COURSE OUTLINE

God's Vision for Humanity

Pre-Session Assignment

Read Chapters 1 – 3 of Genesis from the Bible.

- Gen 1 – The Story of Creation
- Gen 2 – The Garden of Eden
- Gen 3 – The Fall

Session 1

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. *Did you know that there were two creation stories?*
2. *Although these stories are familiar, what was something that struck you personally for the first time?*
3. *In your opinion, is the Book of Genesis fact or fiction?*

PRAYER

O God, you desire our happiness and designed the way to it. Help us dear Lord in our search for real happiness and keep us mindful that our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Our Father…

LECTURE 1: AN OVERVIEW OF GOD'S VISION FOR HUMANITY

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. *As a human person, what do you desire? (i.e., What is your vision for humanity)?*
2. *What does it mean to be human? (i.e., What is a human person?)*
3. *What is it that undermines our desires and our identity as a human person? (i.e., What thwarts our vision?)*

NOTES:

LECTURE 2: FINDING GOD'S VISION IN GENESIS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. *With God's vision for humanity, why is the term "very good" significant?*
2. *God models a day of rest in His creation plan, and later commands us to "keep holy" on this day with the intent that we rest in Him, who, as we know, is the source of all life and all that is good. Is the "Sabbath" and "keeping holy" a sacred practice today? Why or why not?*
3. *How do you "keep holy the Sabbath" and is it in accord with what He has asked of those who profess Him as their Lord and God? Why or why not?*

NOTES:

LECTURE 3: LIVING IN PERFECT HARMONY

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. *What would you expect life to be like if we lived in perfect harmony with God and one another?*

NOTES:

LECTURE 4 – PARADISE LOST

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. *What are the implications of God's searching the Garden for Adam and Eve and crying out, "Where are you?"*
2. *Contemplating the sin that you struggle with in daily life, how is this personal sin a replay of Original Sin?*
3. *What are the implications of God searching out Adam and Eve in the Garden in relation to your own sinfulness and need to be found?*

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Lecture 5: The Good News of Salvation

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SESSION 1 ASSIGNMENT

- **Prayer:**
  - Take additional time to contemplate and pray more fully on the reflection questions from the Meditation portion found on the Lectio Divina handout.
  - Complete the Living the Word (Actio) activity during the week.
- **Action:**
  - 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?
- **Prepare:**
  - Bring the handout and Lectio Divina for Session 2 to class. Use the QR code to access the material or go to: https://phillyocf.org/scf-course-materials/
  - Read the assigned Scripture for Session 2 and complete the reflection questions.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, be merciful to me a sinner! All I have comes from you: my home, my family, my food, my clothing, even my life, and I have repaid your goodness with my sins. Deeply I regret my ingratitude, and I beg grace to make some amends, beginning with this sacrament of penance. Help me to unburden myself of anything that stands between us and to be truly sorry.

My Jesus, mercy! Mary, help! Amen.

(Prayer before Confession, The Book of Catholic Prayer © 2000, Loyola Press, p. 363)

Participant Requirements and Protocols

The following protocol promotes a Christian atmosphere of mutual respect that is conducive to instruction. The Office for Catechetical Formation and the facilitators seek to provide a pleasant learning experience for students and facilitators.

- Attendance is mandatory for all sessions.
- All sessions are 2 hours and 50 minutes long.
- Absences are reported to the Office for Catechetical Formation.
- In the rare situation where an absence is due to extreme emergency or circumstance, contact the Office for Catechetical Formation.
  - Email: phillyocf@archphila.org
  - Phone: 215-587-3720
- Participants seeking religion certification credit are expected to adhere to the following requirements:
  - Be on time for class and remain in class until dismissed – ***Failure to comply may be recorded as an absence.***
  - ***Be prepared for class by doing pre-session assignments and having a copy of the participant handout for each session.***
  - Participate fully during the reflection and discussion segments.
  - Texting, emailing, or being occupied with outside projects during class time, such as marking papers or online shopping is prohibited.
- **For Virtual Courses:**
  - Log on 5 minutes prior to start time.
  - Turn off microphone unless speaking or called upon.
  - Your camera must always remain on and display proper name.
- **Course Credit:** Participants who fulfill the course requirements will have an updated course record sent electronically to them. You are responsible for giving a copy of the updated record to your principal or DRE.