

# JESUS + THE STORY



"Your life is a story. And it's caught up in the great story of humanity. This great story, as we see it in the Scriptures, shows us the amazing love story that is God's pursuit of man. The God that is love created us so we can ultimately be with his love. We were made to be with God. Union with God is so central to the purpose of life, we even see the afterlife in these terms. Our definition of Heaven is union with God, and hell is absence of Him. Your life has a plot. Your life has purpose. Your life has value. We need to see how we fit into this big love story to begin to know why we exist. And that love of God isn't abstract. It has a face and name: Jesus." (The Search, Episode 4).

## GO DEEPER BY WATCHING ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

The Search, Episode 4: [What's Your Story?](#) with Chris Stefanik on Formed (26 min)

[Someone Has Come to Fight](#) with Fr. John Riccardo on YouTube (20 min)

When you meet as a team or staff, start by talking about whichever of the two videos you watched and share some of the highlights.

## A NOTE ON PLANNING FOR PHASE 2

Hopefully you've been able to spend some good time praying, thinking, and dialoguing as a team about the questions contained in the last several newsletters. The next step is to start working on the Phase II Planning Guide available from the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis. This Planning Guide includes a blank template for a parish plan as well as an accompanying document that contains lots of ideas and resources you could choose from to help you fill out your plan. Pastors and Evangelization Team Leads should make sure they have a meeting scheduled with your diocesan Mentor to receive this Planning Guide.

## EQUIPPING FOR MISSION

### WHAT IS THE KERYGMA?

"Kerygma is a Greek word which means "proclamation". In the Christian context, it zeroes in more precisely on the proclamation of the Good News (or "Gospel") of Jesus life, death, and resurrection. In other words, Jesus came to save us and the message we proclaim is about him. It need not be complex or too long. In fact, we ought to be able to tell the saving story of Jesus' life in a simple manner that can be understood by all." (Marcel LeJeune)

Learn more about sharing the kerygma, by visiting [www.madisondiocese.org/kerygma](http://www.madisondiocese.org/kerygma).

## SEEKING HOLINESS

### WHAT IS FAITH?

"By his Revelation, 'the invisible God, from the fullness of his love, addresses men as his friends, and moves among them, in order to invite and receive them into his own company.' The adequate response to this invitation is faith." By faith, man completely submits his intellect and his will to God. With his whole being man gives his assent to God the revealer. Sacred Scripture calls this human response to God, the author of revelation, 'the obedience of faith.'" (CCC 142-143)

Read more: Catechism of the Catholic Church, 144-175.

In what ways do you find it difficult to be open about your faith in public situations?

How have you been able to apply your faith to family issues, community development, and political decisions?

What steps might you take to make your faith more effective in our culture? What help in this regard do you expect from the Church?

Who are outstanding models of faith that inspire you to deeper faith and practice?

## YEARLY FORMATION NEWSLETTER TOPICS

### MAY 2021

The Mission

### JUNE 2021

Missionary Discipleship

### JULY 2021

Evangelization

### AUGUST 2021

How to Evangelize

### SEPTEMBER 2021

Jesus + The Story | Faith

### OCTOBER 2021

Our Baptismal Call | Courage

### NOVEMBER 2021

Holy Mass | Charity

### DECEMBER 2021

Reclaiming Sunday | Piety

### JANUARY 2022

Daily Prayer | Hope

### FEBRUARY 2022

Praying with Scripture | Wisdom

### MARCH 2022

Self-Denial | Moderation

### APRIL 2022

Monthly Confession | Humility

## NOT A COMMITTEE MEETING

A note for parish staff and evangelization teams: **Think outside the box. Meet in homes. Share meals or drinks together. Discuss your faith, your parish, and what God is saying to you in prayer.**