

Catechist HANDOUT

Week 15 – 3/6/2022

Topic - Reconciliation



CATECHIST NOTES

Background Material

[What Is A Parable? A Bible Definition - Christian Crier - Patheos](#)

[THE WORDS AND ACTIONS OF JESUS The Kingdom is Coming The ...](#)

Written for catechists
This article expands the understanding of parables to include actions as well as stories.

[Forgiveness: Coming Home to God's Embrace | Bible.org](#)

Fr. Terry will do the primary catechesis on the sacrament during large group. Your task will be connecting the idea of the parables with forgiveness and how celebrating the sacrament of Reconciliation can be living parable.

Once all the teens in your small group have received the sacrament you are free to leave the Church – **quietly** – and go to your small group meeting space.

Key Ideas for this week

1. The sacrament of Reconciliation is an invitation from God to acknowledge what things in our lives we need to change in order to be at peace with ourselves, others and God
2. Provide FLAM teens with an opportunity to engage in ritual prayer and receive the sacrament of reconciliation
3. Introduce teens to the function of parables in scripture.
4. Reflect with our teens on what the scripture teaches about God's mercy and the forgiveness of sins through one of two Parables.

LESSON COMPONENTS

- A. Community Building
- B. Shared experiences by adults and teens
- C. Scripture & Prayer
- D. Catholic Teaching
- E. Putting Faith Into Action
- F. Announcements

Community Builder

This week the community builder will be done in large group. Fr. Terry will conduct a short service and reflect on the power of Reconciliation with the teens. Teens will be directed during this service to identify one thing they would like to change in their life to be closer to God and at peace with themselves and others. They will write this down on a slip of paper. They will take this slip of paper with them when they visit the priest for the sacrament.

Scripture (30-35 minutes)

- Introduction - Use these or your own words
- A **parable** is a story intended to convey a truth, often spiritual, or particular teaching through the use of metaphors.
- A metaphor is a comparison between two things that are unrelated but share some

OBJECTIVES

1. Reflect with FLAME teens about how forgiveness and Reconciliation make a difference in our lives.
2. Help teens understand what a parable is and how it functions in biblical teaching.
3. Help teens explore mercy, the forgiveness of sins and the meaning of the biblical teaching repent and reform your lives through one of two parables – one from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament.
4. Provide the teens with an opportunity to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation.

OVERVIEW

1. **4 pm Mass followed by hospitality in the Narthex**
2. **5:15-5:40 pm Large Group** - Attendance + presentation in the Church
3. **5:40-6:45 pm Reconciliation and Small Group**

If your class finishes before 7pm, you should head to class and work on the small group lesson. You may leave when your class is done.

If the teens take until 7 for Reconciliation, that is okay. They should just sit quietly and prayerfully until the class is finished.

common characteristics- Metaphors can be powerful, but they can also be tricky to identify at times.

Ask your teens for examples of metaphors. Below are some you can use if teens are not sure of what a metaphor is.

- I was lost in a **sea** of nameless **faces**.
- **Words** are the **weapons** with which we wound.
- The **dementors** in Harry Potter are a metaphor for **depression**

- Parables are used frequently by the biblical authors in both the Old and New Testament. This may come as a surprise to teens, since we most often connect the use of parables to Jesus and not Old Testament teachers and prophets.

CATECHIST NOTES

Decide who on your team is going to do the intro – you or one of the peers.

We often associate parables with Jesus and the New Testament, however parables frequently appear in the Old Testament as well.



First Parable The Vision of Dry Bones Ezekiel 37: 1-15

Catechists direct the teens to Ezekiel 37:1-15 *The Vision of Dry Bones*. Ask for a volunteer to read verses 1-10. Make sure the other teens in your group have a pen or highlighter in hand to mark the passage.

The prophet is using dry bones as a metaphor for Israel. Everything Israel once was – powerful, strong, vibrant, influential – is dead. Israel is now a defeated hopeless nation, its wealth plundered; its land occupied, its people in exile. The prophet asks if it is possible for Israel to ever be great again. The answer is yes, but only through God's action.

The great thing about parables is that we can use the central metaphor found in a parable and apply it to our own life.

Discussion Questions

1. When have you felt lifeless, useless, cut off, cast out - like a collection of dry bones?
2. What re-energizes you when you are feeling like that? What or who strengthens and encourages you?
3. What groups or individuals in our world have been cast off, left without hope, discouraged? How might things we say, think or do contribute to this?
4. Can you think of a time when God helped you feel better, showed you a way out of feeling like a collection of dry bones?
5. How do the affects of sin – our own and that of others – make us feel like dry bones?
6. How does being forgiven breathe new life into us, re-energize us?
7. How can forgiving another re-energize us?
8. In Ezekiel's parable when the Spirit comes, the dry bones come alive. How will receiving the Holy Spirit in Confirmation make you more alive?

Reflecting on the parable of the dry bones in Ezekiel will not only demonstrate the use of parables in the Old Testament it can also be a lens for reflecting on how the affects of sin – ours or the sins of others – can make us feel like dry bones. The celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation then becomes the way God breathes new life into us.

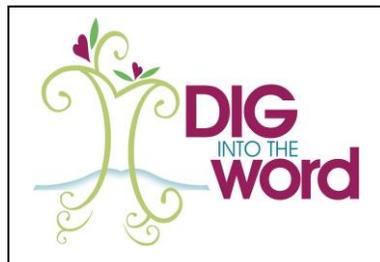
Actions can be parables – as in actions speak louder than words. Jesus often taught by what he did: i.e. eating with people was a metaphor for acceptance and welcome; physical healings were often metaphors for emotional, social and spiritual healing.

- Jesus used parables often in his teaching.
 - **Direct teens to p. 1328** in the CYB(orange) or p.1258 in CYB(tan) – **Did You Know? Parables.** Ask a volunteer to read that section making sure the other teens have a pen or highlighter in hand.
 - Ask the teens to underline or highlight the following sentences
 - *Jesus' parables are like riddles....they took for granted.*
 - *Jesus also used parables to teach about God's Reign. These were often...to common things or events.*
- Not all parables are stories. Actions can be parables as well. Recall for FLAME teens the use of the burden stones on their FLAME I retreat and the releasing of burdens session. Ask them for examples of other actions they have seen, read about or been involved in that functioned as parables.

See [Modern Day Parables \(2/17/13\) | Jacob Sahms](#) – you might consider printing this out for your teens

CATECHIST NOTES

Actions can be parables – as in *actions speak louder than words*. Jesus often taught by what he did: i.e. Eating with people was a metaphor for acceptance and welcome; physical healings were also metaphors for emotional, social and spiritual healing. The use of incense in the Reconciliation ritual we are using today becomes a parable. The smoke created by dropping a few grains of incense on the hot coals makes God's forgiveness tangible – we can see it; smell it.



Second Parable *The Parable of the Lost Sheep* Luke 15:1-7

Ask a volunteer to read the passage

After verse 1 stop and go to questions 1 & 2.

1. Why were the tax collectors and sinners drawing near to listen to Jesus? (**He welcomed them without judgment; he saw them as God saw them sons and daughters of God**).
2. Why are Pharisees complaining about this? (**They see Jesus' acceptance of sinners as compromising on righteousness – watering down the law**)
Have the reader continue to the end of the passage.
3. Who does the lost sheep represent in this parable? (**All of us**)
4. Who is willing to share a time when they felt lost?
This might be a place for one of the peers to give a short witness.
- Direct the teens to the *Live It!* Article. Ask for a volunteer to read it aloud.
 - Have the teens underline or highlight the sentence "*Everyone can identify...with being found!*"
5. How is celebrating the sacrament of reconciliation like being found? How is it different?
6. Why do you think the tax collectors and sinners drew near to Jesus but so many people in our time find it hard to draw near to Jesus in the sacrament of reconciliation?
7. Why is it important that we continue to find ways as Christ's disciples to reach out to those who are spiritually lost?

LESSON PREPARATION NOTES:

Is there something I want to pick up or go over from last week's class?

My community building activity this week will be

What parts of the lesson will the Peer Ministers lead/facilitate?

Do I need anything from the Faith Office prior to class?

Other

Things I will need for class this week:

The Key Ideas/Objectives for this week are

Things I need to consult Teen Faith about
