

Lesson Plan: Confirmation Lesson 4: We are not on a journey TO God but WITH God.

Intro: 1. Opening Prayer: A Prayer for Letting Go

2. A. Opening Inspiration: With God at Ground Zero-sharing the Columbia magazine story of a FL doc who volunteered to work in NY amid Covid

B. Personal Sharing-God Outside our Church: *Teachers and Students share stories from the week-*Gunther's trophy story- *Kristen Armstrong-share an excerpt from her book, stressing Life has no finish line-and that "training" with God is like training for a marathon -give students the correlating worksheet to complete on own later.

C. Objective/Tool: Understanding we are on a journey WITH God; our "training" is based on our personal relationship and making physical, emotional, relational and spiritual connections and growth.

3. Mass Journals: will be introduced in Lesson 5

4. Mass in a Minute: What Unites Us:

a. Talk responses to last week's questions-see what commonalities there are.

Life is _____.

Life with God is _____.

Life without God is _____.

Celebrating mass with other Catholics is _____.

Missing out on mass is _____.

b. Talk about All Saint's Day-a holy day of obligation/opportunity. Present the info to the students shared later in this plan.

5. Sunday's Gospel: What's God Saying to Us? Living out the Word

*Share the gospel aloud-what is our takeaway? (students can share out key words or respond to emotion or logic-what is God telling us? Then share from

the book *Living with Christ* the "official" religious explanation. NOTES: celebration and violence are interwoven; dark and isolation was to represent the disbelief of Jesus; we are all called to the banquet (the table) and can choose peace and fulfillment in God's love; this is about relationships with God, self, and community

6. Lesson Activity:

a. Have students return to groups OR get into groups (group B) to complete the task given them in Lesson 2.

*Have each group draw two large rectangles on the paper. Label one rectangle Current Church Community. Label the other Ideal Church Community.

1. Students brainstorm and share out about their own perspectives on how they see or what their understanding is of our current church community. Make notes on post-its; talk about ideas you agree on and sketch/label those in the first rectangle.
2. Then students brainstorm what their ideal church community would look like; same process with post-its and discussion; then sketch/label that in the second rectangle.
3. Groups each explain their drawings.

READ: *Decision Point- Chapter 9.1-click on workbook-THAT IS THE BOOK- read first paragraph on pg. 216. This is Matthew Kelly-he makes so much sense. Tell me that doesn't make sense? Can anyone argue a point that does not make sense?

*If time remaining: complete Kristen Armstrong questions and leave in folder.

Closing: recap:

Have students decide one bulleted idea (or more if time) to write in the mass journals (anything we learned or need to remember): write from the back page and move in.

Announcements: *RSVP's for Mini Retreat due Oct. 11th. *Sign the cards for the ladies for the upcoming retreat. *One Homeless Night is in the works. *Talk Fields of Faith: WEDNESDAY, Oct. 14th-7:00 at HS stadium. (will send out a REMIND)

Closing prayer: The Prayer of the Holy Spirit

All Saint's Day info:

*All Saints' Day is a solemn holy day of the Catholic Church celebrated annually on November 1. The day is dedicated to the saints of the Church, that is, all those who have attained heaven. It should not be confused with All Souls' Day, which is observed on November 2, and is dedicated to those who have died and not yet reached heaven.

*In Roman **Catholicism** and certain other Christian faith traditions, a **saint** is a holy person who is known for his or her "heroic sanctity" and who is thought to be in heaven.

*Roman Catholic Church doctrine supports intercessory **prayer to saints**. This in no way takes away from us praying to God-it only makes sense to have others praying with and for us--- there is power in prayer.

Kristen Armstrong is famous for two reasons. One, she is the ex-wife of professional cyclist Lance Armstrong. Two, she is a sports blogger who openly shares her Catholic faith in her writings. Running is her thing; she states that "Life has no finish line." She explains that "training" with God is similar to training for a half marathon. Discuss the following as it relates to your "religious training and practice" up to this point:

Where are you in your training right now?

Where will you start to begin improving or preparing?

What are your strengths? Weaknesses?

Do you have good and bad training days?

Which relationship with God would you say you have most success? Circle and explain why. Physical? Emotional? Spiritual? Relationally?