

ONEWITH

OneWith community, OneWith faith, OneWith Christ.

October 27, 2019

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



Session Goals

Mass Unpacked:

- *The Mass consists of 4 main parts (Introductory Rites, Liturgy of the Word, Liturgy of the Eucharist and the Concluding Rites)*
- *A good metaphor for the “shape or movement” of the Mass is that of a meal or feast.*

Catholicism Unpacked:

- *Sacred Scripture is one of the primary ways that God is revealed to humanity.*
- *God wants us to know, love and worship Him.*

Catechetical Outcomes:

- *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.*
- *Brainstorm ways to read, study or learn more about the Bible.*

Coordinators Notes:

This session continues our focus on Scripture. Why is Sacred Scripture important? Let's explore that... We have many examples of ancient literature that are still read and studied (some of the teens have probably read them... "The Iliad" & the "Odyssey"; "Antigone"; "The Politics" by Aristotle, etc.), yet these books pale in comparison to the popularity of the Bible.

- *Over 100 million Bibles are printed every year.*
- *In the world today, there are more than 80,000 different translations/versions of the Bible.*
- *YouVersion, a top downloaded Bible app for mobile devices, has over 100 million total downloads and counting. It was one of the first 200 apps that were available on iTunes. It's also been a top 100 free app for 3 consecutive years.*
- *More than 66,000 people are using a Bible app at any given second. 3 people share a Bible verse on their social network every second as well.*
- *77% of people say that they read the Bible more frequently because they have it available on a mobile device. And a similar number prefer Bible apps because it gives them access to multiple versions of the Bible without the added cost.*

Reading, studying, and reflecting on Sacred Scripture is essential for discipleship (to know what Jesus expects his followers to do) and to learn about God's relationship with humanity. So as we go through the year, let's keep asking our teens to think seriously about, and be creative in, the ways that they can incorporate Sacred Scripture into their lives on a regular basis.

~ Barry

Processing Questions (5-8 minutes)

Be on the look-out for answers that synthesize concepts presented with contemporary cultural beliefs. This is our (your) chance to correct or put a theological fine point on any misconceptions or perceptions that our teens might have.

Examples:

- *What did you hear in Scriptures/homily (Fr. Mike's teaching)?*
- *What do you think Father Mike was trying to say?*
- *Did you see or hear anything that you did not understand or need to be clarified in your mind?*

Close this part of the lesson by reiterating the teaching focus for the session.

Reflection: God wants you to know Him. (14-20 minutes)

“Be still and know that I am God.” ~ Psalms 46:10

The reason that God desires that we know Him is because He wants us to love Him. (Mark 12:30) ‘And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment. The more we come to know God, the more we come to know love, because God is Love. The more realization and awareness we have of God’s love for us the more we will love Him. (1 John 4:19) We love Him because He first loved us.

Work in teams to look up the following passages about God making himself known to His people.
[Tag Team]

- Jeremiah 9:23-24
- Matthew 25:37-40
- Micah 7:18-19
- Exodus 34:5-7
- 2 Timothy 1:9-10
- Isaiah 40:28
- Psalm 89:14
- Daniel 2:20-23
- Isaiah 11:2
- Deuteronomy 7:9

What is revealed about the nature of God in these passages?

Crowd Sourcing...

Christianity at its heart is, knowing God personally through Jesus Christ, who revealed God to us. There is a vast difference between knowing facts about a person and really knowing that person. If we want to really know God – if we really want to about Jesus’ life and teaching then we need to spend time reading and understanding the Bible.

“Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ” ~ St. Jerome

Brainstorm some ways to learn more about the teaching of Jesus in Sacred Scripture (aka the Bible). *Reading a Bible (duh..) – but what about other ways of learning – reflecting on scripture like mobile apps; “Official” websites (Vatican, USCCB, etc.); Religious blogs by lay people; music videos (Matt Maher, John Michael Talbot, Fr. Stan Fortuna – the rapping monk!); YouTube videos; attending a Bible Study; Devotional (scripture reflection/meditations) and so on...*

Make a list... give it to Barry (he wants to know and will compile and share it with everyone)

Group Share/Journal

The reason that God desires that we know Him is because He wants us to love Him. (Mark 12:30) ‘And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the first commandment. The more we come to know God, the more we come to know love, because *God is Love*. The more awareness we have of God’s love for us the more we will love Him. (1 John 4:19) We love Him because He first loved us.

- Why does God love us? [Hint: Psalm 100:5; 1 John 3:1; John 3:16]
- Can God stop loving us? [Hint: Romans 5:8; Romans 8:38-39; Jeremiah 31:3]
- What questions do you have about the Bible?
 - Write your questions down, pass them along to Fr. Mike/Barry

Want to Go Deeper? Look up Acts 17:24-28.

- Share an example when you have sought/reached out to God.
- Share an example of how God is not far from each one of us.

How would you interpret... *“For in God, we live and move and have our being”?*

Coordinators Notes:

These two sections (Discipleship Challenge & Presentation & Prayer) can be done in any order you like. Some group leaders find that collecting the prayer intentions makes for a nice icebreaker at the beginning of the Reflection Break. I also know of at least one group that write their Discipleship Challenge on the note cards during check-in time at the very beginning of the session. I have placed them in this order as it roughly follows the Order of the Mass, but the only thing that really matters is that it happens.

Discipleship Challenge (2-3 minutes)

*With your group brainstorm some concrete ideas for the following question. Ask each member of the group to write down one of the brainstorm ideas (or one of their own) on an index card, post-it note, or **on their phone** – somewhere that they will be able to see and be reminded of the challenge to connect and act.*

- *What is one thing you can commit to doing this week to learn more about your faith?*
- *What is one thing you can do to be an example of Christ's presence to others?*

Presentation & Prayer (5-8 minutes)

Both of these are part of the Mass experience so make sure to leave time for them. They also provide a prayerful tone as you transition back for Mass.

Presentation of Gifts: Ask each teen to fill out a note card describing a contribution that they have made to the community since the last time the group has met. *Ideally it will be a response to the challenge given by the priest during the closing prayer at the previous session, but this "gift" can be pretty much anything! A good deed, a monetary contribution to a worthy cause (almsgiving), talking to a friend about God, Jesus or the Church are all examples of the gifts we bring with us to Mass. Youth will offer these gifts (drop card into the basket) along with their tithe or donation during the Presentation of the Gifts portion of the liturgy. Then watch what God can do with our ordinary gifts!*

After everyone has filled out their cards, choose one person to represent your group and bring all of the cards with them to the Worship Space. That representative will be part of the procession for the Presentation of the Gifts. Meet at the statue of Jesus & Joseph in the Gathering Space for detailed instructions. Choose a new representative each week.

Intercessory Prayer: Pray for your needs and the needs of the world. Collect prayer requests from your Discipleship Group and add them to the universal intentions. *Ask a volunteer to read the intentions aloud; and ask everyone to respond with "Lord, hear our prayer" (following each intention).*

Ask a volunteer to read the intentions aloud; ask everyone else to respond by saying "Lord, hear our prayer" (following each intention).

Leader:

Our prayer response is "Lord hear our prayer"

For all who promote justice for others...

We pray: "Lord hear our prayer"

For young people searching for meaning and purpose

We pray: "Lord hear our prayer"

For an end to domestic violence and abuse...

We pray: "Lord hear our prayer"

For our sister parish, St. Catherine's and all of the Haiti team who will be visiting next week...

We pray: "Lord hear our prayer"

For [Read your group's intentions here...]

We pray: "Lord hear our prayer"

For those who have died in the peace of Christ

We pray: "Lord hear our prayer"

For the prayers we hold in silence, (pause) ...

We pray: "Lord hear our prayer"

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Resource Links:

How do Catholics read the Bible... <https://www.americamagazine.org/content/all-things/how-does-catholic-read-bible>

USCCB Resource with (*dry, but VERY detailed*) descriptions of the parts of the Mass.

<http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/the-mass/general-instruction-of-the-roman-missal/girm-chapter-2.cfm>

Sunday Readings: <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/102719.cfm>