| **Name:****Grade:****Date:** | **Life Teen** **Sunday, October 23, 2022****Unforeseen:** Seeing the Way: Jesus’ Passion and Death |
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**Directions**

* **Make-up work must be completed before the next Life Night.** It should not take you more than 90 minutes to complete.
* **Go to File → Make a copy. Name the file 10-9-2022, Your First and Last Name.**
* Make-up work will require you to research answers, please only use credible Catholic sources, **Wikipedia will not be accepted.**
* You must cite your sources. To do this, just copy and paste the URL after your answer.
* You may not copy and paste directly from any website, it must be in your own words, (unless stated otherwise).
* **All questions or activities are in bold and highlighted.**
* **All your answers should not be in bold**
* **When you are finished, email your assignment to Rachael Kriger:** **rkriger@romeroparish.org****. Please submit with your FIRST NAME-LAST NAME-LifeTeen-10-23-22 . Please do not send it as an attachment on Flocknote, I do not receive it that way!**

**Homework Breakdown**

1. Activity
2. Reading
3. Handouts
4. Written Questions
5. Video
6. Challenge of the Week

**1. Activity**

**Write a paragraph about what the Crucifix means to you.**

**2. Reading
Seeing the Way: Jesus’ Passion and Death**

Was Jesus a nice guy? Most of us would probably say yes; He preached love and forgiveness, called out injustice, healed people, and sought out those who felt rejected and alone. However, He also made a whip with His bare hands, flipped over tables, called people vipers and hypocrites, and preached numerous times

about the reality of hell. Jesus was certainly loving, but He also shook things up. That got the attention of the people in power, ultimately leading to His arrest and death. Jesus, however, was not an unwilling victim who was easily overpowered. Rather, Jesus was completely in control and conquered death by willingly offering Himself on the cross for our sins. (Matthew 12:34-35, 23:13-36, 25:31-46; John 2:13-16)

***The Crucifix***

In Catholic churches, we will always see the crucifix prominently displayed, which is the cross with Jesus’ body on it. Why is that? If we believe that Jesus is God, then it seems odd to willingly advertise the fact that God became human and suffered a humiliating public execution. In addition, the image of a dead body is not necessarily the most inviting or welcoming to those who might walk into a Catholic church for the first time!

 If we believe that Jesus rose from the dead, why do we depict Him so frequently on the cross? Why not have images of Jesus risen from the dead front and center?

There are several very important reasons that we revere the crucifix. First, there would have been no Resurrection without the Crucifixion, and we cannot acknowledge the importance of one without the other. Second, the crucifix reminds us that our suffering is welcome. We have a God who understands the fullness of the human experience with all of its highs and all of its lows. No matter what we are going through and facing in life, God is with us. He can relate to us because He came down to experience it all Himself. When we see the crucifix, we know that we belong even in our suffering, brokenness, and imperfections.

(Matthew 26:39, Hebrews 2:7-18)

Last, we revere and glorify Jesus Christ crucified because the cross is the instrument of our salvation. If Jesus Christ had not died on the cross for us, we would still be stuck in our sin with no ability to be free and enter heaven. Jesus paid a debt He did not owe because we owed a debt we could not pay, and we never want to forget that. (Romans 5:6-11, 1 Corinthians 15:16-18, 1 Peter 2:24)

***Jesus Reconciles Us***

We have learned that God became man to show us His love and to be a model of holiness for us. God also became man to reconcile us with Him. Sin separates us from God and destroys us, so God came to remove that separation so that we could be one with Him again. (Romans 6:23, 1 John 4:10, CCC 457)

Jesus chose to bear all of the sins of mankind, offering Himself as a sacrifice for us. Why? It seems like there should have been an easier way, like God snapping His fingers and simply making sin go away. The problem is that God gave us free will, so we will always be able to choose to turn away from Him. God will not take away our free will, as then we would be slaves without freedom to choose. God would not simply snap His fingers to remove sin because He would have to keep doing it over and over again; it would not fix the problem. (Hebrews 10:1-18)

***The New Lamb of God***

In the Old Testament, we read about the way the Jewish people tried to fix the problem of sin. Once a year, the Jews would celebrate Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. The people would fast, making public declarations of their sins; the high priest would lay his hands on a goat, symbolically placing all of the sins

of the people on it, and release it into the desert. Another goat would then be sacrificed, and the blood would be sprinkled in the holiest part of the temple. It was a ritual that was repeated year after year to appeal to the mercy of God and ask for forgiveness for sins. (Leviticus 16)

The Jews also celebrated the feast of Passover every year. It was celebrated to remind them of when God freed the Hebrew people from slavery in Egypt through Moses. The last of the ten plagues brought upon Egypt was the death of every firstborn son. In order to save themselves and their families, the Jews were instructed to seek out a lamb without blemish, sacrifice it, consume its flesh, and spread its blood on the doorposts of their homes so that they would be spared from death and freed from slavery. (Exodus 12)

Jesus would have known and celebrated both of these feasts every year with His family. All of Jesus’ public ministry built up to the moment He offered Himself as the new sacrificial lamb in a new Passover meal that began at the Last Supper and ended with His blood being spread on the wood of the cross. He did all this in atonement for our sins and to spare us from death. As God is timeless, in participating in Mass, we are transported out of space and time and are actually present in the Upper Room when Jesus offered up His Body and Blood as the new Passover lamb. (Luke 2:42, John 3:16)

When Jesus began His public ministry, John the Baptist called Him “the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world” (John 1:29). It was clear from the very beginning of His ministry that Jesus intended to redeem us through His one pure and perfect sacrifice for our sins that would never need to be repeated. It was part of God’s plan all along — from the moment sin entered the world — to redeem us. God loves us so much that He gave His earthly life so we could gain eternal life. (Genesis 3:15)

***Our Hope***

The crucifix is a reminder to us that there is no length that God will not go to save us. No matter how far we run, He will always seek us out and call us back home. The crucifix also reminds us that we can bring our weaknesses, our pain, and our suffering to the Lord. We can offer our suffering for others in prayer in the same way that Jesus offered His suffering and death for all of us. This is called redemptive suffering, and it allows us to participate in the suffering of Christ on the cross, who transformed suffering and gave it new meaning as an offering for others. (Matthew 18:10-14; CCC 1505).

In a world that tells us we need to be perfect and independent, it can be intimidating to admit we are struggling or that we need help. Seeing Jesus on the cross reminds us that God can bring strength out of weakness; He can transform our darkness and suffering into something new to make us whole again.

For us, the crucifix is not a sign of death and suffering, but a symbol of victory and hope. From now on, every time we make the Sign of the Cross, remember that it is a sign of God’s love for us. No matter what crosses we are carrying, He knows what we are enduring and is carrying them with us.

* *End of Reading -*

**3. Handout**

**Please see, on the next page, the Hand Out: Suffering & Heartbreak.**

**Instructions: Go through an Ignatian meditation on Luke 22:39-50 using the Suffering & Heartbreak handout. While it’s not required, please feel free to use the space below to journal any thoughts from the Lectio Divina.**

**Required: Written Questions will follow the Lectio Divina Page.**

**HANDOUT**

**SEEING THE WAY**

Suffering & Heartbreak

*Use the following to lead the teens through an Ignatian meditation on Luke 22:39-50.*

In a few moments, we are going to break open the Word of God and engage in an Ignition meditation. We will pray through a passage a few times and actively place ourselves in the story. As we do this, try and imagine how the environment feels within the story as well as what is happening.

***Begin with the Sign of the Cross.***

Holy Spirit, we invite you into this place. Fill our hearts with your wisdom as we read your Word. May your love continue to guide us as we come to know you more. Amen.

*As we hear this passage for the first time, carefully listen for the main points of the story. Who is there? When and where is this happening? What is happening?*

***Slowly read Luke 22:39-50. Pause for a few moments of silence.***

***Link: BibleGateway:*** [***https://www.biblegateway.com/***](https://www.biblegateway.com/)

While listening to the passage a second time, use your imagination to fill in the details. What do the people look like? How do they interact with each other? What does the Mount of Olives smell like? What does it sound like when the drops of Jesus’ blood fall to the ground? What did the confrontation between the chief priests’ servants and the disciples of Jesus sound like? What is the overall mood?

***Slowly read Luke 22:39-50. Pause for a few moments of silence.***

As I read this passage one more time, place yourself in the story. Who or what are you? Are you a person in this story or something else entirely? How does the environment impact you? What are you doing, thinking, or feeling?

***Slowly read Luke 22:39-50. Pause for a few moments of silence.***

***GO TO THE NEXT PAGE FOR WRITTEN QUESTIONS.***

Seeing the Way

**4. Written Questions**

**Q1: When you imagined yourself in the story, were you an existing character or your own person? Why?**

**Q2: How would you have felt if you were the one responsible for cutting off the servant’s ear and Jesus healed him?**

**Q3: How do you think you would have reacted if you saw Jesus so stressed that He began to sweat blood?**

**Q4: How do the stresses of your life affect you physically? Mentally? Spiritually? Please answer all three.**

**6. Challenge of the Week**

**Please watch the following video. If you cannot click the link either search for the title: “Good Friday: The Meaning of the Cross.” Of course, as the name insists, this was done during Good Friday, during Lent. But it’s extremely important for this lesson!**

**Link:** [**https://youtu.be/hS7XHev5eBI**](https://youtu.be/hS7XHev5eBI)

**6. Challenge of the Week**

**Do another Lectio Divina once during the week. So students have two weeks until their next class, so do two Lectio Divinia’s ahead of the next class. Come to class prepared to talk about their experience with it! You will do your Lectio with John 19:25-30. Scripture is provided below.**

*John 19:25-30*

25 Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. 26 When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, “Woman,[b] here is your son,” 27 and to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

28 Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.” 29 A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips. 30 When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.