

Materials Needed

Bible, crucifix, paper, pencils, mousetrap

Disciples on the Journey Teens

Sunday Readings

Deuteronomy 26:4-10

Psalms 91:1-2, 10-15

Romans 10:8-13

Luke 4:1-13

1st Sunday of Lent 2010 Cycle C

Let's Focus *Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert where he was tempted.*

Let's Reflect *Sin is very deceitful.*

Leader: If you have mouse problems, you need a little thing called a mousetrap, made of wood with a clever place to put the bait and a spring that sets off the trap and kills the mouse. All these things are important in catching the innocent and unsuspecting mouse.

Reader One: But what really catches the mouse? The wood? The spring? No! It's the very tiny piece of cheese! All the mouse cares about is the cheese. However, it is too late when he realizes that the cheese led him to the trap.

Reader Two: Satan does the *same* thing. His mission is to tempt us. He draws us in with a little pleasure, and we fall for his trap. Never underestimate his power, for his traps are very attractive and clever. Take a good look beyond the bait of sin and realize just how bad sin is and how deceitful the bait can be. Don't be fooled and trapped by sin.

Let's Explore!

Leader: We live in a world of selfishness and immediate gratification. Our culture has become one massive storehouse of bait. The bait seems so good, convenient, and pleasurable that we fail to see the consequences of taking the bait. *Divide into groups of three to five and list as many "baits" as possible and the consequences of each. Share with the whole group.*

Let's Talk... *Form groups of 5-7 to discuss the following questions.*

1. When have you felt pressured to do something wrong? What was the bait? How did you respond? Share.
2. Lent is an excellent time to train ourselves to overcome temptation. How can you become stronger in your faith in order to resist temptation (the bait)? Discuss.
3. If Jesus wanted to hang out with you this weekend, where would you take him? Would your plans change? Why? Would Jesus cramp your style? Discuss.
4. What do you plan to do this Lent in order to get closer to God and live as a disciple of Jesus?
5. Like our first parents, at times we do not want to do the will of God. Do you agree? Discuss.

Let's Live It! *Select one or more of these actions and be prepared to share with your small group next week.*

1. Media (television, Internet, radio, magazines, movies, video games, and billboards) present many “baits.” Identify as many “baits” as you can in one or more of the aforementioned media and keep a journal.
2. Pray for each person in your group (yourself included) that all may experience conversion and renewal this Lent.
3. If your parish participates in *Operation Rice Bowl*, give up something you enjoy and contribute that money to the *Rice Bowl*.
4. Pray the Memory Verse each day and write in your Lenten Journal.

Let's Pray! *Gather around the prayer table with a Bible, lit candle, crucifix, and mousetrap.*

All: Jesus, you have shown us how to deal with temptation. We do not want to fall into the deceitful trap of sin. We want to remain faithful to you. Amen.

*Each person takes the crucifix and prays aloud: “**Lord, by your cross you have redeemed the world.**” After the last person has taken the crucifix, join hands and pray the Our Father.*

Memory Verse *“No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” Romans 10:11*

Saint of the Week

Saint Paula of Saint Joseph of Calasanz (Feast Day: February 26)

Just as the Scriptures for today call us to remember all that God has done for us, Paula Montal’s life was a response to God’s goodness. She grew up in a large family in a small fishing village in Spain. When she was only 10 years old, her father died so she had to help take care of her family. She helped to support them by making lace and sewing for people. She helped to take care of other children and later opened a girls’ school, which taught morality as well as regular school subjects since there were very few opportunities for girls to get a good education in her time. For many years she lived as a single lay woman and privately devoted herself to God. Later Paula founded a college for women and another school. Finally, she started a religious congregation called the Daughters of Mary to teach in the college and schools. Today her followers teach in 19 countries. Pope Paul II canonized Paula in 2001. Let us ask her to pray that we remember all that God has done for us.