

ONEWITH

OneWith community, OneWith faith, OneWith Christ.

April 11, 2021

Virtual Reflection Outline Grade 10-11 ~ Session #12



Session Goals

Scripture Unpacked:

Reading and understanding Sacred Scripture is critical for spiritual growth and enlightenment.

- 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.

Catholicism Unpacked

The Eucharist is the “*central theological mystery of our faith*”. It also is a defining character of our faith – no other Christian community thinks about the Eucharist quite like Catholics.

Learning Outcomes:

- Reflect on *and/or* record your personal “**Eucharist to me**” statement.

Scripture Unpacked (8-10 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!

Poor old doubting Thomas! For the last 2000 years, he's been saddled with the label "Doubting Thomas" just because he wasn't prepared to take someone else's word for the fact that Jesus had risen... It is easy to overlook the way the passage begins. The disciples are huddled in a room, "for fear of the Jews." Just a couple of weeks earlier they had been on top of the world. Jesus was enormously popular with the people, and the disciples, by association, were caught up in that affection. However, in the space of just a few short days, their world had turned upside down. Now they were cowering in a closed up room, afraid for their lives in case those who handed Jesus over for death came for them as well. Into this fear and uncertainty steps Jesus who says, "Peace be with you." It is a reminder of Jesus calming the storm out on the lake—in the midst of turmoil and anxiety he brings peace and calm. Once Thomas encounters Jesus, he abandons his claims about needing proof and proclaims, "My Lord and my God!" This is an absolutely extraordinary statement of faith. For the very first time, someone recognizes Jesus, not as Messiah, prophet or Lord, but as God.

Historical Context – My Lord and my God

This extraordinarily clear statement of belief about the divinity of Jesus appears nowhere else in any of the four gospels. Why does the Gospel of John make this statement and not any of the other gospels? It must be remembered that the Gospel of John was the last of the four gospels to be written—at least 20 years after the Gospel of Mark and some 60 to 70 years after the death of Jesus. The early Christians had been cast out of the Jewish tradition and were making sense of how their own beliefs could stand apart from Jewish tradition. With the break from Judaism, Christians felt able to express their belief that Jesus was God.

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Digging Deeper - Scripture Questions

Choose and discuss one or more of the following questions:

- Why were the disciples in hiding at the start of this passage?
- Why might Thomas have been so reluctant to believe without seeing Jesus for himself?
- How is Thomas like many people today?
- Do you think Thomas was doubting the resurrection or his friends? (or both?)

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.

"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 commitment you can make to help you (or others) "see"/experience the resurrected Christ?



“What is Eucharist?” / “Eucharist to me” Project (14-20 minutes)

The Eucharist is equal parts personal and communal... mystery and mission.

We receive His Body, we become the Body, and we are sent by the grace that we have received.

The Eucharist is also deeply connected to our identity as Catholic Christians. This is why we want every one of our youth to be able to “think through” and articulate their own understanding of – and connection to – the Eucharist.

If you have not already done so, please have each youth finish their “Eucharist to me” statement and record on video.

- *Statements should be at least 10 second (to show your thought) but no more than 30 seconds long (you also need to be concise).*
- *I would like a leader from each group to collect these videos on a flash drive or in a shared folder that I can access (Google Drive/Drop Box, etc.). Please do not forward to me by text or email as various programs/platforms will automatically compress the video to such a poor quality for our purposes (it is also difficult to manage individual submission, etc.). You can drop off the flash drive at the parish office or call me and I will pick it up from you in person.*
- *I have started the process of editing your videos and some of them are outstanding!*
- *Once completed, your group’s video will be posted to our OneWith YouTube Channel (unlisted/unsearchable – available only to those who have the link... which I will share with the leaders).*
- *My hope is to have the videos finished before our final session on April 25th.*

I would also love to have the help of 2-3 youth to record an introduction for the project.

If you have any questions/would like to help me manage this project, let me know!

If you have already completed your video project, please reflect on the following questions:

- *How did this project help you to understand the Eucharist in a deeper way?*
- *What insight did this project give you about your relationship with Christ/God?*
- *What insight did this project give you about your “interior spiritual life” (the quality/depth of your faith; personal spiritual growth; connection to the Church/community of believers; etc.)?*
- *How did hearing/seeing other’s talk about the Eucharist impact you?*

I would love to hear your answers! Email or text your responses if you don’t mind sharing.

Barry

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Session References /Resources

Scripture:

Sunday Readings:

Reading #1: Acts 4:32-35

Responsorial Psalm: 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24

Reading #2: I John 5:1-6

Gospel: John 20:19-31

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/041121.cfm>

Eucharist:

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

Links for total nerds

- Euchaayrist: 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 – Session #12

Poor old doubting Thomas! For the last 2000 years, he’s been saddled with the label “Doubting Thomas” just because he wasn’t prepared to take someone else’s word for the fact that Jesus had risen... It is easy to overlook the way the passage begins. The disciples are huddled in a room, “for fear of the Jews.” Just a couple of weeks earlier they had been on top of the world. Jesus was enormously popular with the people, and the disciples, by association, were caught up in that affection. However, in the space of just a few short days, their world had turned upside down. Now they were cowering in a closed up room, afraid for their lives in case those who handed Jesus over for death came for them as well. Into this fear and uncertainty steps Jesus who says, “Peace be with you.” It is a reminder of Jesus calming the storm out on the lake—in the midst of turmoil and anxiety he brings peace and calm.

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Historical Context – *My Lord and my God*

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Those who have not seen...

Jesus says to Thomas, “You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.” *That’s us!* Jesus’ words in the gospel are meant for people like us living today. We are not in the position of Thomas and the other disciples who were able to see the risen Lord face to face and so convince themselves of his rising. The gospel recognizes that to believe in the resurrection without that physical, personal encounter with Jesus is to be celebrated even more. Happy are we—blessed are we—who have not seen and yet still believe!

Questions for Youth

- What aspects of this gospel passage stand out or have special significance?
- Why were the disciples in hiding at the start of this passage?
- Why might Thomas have been so reluctant to believe without seeing Jesus for himself?
- How is Thomas like many people today?

Questions for Parents/Sponsors

- Do you think Thomas was doubting the resurrection or his friends? (both?)
- What word or phrase from the gospel passage stands out to you?
- In what situations do you most need to hear Jesus’ words, “Peace be with you”?
- In what ways can you relate to Thomas’ experience?

Digging Deeper: How can we compare modern society with the doubts of Thomas?

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