

2nd Session - Small Group St. John Neumann Confirmation Prep 2024

Topic: Saints

By the end of the whole Confirmation program, we would like the teens to see how God is the fulfillment of all desires.

Main objective: By the end of this session, we want the students to come to a deeper understanding of the full body of Christ. Last two sessions stressed what the church is here on earth. Here we will discuss the other two members which are: The Church Triumphant (The Saints) and The Church Purgative (souls in purgatory). By the end we would like for them to have a deeper affiliation of our relationships with the two.

Green text indicates special notes for mentors.

This is more of a resource structured to be a springboard to prep for your sessions for the teens. We have filtered the videos “Chosen,” and “Journey to emmaus that talk about this Subject.”

You most likely will not have time to systematically go through everything in this document and watch every video with your teens. This resource is a guide to make you feel equipped when planning your session. Keep in mind the main objective mentioned above when structuring your session. At the end of this meeting that is what we want the teens to leave with after this session. The Holy Spirit will guide each of us in different ways to get our group to that end.

COMMUNITY BUILDING AND GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER

- I. Community Building: choose an activity for them to be able to build rapport.
- II. Quick Review on the church militant - [printout with levels etc:](#)
 - A) Last two sessions reflected on Mt. 16 where we discussed Christ being God and how he was starting to establish the Catholic Church.
 - B) Review some of your main talking points
- III. You are the church sent on Mission: Watch video(s)
 - A) **Option 1 would be to watch Chosen's 23.1:**
<https://ascensionpress.thinkific.com/courses/take/copy-of-chosen-your-journey-toward-confirmation-leader-guide/lessons/33676406-video-23-1-we-re-on-a-mission>
 - You can come with your own questions or use those within the leadership book
- IV. Ask the question: What else builds up the church?
 - We are looking for them to answer the saints and the souls in purgatory to help transition to this session

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THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT

- V. Reading of Scripture: Hebrews 12: 1
- VI. Discussion of the reading
- A) What sticks out to you in the reading? What was interesting? Who is the crowd of witnesses?
- VII. Watch video(s)
- A) **All Saints Day Pep Talk: Fr. Mike Schmitz**
- To access videos, log in at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mad1Jgf0jow>
- B) **Overarching summary of both videos**
- The two videos conjointly talk about us on this race in life and that our faith journey is one of continued perseverance. We are not alone in our faith journey there are those who support us on earth: family, church community sponsors etc.
 - Secondly there are the communion of saints who are cheering us on from heaven and just like those relationships on earth we can have particular affiliations and relationships with saints.
- VIII. Discussion Questions
- A) Who are some particular saints that you know or heard of?
- B) What is the process of being a recognized saint?
- C) What is the distinction between praying to God and Praying to the saints?

STORIES OF PARTICULAR SAINTS

- IX. **Particular Bibliographies of Particular Saints**
- A) Have them read of some particular saints example handouts were given
- B) Choosing a saint?**
1. Who are some influential people you look up to in Life? Have them discuss who and why?
 2. Just like other aspects in life we have those models who can influence our life. Building a relationship with a saint and choosing their saint name you are asking them to intercede, encourage and inspire you as you continue in your own faith journey.
 3. What is the distinction between praying to a saint and going and praying directly to God?

RESPONSE/PRAYER

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Nothing is more practical than finding God, than falling in Love in a quite absolute, final way. What you are in love with, what seizes your imagination, will affect everything. It will decide what will get you out of bed in the morning, what you do with your evenings, how you spend your weekends, what you read, whom you know, what breaks your heart, and what amazes you with joy and gratitude. Fall in Love, stay in love, and it will decide everything.

- X. **Option 1 on a video about prayer Chosen's 4.3**
 - Can use discussion guide found in your chosen leaders guide for this series
- XI. **Option 2 on a video about prayer Chosen's 18.3**
 - Can use discussion guide found in your chosen leaders guide for this series
- XII. **Option 3 watch Diocese of Arlington's Journey to Emmaus Program**
 - Click on "Year 1:Spring"
 - Watch "Forms of prayer"
 - Use discussion guide for this video

CONCLUSION/ENCOUNTER

Conclusion: Our goal is to help them have an encounter and have that desire to build a relationship with Christ. In each session it would be good to help them learn different forms of prayers and to end with prayer.

You can use the PDF resource, ["Lectio-wrap-summary-reference"](#) or ["Prayer-Discipleship types of prayer"](#) to do a guided meditation. Feel free to use the scripture verse we reflected on, or any other verses that fit. For those who are more visual, feel free to use a piece of art to pray with as well.

- While doing lectio can have the group share their experience of praying with scripture.

Another option can be to end with a review of the four aspects of humanity: If they started the session reviewing how they did in giving attention to their relational, physical, intellectual, and spiritual needs, have them end with reflecting what they will do till the next time you meet.

Here is an option to find the next time you will meet either for next session or to do something socially

Challenge till next time:

to foster that community in the group you can come up with something that the group will commit to.

Some ideas can be:

- Committing to pray during the week
- Having a scripture challenge where they pray with certain scriptures
- Fasting as a group and doing something

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