



The Kerygma Experience

Session 1—Creation

Our Lady of Light Confirmation Ministry

Note to Parents:

For those unable to attend an in person retreat, we are offering a virtual retreat experience for your 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 1 Outline:

1. Opening Prayer
2. Back to Basics—Retreat Overview
3. Created For Relationship With God
4. You're Kind of A Big Deal
5. The Father's Love Letter
6. Closing Prayer

Opening Prayer

Read the following prayer together as a family. Remember to begin your prayer with the Sign of the Cross.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for your presence in our lives. We thank you for the many gifts you have given us, and we ask you to help us understand how you intend us to use these gifts in creating a life filled with your grace. As we learn and reflect more deeply on the plan you have created for each of us, send us the gift of your Holy Spirit as a guide and as a source of strength. Help us to learn to trust in you and your goodness as we explore this plan. Place in us a desire to love you more deeply and to sincerely be open to your working in our lives as we continue our journey towards Confirmation.

Back To Basics—Overview

Read aloud:

The core message of the Gospel is called the kerygma. This is the Gospel message in its simplest form. This message is designed to be shared with others.

Consider, for example, soccer. There are a lot of details regarding the game to understand how it works. But at its simplest, the essence of soccer is that two teams play against each other to score a goal by kicking a ball into the net of the other team.

Take a few minutes together as a family and brainstorm this question:

If you were to boil the Bible down to five lessons, which ones would you choose?

For the purposes of our Confirmation retreat, we are going to look at these five lessons leading up to Confirmation: Creation, Fall, Redemption, Salvation, and Re-Creation.

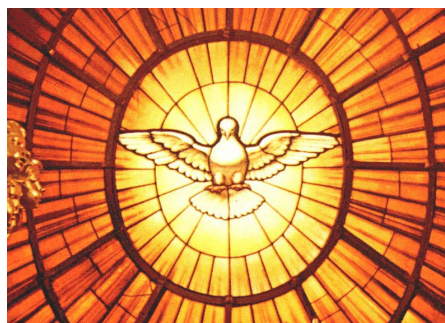
I. Creation: God is love and has created me for relationship with Him.

II. Fall: I have broken my relationship with God by my sin.

III. Redemption: Jesus restores my relationship with God through His life, death and resurrection.

IV. Salvation: Jesus invites me to trust Him, to turn from sin, and to give my life to Him.

V. Re-Creation: Jesus has poured the Holy Spirit into my heart to bring me to new life in His Church and sends His Church on mission so that others can experience new life.



Let's begin
Session I—Creation



Created For Relationship With God

Read aloud:

We have been told and we have read it again and again that God is Love. Every time we experience love we experience God. God is real. God is Love.

Grab a bible. Have a member of the family read Jeremiah 1:4 -9. 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—to inspire you—to seek God with all your heart, with all your mind, with all your understanding.

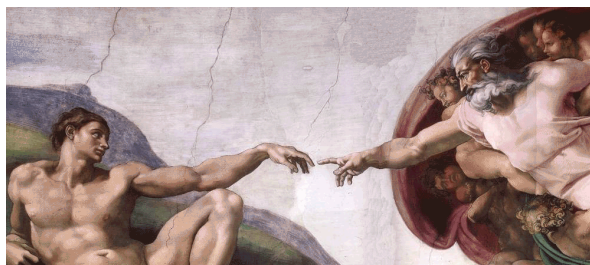
Answer the following reflection questions as a family:

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 going on in your life right now?
4. When you think of God, what comes to mind?

Read aloud:

God has a plan for us and we have been uniquely made (Jerimiah 29). God wants to be close to us and we can't escape him (Psalm 139), but do we realize that we were created by God to be in relationship with him? The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us:

"The desire for God is written in the human heart, because man is created by God and for God; and God never ceases to draw man to himself. Only in God will he find the truth and happiness he never stops searching for." CCC#27



You're Kind of A Big Deal

We have been told God loves us more than we can imagine; we are a part of God's plan; we are wonderfully made...and we are! How often do we really think about that? Watch this Chris Stefanick video entitled [You're Kind of A Big Deal](#).

Now discuss these questions as a family:

1. How do you think God sees you?
2. Parents, how do you see your children?
3. Why are you here on earth in this space and at this time?

The Father's Love Letter

Read Aloud

Over the centuries, many holy people have referred to the Bible as God's Love Letter to his people...to us, you and me. We can find evidence of this throughout the entire Bible.

While you watch the video [Father's Love Letter](#) follow along with this [handout](#).

Answer the following reflection questions as a family:

1. Describe your reaction to the video?
2. What image from the video did you like the most? Explain
3. Does this letter help you understand better God's love for you? Explain
4. What passage from the letter do you find hard to believe or understand? Explain
5. What passage brings you the most hope for your future?

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.



Please let us know that you have completed Session 1 by completing this [Evaluation](#)