Spotlight! Session #6
Week of 1/5/20
Joseph and Forgiveness

Video Intro -

Opening Prayer

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Icebreaker Discussion: Here you will find a current top 40 song. The subject of the song may/may not reflect the topic of the lesson. PLEASE PLAY THE AUDIO VERSION OF THE SONG! Music videos are the work of artists and video producers and associate an image with the song that may or may not represent the lyrical value of the song. The goal of the
icebreaker song is to have a song that both students and parents have heard or is currently charting. We want to use these songs to get parents and students talking so when we get to the core of the lesson, both parties are warmed up and ready to share. Parents should view the video prior to the lesson to see if it is something that you want to view during the lesson.

**One Less Day (Dying Young) / Rob Thomas**

**Values:** Positive  
**Pace:** Medium  
**Clarity:** Clear  
**Suggestions:** G, P, AS  
**See Lyrics**  
**See Video**

**Issues:** What an inspiring song on so many levels! Here we have a very optimistic view of life. Instead of regretting past experiences, he views every day as a gift. "I'm not afraid of getting older, I'm one less day from dying young." Tackling life each day, whatever comes his way seems to be his game plan. "I've been runnin' round in circles till I'm dizzy, but every night I go to sleep's a day that I survived." What will tomorrow bring? Who knows, but one thing is for sure. "Someday I will leave this world, but maybe not tonight." What a great way to face each day!

**Questions:** What is your life motto? How do you show this?  
**Actions:** Write an ad about your life including strengths and accomplishments.

**Mass Readings for Sunday 1/5/20**

If you would like to preview the Gospel and the reading for the week you can find them here:  
http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/010520.cfm

**TRIVIA ZONE (know these facts as they will be part of our Kahoot! Trivia for large group)**

1. Faithfulness — the loyalty and steadfastness that God shows to all humans, even when they sin. God's offer of friendship is never withdrawn.
2. Temptation — an attraction to sin, those actions and omissions that go against right reason and against God's law.
3. New Adam — a title for Jesus. By his obedience to the Father, and willingness to give his life, Jesus made amends for Adam's disobedience, overcame sin, and brought us eternal life.
4. Jacob — had twelve sons — they would become the twelve tribes of Israel.

**Featured Scripture for Discussion**

This is the section where you will read the scripture, discuss it and answer the questions.

**The Spotlight scripture is**

Matthew 6:14-15

14 If you forgive others their transgressions, your heavenly Father will forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your transgressions.

**The Story of Joseph**

**Genesis 37-50**

The timeless power of Joseph's story is reaffirmed by the long and successful run of the Broadway play Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. (In other Bible versions, the "long ornamented tunic" in Genesis 37:3 is translated as a "coat of many colors.") The play is based off Genesis:37-50 which contains one of the world's greatest stories of family, jealousy, betrayal and forgiveness. A son of Jacob and Rachel, Joseph carries to Egypt the divine promises of land and descendants, and eventually becomes the link with the story of Moses and the Exodus. As Jacob's favorite son, Joseph experiences the jealousy of his brothers, who sell him to Egyptian merchants. In Egypt, Joseph rises to power; becoming second in command to the pharaoh. Later when Joseph's brothers come to Egypt looking for food, he forgives them and becomes reconciled with them. Joseph's story encourages us to forgive others even when we have been unjustly treated by them. Whenever we have been greatly wronged, remembering Joseph will offer us hope and courage.

- The Catholic Youth Bible, Saint Mary's Press Third Edition

Here is the scripture of Joseph when he meets his brothers. Take time to read the entire story or even check out the show Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat on your favorite streaming channel.
The Truth Revealed. \( ^{[1]} \) Joseph could no longer restrain himself in the presence of all his attendants, so he cried out, “Have everyone withdraw from me!” So no one attended him when he made himself known to his brothers. \( ^{2} \) But his sobs were so loud that the Egyptians heard him, and so the news reached Pharaoh’s house. \( ^{3} \) “I am Joseph,” he said to his brothers. “Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could give him no answer, so dumbfounded were they at him.

\( ^{4} \) “Come closer to me,” Joseph told his brothers. When they had done so, he said: “I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. \( ^{5} \) But now do not be distressed, and do not be angry with yourselves for having sold me here. It was really for the sake of saving lives that God sent me here ahead of you. \( ^{6} \) The famine has been in the land for two years now, and for five more years cultivation will yield no harvest. \( ^{7} \) God, therefore, sent me on ahead of you to ensure for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives in an extraordinary deliverance. \( ^{8} \) So it was not really you but God who had me come here; and he has made me a father to Pharaoh, \( ^{[b]} \) lord of all his household, and ruler over the whole land of Egypt.

\( ^{9} \) Hurry back, then, to my father and tell him: ‘Thus says your son Joseph: God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me without delay. \( ^{10} \) You can settle in the region of Goshen, \( ^{[d]} \) where you will be near me—you and your children and children’s children, your flocks and herds, and everything that you own. \( ^{11} \) I will provide for you there in the five years of famine that lie ahead, so that you and your household and all that are yours will not suffer want.’ \( ^{12} \) Surely, you can see for yourselves, and Benjamin can see for himself, that it is I who am speaking to you. \( ^{13} \) Tell my father all about my high position in Egypt and all that you have seen. But hurry and bring my father down here.” \( ^{14} \) Then he threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept on his shoulder. \( ^{15} \) Joseph then kissed all his brothers and wept over them; and only then were his brothers able to talk with him.

Discussion Questions:

1. Is it more difficult to forgive or to forget? Why?
2. Do you think a Christian should forgive even if the person who hurt them does not repent?
3. What have you learned about forgiveness in your own life?
4. Is there someone you need to forgive right now?
5. Is there someone you should ask forgiveness from? What is stopping you?
6. What do you think Joseph would say about forgiveness?
7. Do you know someone who struggles to forgive others? How can you help them?
8. Look up these bible verses to read other stories of forgiveness
   b. John 8:4:11
   c. Matthew 26:28
   d. Ephesians 1:7
9. Do you think God speaks to people through dreams like Joseph?
10. Have you ever had a dream that lead you to do something good?
Saint Profile:
Saint Dominic Savio

Feast day May 6

Saint Dominic Savio’s Story

So many holy persons seem to die young. Among them was Dominic Savio, the patron of choirboys.

Born into a peasant family at Riva, Italy, young Dominic joined Saint John Bosco as a student at the Oratory in Turin at the age of 12. He impressed Don Bosco with his desire to be a priest and to help him in his work with neglected boys. A peacemaker and an organizer, young Dominic founded a group he called the Company of the Immaculate Conception which, besides being devotional, aided John Bosco with the boys and with manual work. All the members save one, Dominic, would, in 1859, join Don Bosco in the beginnings of his Salesian congregation. By that time, Dominic had been called home to heaven.

As a youth, Dominic spent hours rapt in prayer. His raptures he called “my distractions.” Even in play, he said that at times, “It seems heaven is opening just above me. I am afraid I may say or do something that will make the other boys laugh.” Dominic would say, “I can’t do big things. But I want all I do, even the smallest thing, to be for the greater glory of God.”

Dominic’s health, always frail, led to lung problems and he was sent home to recuperate. As was the custom of the day, he was bled in the thought that this would help, but it only worsened his condition. He died on March 9, 1857, after receiving the Last Sacraments. Saint John Bosco himself wrote the account of his life.

Some thought that Dominic was too young to be considered a saint. Saint Pius X declared that just the opposite was true, and went ahead with his cause. Dominic was canonized in 1954. His Liturgical Feast Day is October 9.

Reflection

Like many a youngster, Dominic was painfully aware that he was different from his peers. He tried to keep his piety from his friends lest he have to endure their laughter. Even after his death, his youth marked him as a misfit among the saints and some argued that he was too young to be canonized. Pope Pius X wisely disagreed. For no one is too young—or too old or too anything else—to achieve the holiness to which we all are called.

Question: Ask yourself if you are the type of person who is leading those around you to heaven by your words and actions and then ask St. Dominic to pray with you that you, like he, would become an even better example to all those you meet.

Saint Dominic Savio is the Patron Saint of:
Choirboys
Juvenile delinquents

Wins and Spins

Have each member of your family or small group talk about a “win” for the day. Something that went well or you feel good about. Now have each member of your group talk about a “spin” something that did not go as planned, was disappointing or you feel could be improved. After each member of your group has said a win and a spin, pray for each member’s spins.
Example: My win for today is I got an A on a quiz. My spin for today is that I had a fight with my mom this morning and I feel bad about the things I said. (the group will now pray for each person’s “Spin” so there will be healing or improvement.)

Christian Music Song of the Day

Forgiveness – Matthew West - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FMn0QNdiuGE

Power – We are Messengers- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VTZ0dylZC1A

• Take a few minutes to reflect on the words and images from the video.

Closing Prayer

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.