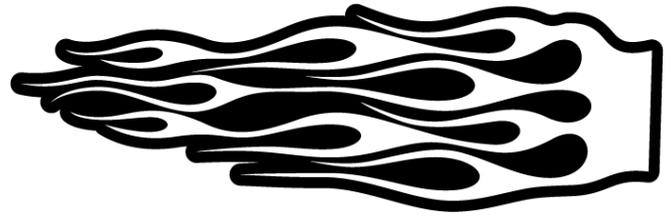


FLAME TEEN HANDOUT

Week 15 – 3/6/2022

Reconciliation



Key Ideas for this week



Parable from "para" which means "to come along side or compare" and "ballo" which literally means "to throw" or "see" with

- Used in giving one or more instructional lessons or principles.

- often a significant comparison between two objects that may be used as a mirror image of a comparable object to teach a single concept or teaching
- Used extensively in scripture, both Old and New Testaments
- given to hide the meaning from those who choose to reject Jesus and the message of God and to clarify or give a fuller meaning and understanding to those who believed on the Lord

Those who hear the gospel message without the Holy Spirit have no chance to understand it.

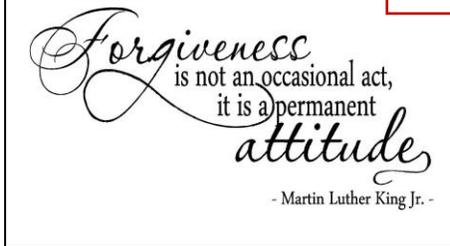
Explore what Jesus means by repent and reform your lives and why they are for Jesus non-negotiable.

Learning to Reconcile and forgive are life skills essential to healthy relationships.

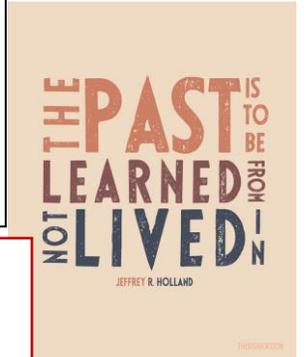
For Catholics the sacrament of Reconciliation is an invitation from God to acknowledge what things in our lives we need to change in order to be at peace with ourselves, others and God



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



"I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more." Is. 43:25





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

Background Note: 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.

¹The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he led me out in the spirit of the LORD and set me in the center of the broad valley. It was filled with bones. ²He made me walk among them in every direction. So many lay on the surface of the valley! How dry they were! ³He asked me: Son of man, can these bones come back to life? “Lord GOD,” I answered, “you alone know that.” ⁴Then he said to me: Prophecy over these bones, and say to them: Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Listen! I will make breath enter you so you may come to life. ⁶I will put sinews on you, make flesh grow over you, cover you with skin, and put breath into you so you may come to life. Then you shall know that I am the LORD. ⁷I prophesied as I had been commanded. A sound started up, as I was prophesying, rattling like thunder. The bones came together, bone joining to bone. ⁸As I watched, sinews appeared on them, flesh grew over them, skin covered them on top, but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me: Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, son of man! Say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: From the four winds come, O breath, and breathe into these slain that they may come to life. ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath entered them; they came to life and stood on their feet, a vast army. ¹¹He said to me: Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel! They are saying, “Our bones are dried up, our hope is lost, and we are cut off.” ¹²Therefore, prophecy and say to them: Thus says the Lord GOD: Look! I am going to open your graves; I will make you come up out of your graves, my people, and bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³You shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and make you come up out of them, my people! ¹⁴I will put my spirit in you that you may come to life, and I will settle you in your land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD. I have spoken; I will do it—oracle of the LORD.

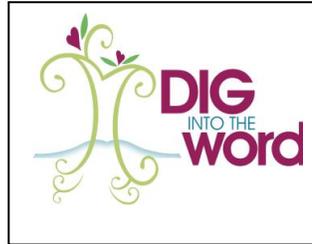
Discussion Questions

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?

Second Parable

The Parable of the Lost Sheep

Luke 15:1-7



Actions can be parables

– as in *actions speak louder than words*.

Jesus often taught by what he did

- Eating with people was a sign acceptance and welcome;
- The healing of the lame spoke to Jesus' ability to heal all that 'crippled' or 'disabled' one from participating fully in life.

Think back to your FLAME I Retreat and the use of the burden stones

The use of incense in the Reconciliation ritual we are using tonight 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.

'Preach the gospel at all times and when necessary use words.'

Check out this short article [Modern Day Parables \(2/17/13\) | Jacob Sahms](#)

Jesus believes in mercy

There is no room in Jesus' kingdom for holding grudges, refusing forgiveness or judging others harshly.

God chooses not to condemn, and in doing so instructs us how to treat each other.

¹ ^a The tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to him, ² but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." ³ So to them he addressed this parable. ⁴ "What man among you having a hundred sheep and losing one of them would not leave the ninety-nine in the desert and go after the lost one until he finds it? ⁵ And when he does find it, he sets it on his shoulders with great joy ⁶ and, upon his arrival home, he calls together his friends and neighbors and says to them, 'Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.' ⁷ I tell you, in just the same way there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance.

Let's Talk about it

1. Why were the tax collectors and sinners drawing near to listen to Jesus?
2. Why are Pharisees complaining about this?
3. Who does the lost sheep represent in this parable?
4. Who is willing to share a time when they felt lost?
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?

Key Catholic Insights

When God forgives, God forgets. This is the good news we celebrate and proclaim in the sacrament of Reconciliation - our sins are not simply forgiven they are **absolved**.

"For I will be merciful to their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more." Hebrews 8:12



IF YOU LIKE GUIDED MEDITATION CHECK OUT THESE

1. The Daily Examen of Consciousness – 5 min. meditation by Loyola Academy alum

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l6sIVTINJE0>

2 Breathe by Michael Smith (6:32)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K-0EgzOWkvc>

My Daily Examen

God, I believe that at this quiet moment I am in Your presence and You are now loving me.

Come Holy Spirit.

God I acknowledge Your love for me in the various gifts for which I am very grateful.

Thanks be to God

God help me now to review the events of this day in order to recognize you in all the parts of my life.

Lord I want to see you.

God, please forgive the times I have fallen short, and strengthen my attempts to follow You.

Lord have mercy.

God enlighten me so that my future Choices praise, reverence and serve You above all else.

Show me Your way

Conclude with an Our Father



Prayer is the link that connects us to God.

What is the Examen?

This simple, 5-step guide can take only 10-30 minutes, yet produces rich intimacy with God who is the Giver of Life and Author of Truth. This rich intimacy is something that you can experience by doing the Examen on your own, or with a close friend, or even a small group.

To set the stage for this holy time, I recommend getting into a quiet space, free from distractions to connect with God. Turn off your cell phone. Grab your journal and Bible and take a minute to still your body, heart, and mind as you enter the Examen.

I Learned Statements – complete at least two of the sentences below

I discovered. . .

I learned...

I was reminded that. . .

The question I have is. .

I was surprised by. . .