

MIDDLE SCHOOL EDGE

9/29/24 PRAYER

INTRO:

When learning about our Catholic faith, and it can seem daunting and sometimes impossible to make sense of it all. Often we have a million pieces of the puzzle but don't know how to put it together to see the big picture. I am going to help you see the BIG picture so that the pieces make more sense and mean more to you.

The first thing we are going to talk about as we introduce you to this wild and exciting journey is **PRAYER**. We are going to learn various ways to pray and practice it. Most simply put, prayer is **COMMUNICATING WITH GOD**.

- God is our creator. God MADE you. God made me. God made all of us. God knows all. God sees all. God loves all. God has power over all. ***Just pause & think about that.*** Think of the most powerful person in this universe. Wouldn't you want to have a good relationship w/ that person? Think about the person who is the most loving person in the world. Wouldn't you want to know them? Think about the person who is very wise and knows everything. Wouldn't you want to know them? Well friends, the ultimate example of that is God. And ***prayer is simply communicating with God.***

LESSON ON PRAYER

Prayer

- We can sometimes think prayer is equivalent to rubbing a lamp, out comes God – like a genie. Then we tell or ask God what we need/want and voila, we get it. We think that is the point of prayer.
 - *God help me to do well on my test. God please heal my sick friend. God will you... God I need...*
 - That is ok, God wants us to seek, knock and ask
- Prayer however, is MORE than that, **prayer is a RELATIONSHIP**
 - it's about getting to know God- the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
- There's a difference between knowing ABOUT someone and KNOWING someone
 - You know a lot about your mom
 - You probably know a lot about your favorite celebrity
 - The difference is that you actually KNOW and have a RELATIONSHIP with your mom
- Do you believe in God?
 - What are some things about God that you believe? What do you know about God? (write these down)
 - You can have a more real and deeper relationship with God than anyone else- even your mom, friends, family.

- How?
 - **Make the time- getting to know anyone requires TIME, make the time to pray**
 - Read scripture, read about who Jesus was, how he lived, what he loved
 - Get to know his friends- the saints
 - Talk to his mom in prayer- hey Mary, what's Jesus like? Help me to know him.
 - Talk to the Lord yourself
 - Spend time in silence just listening

Prayer Experience – lectio divina

LESSON ON THE BIBLE: Background

- The **outcome** of your faith is that you ***obtain the salvation of your soul***
 - What does this mean? (what does outcome mean? **End result- the purpose of your faith is to go to HEAVEN**)
- **Where** do we get our FAITH? How do we know what we believe as Catholics? As Christians??
 - 3 ways:
 - Sacred Scripture (bible)
 - Sacred Tradition,
 - Magisterium (POPE)
- The bible is one of the central legs upon which our beliefs are founded
 - Why? Why do we revere the Bible? Kiss the Bible?
 - Who wrote it? Where did it come from? Why is it the bestselling book of all time? (many authors who were INSPIRED by the Holy Spirit wrote the bible)
- The bible is many things:
 - Love letters “how beautiful you are my love, how very beautiful! Your eyes are doves” song of Solomon 4:1
 - Manuscript for how to live your life “love one another as I have loved you”
 - It tells a story- the story of who we are, why we are here and who God is
 - Holy – inspired
 - Word of God
- The bible is **NOT**:
 - A science book or history book (sometimes it is though)
- The bible tells the ***story of our SALVATION***, of
 - GOD becoming MAN in Jesus and how and
 - why we have the opportunity to go to Heaven

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