

Lesson 8—Level I Revelation

Purpose: -A study of *The Our Father* in the gospels of Matthew and Luke:
- an understanding of “Thy Kingdom Come” through the Parables of the Kingdom in Matthew, Chapter 13:
- special place of this prayer in the liturgy of the Church
- what *The Our Father* reveals to us

Session at a Glance:

- 7:00 p.m. Welcome
- 7:15 p.m. Suggested Opening Prayer: *The Our Father*
- 7:30 p.m. Jesus giving *The Our Father* to his disciples- Matthew 6:9-14;
Luke 11: 1-4
An understanding of “thy kingdom come” through Parables of the Kingdom in Matthew, Chapter 13
The place of *The Our Father* in the Liturgy of the Church
- 8:15 p.m. What *The Our Father* reveals to us
Culminating activity using *The Our Father*
- 8:30 p.m. Closing Prayer: *Catholic Youth Bible: Pray It-A Lord’s Prayer*
Reflection (p.1223 NAB (same in all editions),
NRSV p.1130 (2005 editions p. 1110).

Opening Prayer: *The Our Father*

Catechist: Suggestion: prepare on paper *The Our Father* in an attractive font with large print. Encourage the youth to take the paper home and say *The Our Father* in the morning when they wake and/or at night before they go to sleep. Remind them that it is a prayer of forgiveness. Tell the youth that the early Christians said *The Our Father* three times a day. (CCC 2767)

Recall with the youth what prayer is: the raising of one’s mind and heart to God in humility; “we do not know how to pray as we ought” (Romans 8:26), so we ask the Holy Spirit to give us the gift of prayer. (CCC 2559, 2661)

I *The Our Father* in the gospels of Matthew and Luke; its meaning to our faith; the prayer’s special place in the Church’s liturgical life.

Catechist: Tell the youth that *The Our Father* is also called *The Lord’s Prayer*. Set the scene from the gospels. In the time of Jesus, it was a custom for teachers and rabbis to teach their disciples prayers. So the disciples of Jesus asked him: “Lord, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples” (Lk. 11:1). In answer to that request, Jesus taught his disciples *The Our Father*. Have two of the youth read the Gospel accounts. Ask the youth what the prayer means to them.

Some Important Points in *The Our Father*

Meaning to our Faith:

Catechist: There are many reasons why the Church cherishes this prayer but the chief reason is that it comes to us from Jesus.

In *The Lord's Prayer*, Jesus taught us that first: praise and honor be given to God, then we ask for his kingdom to come and his will be done before we ask for our own needs.

Thy kingdom come-Jesus came on earth to announce the kingdom of God.

This kingdom is at the center of Jesus' message. For the youth, (as well as adults) this kingdom can be mystifying and an overwhelming idea. It is a kingdom to which Jesus calls us through the beatitudes. People who yearn for God's kingdom to come, (among other things), hunger and thirst for righteousness, are merciful, are peacemakers. Jesus told many parables about the kingdom. The parable of The Good Samaritan (Luke 10: 25-37) teaches us that the Kingdom of God cherishes compassion. The Parables of Mercy (Luke 15: 1- 32) tell us that God looks on us as his children and we are part of his Kingdom. Jesus told the two brief parables below about the Kingdom:

(Ask two of the youth to read these two parables from their *Catholic Youth Bible*)

The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls.

When he finds a pearl of great price, he goes and sells all that he has and buys it. Matthew 13:44-46

Ask the youth what these parables reveal about the kingdom:

(possible responses)

- the kingdom is a great treasure
- it is worth giving up everything to obtain it
- finding the kingdom will bring great joy

Give us this day our daily bread

Jesus teaches us this petition because it glorifies our Father by acknowledging how good he is beyond all goodness. (CCC 2828) Asking for our daily bread is asking for all our needs. The compassionate Christian praying *The Our Father* realizes that the neighbor is always included in this petition.

Praise for this prayer: (discuss with the youth)

- Tertullian (155-220), early Christian writer said of this prayer:

The Lord's prayer is truly the summary of the whole gospel (CCC 2761)

- St. Augustine (354-430), early Christian leader and writer, wrote:

Run through all the words of the holy prayers (in Scripture)

and I do not think that you will find anything in them that is not contained and included in the Lord's Prayer. (CCC 2762)

- **St. Thomas of Aquinas (1225-1274), Christian writer and teacher wrote:**
The Lord's Prayer is the most perfect of prayers...In it we ask, not only for all the things we can rightly desire, but also in the sequence that they should be desired. This prayer not only teaches us to ask for things, but also in what order we should desire them. (CCC 2541)

The Place of *The Our Father* in the Liturgy of the Church:

Catechist: Discuss with the youth: The Church holds *The Our Father* in the highest esteem, so much so, that it incorporates *The Our Father* in the celebration of the sacraments. Every time Mass is celebrated, the Church leads us in praying *The Our Father* before communion. The Church gives a special introduction to this prayer in the Mass: (There are four options for the introduction. Ask the youth to listen on Sunday to which option is used on this particular Sunday in their parish.)

- ***Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our savior gave us, Our Father...***
- ***Jesus taught us to call God our Father, and so we have the courage to say, Our Father...***
- ***Let us ask our Father to forgive our sins and to bring us to forgive those who sin against us, Our Father...***
- ***Let us pray for the coming of the Kingdom as Jesus taught us, Our Father...***

II Revelation in *The Our Father*

- **Jesus reveals our relationship with him and God. He calls God “our” Father not “my” Father. Thus Jesus includes all humanity as children of God and brothers and sisters to him.**
- **Jesus reveals that our first acknowledgement of God should be to honor and praise him before we put our needs before him.**
- **In calling us to ask God for “our daily bread”, Jesus reveals the goodness of God who is the source of all good things.**
- **In calling us to ask God to deliver us from temptation and evil, Jesus reveals the power of God over temptation and evil.**

III Culminating Activity Using *The Our Father*

Have the youth write a prayer of their own using the initial phrase of *The Lord's Prayer: Our Father...*

and/or

Have the youth put “Give us this day our daily bread” at the top of a paper. Explain to them that this bread for which we pray is a symbol for everything we need. Ask them to write down some of the things for which they wish to pray. Guide them to look beyond their own needs to the needs of their family, neighborhood, school, country, the world.

**IV Closing Prayer: *Catholic Youth Bible*:
Pray It-A Lord's Prayer Reflection (p.1223 NAB (same in all editions)
NRSV p.1130 (2005 edition p. 1110).**

OUTCOMES

Outcome statements denote what the youth will be able to understand and communicate upon completion of Lesson 8.

- Jesus gave us a perfect prayer: *The Our Father*. In this prayer, Jesus revealed that God is all deserving of our praise and honor and that he is the giver of all good things.
- In *The Our Father*, Jesus reveals the Kingdom of God as central to his mission. He tells us to pray that the Kingdom of God will come. Not yet fully realized, the Kingdom of God draws near and is made present in the person of Jesus.
- The Church cherishes *The Our Father* because it came from Jesus. In the celebration of the eucharist and the celebration of the other sacraments, the Church includes this prayer and shines a special light on it revealing its primary place among the prayers of the Church.

