

TLC—Total Lifelong Catechesis
Home Kit
What is Prayer?—WEEK 3

Before you Begin:

Set table with a religious article (a crucifix, statue of Jesus or Mary, and/or a candle are examples). Be prepared with Bible, Catechism, Children's Folders (Textbook and Assignments), and supplies of pencil, or pen.

Start with Family Prayer

This week join hands and take one minute of quiet time as you think about all the blessings God has given you this week. Have everyone share and thank God for these blessings.

In prayer God reveals himself to you, and you learn about yourself.

The Catholic Church teaches that only when we approach God in prayer and humility are we able to receive the gift of this vital and personal relationship.



Discussion with your Family

When you think about prayer as a relationship, which area of that relationship needs attention? How is your relationship with God?

ACTION: What pictures come to mind when you think about prayer or praying? How do Catholics pray? Then using any material you want, make a small poster about prayer. Be sure to put the word PRAYER somewhere on the poster.

BRING THIS POSTER TO THE NOVEMBER TLC!

Don't forget... A family that prays together, stays together.

Everybody needs a little TLC!

+ ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS +

Lessons in holiness from the pro's who have gone before us

Saint Maximilian Kolbe

Feast Day: August 14

During the Second World War, Father Maximilian Kolbe gave shelter to thousands of Polish people, both Christians and Jews. He risked his life to help these suffering people. On February 17, 1941, he was caught and sent to a prison in Warsaw. A guard who saw his Franciscan habit and his rosary asked, "Do you believe in Christ?" Father Kolbe answered, "Yes, I do." The guard struck him in the face and asked again. Father Kolbe kept giving the same answer, and the guard kept beating him.

After that, Father Kolbe was given a striped convict's uniform and the number 16670. He was sent to a concentration camp, where he endured very hard work and beatings that almost killed him. Even then, he secretly heard confessions and spoke to the other prisoners about God's love. When food was brought in, he let others take their share first. Sometimes there was nothing left for him.

One day a prisoner escaped from the camp. To punish the rest of the prisoners, the officers said 10 men would be killed. These men would be dropped into a pit and left to slowly and painfully starve to death. The guards chose the 10 men. As the men were gathered, one cried out, "My wife, my children! I shall never see them again!" From the watching crowd, another prisoner stepped forward. "I will take his place," he said. It was Father Kolbe, prisoner 16670.

While they were in the pit, Father Kolbe led the nine other men in prayer and song. The depths of that pit sounded like a church full of people. No one had heard anything like it in the prison before. Father Kolbe prayed and suffered bravely, as Jesus did. He gave his life for another, and he lifted the spirits of the other nine men who died.

After his death, the news of Father Kolbe's great love spread to the whole world. In 1982, he was canonized. We celebrate this saint's feast day on August 14. Pope John Paul II said of Father Kolbe, "He won a victory of love. He loved both his fellow prisoners and those who put him to death. There is no greater love than this."



<http://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/saints/saints-stories-for-all-ages/father-kolbe>

GOSPEL READING
Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time
October 16, 2016

Luke 18:1-8

Jesus told his disciples a parable
about the necessity for them to pray always without becoming weary.
He said, "There was a judge in a certain town
who neither feared God nor respected any human being.
And a widow in that town used to come to him and say,
'Render a just decision for me against my adversary.'
For a long time the judge was unwilling, but eventually he thought,
'While it is true that I neither fear God nor respect any human being,
because this widow keeps bothering me
I shall deliver a just decision for her
lest she finally come and strike me.'"
The Lord said, "Pay attention to what the dishonest judge says.
Will not God then secure the rights of his chosen ones
who call out to him day and night?
Will he be slow to answer them?
I tell you, he will see to it that justice is done for them speedily.
But when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

<http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/101616.cfm>

Family Connection

Children nag because it works. Parents, like the judge in the parable, often get worn down by the persistence of their children asking for things large and small. Nagging is not a positive trait, to be sure. The confidence and the persistence behind this behavior, however, confidence in the goodness of the giver and the tenacity to stay in the relationship, are traits worth emulating in our relationship with God.

Read together Luke 18:1-8. Talk about appropriate ways to make needs and desires known to one another and to God in prayer. Recall that God wants to answer our prayers. As a family, offer your needs as prayers of petition to God.

<http://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/29th-sunday-in-ordinary-time-c-sunday-connection>

GOSPEL READING
Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
October 23 2016

Luke 18:9-14

Jesus addressed this parable
to those who were convinced of their own righteousness
and despised everyone else.

“Two people went up to the temple area to pray;
one was a Pharisee and the other was a tax collector.

The Pharisee took up his position and spoke this prayer to himself,

‘O God, I thank you that I am not like the rest of humanity --
greedy, dishonest, adulterous -- or even like this tax collector.
I fast twice a week, and I pay tithes on my whole income.’

But the tax collector stood off at a distance
and would not even raise his eyes to heaven
but beat his breast and prayed,

‘O God, be merciful to me a sinner.’

I tell you, the latter went home justified, not the former;
for whoever exalts himself will be humbled,
and the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

<http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/102316.cfm>

Family Connection

In the family, one sometimes observes a level of competition between children for parent attention, for acknowledgement of their abilities. Somehow, children seem to internalize that the attention given to one member of the family diminishes the attention given to another. In this way, children can often sound like the Pharisee in Jesus' parable. Parents who provide continual reminders to their children that they are loved for who they are, not for what they do, help children develop a healthy spirituality.

As a family, talk about what it means to compare oneself to another. Discuss whether it is helpful to compare oneself to another. In what ways might this be positive? (when it motivates one to use one's talents) In what circumstances might this be unhelpful? (when it proves discouraging, when it prevents one from valuing the abilities of another)

As a family, read today's Gospel, Luke 18:9-14. Discuss: What was wrong about the prayer of the Pharisee? How can we emulate the prayer of the tax collector?

Pray together as a family in thanksgiving for the blessing that is each member of your family. Pray that your family will be free from unhealthy competition. Pray in thanksgiving that God's love for us is unconditional.

<http://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/30th-sunday-in-ordinary-time-c-sunday-connection>

GOSPEL READING
Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time
October 30, 2016

Luke 19:1-10

At that time, Jesus came to Jericho and intended to pass through the town.

Now a man there named Zacchaeus, who was a chief tax collector and also a wealthy man, was seeking to see who Jesus was; but he could not see him because of the crowd, for he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree in order to see Jesus, who was about to pass that way.

When he reached the place, Jesus looked up and said,

“Zacchaeus, come down quickly,
for today I must stay at your house.”

And he came down quickly and received him with joy. When they all saw this, they began to grumble, saying, “He has gone to stay at the house of a sinner.”

But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord,

“Behold, half of my possessions, Lord, I shall give to the poor,
and if I have extorted anything from anyone I shall repay it four times over.”

And Jesus said to him,

“Today salvation has come to this house because this man too is a descendant of Abraham.
For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost.”

<http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/103016.cfm>

Family Connection

In today's Gospel, we see Jesus as a guest in the house of Zacchaeus. Talk about the various ways in which your family prepares when guests are expected in your home. Then read today's Gospel, Luke 19:1-10. Observe that Zacchaeus had not prepared to be Jesus' host that day. And yet, he welcomed Jesus better than anyone else because of his change of heart.

Discuss how your family might receive Jesus in your home and how you receive Jesus in the guests that you make welcome in your home. Pray together that your family will welcome guests into your home as you would welcome Jesus.

<http://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/31st-sunday-in-ordinary-time-c-sunday-connection>