

Read

Genesis 18:20-32

Psalm 138:1-2, 2-3,
6-7, 7-8

Colossians 2:12-14

Luke 11:1-13

LIVING THE WORD

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 28, 2019



REFLECTION

What was the first prayer you learned? Do you remember if it was at school or at home or at church? Often the first prayer we learn as Catholics is the Sign of the Cross. Little kids are so excited when they can get both the actions and the words right at the same time. For many of us, the next real prayer we learn is the Our Father. After years of saying it repeatedly, we may take the depth of its meaning for granted. If we intentionally reflect on the meaningful words we will see that this prayer has it all: praise, gratitude, and reconciliation. Whether we are saying the Our Father as a part of the Rosary or during Mass or just before bed, we connect ourselves to the early disciples who learned these powerful words directly from Jesus. Let us not forget these relationships and the significance of this daily prayer.



QUESTIONS

- ❖ What do today's readings teach you about the Christian life?
- ❖ For what are you grateful this week?
- ❖ In what areas of your life are you in need of reconciliation?



ACTION

Study the Our Father this week. Dissect it phrase by phrase. Journal and reflect on how each phrase plays a part in your life. Where do you see the praise, gratitude, and the need for reconciliation? After your study and reflection of each phrase, pray the Our Father with new meaning.

Check out this vibrant prayer book for teens!



www.ltp.org/p-535-come-holy-spirit.aspx



July 28, 2019

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

LECTIONARY #111C

Genesis 18:20-32

Psalm 138:1-2, 2-3, 6-7, 7-8

Colossians 2:12-14

Luke 11:1-13

Prepare for the Word

The following elements may be used by the catechist, teacher, or youth minister to prepare to facilitate today's session with teens. You may integrate this information into the reflection and discussion on today's readings.

Leader's Context

Today's Gospel reading focuses on the practice of prayer. One of the disciples asks Jesus about how they should pray, and Jesus introduces the Lord's Prayer to them. Jesus then expounds upon the importance of persisting in prayer and how persistent prayers can be effective. The gift of the Holy Spirit is the Father's response to the disciple's prayer.

Q FOCUS: *Teach us how to pray.*

Liturgical Calendar Connection

In celebrating the Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time today, we continue to move through this summer season, numbering the days and making holy the time in between the seasons of Easter Time and Advent. This week, we celebrate a number of saints. Monday, we celebrate the Memorial of St. Martha, disciple of the Lord. On Tuesday, St. Peter Chrysologus is honored. Wednesday, we commemorate St. Ignatius Loyola, the founder of the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits). And on Thursday, we celebrate the Memorial of St. Alphonsus Ligouri, Bishop and Doctor of the Church.

Church Teaching Connection

"Popular devotions of the Christian people are to be highly endorsed, provided they accord with the laws and norms of the Church, above all when they are ordered by the Apostolic See.

"Devotions proper to particular Churches also have a special dignity if they are undertaken by mandate of the bishops according to customs or books lawfully approved.

"But these devotions should be so fashioned that they harmonize with the liturgical seasons, accord with the sacred liturgy, are in some way derived from it, and lead the people to it, since, in fact, the liturgy, by its very nature far surpasses any of them" (*Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, 13).

Hear the Word

Use this resource, a Lectionary, or a Bible to proclaim the reading. The book should be held reverently or placed on a lectern. If possible, light a candle that is placed near where the Gospel will be proclaimed. Gesture for teens to stand.

Gospel Acclamation

Use the same musical setting that is used in your parish or at school Masses. Teens may help with music and proclaim the Gospel.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 11:1-13

Reader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

All make the Sign of the Cross on their forehead, lips, and heart.

Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples." He said to them, "When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread and forgive us our sins for

we ourselves forgive everyone in debt to us, and do not subject us to the final test.”

And he said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend to whom he goes at midnight and says, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, for a friend of mine has arrived at my house from a journey and I have nothing to offer him,’ and he says in reply from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been locked and my children and I are already in bed. I cannot get up to give you anything.’ I tell you, if he does not get up to give the visitor the loaves because of their friendship, he will get up to give him whatever he needs because of his persistence.

“And I tell you, ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. What father among you would hand his son a snake when he asks for a fish? Or hand him a scorpion when he asks for an egg? If you then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?”

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Everyone may be seated.

Reflect on the Word

When beginning the reflection and discussion about today's readings, first refer to the handout for today. Ask teens what they learned about themselves and about Christian discipleship from performing the action for the week and journaling. Ask teens about the readings of the day: What struck them? What do they think the readings mean? How do the readings affect their own lives? Then begin the following reflection:

- ▶ How do you pray?
- ▶ Thinking back to when you were a young child, how were you taught to pray by your parents and/or teachers?
- ▶ How has your prayer changed as you have gotten older?

▶ Is your prayer today as a high school student much different from when you were in elementary school? How?

Today's message from the Gospel according to Luke is all about the practice of prayer. The passage starts with Jesus himself wrapping up a period of prayer. When finished, one of his followers approaches Jesus and asks him to teach them how to pray, just as John had taught his own followers.

▶ Who is this John that the disciple references?

This particular John is John the Baptist, who was the forerunner to Jesus' coming, preaching about the coming of the Christ. John himself had followers and he taught them how to pray. So, Jesus now has the opportunity to teach his own disciples how to pray.

▶ How does he respond?

Jesus shares with them a version of a prayer that we have come to know as the Our Father or the Lord's Prayer.

▶ How is this prayer in today's Scripture text different from the version of the Lord's Prayer that you know and pray every time we participate at Mass?

This version from Luke's account of the Gospel is a shorter version of the same prayer that we know today; it is also a shorter version of a similar prayer that Jesus shares with his disciples during the Sermon on the Mount. This teaching on prayer takes place in the sixth chapter of Matthew's account of the Gospel (Matthew 6:9–15). It still includes some of the same key features as the prayer found in Matthew (the Matthew version is much more similar to the Lord's Prayer that we know today). The prayer has elements of honoring the Father's holiness (“hallowed be your name”), a call for the coming of the kingdom (“your kingdom come”), a request for daily sustenance (“daily bread”), forgiveness of sins (both asking for forgiveness of transgressions and a statement of forgiveness towards others), and a request for being delivered from the final trial. This provides a guide for how we as disciples of Jesus are to pray.

► Has the Lord's Prayer been an important part of your own experience of prayer? Why or why not?

► If it has not been an important prayer for you, how might you be able to integrate this prayer in your regular prayer life?

This Gospel reading then moves into a second teaching about prayer from Jesus. He talks about the importance of persistence in prayer. He paints a picture of a person going to the house of a friend, late at night, and requesting some bread to share with another friend who has arrived after a long journey. This initial request is refused because the neighbor from whom some bread is being requested says that it is too late and their house is already locked up. Friendship is not enough for the homeowner to get up and share some bread. But notice what happens. The one who is requesting the bread ends up getting what he needs because he is persistent. So too should we be with our prayer. We should be persistent in praying, for if we remain steadfast in praying to God, he will send the Holy Spirit in response to our requests.

► Read closely the following statements: Ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. What do those statements mean to you?

► What has your experience with prayer been in your life up until this point? How might you better focus your energies in cultivating a life of prayer?

Wrapping It Up

Consider these points to conclude the discussion and reflection. Integrate the thoughts and ideas that surfaced during the discussion as well as the "Church Teaching Connection" on page 242.

Prayer is such an important aspect of the Christian way of life that Jesus actually taught his followers how to pray. The Lord's Prayer serves as a model prayer for all of us to pray and learn from.

Persistence in prayer can lead to many blessings and answered prayers.

Many personal devotions have sprung up around the world and are to be celebrated as authentic prayer, as long as they are not antithetical to what the Church teaches. The Sacred Liturgy is the superior form of prayer to which we are invited.

Act on the Word

Lectio Divina on the Lord's Prayer

For this activity you will need Bibles or print outs of the Lord's Prayer from Matthew's and Luke's account of the Gospel, along with a basic understanding of lectio divina. For a short description of lectio divina, check out www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/catechesis/catechetical-sunday/word-of-god/upload/lectio-divina.pdf.

Pass out Bibles so that each teen has one to work with. Give teens an overview of the practice of lectio divina. After giving the teens an overview of this spiritual practice, invite them into an actual practice of it with the Lord's Prayer text of their choosing. Walk them through each of the steps and encourage them to fully enter into the practice of lectio divina with the sacred text.

Closing Prayer

Pray the Lord's Prayer together.

For Next Sunday

To help teens prepare for next Sunday's Mass, print, email, or share on a blog or social media the handout found on the next page. The JPG and PDF files are available at www.ltp.org/lwgr. Encourage teens to attend Mass with family or friends.