

ONEWITH

OneWith community, OneWith faith, OneWith Christ.

November 8, 2020

Reflection Break Outline **Grade 10-11 ~ Session #3:**



Session Goals

Scripture Unpacked:

- Analyze the gospel reading – discern a value or lesson that is personally relevant.
- Reflect on/articulate one or more ways the lesson/value could apply to contemporary life.
- Commit to one practice of discipleship that corresponds to the gospel message.

Catholicism Unpacked:

- The meal at which Jesus instituted the Eucharist (Last Supper) was a Passover feast.
- Both the Passover and the Eucharist are a sacrifice and a meal.

Scripture Unpacked (10-15 minutes)

God's Word is more than "oddly phrased" words that people read during Mass... The wisdom and Truth of scripture are just as alive today as they were when they were first scribed millennia ago... The following questions are important to help our young disciples to learn the process of identifying, clarifying and focusing on the MEANING of the scripture passage.

Be on the lookout for answers that synthesize "gospel" concepts ("True" forgiveness) with "secular"/cultural beliefs (being nice). This is our (your) chance to correct or put a theological fine point on any misconceptions or perceptions that our teens might have.

Ask questions like...

- What did you hear in Scripture readings from Mass?
- What did you hear in the homily (Fr. Mike's teaching)?
- What do you think was Father Mike's main point?

Close this part of the lesson by reiterating the teaching focus for the session - see pages 5-6 for more detail and some tips from the experts.

Digging Deeper - Scripture Questions

- Why would Jesus have used a story about bridesmaids waiting for a groom?
- Why wouldn't the wise bridesmaids give their spare oil to the others?
- In what ways is this story a parable of the Kingdom of God?
- What message comes out of this gospel for a modern audience?

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 make this lesson/wisdom from tonight, a positive reality in your life or the life of someone who is in need?

Catholicism Unpacked (10-15 minutes)

Coordinators Notes:

Throughout the year we unpack the theological and communal aspect of this sacrament which is THE central “mystery” of our Catholic faith.

- *What is Eucharist?*
 - *Origin of the sacrament.*
 - *What did Jesus / New Testament writers teach about “Breaking of the Bread”.*
 - *What do we believe (theologically) about this sacrament*
- *Eucharist in liturgy*
 - *What do all those words and phrases really mean?*
 - *How do we experience Christ in the Mass (community/universally)?*
 - *How can I experience Christ in the Eucharist (personally)?*

As well as addressing teen’s questions about Eucharist and the Mass.

Eucharist is a celebration, it unifies the community of believers, it give strength to disciples and healing to the afflicted. Eucharist is sacrament that is bound in layer up layer of symbol, ritual and mystery – yet it is the most approachable of all sacraments. The Eucharist IS Christ and it is Christ that we all need.

~ Barry

What do you know about the Jewish celebration called Passover?

Passover: This holiday is celebrated in remembrance of when God freed the Jewish people from enslavement in Egypt. Moses had demanded freedom for the Jewish people from Pharaoh many times, but he would not let them go. God sent a series of plagues as a warning, but Pharaoh refused to acknowledge God and would not free the Jewish slaves. The final plague God sent upon the Egyptians was that all of the first-born children would die. However, the Jewish people and their children were protected--God "passed over" their homes. This “pass-over” event marked the beginning of the Jewish people’s journey freedom and the Promised Land. From that time forward, the Jewish people renew their covenant with God by sharing in Passover meal.

Eucharist: Before his crucifixion, Jesus gathered with his disciples to share a Passover meal. Jesus knew that in the coming days, he would be crucified and die. It was at this meal that he told his disciples to share bread and wine as part of a *new covenant*. He said that his followers should remember his life as well as his message to love one another (even your enemies), and to accompany this living remembrance by “breaking bread” together. One of the early doctrines of the Christian faith was that people continued to celebrate the life of Jesus by getting together to share some bread and wine.

Today, the Eucharist (from the Greek for "giving thanks") and the Passover meal are traditions focusing on God's covenants with man--the promises God and man made to one another about their responsibilities in their relationship. Celebrating Passover and the Eucharist are both ways of reminding ourselves of the duties and *relationship* between God and humanity.

- *What similarities can you draw between the celebrations of Passover and Eucharist?*
- *What is your definition of a covenant?*
- *How could understanding the connection between these two ancient Traditions help Catholics to understand their own participation celebrating the Eucharist today?*

OneWith Session Resources

Resource Links:

Sophia SketchPad Video “The Eucharist”: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QcB7Uemoon4>

Liturgy Training Video – “The Eucharist”: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NoADf5rbmbY>

Sunday Readings: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/110820.cfm>

For Theology Nerds:

Catholic Answers (The Eucharist and Passover): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=skrbQGAyRII>

“Virtual” OneWith Reflection Guide

The Catholic Mass is an inexhaustible Mystery! Not the kind of mystery that you don't know/cannot find the answer to – but a spiritual mystery that continues to open up new layer after new layer... the more carefully you look the more exquisite and profound its meaning. What layer of mystery did you uncover today?

Youth make and use the notes from their “Virtual” OneWith Reflection Packet to help them participate in the following discussions...

Liturgical Reflection

What was the one element of the liturgy that stood out to you? How did it help focus or enrich your experience of Mass.

(See the “Virtual” OneWith Reflection Packet for full details about this reflection.)

- Introductory Rites Reflection:
- Liturgy of the Word:
- Liturgy of the Eucharist:
- Closing Rites:

Scripture Reflection

The ability to listen deeply to God's word and extract its wisdom and meaning for our lives today is vital to the life of a Christian disciple! This part of the reflection is designed to help youth develop the skill set to be able to distill the meanings and wisdom that are found in the weekend scripture AND (with a little help from the priest or deacon – perhaps) apply these lessons/wisdom to our own life. This is not an easy task! Be patient, but persistent – our youth are pretty sharp, and they should be able to borrow from their academic skill set of literature analysis, etc.

Scripture Readings of the week

- Reading #1: Wis 6:12-16
- Responsorial Psalm: 63:2-8
- Reading #2: I Thessalonians 4:13-18
- Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

[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/110820.cfm>]

Choose one of the readings used at Mass this weekend...

- *Who is speaking in this passage?*
- *To whom are they speaking?*
- *What is the main “message” from this passage and how might that be applied in your own life? (3-4 sentences)*

What was the main point of the Priest/Deacon's homily (preaching)? How does this message connect to your lived experience? (2-3 sentences)

Gospel Reflection - By Greg Sunter

The three gospel accounts from the final three weeks leading up to the season of Advent all come from Chapter 25 of the Gospel of Matthew. They can be seen together as an extended treatise on living life in response to Jesus' message and preparing for the end of time. This week's gospel starts out as a Kingdom parable and becomes a bit more of a metaphor for living a Christian life.

The gospel parable relates to ten bridesmaids—five foolish and five wise—who are participating in a wedding ritual that involves meeting the bridegroom and escorting him the last part of his way to the wedding reception. The foolish bridesmaids have not brought sufficient reserves of oil for their lamps and have to leave at the critical time to try to obtain more. When they eventually arrive at the reception hall they are turned away because they have shamed themselves as well as the bride and groom by not fulfilling their duty.

Some of the original audience of Matthew's gospel, along with many of the early Christian followers, had an expectation that Jesus was going to return and usher in the end of the world in their lifetime. The message of this gospel is captured in Jesus' final words, "So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour." The timing of Jesus' coming cannot be predicted and so all Christian believers, like the bridesmaids, need to continue to act with hope and expectation; being prepared for the fact that it may be further off than anticipated. Many early Christians were living their lives as though the world would end at any time. The gospel warns them, and us, to continue to follow the example of Jesus and not to become complacent—expecting that everything is about to come to an end.

Living the Gospel – Living in hope.

A feature of Christian faith is an approach to life that views the future with hope. In our world today many people look to the future with distrust and even fear. As Christians, we look forward with hope. When change occurs, some allow that change to happen *to* them whilst others engage in the change process and approach it with hope and expectation. Today's gospel reminds us to be ready for what the future holds; to look with hope towards what lies ahead, but to ensure that we've prepared ourselves properly. The future can only be viewed with expectant hope if we've done the proper preparation!

Questions for Teens

- Why would Jesus have used a story about bridesmaids waiting for a groom?
- Why wouldn't the wise bridesmaids give their spare oil to the others?
- In what ways is this story a parable of the Kingdom of God?
- What message comes out of this gospel for a modern audience?

Questions for Adults

- In what ways are some Christians today like the foolish bridesmaids?
- In what ways is this story a parable of the Kingdom of God?
- How can you properly prepare for the coming of the Kingdom?
- If this story were to be put in a contemporary setting, what is a modern metaphor for preparedness that might be used?