

2020: Seeing the Devil Clearly

Session 2 – Participant Handout

CHAPTER 1 – THE NAMES AND WORKS OF THE EVIL ONE

DISCUSSION QUESTION

- The different names Scripture gives to the Evil One—such as “devil” (to tear apart), “Satan” (the accuser), “father of lies,” “murderer from the beginning,” or “Lucifer” (the fallen “morning star”)—reveal something about how he works against God’s people. Which name resonates most with your own experience of spiritual struggle, and how have you seen that aspect of the Evil One at work in a concrete situation in your life or ministry?

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CHAPTER 2 – THE DEVIL AND THE NEW TESTAMENT

DISCUSSION QUESTION

- As a catechist, how do you help your students understand the reality of the devil and help them to remain close to Jesus?

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CHAPTER 3 – THE TEMPTATIONS OF CHRIST & OUR TEMPTATIONS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Jesus counters Satan’s temptations by standing firmly on the Word of God—even when Satan twists Scripture in his attempt to deceive Him. In your own life, how does the Word of God help you stay faithful to Jesus and strengthen you when you face temptation or spiritual confusion?
- The devil uses subtle temptations, attacks on identity, twisted truths, appeals to the senses, self-focus, and even our gifts to pull us away from Jesus and separate us from the Father’s love. As a teacher of the faith, which of these tactics do you see affecting children most today, and how might you counter these lies with the truth of Christ and His Word?

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CHAPTER 4 – DEFINING EVIL & THE EXISTENCE OF HELL

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC), paragraph 1033, defines hell as “[the] state of definitive self-exclusion from communion with God and the blessed.” It is eternal separation from God, and all that is good and holy. If God is truly all-loving and merciful, then how can hell be a reality?
- What role does our free will and intellect play in hell’s existence?

NOTES:

- It is important to understand that our God-given gift of free will is necessary for love to exist. There can be no real love without true freedom to choose.
- Hell must exist because of our freedom to choose or reject God’s invitation to a relationship of love.
- As a doctrinal teaching of the Church, all Catholics are required to accept and believe in the existence of hell.

- Evil does not exist on its own. We bring evil into the world by abusing our free will and choosing something other than what is good and true.
- God in His love for us, respects our immeasurable dignity. A rejection of Him through mortal sin is a rejection of His perfect love and perfect mercy and so in His perfect justice He allows us to choose hell and eternal separation from Him.

CHAPTER 5 – ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: PART 1

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Names represent identity, mission, belonging, and relationship. How does the devil try to distort your sense of who you are, what you're called to do, who you belong to, or how you relate to others?
- What helps you return to the truth of who God says you are?

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CHAPTER 6 – ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: PART 2

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- In my own spiritual life, how do I notice the Holy Spirit using guilt to draw me back to God with honesty and trust — and how do I recognize when shame is being used by the devil to make me hide from God instead of seeking His mercy?
- What can I do in my role as an educator and mentor to my students who same to struggle with shame?

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CHAPTER 7 – ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: PART 3

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Are there times when I struggle to teach the faith clearly and boldly due to fear, lack of conviction, or differing opinion? How might temptation and the devil be influencing this struggle?
- How does my witness shape the way students receive the truths I teach?

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ASSIGNMENTS IN PREPARATION FOR SESSION 2

PRAYER:

Take additional time to contemplate and pray more fully on the reflection questions from Lectio Divina handout for Session 2.

ACTION:

1. Complete the Living Word activity from the Lectio Divina during the week.
2. Write a brief paragraph or two on what touched your heart the most from this week's presentation and why it affected you as it did? Come prepared to share your thoughts next week.

PREPARE:

Bring the handout and Lectio Divina for Session 3 to class.

CLOSING PRAYER

*Lord Jesus, we thank You for the gift of this time together
and for the calling You have placed on our lives as catechists and teachers.*

Fill our hearts with Your Holy Spirit,

that we may teach Your truth with clarity, courage, and love.

Strengthen us to form Your children with the tools that lead to a virtuous life —

Sacred Scripture, the sacraments, good habits, and holy relationships.

Make us faithful witnesses of joy, hope, and peace.

Guard our minds and hearts from discouragement,

and deepen our trust that You are at work in every student we serve.

As we go forth, help us to teach the faith unapologetically,

with confidence rooted not in ourselves but in Your truth.

We entrust our ministry, our students, and our own growth to You, Lord.

May everything we do lead others closer to Your Sacred Heart. Amen.