

Angels — Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. How have angels worked to carry out God's plan of salvation?
2. How has Jesus destroyed the works of the Devil?
3. How can you imitate Jesus in resisting the temptations of the Devil?
4. Have you sensed the work of angels in your life? What part might angels play in helping your own faith in God's plan and providence?

Anointing of the Sick and Redemptive Suffering — Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. How does the Christian view of suffering differ from that of our culture?
2. How does Christ's suffering and Death take our sin and illness and use it as a means of our own redemption?
3. Why did Jesus do so much healing when he was on earth?
4. Is suffering a consequence of sin?
5. How could redemptive suffering give more meaning to our daily lives? Do we expect too much physical healing as a result of our prayers? Have you ever experienced God's presence in the midst of suffering?

Baptism — Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. How is Baptism similar to a birthday?
2. How do the physical aspects of Baptism (for example, the water) help us to focus on the eternal meaning of the sacrament?
3. When have you been given a chance to turn over a new leaf? How is Baptism similar to this?
4. Why is Baptism so important in our spiritual lives?

The Battle of Prayer — Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. What distracts you from entering into prayer? What are some ways to handle distraction?
2. Is it possible that God will answer your prayer with a "no"?
3. If you prefer your will to God's will, what effect might that have on your prayer?
4. What effect will it have if your prayer is filled with petitions but lacks adoration and thanksgiving?

The Blessed Trinity — Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. Why does it matter that God's nature is that of a community, or family?
2. How might faith in the Trinity allow for a personal knowledge of God?
3. How does God's nature (a community of Persons whose life is love) determine what he does?
4. Why is God being both transcendent and immanent essential to believing in what he does?

The Blessed Virgin Mary — Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. Does it detract from God's power that he often relies on a free response in faith from human beings? What does it show us about God's respect for his creation and the importance of our faith response?
2. What qualities and privileges did the Son of God give to the Mother he had chosen for himself?
3. Why did Mary's "yes" take so much faith? Have you been called to say "yes" when it wasn't easy?
4. What does the indispensable role of Mary in God's plan of salvation say about the dignity of women?

Cardinal Virtues and the Virtues of Chastity and Humility — Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. What characteristics have I noticed about other people that I consider virtuous?
2. What are some ways that society encourages a lack of temperance and a lack of chastity?
3. What outside influences in my life challenge my own exercise of virtue?
4. How might I seek to grow in virtue?

The Church – Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. Why is a Church necessary at all?
2. Why is a hierarchy necessary for the Church? How is the Church hierarchy different from a secular organization?
3. What did Jesus intend to teach when he washed the feet of his apostles at the Last Supper?
4. Is infallible teaching necessary for our salvation?

The Communion of Saints – Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. Can our understanding of the communion of saints help us remain united to our departed loved ones?
2. In what ways might the communion of saints help in your efforts to be holy and reach Heaven?
3. Why would we choose to seek the help of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the other saints?

Confirmation – Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. How are Baptism and Confirmation related, and how do they differ?
2. How might maturation of the graces of Baptism be a gift of hope for our transformation in Christ?
3. Which of the gifts of the Holy Spirit do you particularly feel a need for?
4. What people in your life could really use your witness of Christ?
5. What will be the challenges of witnessing to others? How might the Holy Spirit help you to meet those challenges?

Creation – Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. What words would you use to describe the Creator?
2. Do you find God's glory in creation? What are his greatest creations?
3. How can we show our appreciation for God's creation?
4. What does it mean to be a "steward" of the created world? How might we change our behavior if our attitude toward creation was one of stewardship?
5. Do you believe that other creatures have the same rights and dignity as human beings? What is the significant difference between God's creation of us compared to his creation of everything else?
6. What does it mean to be a new creation?

The Dignity of the Human Person – Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. Why does it matter that we are made in the image and likeness of God? How are we different than other creatures?
2. Did God make a mistake in granting us free will, which seems to be the cause of our failures and the miseries of the world?
3. Is a person capable of attaining total self-giving love by his or her own efforts alone?
4. Is Jesus asking too much in commanding us to be perfect as his Father is perfect?

Divine Revelation – Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. What was God's purpose in revealing himself?
2. How has God's revelation increased and deepened from the time of Abraham and Moses?
3. What in the life of Jesus tells you that God loves and cares for you?
4. How might we come to believe that God has truly revealed himself to us?

Ecumenism and Other Religions – Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. If salvation is attainable outside the Catholic Church, why does it matter whether or not anyone becomes a Catholic?
2. Have you encountered efforts to restore Christian unity that have been boastful or uncharitable?
3. What might I do to heal the Body of Christ?

The Eucharist (Lesson 1 of 2) — Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. Do you find Jesus' real presence in the Eucharist difficult to accept? How does Sacred Scripture help?
2. How is the Eucharist essential to the Father's plan to give us the gift of hope?
3. How does the Eucharist show the love of the Father and of Christ?
4. Why is the Eucharist more than a mental recollection of Christ's Passover? How does this bear on the way we attend Mass?

The Eucharist (Lesson 2 of 2) — Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. If the Eucharist were only a symbol of Jesus' presence, could we believe anything else he said?
2. The Eucharist is the source and summit of Christian life. How is this similar to Christ saying that he is the Way, the Truth, and the Life?
3. Why is it so important to be in a state of grace before receiving the Eucharist?
4. How can we make the best use of the time when Jesus is actually present in us after Holy Communion?

The Existence of God — Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. Do you believe in God? Do you know people who do not believe? Why do people not believe in God?
2. Do you think it matters whether a person believes in God? How might belief in God affect our view of sin, of cheating, divorce, euthanasia, abortion?
3. Have you experienced a desire for God, or a desire for "something" to fill your heart?
4. In what ways does your heart respond to the knowledge that God exists?
5. What impact do God's attributes (truth, beauty and goodness) have on your life?

The First Three Commandments — Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. Do I see God as my loving Father who has my best interests at heart?
2. How does our culture challenge the first three Commandments?
3. Do I struggle to keep any of these Commandments? What must I do to change?
4. Some people believe we can keep the sabbath holy just by "communing with nature," so why should anyone go to church? How well do I keep the sabbath holy?

The Four Last Things — Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. Do you believe that you will have an eternal judgment? Do you think anyone will go to Hell?
2. If God wants all of us to be saved and offers each of us his mercy if we repent and accept it before death, what does this mean for our relationship with God and our priorities?
3. If we are judged by the good we do or fail to do, what should we do while here on earth?

The Four Marks of the Church — Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. Do you think that Jesus meant to establish a Church that resembles today's Catholic Church?
2. Are any of the four marks especially difficult for you to believe?
3. Do you think it is possible to preach the whole truth needed for our salvation without apostolicity?
4. How can a mark of the Church be holiness when there are scandals and failures in the Church?

Freedom in Christ — Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. In what ways am I confronted with "two ways" or paths from which to choose?
2. Some people see God's law as a restriction on human freedom. How is obedience to God true freedom?
3. What is my motivation for keeping God's law?
4. How do I react to Jesus' answer to the rich man to give his wealth to the poor and to follow him?

God the Father — Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. How is God's revelation of his name to Moses become more intimate and profound through Jesus' teaching of the Lord's Prayer?
2. How is Jesus (as true God and true Man) uniquely suited to unite us to God the Father? How does Jesus provide an example for obedience to the Father? How does this apply to our relationship with the Father?
3. How does the presence of evil in the world challenge our faith?
4. Why is faith necessary for living as adopted children of God?

Grace — Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. When have I seen the power of God's grace manifested?
2. Do I have to accept God's grace?
3. Why is sanctifying (or sacramental) grace not something to which we have an automatic right?
4. How would our view of life's disappointments change if we saw everything in life as gift of grace?

Holy Orders — Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. Why is the priesthood essential to our relationship with Christ?
2. Why do bishops, priests, and deacons deserve special respect?
3. In what way is the presence of a priest at one's deathbed important?
4. How does the Person of Jesus, true God and true Man, bring strength to priests?

The Holy Spirit — Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. How might the Holy Spirit act in each of our lives?
2. Why might the Holy Spirit be pivotal in our spiritual life?
3. How can we cultivate a more personal relationship with the Holy Spirit?
4. How will the Holy Spirit work in and through us when our faith is challenged? Will his help be visible?

The Incarnation — Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. Why do you think the Father chose the Incarnation as the way to save us? Could he have chosen a different or better way?
2. How does the Incarnation challenge our view of God and ourselves?
3. Is the evidence of the Gospels of Jesus as truly God and truly man convincing?
4. Jesus loved us tremendously with a human heart. How should we respond to this great love?

Introduction to Prayer — Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. Does prayer work? Is it true that God answers all prayers?
2. When I pray, what do I say to God? What might I do to improve my relationship to God in prayer?
3. How is it different to know about someone and to know someone personally? Do I pray to God as an acquaintance or as a close friend?
4. What part does faith play in my prayer life?

Justification and Merit — Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. What does the doctrine of justification teach us about how to read Scripture as one, single book?
2. Why is simply acknowledging Jesus as our Lord and Savior not enough for salvation?
3. How do my good works fit into the idea that grace is a free gift of God?
4. What are ways to persevere at what God has begun in me?

The Kingdom of God – Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. Why must repentance and conversion come before becoming a member of the Kingdom of God?
2. Why are good deeds such an essential part of accepting Jesus' invitation to the Kingdom?
3. Is there a difference between the Kingdom of God on earth and the Kingdom of God in Heaven?
4. How does the Kingdom of God on earth show God's love for his people?

The Last Seven Sacraments – Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. Which of the last seven commandments seems most challenging to you? Why?
2. Which commandment is most challenged by our society? Why?
3. What do you think of Jesus' definition of "neighbor"?
4. Are God's absolute commandments and true human freedom compatible concepts?

Liturgical Prayer – Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. Why do you think the Church puts so much emphasis on liturgical prayer?
2. How do you think liturgical prayer would unite you with other Catholics?
3. Do you think liturgical prayer is more important than private prayer?

Liturgy – Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. Why is the liturgy more than merely a "gathering of people"?
2. How does the Church's liturgical prayer unite us with one another?
3. How does liturgy help us to stay focused on our Christian vocation?

The Lord's Prayer – Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. How might knowing that God is our loving Father kindle a desire to serve him?
2. Why is a humble frame of mind helpful in praying the Lord's Prayer?
3. In the Lord's Prayer, are we asking only for material sustenance?
4. Have I ever held a grudge? How did it affect my life? How does the Lord's Prayer address this?

The Mass – Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. Why is the Mass so important in the spiritual life of a Catholic?
2. Why is the Mass different from other ways of offering praise to God?
3. How is it possible for Christ's once-for-all sacrifice to be made present at every Mass?
4. What are specific ways to participate fully, consciously, and actively in the Holy Mass?

Matrimony – Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. How does marriage in God's plan differ from how marriage is understood in our culture?
2. What does the "Great Mystery" that St. Paul speaks of in Ephesians mean for the day-to-day life of Christian married couples? Why is marriage a sign of hope for our participation in the life of the Trinity?
3. How is the reception of Christ's Body and Blood analogous to the marriage covenant?
4. How can the sacrament of the Eucharist strengthen the sacrament of Matrimony?
5. What does it mean to be called to be "at the service of life" in marriage?

Mercy and Justice – Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. Do I like God's mercy but not his justice?
2. How do I give mercy to others the way I want to receive it from God?
3. Why does God allow drastically unjust things to happen to people?
4. How do I contribute to just or unjust structures, systems, or situations in my sphere of influence?

The Mystical Body of Christ — Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. What does the idea of the Mystical Body of Christ mean for you? Does it give you an understanding of the extensiveness of Jesus' concern for our spiritual welfare?
2. How could our Lord's use of the example of the vine and branches help you better understand the mystery of his relationship to the Church?
3. Does it affect you to hear the idea that Jesus needs you as his eyes, ears, hands, and feet to do good in the world?

Natural Law — Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. How do I approach the idea of someone having authority over me?
2. How does the natural law reveal God's love to me personally?
3. Is God's law internal or external for me?
4. If my conscience is not perfectly able to know right from wrong, what are some practical ways to form my conscience?

Original Sin and the Mystery of Iniquity — Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. Do I personally sense that there is something "broken" in my nature, or that I want to do good but end up sinning?
2. What are some personal struggles with evil that I have experienced?
3. How can we say that God is good when there is so much evil and suffering in the world? Why would a good God allow even innocent children to suffer?
4. Why did God give us free will, when it results in sin?
5. Why did the sin of our first parents affect all of us as well? Why didn't God "fix it"?

The Paschal Mystery — Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. Why was it necessary for Jesus actually to die? Couldn't God forgive our sins some other way?
2. How can the Paschal mystery inspire faith in God's never-ending love? How can it affect our actions?
3. Why must we believe in Jesus' physical Resurrection?
4. What does Jesus' Ascension with his glorified body mean to me in understanding what Heaven will be like?

The Priesthood of the Faithful and Evangelization — Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. Why do you think God decides to work through human beings instead of doing all things by himself?
2. How might an understanding of the priesthood of the faithful give more meaning to your life?
3. In what ways could you bring the knowledge and love of Christ to others? What situations and people in your life need your priestly service?
4. How might you sanctify your home, neighborhood, and workplace?

Providence — Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. How were the Israelites taken care of by God's providence and love? How do you think this inspired the Israelites' eventual faith in God?
2. Do you believe that God constantly cares for his creatures?
3. Are there any indications in your own life of God's special care? Are you aware of God's care in the lives of others you know?
4. Is your presence at RCIA a sign of God's special care for you?

Reconciliation — Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. Why do we need our sins to be forgiven after Baptism? How does the sacrament of Reconciliation inspire hope for eternal life and transformation in Christ?
2. Are there any aspects of going to Confession that worry you?
3. Why do Catholics confess their sins to a priest instead of just going "straight to God"?
4. How can prayer, fasting, and almsgiving help us ward off sin and promote holiness?

The Sacramental Economy — Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. What means has God used in your life thus far to share his life with you?
2. What reasons might God have for giving his life to us through these instruments called sacraments?
3. Can we view the Church as a man-made institution only, or is it more than that?
4. If God always intended the Church to be his means to share his divine life with us, what does that say about how we should respect the Church?
5. What sacrament is the most central to the pursuit of holiness?

Sacramental Living — Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. What reasons do you see that so many souls fail to understand the supreme importance of God?
2. Is Heaven really worth giving our lives for?
3. What are good ways to overcome our darkened intellect, weakened will, and disordered desires so as to attain Heaven?
4. How does the sacramental life of a Catholic build up our families and our society?

Sacred Scripture — Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. Why did God bother to give us revelation and even have it committed to writing?
2. What is in Sacred Scripture that makes it so important to read?
3. Why can't we pick and choose what pleases us in the Bible and ignore the rest?
4. In what ways can I give good example by showing respect for the Holy Book?
5. Why do we need the Church, if the Bible contains all that is needed for our salvation?

Sacred Tradition — Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. Why is a Church necessary? Isn't Jesus himself all I need, for he is the Way, the Truth, and the Life?
2. Why isn't my own interpretation of Sacred Scripture just as good as the next person's?
3. Why is the connection between the Holy Spirit and the Church essential for the communication of God's revelation?
4. How does the connection between the Holy Spirit and the Church inspire us to have faith in the Church's teaching?

Salvation and Redemption — Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. What evidence is there that the world even needs saving?
2. Does my redemption rest solely on the actions of Jesus?
3. How is my own response essential in achieving God's plan for our redemption?
4. How can I live out my response in my everyday life?

The Second Coming of Christ — Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. If Jesus was to come in his glory today, would I be ready? How might I change to be ready? How can I prepare for his coming?
2. How can I encourage others to live so that we will all be together forever in Heaven?
3. In what ways can I change my prayer life to try to live free from serious sin so that I am always prepared for judgment?
4. Should those who live in God's friendship be exempted from the suffering of the end of the world?
5. What kind of idea do I have of God's promised re-creation of Heaven and earth?

Social Teachings of the Church — Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. Why should I regard my fellow citizen as my equal?
2. How do I view my personal property and the "luxury items" in my life?
3. Why should I work for the common good? How am I my brother's keeper?
4. What opportunities do I have to contribute to the common good?

The Son of God – Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. Why should God have become man? Why are Christ's divine and human natures both essential for understanding his Paschal mystery and his gift of redemption?
2. Could the Father have accomplished our redemption without sending his Son? Why did he do what he did? Why does he care so much for us? How can we show our appreciation?
3. Does God's initiative of reaching out to us through his Son inspire faith in him?
4. What would it mean in your life to more fully try to imitate the Son?

The Story of the People of God – Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. What is God's part in his covenants with us?
2. What has been the part of his people in each of his covenants? What is our part in the New Covenant?
3. How do we, in our own time, fit into God's plan begun through the covenants with the Israelites?
4. In what way can I live out the New Covenant centered on the Eucharist?

Temptation and Sin – Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. How well do I know my own flaws and weaknesses? How can I overcome sin?
2. What particular virtues would help me to avoid sin? In what ways can I resist or avoid temptation?
3. Why does modern society find it hard to settle on a common understanding of what is right and what is wrong?
4. Does the way I live contribute to injustice in our society?

Traditions of Prayer – Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. What do you think it means to be a prayerful person?
2. When am I least aware of the presence of God in my life? What can I do to make myself more mindful of God in my daily life through prayer?
3. When I read Sacred Scripture, do I pray and meditate on its meaning? Does my meditation lead me to a deeper interest in or desire for Jesus?
4. Do I ever feel called to contemplation? Could I fit an hour of Eucharistic adoration into my life weekly?

The Two Great Commandments (The New Law) – Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. What is my understanding of the Ten Commandments in light of the New Law?
2. Does the Law of Love mean I can make up my own rules for my moral life?
3. How can I live the New Law of Jesus Christ? What specifically does it require of me?
4. How can I help others to live this law?

The Universal Call to Holiness – Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. Does God expect too much of me? Is it really possible for me to be holy in this world?
2. What are some concrete ways that I can imitate Jesus?
3. What can I learn about holiness by focusing on Jesus on the cross?
4. What ways would the world be worse without the Church?

The Virtue of Faith – Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. Why does the modern culture often seem closed to the possibility of faith in God?
2. Why is faith a gift that only God himself could give us?
3. Why wouldn't God just show himself directly and obviously to us so that we could more easily believe in him?
4. Why is it important that faith be living and active? What can we do to make our own faith more meaningful and active?

The Virtue of Hope — Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. How does our understanding of God's love for us inspire us to hope?
2. Have you needed hope during a difficult situation?
3. When are we most likely to lose hope?
4. What would life be like if we did not have hope of Heaven, or of anything beyond death?

The Virtue of Love — Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. How is Jesus our model for our daily lives as Christians?
2. What does the Church mean when she teaches us to hate the sin, but love the sinner?
3. What are some of the biggest challenges that I face when trying to live a Christian life of charity?
4. How do I show love to people I don't like, people who don't like me, or people who have hurt me? Is it enough to just pray for someone I don't like or even detest?
5. What is the difference between God's divine love and our human love? Is loving in a divine way possible for a human?

Vocations: God's Call — Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. What is the difference between a vocation and a job?
2. Is the call to marriage any less of a vocation than the call to the priesthood or religious life?
3. How does a good marriage and devout family life contribute to the origin and nurturing of other kinds of vocations?
4. Why is it so important to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life?
5. Have you experienced a sense of calling in your life? If so, what have you done about it?