COURSE OUTLINE

Jesus' Mission - Reconciliation

Pre-Session Assignment

Read the following Gospel passages:

- Matthew 9:1-8 – The Healing of the Paralytic
- Matthew 9:9-13 – The Call of Matthew
- Luke 15:11-32 – The Prodigal Son

Session 2

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. *The paralytic's healing begins with Jesus saying,* "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven." *How do I experience reconciliation with God in my own life?*
2. *Jesus identifies himself as a physician for the sick. How do I allow Christ to heal the broken places in me, and how do I extend that healing presence to others?*
3. *The father's mercy is limitless despite the grievous wrong that was done to him. The elder son however resents the father's mercy and seemingly refuses to forgive. When do I find it hard to forgive others? Is there someone in my life who needs my forgiveness, and how can I move toward compassion?*

PRAYER

We adore you O Christ, and we praise you, because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world. Our Father…

LECTURE 1: TO FORGIVE OR NOT TO FORGIVE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. *What are the costs of forgiving and not forgiving?*
2. *What are the benefits of forgiving and not forgiving?*

NOTES:

LECTURE 2: THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. *Ms. Lane went from fear to rage to forgiveness and peace due to her "Catholic Conscience." As a catechist, how would I describe a "Catholic Conscience" to someone?*
2. *How do I allow Scripture, Church teaching, and prayer to shape my conscience so that I can discern rightly between sin and grace?*
3. *How does a well-formed conscience lead me to the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and how does forgiveness there bring peace to my soul?*

NOTES:

LECTURE 3: THE COST OF FORGIVENESS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. *As a catechist, how do I practice forgiveness and create a culture of mercy in my classroom?*
2. *What personal cost is there to creating such a sacred space in my classroom?*

NOTES:

LECTURE 4 – THE MISSION OF JESUS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. *The bible often portrays God as a warrior, a God who protects us from the war between good and evil, sin and death. How do I experience God fighting for me when I feel powerless against sin or temptation?*
2. *Why is this image of God as a warrior an important one to teach my students? How might I help them come to see God in such a light?*
3. *How are the sacraments weapons that God wields to help us grow in holiness and virtue?*

NOTES:

Lecture 5: The Benefits of Forgiveness

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SESSION 2 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 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 3 to class. Use the QR code to access the material or go to: https://phillyocf.org/scf-course-materials/
  - Read and review the *Order of Penance* and *Examination of Conscience* handouts prior to class, making note of any questions you have about each.

CLOSING PRAYER

Jesus, you knew all my miseries before your eyes were fixed on me and yet you did not turn away from my wretchedness; rather, because of it, you loved me with a love more sweet and tender. Jesus, I beg pardon for having corresponded so little to your love; Jesus, I beg of you to forgive and to purify my actions in your divine blood; Jesus, I am deeply grieved at having offended you because you are infinitely holy; Jesus I repent with heartfelt sorrow, and I promise to do all in my power to avoid these faults in the future.

(Revealed to Josepha Menedez, Mystic, and adapted by Rex Baker,
The Book of Catholic Prayer, © 2000 Loyola Press)

