

The Kerygma Experience

Session 4—Salvation

St. Francis of Assisi Confirmation Ministry

Note to Parents:

We are beginning this year's Confirmation journey with an activity for the whole family. We are calling it the Kerygma Experience. Kerygma is a Greek word that refers to the initial proclamation of the gospel message. It is the very heart of the gospel. The 5 main stages of the kerygma are creation, fall redemption, salvation and re-creation and will be the basis for our 5 sessions. Each session is designed to take 45-60 minutes.

We encourage you to set aside a time and a place where the whole family can truly enter into a prayerful and reflective environment. We hope that the conversations you have as a family draw you more deeply into the mystery of our Catholic faith and help you realize just how much God loves you.

Pope Francis expresses the kerygma this way: "Jesus loves you; he gave his life to save you; and now he is living by your side every day to enlighten, strengthen and free you."

Session 4 Outline:

1. Opening Prayer
2. Recap & Intro
3. Lord, Save Me (Matthew 14:22-33)
4. Who Is Jesus (Matthew Kelly)
5. Giving My Life to Jesus (Jacob Lindle)
6. So Will I (Hillsong United)
7. Closing Prayer

Opening Prayer

Begin this session by reading the following prayer together as a family. Remember to begin your prayer with the Sign of the Cross.

Breathe in me O Holy Spirit
that my thoughts may all be holy;
Act in me O Holy Spirit
that my works, too, may be holy;
Draw my heart O Holy Spirit
that I love what is holy
Strengthen me O Holy Spirit
to defend all that is holy;
Guard me O Holy Spirit
that I always may be holy. Amen.

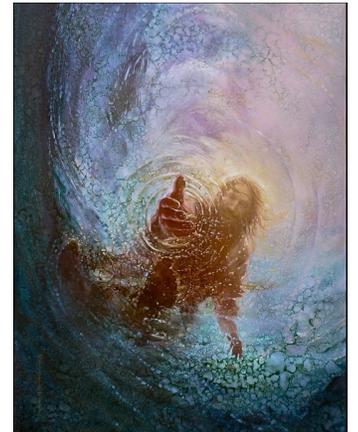
Recap & Intro: Salvation

Read Aloud:

The fourth aspect of the Kerygma continues the message of the Good News: Salvation. For Catholics, redemption (the third stage of the Kerygma) and salvation are two very different things. When Christ died on the cross he did this to redeem **ALL** of mankind. He paid the price for our sins. He ransomed us back for the Father. To be redeemed by Christ is an invitation to salvation. Salvation is for each **INDIVIDUAL** to either accept or reject God's gifts. Salvation and redemption are beautiful gifts that we are all very blessed to receive.

Lord, Save Me

Grab a bible. Have a member of the family read Matthew 14: 22-33. Here is a [link](#) if you don't have a bible handy. While you are listening to God speak to you through His Word; listen for a word or phrase that sticks out to you. Take a few minutes to focus on that word. Let that passage move you—inspire you—to seek God with all your heart, with all your mind, with all your understanding.



Read aloud:

Peter doubted. Peter was afraid. Yet, Jesus took his hand and extended it toward Peter (invitation). Peter and brought him back into the boat. We all have fears, and maybe even doubts that are keeping us from God and the saving power of His Son Jesus.

Answer the following reflection questions as a family:

1. What word or phrase did you focus on?
2. What did you hear God saying to you through this scripture passage (through that word or phrase)?
3. What is holding you back from a deeper relationship with God? Explain.
4. When has Jesus offered His hand to you? Describe how things turned out.

Who Is Jesus?

Read aloud:

We have lots of ideas about who Jesus is. We have heard stories about Jesus our whole life. But how well do we really know Jesus. Do we see Him as a friend? Do we see Him as Our Savior? Do we even know why we need a savior? We may think we know who Jesus is, but we will never be able to fully know Him. We can always learn and experience something new about Jesus and His great love for us.

Matthew Kelly takes an in depth and historical look at this Savior of the world in this video [Who Is Jesus?](#)

Now discuss these questions as a family:

1. What did you find most interesting about Matthew's Video?
2. Who do you say that Jesus is?

Important Principles to Maintain Salvation:

Read Aloud:

As we mentioned earlier, Salvation is a process and it requires our participation through our accepting or rejecting God's graces. In Matthew's gospel, Jesus says "Not everyone who says to me 'Lord, Lord' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven." Here are some principles to make sure we do the will of the Father:

- Love God: Loving God is said to be the first and greatest commandment. We should not allow anything to get in the way of our devotion to our Heavenly Father. We demonstrate our love for God by following His commands and by acknowledging Him as the source of everything.
- Love your neighbors: Our neighbors are the people around us, our family, friends and even people we don't know. To love our neighbors means showing them respect, compassion and forgiveness regardless of their race and religion. God loves us all equally as His children.
- Live a righteous life: The Bible is a good source of wisdom as to how we should live a morally upright life. God wants us to experience lasting peace and this can only be achieved if we live according to His ways.
- Repent: When we choose the path of sin, we are isolated from God and we begin to feel a lack of peace and a sense of guilt. We can only return to our former state of grace if we repent and ask for forgiveness. Repentance is not simply confessing our sins, though. It is genuinely resolving not to commit the same mistakes.

Giving My Life to Jesus

Read aloud:

Jesus wants to heal us and save us. Jesus wants us to give our lives to Him. We can't begin to do that unless we can trust Jesus. Here's our very own Seminarian Jacob Lindle sharing his thoughts on [Trusting Jesus](#).

Answer the following reflection questions as a family:

1. How crowded are the rooms in your heart?
2. Will you let Jesus in to see them?
3. What keeps you from giving Jesus your sin, your cares, your problems and/or your fear to Jesus?

So Will I (100 Billion X)

As we wind up this session on Salvation, we ask that you take some quiet time and reflect on needing a savior, on needing Jesus. After a few minutes of silent reflection, we want you to dive into this [music video from Hillsong United](#). The lyrics to the song can be found [here](#).

Closing Prayer

Pray the following together as a family:

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth. O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.

St. Francis of Assisi Confession Schedule

If you are still contemplating taking up the Family Challenge from Session 2, Fr. Brian will be holding the Sacrament of Reconciliation at the following times:

- Tuesday noon-1 pm (in Friendship Hall)
- Wednesday 4-5 pm (in the Picnic Shelter)
- Thursday 7-8 pm (in the Picnic Shelter)
- Saturday 11am-noon (in Friendship Hall)

Please let us know that you have completed Session 4 by completing this [Evaluation](#)