

## On the Lookout for What's Real

As human beings, we believe that all good things must come to an end and that nothing beautiful lasts forever. But we don't like it. We want the good without end and beauty that never fades.

That's why we are constantly on the lookout for whatever is lasting and real. As Christians, we acknowledge that the everlasting reality we seek is no thing or talent or attribute or even virtue. It is nothing less than God.

*As the deer longs for streams of water, so my soul longs for you, O God. My being thirsts for God, the living God. When can I go and see the face of God?*

Psalm 42:1-3

*The desire for God is written in the human heart, because man is created by God and for God; and God never ceases to draw man to himself. Only in God will he find the truth and happiness he never stops searching for.*

Catechism of the Catholic Church #27

*If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world. If none of my earthly pleasures satisfy it, that does not prove that the universe is a fraud. Probably earthly pleasures were never meant to satisfy it, but only to arouse it, to suggest the real thing.*

C. S. Lewis

*For everything that is not God is unable to fulfill my desires. It is you alone I seek, that I may have you. O Lord, open my heart. Jesus Christ, my Savior, the express image and character of your essence is that image and likeness I desire.*

Blaise Pascal

*The simple desire for God is already the beginning of faith. All of us have doubts. They are nothing to worry about. Our deepest desire is to listen to Christ, who whispers in our hearts.*

Brother Roger of Taizé

- Do any of your desires (e.g., relationships, reputation, security, comfort, material things, other) compete with your desire for God? Which ones?
- Have any of the desires you illustrated—or any others (e.g., sexual desire, selfishness, over-indulgence, status, money, etc.)—been overwhelming for you?
- What are you afraid of? What, if anything, does your fear tell you about your relationship with God?
- Right now—at this moment in your life—what is the state of your desire for God? Do you desire God? Do you desire to desire God?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Psalm Search

Look up and read each psalm listed below. Write them in the spaces provided. Afterward, write the letter of the divine attitude that the psalm describes in the box by the Scripture reference.

- |                |                          |                          |
|----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| A. ETERNAL     | B. UNIQUE                | C. INFINITE & OMNIPOTENT |
| D. OMNIPRESENT | E. CONTAINING ALL THINGS | F. IMMUTABLE             |
| G. PURE SPIRIT | H. ALIVE                 | I. HOLY                  |

1. Psalm 139:1-2, 8-10

2. Psalm 139:7

3. Psalm 136:1-2

4. Psalm 90:2

5. Psalm 50:1

6. Psalm 99:5

7. Psalm 104:24–25, 28–30

8. Psalm 86:8–10

9. Psalm 84:3

## Finding Truth

### Part One

- Pay attention to the content and unity of the Scripture as a whole.
- Read Scripture within the Tradition of the Catholic Church.
- Be attentive to the analogy of faith, that is, to the unity of the truths of faith among themselves and within the context of the whole of God's revelation.
- The stated or literal meaning is not the only meaning.
- Your personal interpretation is not necessarily the truest interpretation.
- A scriptural passage is scriptural only when it is in the Scripture.

### Part Two

**BUCCANEERS SCUTTLE PATRIOTS**

**Ducks Devour Sharks**

**Timberwolves Terrorize Mavericks**

### Part Three

Is Scripture true?

Just what sort of truth does Scripture possess?

## The Liturgy of the Word

### First Reading

From the Old Testament (or Acts of the Apostles during the Easter season) this reading is related to the Gospel.

### Responsorial Psalm

The assembly's response to the Liturgy of the Word in its entirety.

### Second Reading

A semi-continuous reading of one of the New Testament letters.

- For example, during Lent, we hear the following readings: Year A = 1 Peter; Year B = 1 John; Year C = Revelation

The semi-continuous reading gives us, over a course of Sundays, a feel for and understanding of the thrust of the particular letter.

### Gospel Acclamation

We cheer the "Good News."

### Gospel

Year A = Matthew; Year B = Mark; Year C = Luke; Lent/Easter = John (plus five Sundays in Year B)

### Homily

## The Gospels challenge us to . . .

. . . hear good news

. . . meet the Lord

. . . dare to believe.

Read each of the Gospel passages below.

**Mark 9:33–37**     **Matthew 5:14–16**     **Luke 10:39–42**     **John 15:9–17**

Afterward:

1. Tell what the Good News is.
2. Describe the picture or image of the Lord the passage presents.
3. Tell what you feel the passage dares you to believe and do.
4. State what you can do to accept that dare.