

Materials Needed

Stones, paper,
markers, pencils

Disciples on the Journey TEENS

Sunday Readings

Isaiah 43:16-21
Psalm 126:1-6
Philippians 3:8-14
John 8:1-11

5th Sunday of Lent 2010 Cycle C

Let's Reflect *“Forgiving instead of judging...only God knows our heart.”*

Let's Focus *If you are without sin, you may cast stones. That pretty much excludes all stone throwing, doesn't it?*

Leader: There is joy in letting go of the old (sin) and embracing the new (life in Christ). Jesus' new commandment “Love one another as I have loved you” replaces the Old Testament “eye for an eye.”

Reader One: The woman caught in adultery, according to the law, was a condemned woman. How could Jesus dispute the law? In his wisdom, Jesus demonstrated the new law of love and forgiveness; therefore, the woman had no one left to condemn her. This story is an example of Jesus' response to judgment and condemnation. Jesus responded with love and forgiveness. No sin is too great to be forgiven by God or by us.

Reader Two: Sometimes, through pride and ignorance, we become caught up in our own righteousness and think we have the right to judge. Only God can judge. Like Jesus, we are called to forgive and love unconditionally.

Let's Explore!

Read the Gospel and discuss its message, relating it to today's situations. Break into small groups. Each group will have a stone as a symbol of judgment. Discuss how and why we judge others. Have someone jot down the group's ideas. Each group will also have a paper heart (larger than the stone) on which to write a sentence or a Scripture quote that expresses forgiveness or non-judgment. Small groups will share with the whole group.

Let's Talk... *Form groups of 5 – 7 to discuss the following:*

1. Have you ever been judged? How did you feel? Have you ever judged others? How can you stop judging?
2. Have you ever gotten away with something you knew was wrong? Did you feel guilty? Why? Did you really get away with it? Discuss. Can you fool God? Discuss.
3. Jesus “forgave” the woman and told her to “sin no more.” Jesus says the same thing to us. Why? How do both parts of Jesus' statement show his love for her and for us? Discuss.

4. Have you ever misjudged someone based on a first impression or on something someone else said? Explain.

Let's Live It! *Share an action you did last week. Select one or more of the following actions for this week.*

1. If you observe another person being judged or ridiculed, reach out to that person in friendship.
2. If you have a friend who has “blown it” (because of sinful action/s), pray for this person. Ask God to help you guide your friend to new ways of behavior.
3. When you find yourself judging others, stop and ask yourself what would Jesus do.
4. Make a sincere confession through the sacrament of reconciliation.
5. The Church mandates that we uphold the dignity of human life. This week, read about the Catholic Church’s stance on abortion, the death penalty, or euthanasia (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* #2258, www.coc.org, www.usccb.org). Share your findings with family or friends.

Let's Pray! *Gather around the prayer space with the stones. One person from each “Let’s Explore” group will place the paper heart over a stone. The whole group will then respond, “Turn our casting stones into forgiving hearts.”*
Conclude by praying the Our Father and express some sign of peace.

Memory Verse *“The Lord has done great things for us; oh, how happy we were!”* (Psalm 126:3)

Saint of the Week

Saint Turibius of Lima (Feast Day: March 23)

Turibius was a professor of law at the University of Salamanca in 1571 when King Philip II appointed him the chief judge of the ecclesiastical court of the Inquisition at Granada. Then in 1580, when the Church authorities needed someone to convert the Peruvians of Lima in South America, they selected Turibius. He resisted, saying that he was a layman, but he was overruled, ordained a priest, consecrated a bishop, and sent to Peru.

He traveled – mostly on foot – three times through his enormous diocese of 18,000 square miles and saw all the mistreatment of the native population by the authorities. He defended the rights of the natives and learned to speak their dialects. Turibius evangelized the baptized since they knew very little about their faith, and he converted nearly a million more natives. He worked to eliminate many of the injustices and abuses; he established churches, hospitals, religious houses, and a seminary. Let us pray to Saint Turibius to intercede for us as we tell other people about the wonderful things God has done for us.