

Desire for Humanity



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Gn 2:7

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One afternoon after catechism class, a 7 year-old child asks his mother:

- Mom, why did God make us free? What's freedom?

The mother was perplexed by her son's question. She didn't know what to say. She thought about for a few minutes: "Hmm, how can I explain this to my son?"

Then, all of a sudden she had a fantastic idea.

"- Joey, come here. *I'm going to tell you a story...*"

Once upon a time there was a kind and friendly man named Geppetto, who worked in an old carpenter's shop. One day he was finishing up the final touches on a wooden puppet that he had built. Looking at it, he thought, "He turned out so well!" and since the puppet was made of pine wood, Geppetto decide to call him Pinocchio.

That night, Geppetto went to sleep, wishing that the puppet were a real boy. He had always wanted to have a son. Once he was totally asleep, a good fairy came and, seeing that Pinocchio looked so nice, she wanted to reward the good carpenter by bringing the puppet to life with her magic wand.

The next day, when Geppetto woke up he couldn't believe his eyes. Pinocchio was moving, walking and laughing like a real boy, much to the old carpenter's delight. Happy and satisfied, Geppetto sent Pinocchio to school. He wanted him to become a smart boy and to learn many things. His friend Jiminy Cricket, the counselor that the good fairy had given him, went along with him.

But on the way to school, Pinocchio made friends with two very naughty boys and, following in their footsteps, ignored the advice of Jiminy Cricket. Instead of going to school, Pinocchio decided to follow his new friends, looking for trouble. Seeing this situation, the good fairy cast a spell on him.

Because he didn't go to school, she made him grow two donkey ears, and because he behaved badly, every time that he told a lie, his nose would grow and turn red. Pinocchio finally realized that he wasn't being good, and repentantly decided to look for Geppetto. He then learned that when Geppetto had gone to look for him at sea, he had been swallowed by an enormous whale.

Pinocchio, with the help of Jiminy Cricket, went to sea to rescue the poor old man. When Pinocchio was facing the whale, he asked him to give his father back, but the whale opened his mouth wide and swallowed him, too.

Inside the stomach of the whale, Geppetto and Pinocchio were reunited. They started thinking about how to get out. Thanks to Jiminy Cricket, they made their escape. They started a campfire, which made the enormous whale sneeze, and their raft was thrown out along with its three crewmen. They were all saved.

Pinocchio returned home and went to school, and from that day forth he always behaved well. And as a reward for his goodness, the good fairy turned him into a little boy of flesh and blood. And they lived happily ever after.

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ACTIVITY: "THOUGHTFUL PHRASES"



... What is freedom?...

Choose the sentence that most closely resembles your idea of freedom, and the one that resembles it the least.

Explain to your classmates why you chose as you did.

- We are free but we are tied to our actions.
- I know that when I die, I will be truly free.
- Freedom is doing whatever I want.
- We aren't free yet; we have to fight for freedom.
- Your freedom ends where the freedom of another begins.
- A person is not free because they do whatever they want; we can't confuse liberty (freedom) with libertinage (debauchery).
- No one is free until they find themselves.
- Freedom is incompatible with love. A lover will always be a slave.
- Freedom doesn't have value in and of itself; you have to appreciate it based on what it can give you.
- There is no such thing as freedom, just the search for freedom, and this search is what makes us free.
- Freedom is not just a privilege to be awarded; it's a habit that you have to acquire.
- True freedom consists in absolute mastery over oneself.

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You already knew the story, right?



1 Now... You're going to get in on the action!

We invite you to try to personally reflect on and answer the following questions. Use the images that appear alongside the questions to help you.



Courage!



A Could you help the mother give Joey an answer to his question?



B Geppetto desires a real son. But is Pinocchio a real boy? What does the image make you think of?

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C Who is Jiminy Cricket for Pinocchio?

What does the conscience mean to you? Where is it rooted?



D Why does Pinocchio choose these friends? What catches your attention? What is the world offering you?



E What are the consequences for Pinocchio when he doesn't choose what is good for him? What happens to his body?



3 I BRING MY FREEDOM INTO PLAY

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2 Get into a group with some of your classmates and share your thoughts.



3 Reflect...

Geppetto: Creates Pinocchio. He sees the work of his hands and is amazed by its beauty, but he knows that it's not a real boy. It is subject to strings. It is not free.



Pinocchio: Proceeds along a path in his process of humanity. Jiminy Cricket helps him and never leaves him, but Pinocchio doesn't always listen to him. Some boys offer him something more attractive, easier, more fun. He's going to have such a better time! But when he doesn't listen to the "little whistle" of Jiminy Cricket, Pinocchio suffers the consequences. His nose grows longer with each lie and his body is transformed into an entirely different thing: a donkey.

Only when he truly discovers love, seeing that he is profoundly loved by his "father" and loving him in return, does he become a real boy.



- Freedom is something inherent in human beings. God has created us "without strings". He has made us free. And he loves us like this.
- God has inscribed our vocation to love in our hearts and bodies.

- Our freedom, and this heart touched by evil, lead us away from this vocation.
- Christian morality is not a burden; it is a help, like the little whistle of Jiminy Cricket.
- When we don't live according to Good, to Love, we lose our dignity as persons, just like when Pinocchio turns into a donkey.
- The world offers us "illusions" that appears good, but that can ultimately deceive us and make us lose our dignity.