



Week Leading up to 9.26.21: Hell and Freedom

***{Start with reviewing the previous Meetings Challenge or discuss prior to sharing this week's challenge.}**

Let's Begin: Think about how the challenge went for the last session. What went well? What was difficult?

Opening Prayer:

Begin with a brief moment of silence shaking off any and all distractions or difficulties of the day and remembering that God is always with us.

Read: Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

After the Reading Conclude with this prayer:

Dear Jesus, we come to You a broken people. We fully acknowledge our sinfulness. It is only through You that we can find true love and freedom. Open our hearts to understand this and become ever aware of how we fail You on a daily basis. Open our eyes to understand what and who love is. Grow in us a desire to help others know You through our words and deeds and be a living example of You in this world. Amen

Reflection or Discussion Question:

1. This reading talks about the unquenchable fire. Do you believe in hell? What do you think hell is like?

YouTube Video: Bishop Barron on Hell (7:02) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x8zhnooySk4>

Reflection or Discussion Questions:

2. What does it mean to you that God is love? Have you ever struggled with the concept of a loving God and the eternity of hell? What objections to hell do you have or have run across from others?
3. What does freedom in terms of our relationship with God and faith mean to you? Do you find freedom and submission to God are interlinked? If so, how?
4. Do you think/feel sin and freedom are connected? If so, how?
5. Do you believe that people send themselves to hell or willingly choose hell? Do you think it's easier to enter hell or heaven?
6. Fr. Barron explained the C.S. Lewis quote, "The love of God lights up the fires of hell" by saying that if we turn away from God's love, it becomes a torture to us. What do you think/feel about this?

{Leaders please let your group know that if they have any additional questions regarding the session today, that they are encouraged to follow up with Mike Chamberland at mchamberland@olsorrows.com or by calling 248-474-5720.}

Session Challenges: {Choose one or both}

- Read more about hell in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, CCC [632-635](#), [1033-1037](#), [1861-1869](#)
- Open your heart to God in prayer by letting Him know how you have failed Him. Make an effort to go to confession this week.

Closing Prayer: (Leaders: We recommended offering time during the closing prayer for participants to offer personal intentions.) *Dear Jesus, You offer us true freedom. We pray that we always choose to embrace that great gift. You have freed us from eternal separation from You through Your loving sacrifice. May we grow in obedience, understanding, and wisdom. Ignite in us a willingness to commit fully to You both in body and spirit. Fill us with the grace we need to turn away from sin and to love more perfectly. We ask for the intercession of our Holy Mother and all of the angels and saints that we, too, may join You in Your full glory in heaven. In Your Holy Name, we pray. Amen.*

{Optional additional Readings} Sunday Reading 1: **Nm 11:25-29** Sunday Reading 2: **Jas 5:1-6**



Week Leading up to 10.3.21: Bone of my Bones

***{Start with reviewing the previous meeting's challenge or discuss prior to sharing this week's challenge.}**

Let's Begin: Think about how the challenge went for the last session. What went well? What was difficult?

Opening Prayer:

Begin with a brief moment of silence shaking off any and all distractions or difficulties of the day and remembering that God is always with us.

Read: Mark 10: 2-16

After the Reading Conclude with this prayer:

Dear Lord, we adore You and thank You for making us in Your own image and likeness. Open our eyes to perceive reality as You have made it. May we delight in the gift of femininity and masculinity. May we see that our differences bring about a beautiful complementarity that further reveals Your own nature. Give us the grace to truly love everyone...EVERYONE we encounter. Amen.

Reflection or Discussion Question:

1. The readings for this Sunday focus on the bond of marriage and yet even more fundamental to marriage is gender and gender complementarity (Masculinity/Femininity). (Women) What have you found to be the greatest blessing/difficulty of being a woman? (Men) What have you found to be the greatest blessing/difficulty of being a man?

YouTube Video: Bruce Jenner & the Transgender Question - Fr. Mike Schmitz (8:17) https://youtu.be/4-9_rXxFu9I

Reflection or Discussion Questions:

2. Did you find what Fr. Mike shares in his video to be judgmental and/or intolerant? Why or why not?
3. At one point Fr. Mike shares that, "We have no idea what it actually feels like to be the opposite sex all we have is gender stereotypes." What do you think about this?
4. Are there any gender stereotypes you think/feel are destructive to humans flourishing?
5. Are there any gender stereotypes you think/feel are helpful to humans flourishing?
6. Thinking from a biblical perspective, how does masculinity and femininity reveal something of the nature of God?
7. Fr. Mike says, "If my perception doesn't match up with reality, it's not reality that has to change; it's my perception of reality that has to change." What are your thoughts on this statement from Fr. Mike?
8. As Fr. Mike asks, "Who is the wounded/broken person in your life, God is calling you to love and 'walk with?'" What does/could "walking with" concretely look like?

Session Challenges: {Choose one or both}

- Reflection Question: Is there any area in my life where my perception doesn't match up with reality? Prayerfully ask/beg the Lord to open your heart and shift your perception to His.
- Reach out to or pray for that wounded person in your life that God is calling you to love and walk with.

Closing Prayer: (Leaders: We recommended offering time during the closing prayer for participants to offer personal intentions.)

Holy Spirit, we call on You to fill this space. Help us to remember that we were made, male and female, in Your image and likeness and always see ourselves and others as people fashioned with love from Your own hand. May we walk with those who are hurting and be agents who reveal Your love, truth, and healing power. We ask this through the power of Jesus Christ. Amen.

{Optional additional Readings} Sunday Reading 1: Gn 2:18-24; Sunday Reading 2: Heb 2:9-11



Week Leading up to 10.10.21: We Don't Earn or Deserve Heaven

***{Start with reviewing the previous meeting's challenge or discuss prior to sharing this week's challenge.}**

Let's Begin: Think about how the challenge went for the last session. What went well? What was difficult?

Opening Prayer:

Begin with a brief moment of silence shaking off any and all distractions or difficulties of the day and remembering that God is always with us.

Read: **Mk 10:17-30**

After the Reading Conclude with this prayer:

Heavenly Father, You have called us to a life of discipleship - a high call which demands super human strength and, therefore, demands our dependence on You. Grant us the humility to always acknowledge our utter nothingness without Your grace and love. Amen.

Reflection or Discussion Question:

1. Many people go to church because they “want to be a good person.” However, in the reading for today, the rich young man says he has followed the commandments and yet Jesus says, “You are lacking in one thing. Go, sell what you have... then COME, FOLLOW ME.” This means that our faith is about much more than simply being a “nice/good” person; it’s also tied directly to Jesus Himself. What do you think about this?

YouTube Video: How to Get to Heaven – Bishop Barron’s Sunday Sermon (13:45) <https://youtu.be/PqnxgwRrmv0>

Reflection or Discussion Questions:

2. Did Bishop Barron say anything in today’s video that you found particularly difficult to understand or digest?
3. Bishop Barron shares the Biblical tenet that Jesus Christ is the FULLNESS of salvation and God’s revealed truth. What do you think makes Christianity and specifically Catholicism FULL?
4. Are there any “participations” or “rays of light” that you have come to see and appreciate in other religions?
5. After listening to this talk by Bishop Barron and better understanding that Church teaching is about the centrality of Jesus Christ for salvation, what do you think is the most natural response? If we believe this teaching of the Bible and the Church, what should we do?
6. Bishop Barron speaks about how we put such a premium on being non-judgmental, inclusive, and allowing everyone to have a place around the table but hear some uncompromising words from the Gospel which can lead to a feeling of exclusivity. He suggests we let the difficulty of the text sink in. Is this something you struggle with? What are your feelings or thoughts about this?

Session Challenges: {Choose one or both}

- Prayerfully read the Gospel reading this week and consider what is the “one thing” that most holds you back from following Christ.
- Directly and prayerfully ask the Lord how He desires you to evangelize in your regular daily life. What would Christ really ask of you that makes sense and would be authentic and not off-putting to others?

Closing Prayer: (Leaders: We recommended offering time during the closing prayer for participants to offer personal intentions.) *Holy Spirit, we thank You for the gift of faith. Increase our faith. Give us the courage and humility to examine our commitment to You. Grant us the best words and actions to bring those around us closer to You. Amen.*

{Optional additional Readings} Sunday Reading 1: **Wis 7:7-11**; Sunday Reading 2: **Heb 4:12-13**

Additional Info: Vatican II Document - Lumen Gentium #16 (Referenced by Bishop Barron in the video)



Week Leading up to 10.17.21: Mercy and Suffering

***{Start with reviewing the previous meeting's challenge or discuss prior to sharing this week's challenge.}**

Let's Begin: Think about how the challenge went for the last session. What went well? What was difficult?

Opening Prayer:

Begin with a brief moment of silence shaking off any and all distractions or difficulties of the day and remembering that God is always with us.

Read: Mk 10:35-45 or 10:42-45

After the Reading Conclude with this prayer:

Dear God, You know the depths of our suffering and desire to walk with us if only we allow You to do so. We thank you for giving us Your son, Jesus Christ, and His perfect example of mercy and suffering. May Your grace cover us so that we gain a greater understanding of how we can connect our suffering to Christ's for the benefit of others. In Your Holy Name we pray. Amen

Reflection or Discussion Question:

1. After reading this Gospel, do you believe that one can enter heaven without suffering or being a servant to God and others? Why do you think/feel God wants us to join in His suffering?

YouTube Video: If God is Merciful, Then Why is There Suffering with Fr. Chris Alar (9:16)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=qn8Ht3Se58A&feature=youtu.be>

Reflection or Discussion Questions:

2. Have you ever struggled with thinking that God isn't all loving? Can you share? How did you overcome it?
3. Have you witnessed God turn a hurtful or evil event into a greater good? Please share.
4. Do you believe that God causes suffering directly and/or indirectly? Why or why not?
5. This video discusses the reason why God would allow suffering (pride). Do you believe this to be true? Do you think there may be other reasons as well? Does this help you to understand the mercy in suffering?
6. Have you ever connected your suffering to Christ? Why did you do this and were there outcomes you would be willing to share?
7. Should we always accept our suffering, or should we always pray that it be taken from us? How can we know? Can you share a time when you accepted your suffering? What is the Catholic Church's understanding of redemptive suffering in relation to assisted suicide or euthanasia?

{Leaders please let your group know that if they have any additional questions regarding the session today, that they are encouraged to follow up with Mike Chamberland at mchamberland@olsorrows.com or by calling 248-474-5720.}

Session Challenges: {Choose one or both}

- There is so much suffering in the world today. Fast from something or connect your physical suffering to the suffering of Christ on the cross with the intention that others may know God's love and mercy and peace. Share what you did with others in your group next time you meet.
- Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet for those that are currently suffering or have died. [How to pray the Chaplet.](#)

Closing Prayer: (Leaders: We recommended offering time during the closing prayer for participants to offer personal intentions.)

Dear Jesus, our minds are so feeble in our understanding of how to love sacrificially. We ask for Your protection and healing of all those things we are currently suffering with both physically and spiritually. We also ask for the courage needed to remain steadfast in our faith and accept the suffering You allow us to go through, knowing that it can help to purify us and draw us closer to You. In Your Merciful Name. Amen.

{Optional additional Readings} Sunday Reading 1: [Is 53:10-11](#) Sunday Reading 2: [Heb 4:14-16](#)



Week Leading up to 10.24.21: Why does Faith Save?

***(Start with reviewing the previous meeting's challenge or discuss prior to sharing this week's challenge.)**

Let's Begin: Think about how the challenge went for the last session. What went well? What was difficult?

Opening Prayer:

Begin with a brief moment of silence shaking off any and all distractions or difficulties of the day and remembering that God is always with us.

Read: **Mk 10:46-52**

After the Reading Conclude with this prayer:

Heavenly Father, just as You did for the blind man in today's reading; have pity on us. Help us to see. Help us to truly see with spiritual eyes of faith filled with love. Amen.

Reflection or Discussion Question:

1. In this Gospel reading Jesus says, "Go your way; your faith has saved you." Jesus could have said, "I have saved you." Or even, "The power of God has saved you." Why do you think it's important that Jesus said, "Your faith has saved you?"
2. Before we watch the video, take a moment to reflect on what faith is to you. Think about how you would define what faith is if someone asked you. There will be an opportunity to share your reflections after watching the video.

YouTube Video: Bishop Barron on What Faith Is and What Faith Isn't (11:01) https://youtu.be/m_4PSgFjtvI

Reflection or Discussion Questions:

3. Did your definition of faith change after watching the video? How so?
4. Bishop Barron begins by describing how modern people commonly misunderstand or characterize faith. Have you heard some of the same sentiments expressed from others? Why do you think others understand faith in this way?
5. Did you find Bishop Barron's analogy of coming to know another person and faith helpful/enlightening? Why or why not?
6. Bishop Barron affirms that Catholic tradition says authentic faith never sacrifices the intellect (reason). What do you think/feel about this? How does this concept tie into accepting God's will, especially when we don't understand it?
7. Bishop Barron says that faith is that moment of trust when we choose to believe in the God who speaks. Consider this definition in light of the Gospel today. Does this definition shed more or new light on the story? {NOTE FOR LEADERS: Faith from this Gospel story can also be considered the RESPONSE to the person and power of Jesus as God. So in a sense for God's grace and miracles to really work he demands our response in faith.}

Session Challenges: {Choose one or both}

- In the Gospel story Jesus asks the blind man, "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus is even now asking you that same question. What is your response?
- Pray daily for an increase in faith.

Closing Prayer: (Leaders: We recommended offering time during the closing prayer for participants to offer personal intentions.) *Lord, we desire to believe fully and completely in You. Allow our faith to grow and flourish, to be unreserved and strengthened even though we may not see You with our eyes. Penetrate our thoughts so that we may more clearly understand Your supreme Divinity and love for us. Gift us with a joyful faith that brings great gladness and peace to our souls. Create in us a spirit disposed for prayer that yearns to hear Your whispers and have holy conversations with others. Lord, let our faith be a solid anchor to our whole being so that we become Your beacon to those around us. We ask all this in Jesus' name. Amen.*

{Optional additional Readings} Sunday Reading 1: **Jer 31:7-9**; Sunday Reading 2: **Heb 5:1-6**



Week Leading up to 10.31.21: Heart, Mind, Soul, Strength

***{Start with reviewing the previous meeting's challenge or discuss prior to sharing this week's challenge.}**

Let's Begin: Think about how the challenge went for the last session. What went well? What was difficult?

Opening Prayer:

Begin with a brief moment of silence shaking off any and all distractions or difficulties of the day and remembering that God is always with us.

Read: Mark 12: 28-34

After the Reading Conclude with this prayer:

Thank you, Lord God, for becoming man so that man might become partakers in your own divine nature. Your nature is love itself. Grant us strength and grace, not just to love but to also become love. We thank you for this challenging call, for it reminds us of our true worth and purpose. Amen.

Reflection or Discussion Question:

1. Jesus links love of God with a love for others. Is there a particular person or group of people you currently struggle to love?

YouTube Video: Heart, Mind, Soul, Strength with Mike Chamberland (10:07) <https://youtu.be/Blc6SGp53uU>

Reflection or Discussion Questions:

2. Can you think of another paradox of our faith that you appreciate or find interesting?
3. How do you think you could better love the Lord with all your heart (Core of a person, intentions and will)?
4. How do you think you could better love the Lord with your mind (Reason, intellect)?
5. How do you think you could better love the Lord with your soul (The whole person)?
6. How do you think you could better love the Lord with your strength (every ounce of energy)?
7. Are you familiar with the book *The 5 Love Languages*? The book poses the theory that people have a particular way they like to both receive and give love (quality time, gifts, words of affirmation, physical touch, acts of service). How do you like to receive and give love?
8. After considering the video and these reflection questions refer back to the first discussion question just after the reading. How might this conversation help you to love that person or group you currently struggle to love?

Session Challenges: {Choose one or both}

- Pray all week and consider fasting one day for an "enemy" (someone who deeply frustrates you or seems to work against you and God's purposes).
- Spend 10 minutes praying, reflecting and staring at a crucifix while contemplating what Jesus teaches us about the nature of true love.

Closing Prayer: (Leaders: We recommended offering time during the closing prayer for participants to offer personal intentions.)

Heavenly Father, You have made us IN love and FOR love. May You be the center of our lives with all our hearts, all our minds, all our souls and with all our strength. May we be a channel of Your love and peace to all those around us. Amen.

{Optional additional Readings} Sunday Reading 1: Dt 6:2-6; Sunday Reading 2: Heb 7:23-28

Additional Information: To learn more about the SHEMA that Mike referred to in the video check out these resources: <https://www.ourladyofthelakeromancatholic.org/blog.php?month=201811&id=1196222959&cat=&pg=1&title=The+SHEMA+-+With+All+Your+Heart> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=phCbgvDXpss>



Week Leading up to 11.7.21: Giving When It Hurts

***{Start with reviewing the previous Meetings Challenge or discuss prior to sharing this week's challenge.}**

Let's Begin: Think about how the challenge went for the last session. What went well? What was difficult?

Opening Prayer:

Begin with a brief moment of silence shaking off any and all distractions or difficulties of the day and remembering that God is always with us.

Read: Mk 12:38-44 or 12:41-44

After the Reading Conclude with this prayer:

Dear Jesus, the giving of ourselves allows us to grow in new ways. Help us to be ever aware of the needs of our neighbors. Open our hearts to trust in Your care for us so that we willingly give in sacrificial ways to build Your kingdom. Amen

Reflection or Discussion Question:

1. Why do you think giving sacrificially is different than giving of your excess? Which do you think/feel God asks us to do?

YouTube Video: The Christian Joy of Sharing with the Franciscan Friars (4:10)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=DcqU0abOvVU&feature=youtu.be>

Reflection or Discussion Questions:

2. Have you ever experienced extreme poverty or served others in extreme poverty?
3. Fr. Emmanuel tells a story of a little boy experiencing true joy when he shared the gift he'd been given with others. Why do you think so much joy was experienced in this story? What do you think/feel can be learned from this story about sharing what we've been given? {Leaders-some thoughts to possibly flush out might be: what we have is given to us by God. Do we do the same, is true joy experiencing the joy others receive through our giving?}
4. Just like the little boy in the story with the lollipop, when we give with a sincere and selfless disposition we can witness and appreciate the genuine joy it will bring to others. Does this change what you think/feel about how you approach giving?
5. What are ways we say, "No, that's mine"?
6. Have you ever given sacrificially or witnessed another giving sacrificially? What was the outcome? Please share your thoughts. What do you think/feel happens to us when we give sacrificially?
7. There are many ways we can give sacrificially -- with money, time, skills, and by sharing our faith. Have you thought about giving more sacrificially to your parish or a charity? Please share.

Session Challenge:

- Spend time in prayer evaluating if you are giving sacrificially or out of your excess. Consider one way that you can start sacrificial giving or increase what you are doing either to your parish or another charity and implement it.
 - A couple of volunteer opportunities available through the parish: Thanksgiving food drive (Cindy Vogel 248-888-9029), Tag writing for Giving Tree on November 14th at OLS cafeteria, 9 Family Sundays – Recreation/Hospitality Volunteers for November 14th or December 12th from 12:30-1:30 at OLS gym (Eric Coules 248-474-6480), or Saturdays at St. Christine's (Maureen Northrup 313-995-8673). If you would like to serve the parish in other ways, please contact Sharon Williams or Mike Chamberland by calling 248-474-5720.

Closing Prayer: (Leaders: After praying the Stewardship Prayer below we recommended offering time for participants to offer personal intentions.) *Generous and loving God, You call us to be disciples of Your Son Jesus and good stewards of all Your many gifts. Open our mind and hearts to a greater awareness and deeper appreciation of Your countless blessings. Transform us through the power of Your Spirit to nurture a Stewardship way of life marked by faith-filled prayer, service to our neighbor, and generous sharing. Teach us to be faithful servants of Your gifts. With Mary's help, may we return tenfold the gifts entrusted to us. We pray through Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

{Optional additional Readings} Sunday Reading 1: **1 Kgs 17:10-16** Sunday Reading 2: **Heb 9:24-28**



Week Leading up to 11.14.21: The Last Judgement

***{Start with reviewing the previous Meetings Challenge or discuss prior to sharing this week's challenge.}**

Let's Begin: Think about how the challenge went for the last session. What went well? What was difficult?

Opening Prayer:

Begin with a brief moment of silence shaking off any and all distractions or difficulties of the day and remembering that God is always with us.

Read: **Mk 13:24-32**

After the Reading Conclude with this prayer:

Dear Jesus, We do not know the time and place of Your second coming. Help us to be ever ready and vigilant in our actions and thoughts so that they may allow us to know You in an intimate way and never turn from Your love. Amen.

Reflection or Discussion Question:

1. Does hearing this reading cause you to have any concerns or fear? What do you think/feel Jesus is trying to tell us with this reading?

YouTube Video: The Lesser Known Last Judgement with Fr. Schmitz (8:18) <https://youtu.be/7FMgVbcLagM>

Reflection or Discussion Questions:

2. Fr. Schmitz talks about the difference between particular and final judgement. Do you believe we are judged at death?
3. Is the idea that we are judged twice something new to you? What are your thoughts/feelings about the difference between these two judgements (e.g. Our life being judged vs. how our life fits into God's plan)?
4. Fr. Schmitz talked a bit about different places in heaven. Do you think/feel there is a sort of hierarchy in heaven? Please elaborate.
5. Fr. Schmitz shares that in heaven there will be no room for shame and pride. He explains that in the final judgement we will both fully understand our story and how it related to God's plan. He indicates that we will fully understand the ramifications of our every action and thought and how that affected future generations. Does this concept seem easy to understand or a bit overwhelming and beyond comprehension?
6. What are your thoughts/feelings on the final judgement and the understanding of how God used the pain and suffering in your life for glorification? Does this offer you any comfort? Why do you think God shields us from this understanding while on earth?
7. Has this video changed your perspective on how you live your life? Does it cause you to want to change anything?

Session Challenges: {Choose one or both}

- Think about the last time you said something unkind about someone in secret. Ask God for forgiveness and His grace. Ask that He softens your heart to love all and not speak ill of others.
- Read this article <https://catholicproductions.com/blogs/blog/two-final-judgments-say-what> and these two sections from the Catechism of the Catholic Church [1039](#), [1040](#)

Closing Prayer: Feel free to listen to this video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UVAzsWeZRWg> with the St. Augustine's Prayer to the Holy Spirit sung or print out and distribute to the group the prayer found on the 2nd page.

After the St. Augustine's Prayer, continue with personal intentions... *As our hearts are lifted to God in a desire for true holiness, I would like to open this time up for anyone with personal intentions. Please share any intentions you may have for yourself or others at this time {pause to hear others intentions} ...may these prayers, as well as the unspoken intentions kept within our hearts, be lifted to Your merciful heart and healing hands, dear Jesus. We pray, also, to give us the humility we need to bend our knee to Your will so that we may live holy lives for our family and friends in this generation and for future generations. In Your Great Name. Amen.*

{Optional additional Readings} Sunday Reading 1: **Dn 12:1-3** Sunday Reading 2: **Heb 10:11-14, 18**

Additional Information: <https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/library/second-coming-of-the-lord--the-last-judgment-926> and <https://www.newadvent.org/cathen/08552a.htm>

St. Augustine's Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Together, let us pray:

Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy.

Act in me, O Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy.

Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit, that I love what is only holy.

Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, to defend all that is holy.

Guard me then, O Holy Spirit, that I always may be holy. Amen.

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Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, to defend all that is holy.

Guard me then, O Holy Spirit, that I always may be holy. Amen.



Week Leading up to 11.21.21: The Kingdom of God

***{Start with reviewing the previous Meetings Challenge or discuss prior to sharing this week's challenge.}**

Let's Begin: Think about how the challenge went for the last session. What went well? What was difficult?

Opening Prayer:

Begin with a brief moment of silence shaking off any and all distractions or difficulties of the day and remembering that God is always with us.

Read: Jn 18:33b-37

After the Reading Conclude with this prayer:

Dear Jesus, we long to be a part of Your eternal kingdom. Help us to recognize the truth in Your Living Word and trust in Your goodness in all areas of our lives. In Your Holy Name. Amen

Reflection or Discussion Question:

1. What do you think/feel is the kingdom Jesus is referring to in this reading?

Leaders: We recommend watching this video twice with your group since it is so short and has quite a bit of information.

YouTube Video: What is the Kingdom of God with Bishop Barron (2:04)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bC9yepedQb8>

Reflection or Discussion Questions:

2. Bishop Barron shares that the original sin of Adam and Eve is a falling apart of God and humanity. What do you think/feel he means by this? Can you elaborate on how you think/feel original sin led to all other future sins?
3. Does Bishop Barron's explanation that the Kingdom of God is the knitting together of divinity and humanity help you to understand the importance of Jesus and how He is the "Kingdom of God?" How so?
4. Bishop Barron also shares that "The Kingdom" is the church or mystical body. What does this mean to you? How do you think/feel the sacraments (especially baptism, penance and the Eucharist) relate to entering the "Kingdom of God"?
5. How do you think/feel that the "Kingdom of God" has come and yet still needs to come? Can you elaborate on this?
6. What is our role in helping to build the "Kingdom of God"? What specific things do you do or desire to do?

Session Challenges: {Choose one or both}

- Ask God to identify a particular sin in your life that you need to remove. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you the perseverance and desire to overcome this sin and go to confession to receive God's healing grace.
- Write out two lists. The 1st list can be all of the activities you do on a monthly basis. The 2nd list is only those things you do on a monthly basis to help build the "Kingdom of God" and serve others. Some examples would be: sharing the gospel with others, supporting the liturgy through worship or service, teaching children about God, supporting a ministry, inviting others to join you for a religious event, serving the poor, etc. Pray over both of these lists and ask God if anything needs to be removed from the 1st list to make time to help build the "Kingdom of God" on list 2.

Closing Prayer: (Leaders: We recommended offering time during the closing prayer for participants to offer personal intentions.) *Dear God, You are truly beyond our understanding. We are in great awe of Your power and love for us. You mercifully look past our sinfulness when we repent and desperately want us to live in Your kingdom. Create in us a great desire to be closely united with You in holiness so that Your sanctifying grace may flow through us. We pray in a special way at this time to the Holy Spirit to request that You enliven within us the supernatural gifts we need to continue Your work in building the "Kingdom of God". Give us the courage we need to live in such a broken world and the fortitude to march forward as Your loving disciples. In Jesus Name, we pray. Amen.*

{Optional additional Readings} Sunday Reading 1: **Dn 7:13-14** Sunday Reading 2: **Rv 1:5-8**