

Dear Parents,

The goal of This Sunday's Life Night, "Receipts," is to wrestle with the perceived contradictions in Scripture and equip teens to process and understand God's goodness through His Word. Understanding Scripture is a journey, and definitely a journey worth taking. We will begin the night with some fun activities that highlight the theme of "perspectives" and then present a skit which demonstrates the perceived contradictions in the Nativity narrative and how three different Gospel evangelists can experience and talk about the same event in unique ways. The teaching will acknowledge perceived contradictions in Scripture and give tools to prayerfully work through God's Word. In small groups, the teens will discuss and reflect on confronting contradictions in their lives and in Scripture. And, finally, the night will end in a prayerful session of Lectio Divina.

Key Concepts:

The stories in Scripture can seem confusing, complicated, and contradictory if we do not have the proper context for them.

Each part of Scripture should be read and understood as a unified story of God's covenant with man.

God's goodness is unchanging and has been consistently revealed to us in the Old and New Testament.

The questions below may help you begin conversations with your teens about the content they learned during the Life Night.

- Does knowing that there are seeming contradictions in Scripture change how you view Scripture? Why or why not?
- What can you do or what have you done when encountering a contradiction in Scripture?
- What does it mean to you that it is OK to wrestle with Scripture and not just overlook it?

I hope that your family can take some time to read Sacred Scripture together this week, and the weeks to come, especially during this holy season of Advent. Here are the steps to Lectio Divina. This would be a beautiful way to pray with Scripture (*maybe the upcoming Sunday Mass readings*) as a family and share what the Lord is putting on your hearts through His Word:

LECTIO – Reading/Listening

Read the Scripture passage slowly and intentionally, listening as if God is speaking it directly to you, because He is doing just that☺

MEDITATIO – Meditation

What is the word or phrase that really spoke to you in this passage? What impact do these words have on your soul?

ORATIO – Prayer

Have a conversation with God about what you've read, what you do and don't understand, what jumped out at you during meditation. Ask God how it may be calling you to change your life and faith walk.

COMTEMPLATIO – Contemplation

The final step is less about you and more about God. Simply take some time to be with God – no agenda or list of questions – just simply BE and allow Him to be with you.

If you want to ease into Lectio Divina and simply have a discussion on the upcoming readings for Mass, you may want to use the following questions as a guide to your discussion:

- What do you think the readings are about this week?
- What are some key words that stood out to you?
- How do those words relate to your life?
- How can we take the Gospel message and live that daily as a family?

May God bless your family! Thank you for sharing your family with all of us in Life Teen! ~ *Theresa*