



OneWith community, OneWith faith, OneWith Christ.

*October 6, 2019*

## **Reflection Break Outline**

### **Grade 9 ~ Session #2**



### **Session Goals**

#### **Mass Unpacked:**

The focus for our first session will be on the Closing Rites. Although it may seem strange to begin with the ending, we must unlock the meaning to the words, signs and actions that follow the Eucharist to better understand all that precedes it.

#### **Mass Learning Outcomes:**

- “Mass” is derived from the same root word for mission (sent for a purpose) and missile (being shot at a target).
- The reason we gather is to be sent; to be reminded of our purpose and to be shot out into the community to live the “Good News” we have just experienced.

#### **Catholicism Unpacked:**

Creed: In the early centuries of the Catholic Church there were great debates about the nature of God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit and their relationship to each other. It is out of these great debates – this deep thinking and searching about the truths of our faith that the core doctrines of Christianity developed.

#### **Catechetical Outcomes:**

- Draw out a cogent meaning from the Scripture readings/homily
- Reflect on/articulate one or more ways these lessons could apply to contemporary life.
- Commit to one practice of discipleship that corresponds to the gospel message.

**Coordinator Notes:** Our **OneWith** Session notes are packed with suggestions for discussion, activities, and video resources. ***I do not expect that you will use everything.*** We offer these ideas and/or background material to help provide multiple ways for you to engage youth and help (everyone) explore these aspects of our faith.

However, there ***ARE*** areas that must be covered at *every session*.

These are liturgical components of the Mass, so *don't skip any of the following steps*:

- **Gospel Reflection** (Group discussion on the Scripture readings/homily)
- **Intercessions** (Group prayer for the needs of the community/world)
- **Preparation of Gifts** (Offering/Note Cards)

Disciple on! ~ Barry



### **Ice Breaker Activity / Questions (5-8 minutes)**

**OneWith** format is a very different way of exploring the Catholic faith and experiencing liturgy. It is important for you to remember – and pass on to the youth, that you are still at Mass.

*This is time is for you and the youth to reflect on the messages that you have just heard in scripture (and homily) and explore how this teaching might be practically applied your lives.*

*This peer-to-peer witnessing is critical to the process – At the same time, we realize such **authentic sharing does not happen easily**. It may take a few or perhaps many sessions for your group to build trust in each other and become comfortable with this new format for exploring their faith.*

*Take a few minutes to help everyone get to know each other and feel welcome in this space...*

### **Processing Questions (3-5 minutes)**

*The following questions are more than just review, they help the young people to start the process of identifying, clarifying and focusing on the subject for discussion.*

*Be on the look-out for answers that synthesize “gospel” concepts with “secular” cultural beliefs. This is our (your) chance to correct or put a theological fine point on any misconceptions or perceptions that our teens might have.*

Ask questions like...

- What did you hear in Scripture readings?
- What did you hear in the homily (Fr. Mike’s teaching)?
- What do you think was Father Mike's point?
- Did you see or hear anything that you did not understand or needs to be clarified in your mind?

*Close this part of the lesson by reiterating the teaching focus for the session.*

## **Scripture Reflection (12-20 minutes)**

### **“I Believe...”**

*The early Christian Church took root in a cultural environment much like our own. Christians lived among people of many different faiths; militant monotheists, polytheists, hedonists, etc. Even among Christians there were great debates about the nature of God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit and their relationship to each other. It is out of these great debates – this deep thinking and searching about the truths of our faith, that we discerned the core doctrines of Christianity... The Trinity, the Hypostatic Union (Jesus is fully God/fully human), the Apostle’s Creed, and the Nicene Creed.*

*The word “creed” comes from the Latin word “credo” the same root as credibility. More than marketing spin of a mission statement, a creed is a statement of what is reliable. So as we begin to unpack the Creed and fashion our own, let’s start with what we find to be reliable about God...*

On a whiteboard or poster board make a list from the following questions...

- What do you believe about God?
- Name some qualities of God?

Looking at your list of things that you believe about God...

- *Is there anything that you would like to add?*
- *Identify those things on which you can all agree.*
- *Work this list to your top 3-5 qualities/attributes that you can all agree on.*

If we are completely honest with ourselves...

- *What effect do these “qualities” of God have on the way you live your life?*
- *What effect should these “qualities” of God have on the way you live your life?*

*Keep your list! You will be referring back to it in a few weeks.*

### **Want to Go Deeper?**

*Answering the question “Why do you believe in God” can be an intimidating and complicated proposition. Since most of us have not formulated a concise answer for that let’s start off our discussion with something we CAN articulate - and is no less powerful... our own life experiences.*

- *Share one personal example of experiencing God in your life?*

### **Unpacking the Mass:**

*Catholic Liturgies are ancient.*

*The signs, symbols, even the colors are here to convey meaning. But for many of us – the reason for all of these symbols and rituals are lost in history and largely meaningless – I know it was for me.*

*Let’s start with the name. Why do we call “this thing” the Mass? Why not “service” or “The 1-Hour Jesus Fest” or “Fr. Mike Tonight”?*

*“Mass” is an old English word translated from the Latin “Missa”... the same root word we use for “mission” (sent for a purpose) and “missile” (object shot at a target). This word is found in the Concluding Rite and is one of the last things that the priest or deacon says.*

*So why would the Church want to take the name of its most central celebration out of a nondescript rite from a phrase that is an ancient translation of an all but extinct language? It turns out that the very purpose for this gathering we call Mass, is in the name itself. We gather to be sent.*

*We come together as a family of believers. We come broken, hopeful, and spiritually hungry. We gather to be inspired, encouraged, forgiven and healed; to encounter the Living Christ – to be reminded of our purpose! And then... we are “shot out” into the community, sent on a “mission” to live the “Good News” we have just experienced... Welcome to Mass!*

~ Barry

## Coordinators Notes:

*These two sections (Discipleship Challenge & Presentation & Prayer) can be done in any order you like. Some group leaders find that collecting the prayer intentions makes for a nice icebreaker at the beginning of the Reflection Break. I also know of at least one group that write their Discipleship Challenge on the note cards during check-in time at the very beginning of the session. I have placed them in this order as it roughly follows the Order of the Mass, but the only thing that really matters is that it happens.*

## Discipleship Challenge (2-3 minutes)

*With your group brainstorm some concrete ideas for the following question. Ask each member of the group to write down one of the brainstorm ideas (or one of their own) on an index card, post-it note, or **on their phone** – somewhere that they will be able to see and be reminded of the challenge to connect and act.*

- *What is one thing you can do in the next few weeks to draw closer to God?*
- *What is one thing you can do to express God's presence to others?*

## Presentation & Prayer (5-8 minutes)

Both of these are part of the Mass experience so make sure to leave time for them. They also provide a prayerful tone as you transition back for Mass.

**Presentation of Gifts:** Ask each teen to fill out a note card describing a contribution that they have made to the community since the last time the group has met. *Ideally it will be a response to the challenge given by the priest during the closing prayer at the previous session, but this “gift” can be pretty much anything! A good deed, a monetary contribution to a worthy cause (almsgiving), talking to a friend about God, Jesus or the Church are all examples of the gifts we bring with us to Mass. Youth will offer these gifts (drop card into the basket) along with their tithe or donation during the Presentation of the Gifts portion of the liturgy. Then watch what God can do with our ordinary gifts!*

*After everyone has filled out their cards, choose one person to represent your group and bring all of the cards with them to the Worship Space. That representative will be part of the procession for the Presentation of the Gifts. Meet at the statue of Jesus & Joseph in the Gathering Space for detailed instructions. Choose a new representative each week.*

**Intercessory Prayer:** Collect prayer requests from your Discipleship Group and add them to the universal intentions. *Ask a volunteer to read the intentions aloud; and ask everyone to respond with “Lord, hear our prayer” (following each intention).*

*Ask a volunteer to read the intentions aloud; ask everyone else to respond by saying “**Lord, hear our prayer**” (following each intention).*

## Leader:

Our prayer response is “*Lord hear our prayer*”

For all who proclaim the Gospel with their lives...  
For peace among nations...  
For victims of systematic injustice ...  
For all who gather at this table...  
For an end to domestic violence and abuse...  
For all who strive to end disease and suffering...  
For our sister parish,  
St. Catherine's in Bouzy, Haiti...  
For [Read your group's intentions here...]  
For those who have died...  
For the prayers we hold in silence, (pause) ...

We pray: “Lord hear our prayer”

We pray: “Lord hear our prayer”

We pray: “Lord hear our prayer”

We pray: “Lord hear our prayer”

We pray: “Lord hear our prayer”

We pray: “Lord hear our prayer”

We pray: “Lord hear our prayer”

We pray: “Lord hear our prayer”

We pray: “Lord hear our prayer”

We pray: “*Lord hear our prayer*”

# OneWith

## Additional Leader Resources

**It bears repeating...** *I do not expect that you will use all of these suggestions for discussion, activities, and videos.* They are offered to help provide you with multiple ways to engage your youth and/or to provide a foundation/context to help you facilitate this faith conversation.

### Video:

A good video to introduce the mind-boggling concept of God: [“God” – The Bible Project](#)  
(This might be a good one to show to your youth)

### Podcast:

[What to Say and Do When Teens Don’t Believe in God](#)

(This is a little lengthy, but Roy is a leading YM “Guru” and there are some really great perspectives on how to approach difficult conversations with teens – it’s worth the time).

### Blog:

[Who is God?](#)

(A good article to help you frame discussions on different aspects of God)

## Typical OneWith Teaching Mass Schedule

- 5:30 pm** – Groups (*youth and leaders*) who are serving in liturgical ministries meet with Liturgical Ministry Mentors to get a refresh on your ministry and specific assignments.
- 5:45 pm** – Youth check in with their Discipleship Group for attendance and announcements. (there is only 10 minutes to do this so if your group wants snacks or more social time, consider negotiating an earlier start time – its fine by me.)
- 5:55 pm** – Be in your assigned seats by 5:55. Barry will give the Welcome/“*Mass Moment*” at 5:55 or as soon as the **OneWith Band** is done with their *pre-Mass reflection song*.
- 6:00 pm** – Mass begins.
- 6:30 pm** – Gospel Reflection – this is your facilitated discussion time... Please remind your youth that this is still Mass (no food/drinks, quiet/respectful during transitions, etc.)!  
We always encourage you to follow the (faith) conversations “organically” as they arise, However, there are liturgical components of the Mass that you cannot skip...
  - **Gospel Reflection** (Group discussion on the Scripture readings/homily)
  - **Intercessions** (Group prayer for the needs of the community/world)
  - **Preparation of Gifts** (Offering/Note Cards)
- 7:05 pm** – Presentation of the Gifts (be back to the worship space by the appointed time – typically 7:05 (*don’t be late, Fr. Mike gets crabby when he has to wait/groups walk in during prayer*)).
- 7:30 pm** – Final blessing/Sending