

ONEWITH

OneWith community, OneWith faith, OneWith Christ.

January 24, 2021

Virtual Reflection Outline Grade 10-11 ~ Session #8



Session Goals

Scripture Unpacked:

- Articulate the meaning of a Scripture passage from the Sunday readings (or homily).
- Reflect on *and articulate* at least 1 way these lessons could apply to contemporary life.
- Commit to one practice of Christian discipleship that corresponds to their own learning before the next session.

Catholicism Unpacked

“Eucharist” is a word we hear at Church all the time but what does it mean? And perhaps more importantly, what does it mean to YOU! [see full notes on pg. 3]

Learning Outcomes:

- *Eucharist comes from a Greek word that means “thanksgiving/gratitude for God’s grace”.*
- *Eucharist describes **the celebration** of the “breaking of the bread” by Jesus’ disciples.*
- *Eucharist describes **the Presence of Christ** in the (appearance of) bread and wine.*
- *Eucharist describes **the bond, the common-union** between humanity and God (and each other).*
- *As a class, continue to develop a “working definition” of the Sacrament of the Eucharist.*

Scripture Unpacked (10-12 minutes)

As Catholics, we believe that the Bible is the living Word of God. That alone should give us reason to pay attention, but there's more! Scripture is offers us lessons and wisdom that can be beneficial to OUR lives – right now!

This week's gospel marks the beginning of Jesus' public ministry in the Gospel of Mark. It shows us clearly that Jesus chose ordinary of people to follow him into his ministry. Today, anyone wanting to launch some sort of public life would likely assemble a team of advisers - an image consultant, a public relations expert, a market analyst, and probably a bodyguard or two. Who did Jesus choose to be his "entourage"? A few fishermen, some friends of friends, and even a tax collector (one the most despised occupations of his time). The very ordinariness of these disciples was a deliberate action on the part of Jesus. It was a clear statement that his teaching was not for the learned scholars and interpreters of the Torah but rather a practical way to experience the love and presence of God for the "average" person.

The gospel also introduces us to one of Jesus' primary teachings: "The kingdom of God is close at hand. This is one of Jesus' core messages found throughout the gospels. Namely that God's kingdom is present on earth (by extending God's love, mercy and justice to those around us) as well as in heaven. Jesus' encouragement to repent and believe this Good News is as relevant for us today as it was for the first believers. Choose and discuss one or more of the following quest

Digging Deeper - Scripture Questions

Choose and discuss one or more of the following questions:

- Why might Jesus have chosen fishermen as some of his first disciples? Explain...
- What would be your equivalent of being called to abandon fishing to follow Jesus?
- What signs exist that the kingdom really is "close at hand"?

Homily: What was the main point of the Priest/Deacon's homily? How does that message tie back to the bible readings and/or your life?

Scripture Application Questions

Disciples Do! The "Discipleship Challenge" asks our youth to take the practical lesson/wisdom that they have discerned from the Scripture readings (aka – the Bible) and/or the homily – and apply that in the context of their own lived experience.

Note: We are looking for something specific/concrete for them to commit to. "Being a better person" would be too generic... We also want to stay away from "praying" or "praying for someone" - We certainly want them to pray, but prayer is a separate practice of discipleship. If a youth is having problems coming up with something, start with their learned lesson/wisdom and work from there. The point here is to put faith into action by working up a tangible way for them to become agents of mercy, justice and love in their families, among their friends and in our world.

"Discipleship Challenge"

- What is one "practical lesson" or bit of wisdom that YOU can take away from the Bible readings and/or homily?
- What is one thing that you can do in the next two weeks to "follow Jesus" or be an example of the earthly kingdom of God by serving/helping someone who is in need?

Catholicism Unpacked (10-12 minutes)

“What is Eucharist?” / “Eucharist to me” Project

So, the original concept was/is to help each of the youth to craft their own definition of “what is Eucharist to me”. Once this is complete... then each group would work together to make a 3-5 minute video that would incorporate the youth giving voice to their definition. See the Sample Videos below for examples from 2019.

Covid, of course, has changed things. It will undoubtedly be more difficult to collaborate on making these videos – perhaps prohibitively so. You know your group best. If this is something that you think your group would like to move forward with I will be happy work with you to make that happen. If this seems like an insurmountable task, then concentrate on developing the individual definitions and having them share that with the rest of the group.

The bottom line is we want each youth to be able to “think through” and articulate their own understanding of this “central theological mystery of our faith” – the Eucharist.

Barry

Sample Videos

- Lovedahl Group - <https://youtu.be/d51USmGJ-gw>
- Mayer/Schindele Group - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rcCC19Y4t6o&feature=youtu.be>
- Lape/Allen Group - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a0_inYWgV2o&feature=youtu.be

If it is possible I would like to “premiere” these videos (about 4 minutes in length) via an Online Film festival or (God willing) at an in-person **OneWith** session on **April 11th**.

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Session References /Resources

Scripture:

Sunday Readings:

Reading #1: Jonah 3:1-5

Responsorial Psalm: 25:4-9

Reading #2: I Corinthians 7:29-31

Gospel: Mark 1:14-20

A full copy of the readings for the week can be found on the U.S. Bishop's website:

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/012421.cfm>

Eucharist:

CCC #1324 - The Eucharist is "the source and summit of the Christian life."¹³⁶ "The other sacraments, and indeed all ecclesiastical ministries and works of the apostolate, are bound up with the Eucharist and are oriented toward it. For in the blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church, namely Christ himself.

Links to get you thinking about ways to explain Eucharist...

"Jesus is McDonalds on Sandals" (Video: Fr. Mike Schmitz – Bread of Life Discourse: John 6:22-59)

Fr. Mike Schmitz has one of the top podcasts in the US. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vbxiIVx2jVo>

"See You in the Eucharist... No, Really" (Life Teen blog post)

<https://lifeteen.com/blog/see-you-in-the-eucharist-no-really/>

Bread of Life (Loyola Press reflection on bread).

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/scripture-and-tradition/jesus-and-the-new-testament/who-do-you-say-that-i-am-names-for-jesus/jesus-the-bread-of-life/>

"What is Eucharist?" / "Eucharist to me" Sample Videos

- Lovedahl Group - <https://youtu.be/d51USmGJ-gw>
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- Lape/Allen Group - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a0_inYWgV2o&feature=youtu.be

Links for total nerds

- Eucharist: Meal, Sacrifice, Presence (Video: Bishop Robert Barron) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PFsFv-TWVfy>
- Breaking of the Bread (a short article on the Fraction Rite) - https://rcspirituality.org/finding_the_plug/the-liturgy-of-the-eucharist-the-communion-rite-the-fraction-of-the-bread/
- Order of the Liturgy of the Eucharist (US Bishops – breakdown of each segment of the rite). <https://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/the-mass/order-of-mass/liturgy-of-the-eucharist>

Gospel Reflection - *By Greg Sunter*

Scriptural context – Mark and Isaiah

Today's first reading from Isaiah 42 begins with the very words that come from heaven during the baptism of Jesus in the gospel. It comes from the first of four passages from the book of Isaiah that are known as the Servant Songs. The Servant Songs in Isaiah provided a great deal of inspiration to Mark. The imagery and even specific language used in Isaiah to describe the messiah who will come is scattered throughout the gospel of Mark and subsequently the other gospels as well. Mark's depiction of Jesus as the messiah is characterized by the image of the suffering servant.

Messianic Secret

The baptism of Jesus in the gospel of Mark serves as a revelation of the identity of Jesus. Throughout this gospel there is secrecy about who Jesus really is. Whenever a person's faith reveals that Jesus is the Messiah or the Son of God, Jesus commands them to remain silent and not tell anyone else about him. However, through the baptism event, the reader is let in to the secret from the outset. Unlike the public announcements of Jesus as the beloved Son of God that occurs in other gospels, in the gospel of Mark, the voice is addressed to Jesus himself and there is no indication that anyone else hears it. The words used are, "You are my Son" not, "This is my Son." But the reader is placed in the privileged position of knowing the truth about Jesus from the very beginning of the gospel. As they read further, they observe the disciples' growing yet imperfect understanding of this truth.

John the Baptist serves another particular function in the gospel story. Aside from fulfilling scriptural prophecy by proclaiming the one who is to come, he provides a point of contrast with Jesus. In many ways, John represents the Jewish religious belief of the time. For John, baptism is a ritual of purifying and forgiveness of sin that can be administered as often as required. The way to God is through strict observance of the Law and through ritual acts of prayer and purification. For Jesus though, the way to God is through love and through Jesus himself. The baptism that Jesus will give is a baptism of the Spirit—pouring out the Spirit on those who realize and accept the love of God in their lives.

Questions for Adolescents

- Q. What purpose is served by John preaching about someone "more powerful" than himself?
- Q. How do you think John's followers might have responded to Jesus' arrival?
- Q. What is the difference between a baptism of water and being baptized with the Holy Spirit?
- Q. Why does Mark include the reader in the secret of Jesus' truth from the beginning of the gospel?

Questions for Adults

- Q. Why does Jesus need to be baptized by John?
- Q. Why might the gospel of Mark begin with John the Baptist rather than the birth of Jesus?
- Q. What do you think motivates parents today to have their children baptized?
- Q. Why are we invited to renew our baptismal promises every Easter?

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