

Growing in the Theological Virtues

Use this complete prayer service with Chapter 4, Section 3 of Your Life in Christ. You may also choose to use only individual parts of the prayer service.

Needs:

- copies as needed or projection
- *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and Bible marked with passages for reflection
- Coloring sheets and colored pencils (if desired) printed from <https://www.looktohimandberadiant.com/2014/01/the-theological-virtues.html>

Prayer Introduction

(Along with this study on the theological virtues, you may also give students coloring sheets to work on as they discuss. This is optional, but may be helpful to engage those more kinesthetic learners in the group.)

Leader: The theological virtues given to you at your Baptism are gifts to help you become more the best version of yourself. They help you to become more truly human in the sense that you are using your intellect, free will, ability to love, and capacity to respond morally in the best way possible. The theological virtues of faith, hope, and love are first of all gifts from God; you cannot attain them without God's grace. They are developed and perfected by a life of prayer and habitual practice. Today you will be praying and discussing each of these virtues and how you see yourself actively developing them in your life.

Opening Prayer

Leader: (Have the students stand and make the Sign of the Cross.) To begin, bring yourself into God's presence. Lord, we come before you today and ask you to enlighten our hearts by the gift of the Holy Spirit. Be with us as we reflect on the virtues of faith,

Your Life in Christ: Foundations in Catholic Morality

Prayer Services

hope, and charity given to us at Baptism. Help us to consider how we will be more intentional as we form good habits.

Scripture:

Reader 1: A reading of St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians (4:8).

Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

(Brief pause to reflect on the passage)

(Have students sit.)

Faith

Study: (Have a student read aloud about the virtue of faith from CCC 1814. Have another student read aloud about the virtue of faith in Hebrews 11: 1.)

Witness:

Leader: Who is a person that you admire who models well the virtue of faith? How do you see them living this virtue out? (Give students time to answer these questions. Examples you could give: Abraham in Genesis 12-23, St. Peter in Matthew 14: 22-33.)

Reflection:

Leader: How do you see the virtue of faith at work in your life? What is way that you struggle with faith? What is one way you could work with God's grace to increase the virtue of faith in your life this week? (Give students time to answer these questions.)

Hope

Your Life in Christ: Foundations in Catholic Morality

Prayer Services

Study: (Have a student read aloud about the virtue of hope in the CCC 1817. Have another student read aloud about the virtue of hope in Hebrews 10: 23.)

Witness:

Leader: Who is a person that you admire who models well the virtue of faith? How do you see them living this virtue out? (Examples you could give: St. Paul in Romans 8:24, St. Monica praying for her son Augustine.)

Reflection:

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus' promises to you in the Gospels? Do you feel hope in God's plan for you? How do you struggle with the gift of hope in your life? What is one concrete way you can live out the gift of hope?

Charity

Study: (Have a student read aloud about the virtue of hope in the CCC 1822. Have another student read aloud about the virtue of hope in 1 John 15: 9.)

Witness:

Leader: Who is a person that you admire who models well the virtue of charity/love? How do you see them living this virtue out? (Examples you could give: Mary, Jesus' Mother in Luke 2: 19, or St. Teresa of Calcutta.)

Reflection:

Leader: If you believe in Jesus' promises, how will you work to share it with those you love? What is a way you struggle with the virtue of charity? What is a specific way you can live out the virtue of charity today?

Closing Prayer

Reader 2: A reading from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians (13:12).

Your Life in Christ: Foundations in Catholic Morality

Prayer Services

At present we see indistinctly, as in a mirror, but then face to face. At present I know partially; then I shall know fully, as I am fully known. So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Leader: Jesus, help us to put our trust in the beautiful gifts of faith, hope, and charity you have given to us. Above all, help us to come to know you better, and trust that you want to know us. Amen.

Your Life in Christ: Foundations in Catholic Morality

Prayer Services