Advanced Placement
- Homeschooled Students
- CCD/Parish-Based Education
- Classical Education
- Gifted Learners

Standards Connection

The teacher who prepared this lesson determined that this lesson meets the following standards:

- common core
- decision-making

The author of this lesson shared it with other educators within the Sophia Institute for Teachers Catholic Curriculum Exchange. Find more resources and share your own at https://www.SophiaInstituteforTeachers.org.
Lesson Plan

First, let the teacher open with a statement, "Tell me something that you don't know."

After the inevitable pause of confusion, let the teacher explain the exercise.

"There are things we all don't know, and we all learn from each other and with each other to grow better."

The teacher should then start with a lesson in life that has been most impactful in their lives, whether that's a phrase, proverb, "nugget of wisdom," or general life lesson.

After expounding on how this has been particularly impactful, have the students either break into small groups and discuss a phrase or situation, or go around the classroom and have the students do this one by one. This could be an icebreaker, or just something to assist students in settling in to this specific class with these specific individuals, and to get comfortable with opening up or sharing.

In other cases, (say, a rather rambunctious class), this experience can help to bring the class to a more personal level, allowing for better learning and openness of mind to occur.

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