

Catechist HANDOUT  
Week 9 – 12/12/2021  
Topic: Reconciliation



CATECHIST NOTES

Background Material

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

[Parables and How Jesus Taught with Them - Loyola Press](#)

[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**

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 our IGNITE 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 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. Teens will be directed 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 (20-25 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.  
What is a metaphor?  
(a **comparison between two things that are unrelated but share some common**

OBJECTIVES

1. Reflect with IGNITE teens about the sacrament of Reconciliation.
2. Help teens understand what a parable is and how it functions in biblical teaching.
3. Help the teens explore mercy, the forgiveness of sins and the meaning of the biblical teaching repent and reform your lives through 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**
2. **5:15-6:45pm Large Group** - Attendance + presentation in the Church
  - a. After your class is done in the church, you may go to your classroom.

Reconciliation and Small Group

If your class finishes before 6:45pm, 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 6:45 for Reconciliation, that is okay. They should just sit quietly and prayerfully until the class is finished.

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

Examples of metaphors

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

- Parables are used frequently by the biblical authors in both the Old and New Testament.



## First Parable

### The Vision of Dry Bones

Ezechiel 37: 1-15

Direct the teens to Ezekiel 37:1-15 (CYB p. 1166) *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, it's 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. 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?
4. How does the affects of sin – our own and that of others – make us feel like dry bones?
5. How does being forgiven breathe new life into us, re-energize us?

- Jesus used parables often in his teaching.
  - Direct the teens to pgs. 1258 and 1373 in the CYB – **Did You Know? Parables.** Ask a volunteer to read those section(s) 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.

## CATECHIST NOTES

You may have to coach your teens through the understanding of metaphor.

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

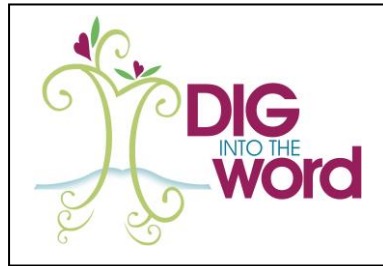
We often associate parables with Jesus and the New Testament, however parables frequently appear in the Old Testament as well.

Reflecting on the parable of the dry bones in Ezekiel not only will demonstrate the use of parables in the Old Testament it can also be a lens for reflecting on how the effects of sin – ours or the sins of others – can make us feel like dry bones. The celebration of then 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. Scripture scholars refer to these passages as the *Table Fellowship of Jesus*.

**Note:** 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  
Direct the teens to underline or highlight  
verse 1

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. Who does the lost sheep represent in this parable?
  3. Who is willing to share a time when they felt lost?
- 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!*"
4. How is celebrating the sacrament of reconciliation like being found?  
How is it different?
  5. 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?

## CATECHIST NOTES

As always there are more discussion questions provided than you need. pick and choose.

**LESSON PREPARATION NOTES:**

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

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My community building activity this week will be

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

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

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Other

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**Things I will need for class this week:**

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**The Key Ideas/Objectives for this week are**

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**Things I need to consult Teen Faith about**

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