Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**WORKSHEET 2: Video & Discussion Notes**

**Day 1 Review:**

| **Bell Ringer: SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION**  *Given what you have learned about evolution, the human vocal tract, and the human brain, consider that symbolic language came to exist in* Homo sapiens*, but NOT in animals or even other hominins. Respond to the following (discuss in groups of 3-4)* |
| --- |
| * How does the unique phenomenon of *symbolic language* (and its supporting anatomical structures) set humans apart from our close evolutionary cousins and other animals (ie, could symbolic language have given *Homo sapiens* an advantage that could explain why *Homo sapiens* survived while all other hominins died out)?        * How does having the capacity for symbolic language allow us to pursue meaning?   *As a group, write a 2-3 sentence response to the questions above.*  *Turn this into your teacher.* |

**Day 2:**

| **Watch “Evolution and the Creation of Man (Aquinas 101)”**  *According to the video, write down how dogs and humans might perceive things differently.* |
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| **Listen to Lecture on the Nature of Natural Reason**  *Consider the following questions.* |
| * What separates humans from other animals? * What is natural reason? * Where does natural reason come from? * What is our natural reason for? |
| **(Optional Activity) Watch “Do Animals Have Language?”**  *Identify the four characteristics associated with language and describe each using words, illustrations, and/or symbols.* |
| 1.  2.  3.  4. |
| *What did you learn about human language from this video?* |
| **Read “Walker Percy on the story of Helen Keller’s Discovery of Language.”** |
| * What does Percy say about how Helen might have understood water before this moment on the walk? * How did the meaning of water change for Helen after this moment? * Describe the change that occurred. |

**Day 2 Core Concepts:**

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: humanity’s capacity for objective understanding. It is our capacity to go beyond our immediate interests and needs, and perceive things in their own right, *as they are*. Because of this capacity, we may know and love God and our neighbor.
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: humanity’s fundamental orientation to know and love God, which is made possible by the spiritual, rational soul God has given every human person.
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: systems of symbols (i.e. written words, pictographs, audible sounds) that name and denote intangible meanings about the objects of our perception. This is one way in which humans express and exercise their rationality: through it, we can come to understand the interconnectedness of the world around us in greater depth, and share that knowledge with other humans.

**Day 3:**

| **Read “Excerpt from *Confessions* by Saint Augustine”**  *This piece demonstrates how humanity’s symbolic capacity enables them to know and love God. How is Augustine’s writing here an example of symbolic language? Describe how the beauty of creation “speaks” of Creator God.* |
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| *Have you ever had an experience of understanding – of seeing signs of God’s presence – like this? If you have, describe it. Where were you? What was going on in your life at the time?* |
|  |

| **Read “‘‘Learning the Language of God' Scripture Reflection’ Scripture Reflection” (Catholic Daily Reflections)**  What has listening to God’s voice looked like for you? How might your life “speak” the language of God’s love revealed in the person Jesus Christ? |
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