

The Gift of Free Will

An imagined story about choosing love

Ages about 7-11 | Video 4:33 | Group lesson about 25-35 minutes

Central truth God gives us freedom and grace to choose what is good and grow in love.

Learning goals Retell the robot's choices; distinguish an imagined analogy from Catholic teaching; practice a responsible choice with help.

Gather Video access, one handout per child, pencils or crayons, and a Bible.

Watch online [Open this video on Servus Dei](#)

Before watching | 2 minutes

Ask how choosing to help differs from being made to obey. Explain that real freedom includes responsibility for how our choices affect others.

Watch and notice

Notice the robot gaining choice, ignoring the maker's invitations, returning for help, and carrying the memory of love afterward.

Talk together | 6-8 minutes

1. What did the maker want beyond obedience?

He wanted freely chosen friendship. The robot's new ability to choose makes the relationship different.

2. What did the robot discover while away?

Skills and treasures did not answer every need. It eventually returned and asked for help.

3. Is God exactly like the aging maker?

No. The story is a limited comparison. God does not age, lose strength, or create us from pieces of himself.

4. What responsible choice can you make?

Pause, consider who may be affected, and ask for help if unsure. Choose honesty or kindness rather than simply what seems exciting.

Then respond and pray Allow 6-8 minutes for a handout or the activity on page 2; finish with the closing prayer.

Lead the response

The Gift of Free Will

Short family lesson Watch the video, choose one recall question and one application question, then pray. About 12-18 minutes; the handout is optional.

Choose a handout

Draw & Tell Draw the robot's return and a responsible choice today; explain the analogy's limits.

Read & Write Retell the return, distinguish analogy from doctrine, and plan a responsible choice.

Adapt by readiness

Ages 7-8: use pause, think, choose picture cues and a simple sharing example.

Ages 9-11: name both a helpful comparison and a point where the analogy breaks down.

Pause, think, choose | Optional 4 minutes

Draw a three-step path: pause, think of another person, and choose good. Apply it to a real small decision, such as sharing a game or returning a borrowed item. Add a trusted helper.

Look for understanding Look for a responsible choice and recognition that humans are not machines. Learning and exploring can be good; the lesson is about loving responsibility.

Closing prayer God our Creator, thank you for freedom and your loving help. Guide our choices toward truth, kindness, and friendship with you. Amen.

At home Discuss one family choice with an adult. Ask how the choice can respect others and use God's gifts well.

Handout answer notes Return: need for help and welcome. God is eternal and does not age or create from parts of himself. Choices should consider others and seek wise guidance.

Teach with care

Explain that the maker and robot are fictional. The ending suggests the maker's death; invite questions without identifying every story detail directly with God. This is an original fictional analogy, not a Bible episode or a scientific claim about robots. God creates from nothing; our souls are not pieces of divine substance. God is eternal and does not weaken or die as a human maker does. Freedom is not simply doing whatever we want; God's grace helps us choose good.

Words to explain Free will: our ability to choose and act responsibly. Analogy: a comparison that helps explain an idea but is not true in every detail. Grace: God's freely given help.

Sources for the leader

Story source: [Servus Dei video and English transcript](#)

Catholic teaching: [Catechism 1730-1748: human freedom](#)

Catholic teaching: [Catechism 296: God creates from nothing](#)

Choose love freely

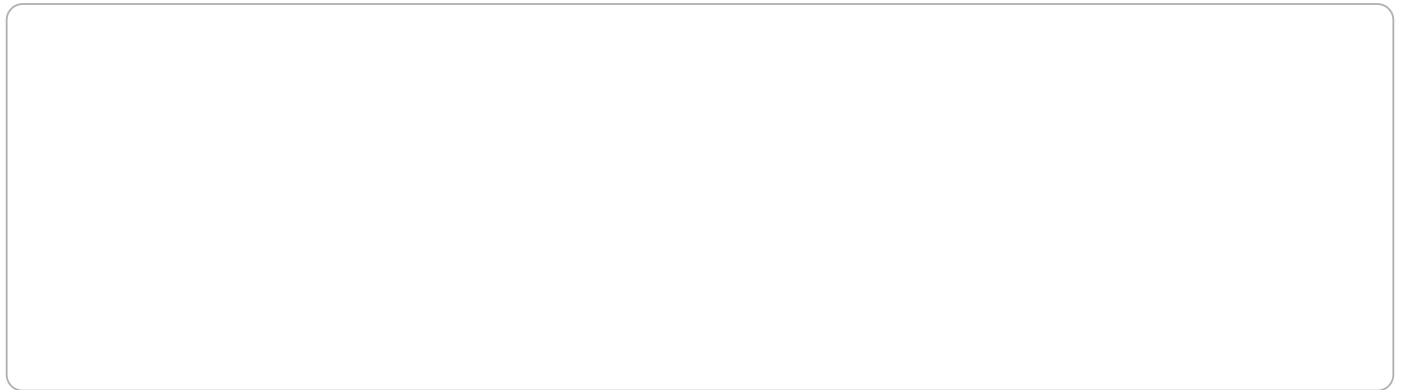
The Gift of Free Will

The imagined robot learns about freedom, friendship, and asking for help.

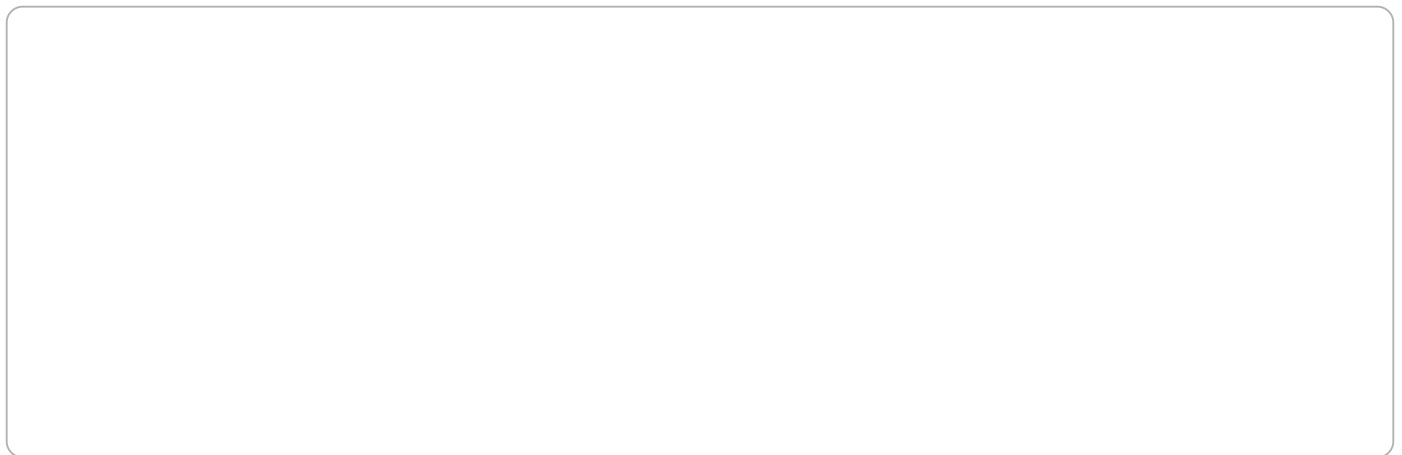
Name _____

Adult helper Read aloud. Invite drawing, pointing, or spoken answers. Writing is optional.

1 Draw the robot choosing to return and ask its maker for help.



2 Draw a responsible kind choice you can make with guidance.



Tell Who is affected by the choice? What help would be useful?

Pray God, guide my freedom toward love and responsibility. Amen.

At home Share your picture and one thing you learned about God or following Jesus.

A choice with consequences

The Gift of Free Will

Think about the fictional robot and the gift of human freedom.

Name _____

1 Recall a choice

Why did the robot finally return to its maker?

It returned because ...

2 Know the limit

Name one way God is different from the aging maker.

Unlike the maker, God ...

3 Choose responsibly

What good choice can you make, and whom could it help?

My responsible choice is ...

Pray God, guide my freedom toward love and responsibility. Amen.

Go deeper Why is a freely chosen act of love different from a programmed action?