

Getting to know the Lord Jesus !

By the end of the session you should:

...know Jesus on a more personal level

...understand that scripture continues to speak to us today

...want to know more about Jesus



Refer to the Catechism of the Catholic Church

paragraphs # 2839 – 2840 and # 1700 - 1702

The catechism is available online at:

www.usccb.org/catechism/text/

Passages from the bible can be found at:

www.usccb.org/bible/

The Catechism of the Catholic Church tell us...

With bold confidence, we began praying to our Father. In begging him that his name be hallowed, we were in fact asking him that we ourselves might be always made more holy. But though we are clothed with the baptismal garment, we do not cease to sin, to turn away from God. Now, in this new petition, we return to him like the prodigal son and...recognize that we are sinners before him.

CCC # 2839

Pray and Reflect on the Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven
hallowed be Thy name.**

**What are the signs of God's
presence in your life ?**

**Thy kingdom come
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.**

What is God asking you to do now?

Give us this day our daily bread.

**In what ways does God give
you your daily bread?**

**And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.**

**For what do you need to ask
for forgiveness ?**

**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**How do you use prayer to
help overcome temptation?**

Using scripture stories, this session focuses on 4 points.

1. God loves you.

The Story of the Raising of Lazarus John 11: 1- 44

Read the account in John's Gospel.

John's Gospel tells us that Jesus travels to a part of Galilee that is dangerous for him. He responds to the great faith that Martha and Mary show him, and he loves Lazarus back to life. Let us become one of the witnesses who grow in trust and love as we know Jesus as loving friend.

Watch a segment of it. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JR1ku3kE2IY>

For families with young children use:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eBY-3iXwwb0>

Talk with your children about the responses to these questions.

+Teens in high school... Write your responses to the questions.

- How did Martha and Mary get to know Jesus?
- Why would Our Lord raise Lazarus from the dead?
- What kind of friend WAS Jesus ?
- What kind of friend IS Jesus for you ?

+Please use loose-leaf paper for your responses.

2. Turn away from your sins and believe in the Good News.

Jesus often taught in parables. In this treasured parable, Jesus lets us in on the great news that our God, our Father in heaven, is a profoundly generous and forgiving father. A father who runs to meet us when we decide it's finally time to reject a world without him.

Watch the story: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J_9OcpwVggw

For families with young children use:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y5x1TB3qqcU>

+Teens in high school... Write your responses to the questions.

What keeps us from turning back towards God ?

Do you believe God loves you as much as the father loved his son and in what ways do you feel God's love for you?

What did Jesus want us to know about his Father ?

Because Jesus knows the Father, he tells us to trust in his love, to come to our senses and understand that sorrow for our sin is a necessary step towards our life in Christ.

What keeps us from turning back towards God ?

Do you believe God loves you as much as the father loved his son and in what ways do you feel God's love for you?

What did Jesus want us to know about his Father ?

My faith in Jesus grows when I know who he is.

3. Believe that Jesus is your Lord and Savior.

For it is in the faith of these disciples that we see our goal. When Jesus asked, "Who do you say that I am?" Peter proclaimed without hesitation, "You are the messiah, the Son of the living God!" (Mt 16:16) Jesus spoke about Peter's faith as coming not through human means but through a revelation from God.

Peter... Matthew... Thomas...Martha...Nicodemus

Zacchaeus... Joseph of Arimathea...Mary Magdalene

Jesus is real and alive. He speaks to you and is actively seeking a relationship with you. Those who make a decision to follow Christ "show" the results of this decision in their lives. They intentionally become part of God's plan.

+Teens in high school... Write your responses to the questions.

Choose two of these New Testament followers of Christ.

- How did they show their love for Jesus ?**
- How did they show that they were willing to follow him ?**
- How were their lives changed?**

For families with young children...

Use a children's bible and read stories about St. Peter, Martha and Mary and Zacchaeus.

- **How were their lives changed?**

4. Go out and tell the Good News.

The Parable of the Sower and the Seed

In this section we are going to examine the different ways people respond when they hear the gospel stories.

In the parable called "The Sower", Jesus tells us the responses available to us. Now we know that Jesus told his disciples to "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit..." (Mt. 28:19) So the ultimate response to hearing the good news of Jesus is to go out and tell others.

Read the story... Matthew 13: 1-23 or Watch the story

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OxOCvNwbZTY>

+Teens in high school... Write your responses to the questions.

- **Are we willing to hear the Word of God ?**
- **What challenges or roadblocks keep you from being faithful to the Gospel ?**
- **What are the things that turn our focus away from God ?**
- **What "fruit" is your life producing ?**

As you close this session...

We listened to this parable from Jesus. It demands that we look in our own hearts.

Ask God now to remove the birds, rocks, and thorns in your own life, he'll listen.

Think about someone in your life that "grows in good soil." Pray for that person.