

Sixth Sunday of Easter Family Activity

May 17, 2020



Introduction

The Gospel this week Jesus tells His disciples that “if you love me, you will keep my commandments”. What are Jesus’ commandments? Jesus’ commands are to love God with all our hearts, minds and souls, and our neighbor as our self. Jesus promises to send the Holy Spirit on Pentecost so that when He goes to The Father He will not leave us orphans. We look forward to celebrating the coming of the Holy Spirit on the feast of Pentecost next Sunday. This Sunday we hear about the coming of the Holy Spirit upon those who were baptized in the First Reading from the Acts of the Apostles. Philip heals and does other works with the power of the Holy Spirit and through the Spirit’s power brought many to faith in Jesus. In the Second Reading Saint Peter exhorts us to be ready to give an explanation of the hope we have in Jesus. This explanation for the hope that is within us is called apologetics. In the *Apologetics Role-Playing Activity* you can “practice” giving witness to the hope you have in Jesus. The goal is to for disciples to know what they believe and why. May the peace of Jesus be with you and your family.

Materials needed

1. Gospel reading from the USCCB found [HERE](#)
2. Bible
3. Gospel Reflection Options:
 - ⇒ Homily from any Mass livestreamed @ 9:30am, 11:15am and 1pm (in Spanish) [LINK](#)
 - ⇒ Listen to podcast by Bishop Robert Barron: [HERE](#)
4. Song: *Holy Spirit*, Francesca Battistelli [HERE](#)
5. Optional Resource:
 - ⇒ Bishop Robert Barron is an excellent apologist for our times. He has a dedicated platform to that at <https://www.wordonfire.org/> and has great videos on relatable topics in his channel [HERE](#).
 - ⇒ [HERE](#) is another channel with great reflections and answers to many questions regarding faith in everyday life.

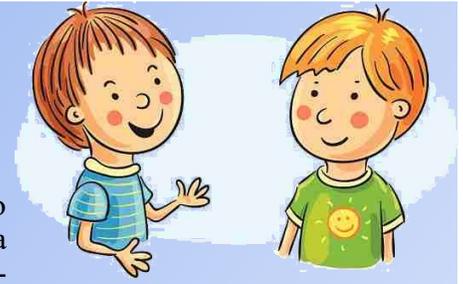


Method

1. **Pray together:** Thank God for your family, for his love and for this time together. **Praise** Him for his goodness and His grace. **Ask** Him for anything that you need.
2. **Listen to or Read** the First Reading, Psalm, Second Reading and Gospel.
3. **Converse** about the readings. What caught your attention? What meaning do you find in it?
4. **Do** the *Apologetics Role Playing* activity.
5. **Converse** about how your faith gives hope in your life and explain that sometimes what we believe is challenged and we have to be a witness to how God has worked in our life and how He works in the world. Share that it is ok if you don’t have all the answers to the questions people ask but it is important for us to know why we believe what we believe so that we can live it more fully.
6. **Pray together** the Our Father.

Activity

Apologetics Role-Playing



In this activity you or your child will play the roles of several people who have questions about the Catholic faith. You will role play the parts of 1) a person who does not know about God 2) a person who does not know anything about the faith 3) a person who knows about some teaching and does not agree with it. You or your child's task is to "give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope". This is called apologetics. Apologetics comes from the Greek word *apologia* which is the same root word as our English word "apology". However, *apologia* is not the same as an apology for doing something wrong. In Greek it means to give a reasoned or logical defense of a case like a lawyer would do in court. So when Saint Peter says in his letter that we should always be ready to "give an **explanation** to anyone who asks" he uses the Greek word *apologia* which we translate into explanation. This activity will give you the opportunity to give an explanation for the faith you have and have a sense of how much you may know and what are some things you may want to know more about to grow in your knowledge of God and your faith.

Choose who will be playing the person asking the questions and who will be playing the Apologist (the one giving witness to the faith). Talk together with the one asking questions and the other responding. How can you witness to the faith with gentleness, reverence and a clear conscience like St. Peter says? Below you can find some questions to help guide the role playing for each of the scenarios.

Act 1

Witness to someone who does not know about God.

- ◇ *Why do you believe in God?*
- ◇ *What is God?*
- ◇ *What can God do?*
- ◇ *How can you know about God?*
- ◇ *Why would you believe in God?*

Act 2

Witness to someone who knows nothing about the faith.

- ◇ *Why are you so happy/joyful/a good person?*
- ◇ *What do you believe helps you be like that?*
- ◇ *Who is Jesus?*
- ◇ *Why does he tell you to love God with all your being and your neighbor as yourself? Of what benefit is it to you?*
- ◇ *What is the most important thing to know about Christianity?*
- ◇ *Why are you a Christian?*

Act 3

Witness to someone who disagrees with something you believe or something they think you believe.

- ◇ *You're a catholic and you believe _____. (Fill in the blank with some mistaken things people think Catholics believe or something controversial that Catholics do believe) "You worship saints or Mary", "The pope can never be wrong", "You do not believe in the bible", "Catholics don't believe in science" or any other incorrect claim about being a catholic. Some controversial things Catholics believe: Jesus is God, God became man, Jesus established the Church and Peter and the popes, the sacraments. Brainstorm for more ideas.*
- ◇ *You believe _____, but that's against reason.*
- ◇ *Why do you believe _____? it makes people uncomfortable.*
- ◇ *You believe _____, but I've heard that you do _____ or think _____.*
- ◇ *Challenge what they think and why.*

Debrief the role-playing. How did you respond? Did you do it with gentleness and a clear conscience? Did you lose your temper? Did you keep true to your faith and what you believe? What can you do learn more about your faith?



