

— F A M I L Y R E N E W A L P R O J E C T —

DISCOVER YOUR STORY

*[Living the Great Adventure with
TOB & the Gifts of the Holy Spirit]*

ADVANCED LEVEL ONE

Wonder & Awe

[Meeting Jesus in Genesis]

Main Idea – God made me and all that is.

Main Purpose

- *This serves as John Sohl's TOB Institute Practicum for his Official Certification*
- We will be focusing on WONDER & AWE through the lens of Genesis & Spousal Imagery
- We will be exploring how the main characters in Genesis experience the gifts of the Holy Spirit as it relates to our own experience of love, life, and the miracle of the Incarnation.

Main Outline – Each reflection during the day runs approximately 60-90 min

9:30-10:00am		Prayer & Introductions
10:00-11:15am		Reflection #1—Discover Your Story
11:15-11:30am		Working Lunch (Bring your Own or \$10)
11:30-12:30pm		Reflection #2—Marriage & the Family
12:30-12:45pm		Break for Discussion & Socializing
12:45-2:00pm		Reflection #3—The Essence of Covenant
2:00-2:15pm		Break for Discussion & Socializing
2:15-3:30pm		Reflection #4—The Bride & Groom
3:30-4:00pm		Closing Prayer & Invitation to St. Luke's 4pm Mass

Main Textual References

- The Great Adventure Bible by Ascension
- Walking with God by Tim Gray and Jeff Cavins
- Man & Woman He Created Them: A Theology of the Body (JPII)
- Love & Responsibility by Karol Wojtyla
- Catechism of the Catholic Church
- Fill These Hearts by Christopher West
- These Beautiful Bones by Emily Stimpson
- Lumen Fidei by Pope Francis
- The Spirit of the Liturgy by Joseph Ratzinger
- Crossing the Threshold of Hope by JPII
- Gaudium et Spes, Vatican II

Media Resources Disclaimer

- The amount of media used is extensive and thoroughly integrated into the lecture, making a short-list somewhat impractical
- All pictures, video clips, and artwork used will enhance discussion and material to aid people in encountering the Holy Spirit's gift of Wonder & Awe.

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TOB Practicum Study Guide by John Sohl

Outline of the Practicum Day of Reflection

Reflection #1 | Discovering Your Story is a Great Adventure

Overview | “Fear of the Lord is the beginning of Wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One in insight.”

1. Wonder is the Beginning of Wisdom
 - A. A Synthesis of the Seven Gifts
 - B. The Secret Fire of the Holy Spirit
2. The Knowledge of the Holy One is Insight
 - A. Receiving Love + Giving Love = True Wisdom
 - B. We Become True Lifelong Disciples of Jesus Christ through Mercy & Beatitude

Introduction | Life is a Song: Hearing the Fuller Story

1. The Word became Flesh so the Flesh could become Word
 - A. Jesus is there with us in our Past, our Present, and our Future
2. Level One | Look Up & Around You: What are you looking for? What do you seek?
3. Open Your Heart by Meeting Jesus in Genesis
4. Life is Wonderful | God made me and all that is.
 - A. Days 1 & 4 of Creation

Reflection #2 | Marriage & the Family

Chapter One | Adam & Eve – Covenant Promise to the Couple

1. What’s the fuller story of Adam & Eve?
2. Life is Wonderful | God made me and all that is.
 - A. Days 2 & 5 of Creation
3. Silence, Shouting, & Singing

Chapter Two | Noah & the Ark – Covenant Promise to the Family

1. The God of Israel is always in Control – and others gods *don’t exist!*
2. What’s the fuller story of Noah and the Ark?
3. The Fall of the Family & the Tower of Babel
4. Life is Wonderful | God made me and all that is.
 - A. Days 3 & 6 of Creation

Reflection #3 | The Essence of Covenant

5. Mimes, Monsters, & Music

Chapter Three | Abraham & Sarah + Isaac & Rebekah – Covenant Promise to the Tribe

1. The Lord God is very patient and allows Abram to Learn Trust
2. What’s the fuller story of Abraham & Sarah?
3. Life is Wonderful | God made me and all that is.
 - A. God wants to bring each of our stories into His Story
 - B. Day 7 – God rests and invites mankind into His rest
4. Belief in the Resurrection of the Body is what brings Abraham’s Story into the 7th Day of God’s Rest

Reflection #4 | The Bride & Groom

Chapter Four | Jacob & Esau – The Promised Light of Faith

1. He thirsts for us, for “this is love, not that we loved God, but that He first loved us.” (1 John 4:10)
2. What’s the Fuller Story of Jacob & Esau?
3. Life is Wonderful | God made me and all that is.
 - A. God wants us to cross the threshold of hope, starting with wonder
 - B. Dreams have the power to see us through to Eternal Bliss

Chapter Five | Judah & Joseph – The Promised Future of Hope

1. Why is Judah’s Journey suddenly filled with such Evil, Death, & Deceit?
2. What’s the fuller story of Judah & Joseph?
 - a. Judah’s Beatific Redemption with Joseph

Crescendo | Open Your Heart by Meeting Jesus in Genesis

1. Day 8 – God’s bliss as we see Him face to face in the Beatific Vision
2. God the Father asks us to Listen to His Beloved Son
3. Life is Wonderful | God made me and all that is.
 - a. What are you looking for? What do you seek?

Hello everyone!

Today is an important day. That much is true, but I think what makes the day important has more to do with God's understanding than with ours. I cannot thank you all enough for being a part of this special experience in my life as I complete my Theology of the Body Institute Practicum, most especially my wife Crystal and my parents, Buddy and Tina Sohl along with so many others I can't adequately express.

And yet, more importantly, I can't help but *wonder* what deeper reasons God may have had in mind when He chose us all to be here together in this room for such a time as this.

You may have had a reason to come today, whether it was to support me or understand who Family Renewal Project is on a deeper level. Perhaps you're here to learn more about John Paul II's great gift to the world and *secret fire of the Holy Spirit* in the Theology of the Body. Whatever the case, we are all *searching* for something. We are all looking for peace, satisfaction, and a place to ultimately call home.

St. Luke Church has been my home parish since I was born, and yet I'll never forget the silence on that cold morning as I stared past the police tape and into the skeleton of my parish home.

On January 17, 1997—St. Luke Church burned to the ground, and despite all odds, for some reason (perhaps this day being very much a part of that reason), St. Luke Church was given the grace to rebuild and rise from the ashes. The fire that had consumed us gave rise to a new kind of fire, one hidden and unknown to the world, for its effect on society is a slow burning ember within each of our hearts, within each of our bodies.

Theology of the Body *is* the answer to this Culture of Death, and if we wish to properly understand it, embrace it, or hope to live it out in our families—then we must start at the beginning in Genesis.

We simply must start with the *Wonder & Awe* of Creation itself and all that God has made.

Today's reflections are not a conclusion to my studies at the Theology of the Body Institute, but rather a *beginning* to deeper dives and more determined, focused reflections on our human story, all in hopes to reveal the Kingdom of God more thoroughly in our beloved Archdiocese of Louisville.

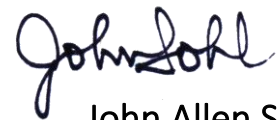
The masculine and feminine dance of all Creation is pulling us onto the dance floor of God's Love, and the great Song of Songs is playing softly in the background. Aware of the great responsibility such imagery and eroticism demands from those of us who wish to explore it fully, we are still invited to respond to the beautiful and alluring cry from the heart of Jesus Himself as He so clearly communicates how much *God wants to marry us*.

The only two questions that can guide us to our desired answers in life are thus.

What are we looking for? Who are we really?

Finding the answers to those questions is the sure way to lasting happiness, for it is the *only way* to discover your story in His Story. May God bless each of you on this most sacred day!

In 2021, on the 22nd of May, the Eve of Pentecost & Feast of Saint Rita of Cascia, in Christ,



John Allen Sohl, III.
Director of Education & Formation
Family Renewal Project

FRP'S CONSECRATION PRAYER

O Jesus, our most loving Savior, who came to us through the love of God the Father in heaven, not only to enlighten the world by teaching and by your example and to save it by death, but also to spend the greater part of life in humble obedience to Mary and Joseph in the obscurity of Nazareth, thus sanctifying the home which is the mode of all Christ homes: graciously receive this blessed project and consecrate it by the grace of the Holy Spirit. Protect every family and us by your holy, merciful love. Endow holy families with harmony and charity so that they may imitate your Holy Family, and be one in heart and soul on earth, and obtain eternal happiness and glory with you in heaven.

O Mary, loving Mother of Jesus, Mother of the Church and our Mother, by your perpetual intercession bring success to this humble project and make it acceptable to Jesus Christ and through this mission to obtain for every man, woman, and child the benefit of His grace.

Saint Joseph, guardian and support of Jesus and Mary, help us with your powerful prayer in all our corporal and spiritual needs as we embark on this project of evangelization and conversion. Pray for us now and at the hour of our death so that we may one day be united in heaven with you and your blessed spouse, the Blessed Virgin Mary so to praise and love Christ forever and ever. Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE REDEMPTION OF OUR BODIES *(FROM THE TOB INSTITUTE)*

Come Holy Spirit of truth. Give us the eyes to see the mystery of God revealed through our bodies. Give us the grace to confront the lies we have believed, the lies that have lodged in our hearts that make it so difficult for us to love, accept, and understand our bodies as you created them to be. Dislodge these lies from our hearts that we might behold the body of Christ without shame. For therein—in Christ's exposed body given up for us—the truth is told and Satan's lies defeated. Therein we discover the redemption of our own bodies. Let it be, Lord, according to your Word. Amen.

PENTECOST PRAYER OF PETITION

Come Holy Spirit, fill our hearts with the fire of your love! As we anticipate your descent upon us at Pentecost, we turn to you in the Way of Trust. Help us and our families as we struggle through division, chaos and a culture of death. Come Holy Spirit, come! We long for unity. We long for peace. We long for abundant life. We long for everlasting love.

Open our hearts to this love. Help us discover our purpose, and embrace it with courage and strength. Awaken in us wonder and awe as we gaze on the beauty of those you have made. Help us see ourselves & others as you see us. Please have mercy on us when we fail.

Trusting that you will renew the face of the earth, humbly we make this prayer through the intercession of the Holy Family, under the protection of St. Joseph, in the name of Jesus and through your power, Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen. Mary, Queen of Peace, pray for us. Amen.

PENTECOST PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Mighty & Holy Spirit of God, in the beginning you hovered over the chaos and brought forth order and beauty! We humbly thank you for receiving this prayer. Holy Trinity, One God, you restore what you created! Jesus, we trust in You! Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for us. St. Joseph, holy husband, father, friend, pray for us. Amen.

Session One

Discovering Your Story is a Great Adventure

1. Wonder is the Beginning of Wisdom

- “Fear of the Lord is the beginning of Wisdom and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.” (Proverbs 9:10)

A Synthesis of the Seven Gifts

Fear of the Lord – God made me and all that is.

1. “The simple...goal...is to help us aim our *desire* according to God’s *design* so we can safely arrive at our eternal *destiny*: bliss & ecstasy in union with God and one another forever. Desire, design, destiny: perhaps we could call it **living our lives in 3D.**” (FTH)

Understanding – God made me for a purpose.

2. Understanding is embracing our dignity; it is the experience of hearing and accepting that I have value. This takes time to *sink into the jaded or wounded places* within our own hearts, but it can happen! You are a GIFT!

Counsel – God shows me my purpose.

3. Counsel is a willingness to be taught, docility; it includes *prayerful* discernment, spiritual direction, mentors, friendship, and support from our family. This is usually a first major wall in a person’s life, for it involves sharing our hopes and dreams as much as it requires us to be vulnerable about the pains or mistakes from our past.

Fortitude – God gives me the strength & courage to say Yes.

4. “Christ’s words are realistic. They do not attempt to make the human heart return to the state of original innocence, which man left behind in the moment...he committed the original sin; rather, they point out to him *the path toward a purity of heart* that is *possible & accessible* for him even in the state of hereditary sinfulness.” (TOB 58:5)

Knowledge – God loves me. God loves me even when I fail.

5. “There is no way of knowing what a particular person’s journey has truly been & where the person is now until we earn the right to hear his or her story & then listen carefully & prayerfully...The same threshold can seem...insurmountable to them while looking very simple & obvious to us.” (Weddell, FID, 129-130)

Piety & Reverence – God desires my love.

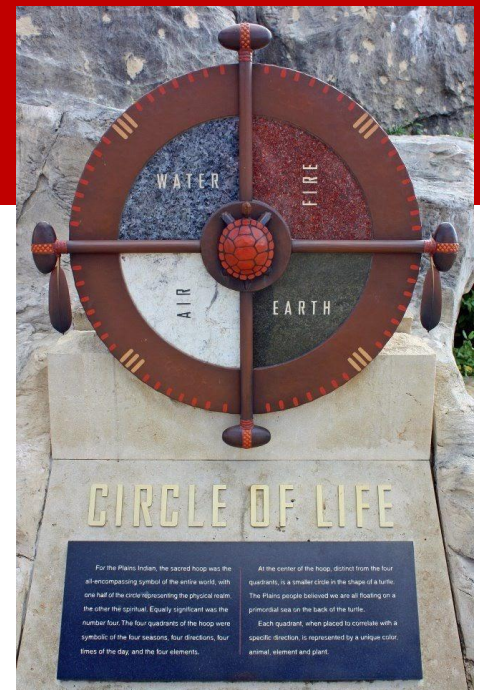
6. We are dealing with the mystery of a relationship that God himself is initiating in the human heart...Conversion and true faith are works of the Holy Spirit. (Weddell, FID, 131) “Piety is not meant to be a burden but a gift! “[Various] expressions of piety extend the liturgical life of the Church, but do not replace it.” (CCC 1675)

Wisdom – Show me Lord Your Way so I may walk in Your Truth.

7. Wisdom is seeing as God sees, not as human beings see; it is the power or act of seeing into a situation, of penetrating its inner truths. Beauty is seen and enjoyed rightly, for we are encountering the Lord responsibly and lovingly. This glimpse of Wisdom embraces humility and is always open to Wonder & Awe at every moment.

Beatitude – Lord, let Your Face shine on me.

8. [It’s] about thanking God & wrestling with God, falling on our knees before Him in perfect contrition & adoring Him for being with us in the midst of the whole beautiful mess. Life is about God. It’s about falling in love with Him & becoming like Him so that we can be with Him forever. (TBB 6)



The Circle of Life Monument Wichita, KS

The Circle of Life Youth Logo (Below)



Christ in the House of Martha & Mary
Vermeer, 1654

Wonder sparks the Secret Fire of the Holy Spirit

St Paul says that we are “temples of the Holy Spirit” (1 Cor 6:19) and Jesus told his Apostles that He came to “cast fire upon the earth; and would that it were already kindled!” (Luke 12:49)

“The Spiritual realities which we are only faintly aware of now will be revealed in all their fullness at the end of our lives. Christ will reveal the “secret disposition” of our hearts and will reward us according to our personal “acceptance or refusal of grace.” (Weddell, FID p120, referencing CCC 682).

Combining Fire and Water in just the right ways can result in a powerful and beautiful sight

- “Why are there so many songs about rainbows and what’s on the other side?” (Kermit the Frog, The Muppet Movie)

This is Your True Story So Let the Adventure of a Lifetime Unfold

In Tolkien’s *The Lord of the Rings*, Gandalf the Grey is facing the Balrog at the Bridge of Khazad-Dum, but “Gandalf stood firm. ‘You cannot pass...I am a servant of the Secret Fire, wielder of the flame of Anor. You cannot pass. The dark fire will not avail you, flame of Udun. Go back to the Shadow! You cannot pass.’” (*Fellowship*, 322)

Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I have no husband?” & the angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, & the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God”...& Mary said, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be done unto me according to your word.” (Lk 1:34-38)

“Christ’s words...linked with the texts of St. Paul allows us to shift this meaning toward the positive function...such maturity partly shows the efficaciousness of the gift of the Holy Spirit, whose “temple” the human body is. This gift is above all that of piety...which gives back to [us]...its simplicity, its lucid clarity, & also its interior joy.” (TOB 58:7).

2. Knowledge of the Holy One is Insight

A. Receiving Love + Giving Love = True Wisdom

9. “It’s a game changer for someone to be deeply convinced of their personal self-worth, dignity and purpose, knowing themselves to be infinitely and unconditionally loved by God and called to live in a communion of persons in his image. This self-knowledge includes respecting and revering oneself, others and above all God.” (Standards for Christian Anthropology, Kingsland and Donohue, Ruah Woods)
10. “Youth is more than simply a period of time; it is a state of mind... Youth is not something to be analyzed in the abstract...“youth” does not exist” (Christus Vivit, 71)

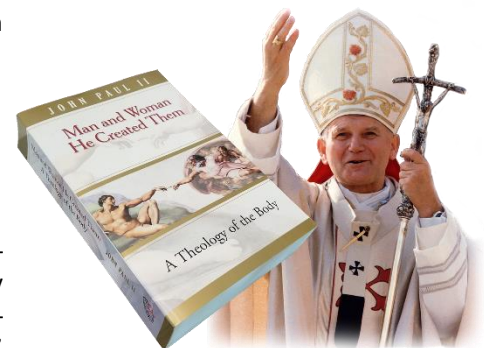
Encountering Another Person is like Encountering Jesus Himself

11. “Every four years, bishops make a trip to Rome...to see the pope...In 1983, after his appointment as bishop of Duluth, Bishop Brom made his first *ad limina* trip to see Pope John Paul II. During their visit, the Holy Father looked into Brom’s face & said, “I think we have met before.” Confident that the two had never crossed paths, the bishop assured him it was their first meeting...Brom paused for a moment of reflection & recalled that he was in Rome that year [in 1963, 20 years before]...One day, Brom & several of his fellow seminarians were exiting the Church of the Gesu as Bishop Wojtyla was entering...The two met briefly, & subsequently Brom forgot all about the encounter. After Brom’s memory was refreshed, he asked [the Pope’s secretary], ‘How can he do that?’, to which Dziwisz explained that for John Paul, to meet another person is to encounter God.” (Evert, John Paul the Great, Intro, xiv)



Descent of the Holy Spirit
Jan van't Hoff

Double Rainbow Guy (3:30)
<https://youtu.be/OQSNhk5ICTI>



Sacred Scripture is the first step to Discovering Your Story

We are invited to meet Jesus in...

Genesis | Exodus | Infancy | Flesh | Spirit | John Paul | TOB | Everybody

12. Then turning to the disciples he said privately, 'Blessed are the eyes which see what you see! For I tell you that many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.' (Luke 10:1-23)

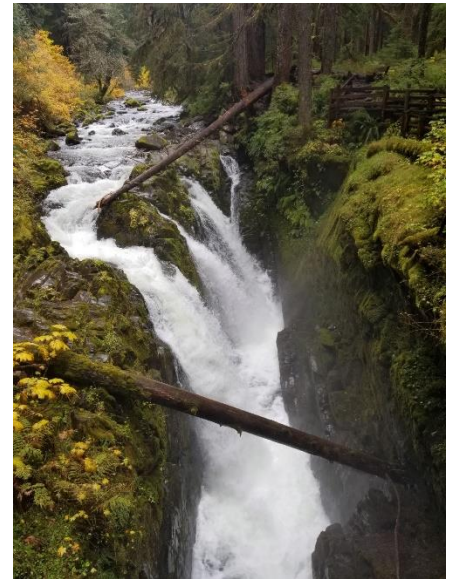
What is Discipleship? Why should we follow Jesus?

- Our greatest desire and goal in life is to be in Heaven.
- The best way someone can learn how to be there is to spend time with Jesus in the Eucharist with an open heart.

We are all called to be parents, mentors, & spiritual role models for the next generation; drink in this theological waterfall to see how & why!

Life is a Song | Hearing the Fuller Story

The Word became Flesh so the Flesh could become Word



*Sol Duc Falls @ Lover's Lane Loop
Olympic National Forest*

1. Jesus is there with us in our Past, Present, and Future

A. Scripture: where our story becomes part of His Story

13. "You know what I'm talking about. It's a great big 'pile of Catholicism' [referencing Frank Sheed], unorganized, but it's there. We went through all those years of CCD or Catholic School, and we started to amass and accumulate all these little nuggets...about our faith—whether it's Mary, the Saints, the Eucharist, the Papacy...whatever it is, we've been collecting all this to the best of our ability and it's in a pile." (*The Jeff Cavins Show*, Ep 35, 10.5.17)

Truth *can* be used as a weapon of judgment, arrogance, or fearful suspicion when we 'quip' things like "No offense, but if you haven't read the Catechism cover to cover, you have no business ministering to anyone."

B. God calls each of us to "Insane" Greatness

14. "Man was created for greatness—for God himself; he was created to be filled by God. But his heart is too small for the greatness to which it is destined. It must be stretched." (Spe Salvi, 33)

Level One | Look Up & Look Around You

2. What are you looking for? What do you seek?

15. "By delaying [his gift], God strengthens our desire; through desire he enlarges our soul and by expanding it he increases its capacity [for receiving him]." (Spe Salvi, 33 Quoting St. Augustine from his Homily on the First Letter of John)
16. "John was standing with two of his disciples, & he looked at Jesus as he walked & said, 'Behold, the Lamb of God!' The two disciples heard him say this, & they followed Jesus. Jesus turned & saw them following, & said to them, 'What do you seek?' And they said to him, 'Rabbi' (which means Teacher), 'where are you staying?' He said to them, 'Come & see' (John 1:35-39)

Jesus knows the answer to this question before He even asks it, but He asks and desires us to seek the answer for ourselves.

Look Up | Gary Turk (4:58)
<https://youtu.be/Z7dLU6fk9QY>

Open your Heart by Meeting Jesus in Genesis

“Desire: an expressly felt yearning for something that promises to fill a void; a longing for that which promises satisfaction in its attainment...The original sense may mean “to look to the stars” or “to await what the stars may bring” (West, FTH, 1)

17. “With the category of ‘heart,’ everyone is identified in a singular manner, even more than by name...[Each] is reached in that which determines him in a unique & unrepeatable way; he is defined in his humanity from within’ ...[He] shows [us] how deep down it is necessary to go, how the innermost recesses of the human heart must be thoroughly revealed, so that this heart might become a place in which the law is “fulfilled.” (TOB 34:4, 43:5)
18. “Man, who is the only creature on earth which God willed for itself, cannot fully find himself except through a sincere gift of himself.” (GS 24)

3. Life is Wonderful | God made me and all that is.

A. Everything is connected to everything!

- Deep gratitude, respect, & appreciation **toward God** fills the wondrous void & infinite Mystery of existence. We’re not fearing a dictator or pleading for help from an absentee, indifferent landlord—we’re saying Thank You to God the Father for *creating us & loving us from nothing.*

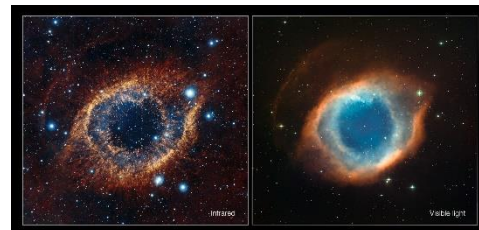
Day 1 – God separates the Light from the Darkness

Day 4 – God fills the Light & Darkness with the Sun & Moon

19. “Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?...If I say, “Let only darkness cover me, & the light about me be night,” even the darkness is not dark to you, the night is bright as the day; for darkness is as light with you.” (Ps 139)
20. “Genesis 1 is poetic, & poetic structure has meaning. Sequential days are not there for themselves, to show time sequence, but rather to show order & hierarchy. Notice that all begins in darkness, formlessness, and emptiness. On “days” one through three God banishes the darkness and brings order to the chaos: heaven and sky, earth and land. On “days” four through six **God fills the void**, populating each realm in the same order.” (Christmyer, Ascension, *Two Different Accounts of Creation?* 1.12.15)
21. “To the memory of the men, women, and children who fell victim to the Nazi genocide. In this pond lie their ashes. May their souls rest in peace.” (Marble gravestone as one exits Auschwitz-Birkenau)
22. “God makes man only after everything is ready for them to live in and rule. They are the “end” as in purpose, not necessarily sequence, of the created universe...How fitting that this poetic tribute, which was probably written much later than chapter two, is placed at the start of Genesis. It functions like an “Entrance Hymn” to the great drama of salvation. While it is sung, God fills the stage and the other players take their place around him as created things and beings, each with its own dignity within its own sphere. Everything is in order and very good...In Genesis 1, the reader’s a distant observer of the creation of the universe. Genesis 2 zooms in for a close-up on the ‘man’ God created everything for.” (Christmyer, Ascension Blog, *Two Accounts of Creation* 1.12.15)
23. “When man comes into contact with God, mere speech is not enough. Areas of his existence are awakened that spontaneously turn into song ...man’s own being is insufficient for what he has to express...so he invites the whole of creation to become a song with him. (Spirit of the Liturgy 136)



The Creation of Adam
Michelangelo | Sistine Chapel



Helix Nebula
European Southern Observatory

“He had read of ‘Space’: at the back of his thinking for years had lurked the dismal fancy of the black, cold vacuity, the utter deadness, which was supposed to separate the worlds. He had not known how much it affected him till now—now that the very name ‘Space’ seemed a blasphemous libel for this empyrean ocean of radiance in which they swam...No: Space was the wrong name. Older thinkers had been wiser when they named it simply the heavens...”

(C.S. Lewis, Out of the Silent Planet)

Marriage & the Family

Adam & Eve | Noah & the Ark

Chapter One | Adam & Eve – Covenant Promise to the Couple

“We wish to see Jesus” (John 12:21, WYD Theme 2004)

1. Although the word “covenant” does not appear at the beginning of Genesis, God’s very act of creating human beings is an implicit covenant in which God commits himself to care for them and bring them to the fullness of life; later texts confirm that this is the case (see Ex 31:16-17; Jer. 33:19-26; Wis 11:24-26). It is a family relationship: God creates man, male and female, in his image and likeness, as his children, in a state of original holiness. (RSV, 2nd Catholic Edition, Great Adventure Bible, *The Covenant at Creation*, pg. 14)
2. “The tree of the knowledge of good & evil is a boundary line between the two original situations about which Genesis speaks. The first situation is that of original innocence in which man (male & female) finds himself, as it were, outside of the knowledge of good & evil, until the moment in which he transgresses the Creator’s prohibition & eats the fruit of the tree of knowledge. The second situation, by contrast, is that in which man, after having transgressed the Creator’s command...finds himself in some way within the knowledge of good & evil. This second situation determines the state of human sinfulness, contrasting with the state of primeval innocence.” (TOB 3:3)
3. “It is he who gave me unerring knowledge of what exists, to know the structure of the world and the activity of the elements. . . for wisdom, the fashioner of all things, taught me.” (Solomon, Wis 7:17-22)
4. “Catechesis on creation is of major importance. It concerns the very foundations of human and Christian life: for it makes explicit the response of the Christian faith to the basic question that men of all times have asked themselves: “Where do we come from?” “Where are we going?”...“Where does everything that exists come from and where is it going?” [These] two questions...are inseparable. They are decisive for the meaning and orientation of our life and actions.” (CCC 282)
5. “...this ‘historical’ experience of ours must in some way stop at the threshold of man’s original innocence, because it remains inadequate to it. Yet...*our human experience is in some way a legitimate means for theological interpretation* and...it is an indispensable point of reference to which we must appeal in the interpretation of the ‘beginning.’” (TOB 4:4)



Earthly Paradise
JW Missionaries

When you hear the word “Original...” what word do you think of next?

1. What’s the fuller story of Adam and Eve?

6. “The first meaning of man’s original solitude is defined based on a specific “test” or on an examination that man undergoes before God (& in some way also before himself). Through this “test”, man gains the consciousness of his own superiority, that is, that he cannot be put on a par with any other species of living beings on the earth.” (TOB 5:4)
7. “In this way, the circle of the human person’s solitude is broken, because the first ‘man’ reawakens from his sleep as ‘male and female’...Their *unity denotes* above all *the identity of human nature*...[Genesis 2] reveals, so to speak, the first circle of experience lived by man as a value. This experience is inscribed already in the meaning of original solitude, and then in the whole account of the creation of man as male and female.” (TOB 8:3, 9:1)

Like the Dawn | Oh Hellos (3:47)
<https://youtu.be/D8HuFrikdD8>

8. "So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh" (Gen 2:21)
9. "The *analogy of sleep* indicates here not so much a passage from consciousness to the subconscious, but a specific return to non-being (sleep has within itself a component of the annihilation of man's conscious existence), or to the moment before creation, *in order that the solitary "man" may by God's creative initiative reemerge from that moment* in his double unity as male and female." (TOB 8:3)

Do you have a "willing and teachable spirit"?

- Vulnerability & openness to honest communication is key
 - Original Innocence & real-life experience go hand in hand
10. What does it truly mean to be human in all its depth?—"The meaning of original nakedness...is not something accidental...it is precisely the key for understanding [original innocence] fully and completely." (TOB 11:2)

A. The Story of Adam & Eve: A Basic Overview

- **Adam and Eve live in Original Innocence**, Holiness, Justice, and Happiness with God in Paradise. This includes Original Solitude, Unity, and Nakedness without Shame.
 - The stage is thus set as we enter Chapter 3 of Genesis
 - After the Original Sin, **Adam and Eve are cast out of the Garden of Eden** and an angel (cherubim) is placed at the entrance to guard the gate with a fiery sword.
 - Adam & Eve give birth to Cain & Abel. With a bare-minimum attitude toward God (especially after God invites him to master temptation)—**Cain kills his brother Abel** out of jealousy & a closed, hardened heart.
11. "Lamech said...'I have slain a man for wounding me, a young man for striking me. If Cain is avenged sevenfold, truly Lamech seventy-sevenfold.'" (Gen 4)
- **Cain's lineage leads to an entire culture of death**, most symbolized by a man named Lamech who kills without remorse and expects God's protection and approval.
 - **Seth's lineage leads to a different man named Lamech who gives birth to Noah**; this Lamech lives to the ripe old age of 777 years old.

2. Life is Wonderful | God made me and all that is.

A. Creation takes place anew at every moment

Day 2 – God creates and separates the Heavens & the Seas

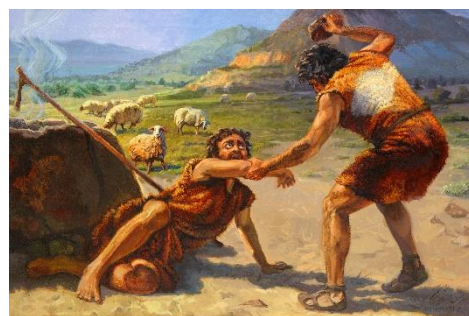
Day 5 – God fills the Heavens & Seas with the Birds & Fish

3. Silence, Shouting, & Singing

12. "The fish in the water is silent, the animal on the earth is noisy, the bird in the air is singing. But man has in him the silence of the sea, the noise of the earth and the music of the air." (Stray Birds, Verse 43, Rabindranath Tagore, 20th century poet)
13. "Silence is proper to the sea, shouting to the earth, & singing to the heavens. Human beings have a share in all three of these. They carry the depth of the sea, the burden of the earth, & the heights of the heavens in themselves, & for this reason, all three properties belong to them: silence, shouting, & singing." (Benedict XVI, TL, 460)

The Duet | Glen Keane (3:42)

<https://youtu.be/GuX52wkCJIA>



Cain Kills Abel, Jan van't Hoff

We are not the sum of our weaknesses and failures;
we are the sum of the Father's love
 for us and our real capacity to become an image of his Son."
 (JP II, WYD Homily, Toronto, July 2002)



14. “Today—I would like to add—we see that only the shouting is left for those humans without transcendence...True liturgy, the liturgy of the communion of saints, restores totality to [those cut off from the Infinite]. It teaches them silence & singing again by opening to them the depths of the sea & teaching them to fly...It brings the song buried in them to sound once more by lifting up their hearts...One recognizes true liturgy by the fact that it liberates us from ordinary, everyday activity & returns to us once more the depths & the heights, silence & song. One recognizes true liturgy in that it has a cosmic...character. It sings with the angels. It is silent with the expectant depths of the universe. And that is how it redeems the earth.” (Theology of Liturgy)

A. Life Lessons from the “Breath of Life”—Oxygen and the Holy Spirit

- Just as fish physically absorb oxygen in the depths of the sea through their mouth & gills—humanity must recognize & embrace the Spirit whether we feel we’re drowning in the depth of despair OR the depth of desolation (Judas v Peter)
- Just as birds (& some humans) must physically enlarge their capacity for oxygen in the bloodstream at higher altitudes—our hearts must be stretched, strengthened, dilated to receive the Spirit whether we are suffocating in a void of loneliness OR a void of busyness (Mary, Martha)

If we are “temples of the Holy Spirit” as St. Paul tells us, then the “vessel of redemption” is Mother Mary as she *carried* Her Son Jesus in her Womb to Bethlehem! *She is the Ark of the New & Eternal Covenant.*

15. “Even the most jaded atheist feels cheated if he doesn’t experience meaning, purpose, peace—in a word—happiness in this life...the burning yearning for ‘what is real’ is incorporated into our design. This burning can lead either to the torment of pain or the torrent of love. It will either consume us or consummate us.” (Dominican Father and Playwright Peter John Cameron, retrieved from C West, FTH, 7)



Lovebirds in the Park
Kyle T. Webster

BBC Earth: Puffer Fish Constructs a Masterpiece of Love (2:58)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V0r8xDk_UaY&feature=emb_title

Chapter Two | Noah & the Ark – Covenant Promise to the Family

“We have come to worship Him.” (Mt 2:2, WYD Theme 2005)

1. The God of Israel is always in Control—& other gods *don’t* exist!

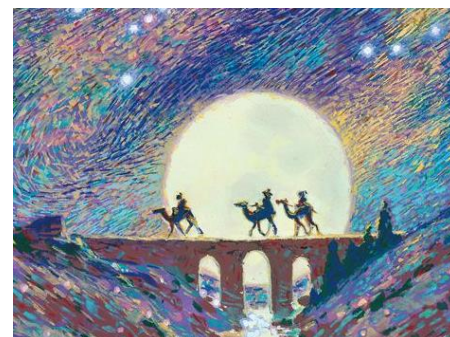
Each of our heart’s deepest longing for happiness and peace is the driving force behind all of our attractions, desires, and experiences. How we choose to channel this longing, *what we choose to worship*, is what leads us to drown or to dream, to sink or to sing.

16. “The story of Noah & his ark is one of the best-known stories of the Bible. It is also one that gives pause to contemporary readers. What could be more mythic than a story about a flood & an ark crammed full of animals? But, as with the creation story, we must be careful to read this narrative on its own terms. Indeed, what is striking about the flood narrative is just how much it seeks to subvert the many other flood stories that were floating around ancient Mesopotamia (modern-day Iraq).” (WWG)

A. Other gods in other ancient flood myths like the Atrahasis Epic are depicted as selfish, competitive, slavedrivers.

- Whether it was creating humanity for free labor or as an “accident / afterthought”, the gods of the Ancient Near East are clearly not in full control of creation. (WWG, 25)
- The God of Israel, on the other hand, loves humanity and created each person *for his or her own sake* (CCC 356)

See Luke 8:22-25 for a precise example of Christ’s control over the storms



The Three Wisemen
Joni Eareckson-Tada

17. "In the ancient Mesopotamian flood accounts, the gods tremble in fear at the ferocious waters they've unleashed & are unable to master. The biblical flood story depicts **the one true God, who is in complete control** of the mighty waters & all of creation." (Walking with God, 25)

2. What's the fuller story of Noah and the Ark?

The Importance of the Literal Sense & the Metaphorical Sense

18. "In man, created in the image of God, the very sacramentality of creation, the sacramentality of the world, was thus in some way revealed...together with man, holiness has entered the visible world, the world created for him." (TOB 19:5)
- Seven has always been experienced as biblical *perfection*. This means that the 7 days of Creation means that "God created everything perfectly & **in a precise amount of time**"
 - The scientific **theories** of evolution—of the universe, the animals *and the human species*—remain **unproven** ideas with this fuller understanding of biblical interpretation.
19. "The whole world is a metaphor for something else...Those words, in effect, are a summation for how Catholics understand the world. They are a summation of the sacramental worldview. And the sacramental worldview is what the Theology of the Body is all about." (These Beautiful Bones, 14)

How long was Noah and his family on the Ark?

A. Facts, Metaphor, & Authenticity: Boarding the Vessel of Truth

20. "If...the ancient sacred writers have taken anything from popular narrations (and this may be conceded), it must never be forgotten that they did so with the help of divine inspiration, through which **they were rendered immune from any error** in selecting and evaluating those documents." (Humani Generis, 38)
21. "Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the Church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that **he might present the Church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle** or any such things, that she might be holy & without blemish." (Eph 5:25-27)

B. The Story of Noah & the Ark: A Basic Overview

- Noah is the only righteous man in the eyes of God when Seth's & Cain's lineages intermingled to the point of utter abomination, widespread polygamy, and wickedness.
 - Noah is called to build the Ark, protect his family, and receive whatever animals God sent him—"7 pairs of all clean animals...a pair of the animals that are not clean...& 7 pairs of the birds of the air"—in lieu of the impending flood & devastation; at the appropriate time, it began.
 - Noah & his family are in the Ark with the animals for just over a full year before releasing both a raven and a dove.
22. "The economic, social and cultural transformations taking place in our world are having an enormous effect on how people look upon marriage and the family. As a result many couples are unsure of the meaning of their relationship, and this causes them much turmoil and suffering. On the other hand, many other couples are stronger because, having overcome modern pressures, they exercise more fully that special love and responsibility of the marriage covenant which make them see children as God's special gift to them and to society. **As the family goes**, so goes the nation, and **so goes the whole world** in which we live." (JP II, Homily, P4, 30 Nov 1986)



On the Road to Bethlehem
Jon McNaughton



The Ark on the Water, Jan van't Hoff



Noah's Dove, Jan van't Hoff

3. The Fall of the Family & the Tower of Babel

23. Noah's sons—Shem, Japheth, & Ham—become embroiled in a form of generational sibling rivalry after the youngest son Ham brutally attempts to “lay claim to the leadership of the family” & “hijack [the] head position before it could be handed down to his older brother, Shem.” (WWG, 29)
24. “The term *Babel*, in its original language, means “gate of God.” The building of the tower was **an attempt to force entry into heaven**, a proud claim of access into the world of the divine. It may also have been an attempt at an insurance policy against another flood.” (WWG, Gray & Cavins, 31)

4. *Life is Wonderful | God made me and all that is.*

A. God wants us to embrace our Connection with Creation

25. “The sacramental worldview helps us see [this], showing us that **heaven & earth aren't separated from each other by an unbridgeable gulf** or an unbreachable wall. Man may have turned his back on God, but God never turned His back on man. **Even in the days before Christ's coming**, He was at work in the world, finding ways to speak to man from behind the veil.” (TBB)
26. “So great was his love that he began to walk with mankind, he began to walk alongside his people, until the right time came, and then he gave the greatest demonstration of love: his Son. And where did he send his Son? To a palace, to a city, to an office building? **He sent him to a family.**” (Pope Francis, Philadelphia, 9.26.15)
27. “It's a worldview where heaven comes to earth, grace penetrates matter, and every individual's story is part of the cosmic story of salvation history. It's a worldview where everything has a meaning, everyone has a purpose, and every moment is accounted for in a Divine Plan.” (TBB, Stimpson, 16)
- While the ability to freely, totally, faithfully, and fruitfully love sets us apart from every other living creature, our real, innate, instinctual desires can serve as a bridge which brings the “rest of creation...to join man in praising God.” (JP II, World Day of Peace, 16, 1.1.1990)
28. “...Those who suffer death for the sake of the faith without having received Baptism are baptized by their death for and with Christ. This *Baptism of blood*, like the **desire for Baptism**, bring about the fruits of Baptism without being a sacrament. For *catechumens* who die before their Baptism, their **explicit desire to receive it**, together with repentance for their sins, and charity, **assures them the salvation** that they were not able to receive through the sacrament.” (CCC 1258-59)

Day 3 – God creates the Land, Plants & Trees

Day 6 – God fills the Earth with the Beasts & Mankind

B. Our Original *Desire* embraces our Inherent *Design so as to reach our Ultimate Destiny: “Eternal Beatitude”*

29. “Those who see desire itself as the enemy of the Christian life have a very skewed notion of Christianity and their own humanity. They're typically locked in a pessimistic, suspicious view of the human heart as “utterly depraved” [The ‘Beast’ Within] and, thus, incapable of desiring and choosing good. Although some of the first Protestant reformers held this idea, as have some Catholic thinkers, the Church has never believed this.” (FTH, 18)
30. For by his interior qualities he outstrips the whole sum of mere things. He plunges into the depths of reality whenever he enters into his own heart; God, Who probes the heart, awaits him there; there he discerns his proper destiny beneath the eyes of God. Thus, when he recognizes in himself a spiritual and immortal soul, **he is not being mocked by a fantasy born only of physical or social influences**, but is rather laying hold of the proper truth of the matter.” (Gaudium et Spes, 14)



Tower of Babel
Pieter Bruegel the Elder, 1563

Session Three

The Essence of Covenant Abraham & Sarah + Isaac & Rebekah

Our dominion & dignity matters! We are not just animals...

“Ethos makes us, at one and the same time, enter into the depth of the norm itself **and descend into the interior of man, the subject of morality...** Moral value is connected with the dynamic process of man’s innermost [being]. To reach it, it is not enough to stop “on the surface” of human actions, but one must penetrate precisely the interior.” (TOB 24:3)

5. Mimes, Monsters, & Music

1. “By casting doubt in his heart on the deepest meaning of the gift, that is, on love as the specific motive of creation & of the original covenant...man turns his back on God-Love, on the “Father”. He...casts him from his heart. At the same time, therefore, he detaches his heart & cuts it off, as it were, from that which “comes from the Father”: in this way, what is left in him is what “comes from the world.” (TOB 26:4)

A. Your heart is stamped with a moral compass beyond societal influences, & Creation reinforces & illustrates this compass

2. “The Incarnation of Meaning means that Meaning (the Logos) can be discovered in all things, in all of creation...**To live in search of Meaning** -- ever seeking fuller discoveries of it, new encounters with it, embracing all the depths and heights of it, all the descending and ascending -- **is the journey of a human life** authentically lived.” (C West quoting Benedict XVI’s New Song for the Lord, Reflection #8, Israel 2020)
3. “And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul & body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground without your Father’s will. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore, **you are of more value than many sparrows**. So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven; but whoever denies me...I also will deny...” (Mt 10)

B. Lessons from the “Breath of Life”—Oxygen & the Holy Spirit

4. “When the ecological crisis is set within the broader context of *the search for peace* within society, we can understand better the importance of giving attention to what the earth & its atmosphere are telling us: namely, that there is an order in the universe which must be respected, & that the human person, endowed with the capability of choosing freely, has a grave responsibility to preserve this order for the well-being of future generations. I wish to repeat that *the ecological crisis is a moral issue*.” (JP II World Day of Peace 15, 1.1.1990)
5. “Furthermore, when media and the digital world become *omnipresent*, their influence can stop people from learning how to live wisely, to think deeply and to love generously. In this context, **the great sages of the past run the risk of going unheard** amid the noise and distractions of an information overload...Efforts need to be made to help these media become sources of new cultural progress for humanity and not a threat to our deepest riches. True wisdom, as the fruit of self-examination, dialogue and generous encounter between persons, is not acquired by a mere accumulation of data which eventually leads to overload and confusion, a sort of mental pollution.” (Laudato Si, 47)



Olympic National Forest
Washington State

Mime = performer using exaggerated facial expressions & body movements to communicate with his audience; Greek root is “mimos” for “imitator, actor, or buffoon”.

“He who fights with **monsters** should be careful lest he thereby become a monster. And if thou gaze long into an **abyss**, the **abyss** will also gaze into thee.” (Friedrich Nietzsche, *Beyond Good & Evil*, 146)



Islands, Pawel Kuczynski, 2015

6. “Real relationships with others, with all the challenges they entail, now tend to be replaced by a type of internet communication which enables us to choose or eliminate relationships at whim, thus giving rise to a new type of contrived emotion which has more to do with devices & displays than with other people & with nature.” (LS, 47)

Chapter Three | Abraham & Sarah + Isaac – Covenant to the Tribe

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and light to my path.” (Ps 119:105) (WYD Theme 2006)

We are creatures of *belonging*. Whether it’s to a Tribe, a Team, a Parish, a School, or a Group—we desire to be welcomed, accepted, understood, and embraced. “We’re all in this together!”

- Our sense of belonging though extends beyond any assembly of people, ideologies, or land. Earth is not our final home; we are also on a journey as pilgrims, *not tourists!*

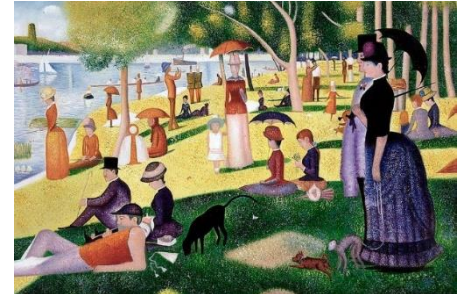
Sarah’s barrenness is what prompts Abram to distrust God, bringing his nephew Lot as an “insurance policy” to provide a surrogate son and *ensure an heir* to his land and riches.

1. The Lord is patient & allows Abram to Learn Trust

7. How difficult it must’ve been to leave your family & everything you’ve known behind & trust *the inner voice of One God* when so many others prescribed to the fantasy-world of *many gods!* “Today many Christians [& Catholics] have adjusted not only the music, but the actual content of Christ’s teaching as well. They may be singing a more welcoming tune, but it’s not a genuine song if it’s watering down the truth about what it means to be human. This approach...creates its own kind of “starvation.” (FTH)

2. What’s the fuller story of Abraham & Sarah?

8. “Sensuality in itself is quite blind to the person...For this reason it is characteristically fickle, turning wherever it finds that value, wherever a ‘possible object of enjoyment’ appears.” (LR, 108)
9. “...Although the marketing industry blatantly misdirects human desire, it still understands that we are *embodied creatures of desire.*” (FTH, 27)
10. **Abram’s time in Egypt affected him deeply...**it “deprived [him] of participation in the Gift, [he was] alienated from the Love that was the source of the original gift, the source of the fullness of good intended for [him]...He suffered damage in what belongs to...[his] humanity in the original fullness ‘of the image of God’.” Egypt offered him instant gratification and creature comforts which left no room in his mind and heart to receive the prosperity and peace God longed to give him. “Concupiscence is to be explained as a lack, [damage, deficiencies, and limitations that appeared with sin]—*as a lack, however, that plunges its roots into the original depth of the human spirit.*” (JP11, TOB 27:2, emphasis added)
- The messy ‘family’ of Abram, Sarai, & *Hagar the Egyptian maid with her incoming baby*, has complicated matters. They are at a crossroads.
11. “As modernism sees it, the human body is nothing more than matter, to be molded, manipulated, & used. Devoid of divine purpose or meaning, it’s left for each of us, as individuals, to decide what we want to do with our body. We can ignore it and neglect it, or we can indulge its every appetite. We can nip it and tuck it, remaking it into whatever shape we desire, or we can cut it, starve it, and put it to rest when age, pain, or disease become too much to bear...When the body is seen as mere matter, anything goes. The body, however, isn’t mere matter. That’s a modernist fiction. Rather...man is a union of body and soul, made in the image of God. Which means our bodies are us. Your body is you. My body is me.” (TBB, 27)



PAINTING: A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte
Artist: James Carroll

Leadership from a Dancing Guy (3:01)
<https://youtu.be/hO8MwBZl-Vc>



Melchizedek Blessed Abram
Jan van't Hoff

Fires | Jordan St. Cyr (3:51)
<https://youtu.be/H-qqZd-SmSs>

A. Striving for God: The Value of Suffering in a Mother's Love

12. "The body...was the first sign of the presence of man [as person] in the visible world...from the very beginning, man was able to distinguish himself...as a person—also through his body. In fact, the body was *from the beginning* marked...as the visible factor of transcendence, [where] man, as person, surpasses the visible world of living beings (*animalia*). (TOB, 27:3)
- We are *all* part of the Body of Christ, & we are all made to "bodily transcend" the afflictions of abuse, shame, or neglect. Our bodies reveal our personhood *beyond mere instinct* & no person should be used, demeaned, or ignored.

Mother and child are closely bonded spiritually *and biologically for a lifetime* long after pregnancy and birth

B. The Story of Abraham & Sarah + Isaac: A Basic Overview

- Abram is called by God to leave his homeland and kindred
 - He brings his nephew Lot as an insurance policy to *ensure* an heir to his land & possessions because of his old age & his wife Sarai's barrenness
 - After the famine in Canaan that happens with his distrust, he flees God to Egypt where indulgence & idolatry abound. There he deceptively tells Pharaoh that his wife is just his sister so as to save himself and receive favor from Pharaoh.
 - This puts Sarai in the arms of another man, but God intervenes through plague. Pharaoh then asks Abram to leave Egypt & due to the wealth & possessions they accrued, he & Lot can no longer remain together
 - After Abram lets go of Lot, God finally blesses Abram and establishes a Covenant with him, strengthening his promise to him of "land, royal dynasty, and worldwide blessing".
 - The mentality of idolatry and indulgence though is still with them when Sarai convinces Abram to grasp at the gift of an heir by using her Egyptian maid Hagar 'to obtain a son'.
 - The suffering, jealousy, contempt, and division that results after Hagar conceives her son Ishmael is overwhelming, and after many years, God reveals the source of this suffering—Circumcision is the sign of this *new covenant*, for it is a reminder of Abram's infidelity with Hagar.
13. "Abram has had no encounters with God since taking Hagar as a concubine. Finally, after thirteen years, God breaks his silence. The last time God appeared he had told Abram to "fear not" (Gn 15:1). Now his words are, "I am God almighty; walk before me, and be blameless" (Gn 17:1). Abram failed to heed God's word; Abram's fear of not having a child led him to a woman other than his wife. God's admonition for Abram to walk before him and be blameless is a rather strong hint that, by taking Hagar he, in fact, had not walked before God, nor been blameless." (WWG, 44)

C. Working for God: The Mystery of Sacrifice in a Father's Love

14. "God ties his promise to that aspect of human life which has always appeared most 'full of promise', namely, parenthood, the begetting of new life...The God who asks Abraham for complete trust reveals himself to be the source of all life. Faith is thus linked to God's fatherhood, which gives rise to all of creation...For Abraham, faith in God sheds light on the depths of his being, it enables him to acknowledge the wellspring of goodness at the origin of all things & to realize that his life is not the product of non-being or chance, but the fruit of a personal call & a personal love." (LF, 11)

The Little Match Girl



by Hans Christian Andersen ←↔ illustrated by Rachel Isadora

Hand to Hold | JJ Heller (4:30)

https://youtu.be/n88EHf_ocoQ

"...When we look into the face of the 'worker,' it is the traits of 'effort' and 'stress' that we see becoming more pronounced there and, so to speak, etched. It is the mark of 'absolute activity'; the hard quality of *not-being-able-to-receive*; a stoniness of heart..."

(Josef Pieper, pg. 30-31
Leisure: The Basis of Culture)



Birth of Isaac | Jan van't Hoff

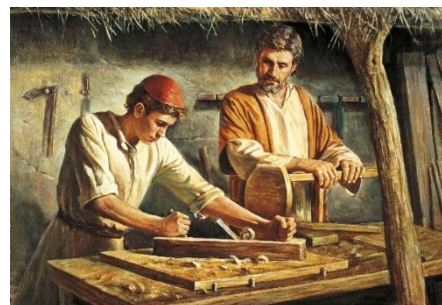
15. “The **stoic** tries to avoid the pain of desiring more than this life has to offer by choosing not to want so much, by shutting desire down...The **addict**, on the other hand, tries to avoid the pain of wanting more than this life has to offer by gorging on the things this life *does* have to offer, trying to suck infinity out of finite things...The **mystic** is the one who allows himself to feel the deepest depths of human desire and chooses to ‘stay in the pain’ of wanting more than this life has to offer. Having walked through many purifying trials...[“dark nights”], he is able both to do without the many pleasures of this world *and* to rejoice in all the true pleasures of this world without idolizing them—that is, without trying to suck infinity out of them...The truth is, we’re all called to be ‘mystics’...[to live] an ‘ordinary mysticism’...an ongoing encounter with the ‘Mystery’ in and through the normal day-to-day circumstances of life. This isn’t something we have to go searching for among the clouds...In short, a mystic is someone who has entered God’s love song, hears it everywhere, and can’t help but dance because of it.” (C West, FTH, 33-34, emphasis added)



The Nativity | Greg Olsen

16. “One finds the first fundamental means for ruling the earth in man himself. Man can rule the earth because only he—and none of the other living beings—is able to ‘cultivate’ and transform it according to his own needs’ (TOB 6:4)

17. “Work...was intended to be a gift that helped man realize how unique & glorious a creature he was, a creature made in the image of *the* Creator & one entrusted with stewardship of all that was good...” (TBB, 44)



*The Childhood of Jesus Christ
Del Parson*

18. “Each of us can discover in Joseph – the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence – an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble. Saint Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation. A word of recognition and of gratitude is due to them all.” (Patris Corde, 12.8.2020, Beginning of the Year of St. Joseph)

19. Yet Abraham gave Hagar and Ishmael only “bread and a skin of water” before he “sent her away...[to] wander in the wilderness” (Gen)

20. After Hagar & Ishmael are sent away & Abraham’s Covenant with Abimelech “God tested Abraham, & said...‘Take your son, your only-begotten son Isaac, whom you love, & go to the land of Moriah & offer him there as a burnt offering upon one of the mountains of which I shall tell you’ (Gen 21 & 22)

Jesus, Mary, & Joseph build on & redeem the relationship of Adam & Eve with God the Father. Jesus’ Sacrifice builds on & fulfills Abraham’s Offering of Isaac.

3. Life is Wonderful | God made me and all that is.

A. God wants to bring each of our stories into His Story

Day 7 – God rests and invites mankind into His rest

21. “**How could a good and loving God demand the death of Abraham’s son?** This story is so disturbing that the reader quickly shifts focus from what God is asking to Abraham’s response. Just as we cannot look directly at the sun, we cannot bear to see what this command might suggest about the God of Abraham, who is our God, too...If this story is read apart from all the previous stories about Abraham, God’s command appears quite arbitrary...Indeed, read in isolation, Genesis 22 seems to lead readers to the conclusion that God’s ways are cruel & unpredictable.” (WWG 47)

22. “Ancient Hebrew storytelling techniques require readers to see seemingly disparate stories as inextricably related. A story must be read in light of those before and after it. If we ignore the interconnections, we will cut the string between them, and the meaning and larger plot of these narratives fall out of our grasp like loose pearls from a broken necklace.” (WWG, 48)

B. Our external, bodily presence at Mass on Sunday helps slowly routinely, firmly develop an interior love for God & neighbor

23. “[This] is written in the human heart, because man is created by God & for God; & God never ceases to draw man to himself. Only in God will he find the truth & happiness he never stops searching for: The dignity of man rests above all on the fact that he is called to communion with God.” (CCC, 27)



*Abraham’s Offering of Isaac
Jan van’t Hoff*

C. True, fulfilling work routinely flows from great & fruitful rest

24. “[Abraham] responds to God’s command with silent obedience. He rises early in the morning to set out for the journey to the mountain God will show him *where he is to sacrifice Isaac*, the son on whom the fulfillment of all God’s promises hinges.” (WWG)
25. **As Abraham & Isaac journey to this place of sacrifice**, “a sort of ‘second’ discovery of [Abraham’s masculinity which] differed radically from the first” is being untwisted and redeemed. “The whole context” of Abraham’s story “confirms that this new discovery distinguish[ed] [him] from the man of original innocence.” Abraham’s shame toward his historically sinful past with Hagar and Ishmael as well as his wife Sarah is flooding his heart and mind with every step he takes toward *his own Golgatha*. “The narrative...manifests shame as the symptom of man’s detachment from love...Concupiscence brings with it an almost constitutive *difficulty in identifying oneself with one’s own body [both concerning himself and how his sins have affected others]*...Hence the necessity of hiding oneself” (TOB 29:4-5). **Yet Abraham freely chooses to hide from God the Father no longer.**

Field of Dreams | People Will Come (3:28)
<https://youtu.be/7SB16il97yw>

4. Belief in the Resurrection of the Body is what brought & still brings Abraham’s Story into the 7th Day of God’s Rest

26. “The Sadducees treat the question of the resurrection as a...theory or hypothesis that can be refuted. Jesus first shows them a mistake in their method; *they do not know the Scriptures*; & then an error of substance: they do not accept what is revealed by the Scriptures—*since they do not know the power of God*—they do not believe in the one who revealed himself to Moses in the burning bush.” (TOB 65:3)
27. “God is making Abraham experience what Hagar experienced. God Himself will spare both beloved sons, bringing home the point that although Isaac is the son of promise and Abraham is specially chosen, **God is the God of all**. Justice is universal, and no one is to be abandoned or treated with less than justice requires. God hears the cry of Ishmael and acts, and he sends his angel to stay the knife from Isaac. God will see Hagar and reveal himself as the defender of the alien, the orphan, and the widow, just as he will hear the cry of Sarah and give her a child of promise. The pattern that emerges is that God is universal in both his justice and his mercy; justice, in that one reaps what one sows; mercy, in that God cares both for the child of the slave woman and the child of the promise.” (WWG, 49)

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and light to my path.”
(Psalm 119:105)

“Jesus said to them...’ As for the dead being raised, have you not read in the book of Moses, in the passage about the bush, how God said to him ‘I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? He is not God of the dead, but of the living” (Mark 12:26-27a)

Chapter Four | Jacob & Esau – The Promised Light of Faith

“Just as I have loved you; you also should love one another.” (John 13:34, WYD Theme 2007)

The History of our hearts is complex and connected with the ends and beginnings of many others. We must not let our hearts be held ‘hostage’ because of addiction, shame, guilt, resentment, or fear. Generational chains affect us; enslavement to sin obscures the past

- After Sarah’s burial, Abraham sends his servant to the city of his brother Nahor to find his son Isaac a wife (Rebekah).
- 1. “The choosing of Abraham and the election of Israel are not in spite of the other nations *but for their sake*. The Early World ended with an entire race scattered and divided because of their rebellion against God. Now, in the time of the Patriarchs, God chooses Abraham & blesses his family to reunite & bring blessing to all the nations, *even those who have rebelled against him*. The story of Abraham & Israel makes sense only if we see it in this light: they have a mission to undo the mess of Adam & Babel.” (WWG, 51)
- Ishmael lived a long life (137y) with many children & descendants *just as God promised* his mother Hagar

Session Four

The Bride & Groom

Jacob & Esau | Judah & Joseph

1. He thirsts for us—“This is love, not that we loved God, but that He first loved us.” (1 John 4:10)

- Isaac was 40 years old when he married Rebekah, & for 20 years prayed through their infertility. “The Lord granted his prayer & [she at last] conceived. The children struggled together within her; & she said, ‘If it is thus, why do I live?!’ So she went to inquire of the Lord.” (Gen 25)

2. What’s the Fuller Story of Jacob & Esau?

- The *division* that cuts to Esau & Jacob’s hearts during these formative years may come from witnessing Isaac & Ishmael reunite to bury their father—hearing their conversations about past sins, wounds, distance & resentment that might have grown between them over the years.
- 2. “[Concupiscent] ‘desire,’ I would say, is the **deception** of the human heart with regard to the [call]...to communion through a reciprocal gift—a call that has been revealed in the very mystery of creation...[Each human being] tends even on the level of historicity to free itself from mere concupiscence & seeks a place of affirmation on the level proper to the world of persons. The original shame about which Genesis 3 speaks testifies to this fact. The dimension of the intentionality of thoughts & hearts constitutes one of the main guiding threads of universal human culture.” (TOB 40)
- 3. “The wounds in our soul, wounds inflicted by our body’s wrong actions, must be healed—in this life or the next—before we can enter fully into the joy of heaven.” (Stimpson, TBB, 29)
- Jacob is forced to *run away from home* because of his sin. After he is inevitably *found out*, Isaac reinforces his wife’s plea to flee the Promised Land from Esau’s wrath
- 4. “**Truth is a condition of freedom**, for if a man can preserve his freedom in relation to the objects which thrust themselves on him in the course of his activity as good & desirable, it is only because he is capable of viewing these goods in the light of truth & so adopting an independent attitude toward them. **Without this faculty man would inevitably be determined by them: these goods would take possession of him & determine totally the character of his actions & the whole direction of his activity.**” (LR, 114-15 emphasis added)
- In some profound way, Jacob’s sin has taken “possession” of *him and disintegrated his family of origin*

A. Real Wild Passion is compatible with Holy Disciplined Integrity!

5. “Christ sings of his passionate desire for us, his heart bleeding [for us]...Christ wants to set us on *fire*, but we’re afraid to burn. Heavenly bliss is our most ardent desire. But we’re fearful of our own joy. Desire, love, & doubting are battling in our hearts. Perhaps we’re afraid of how ardent is our own *need* for joy, & perhaps more so, we’re afraid it will never be fulfilled (filled-full).” (FTH, 46)

“When I heard the Learn’d Astronomer”

When I heard the learn’d astronomer,
When the proofs, the figures, were
ranged in columns before me,
When I was shown the charts and
diagrams, to add, divide, and
measure them,
When I sitting heard the astronomer
where he lectured with
much applause in the lecture-room,
How soon unaccountable
I became tired and sick,
Till rising and gliding out
I wander’d off by myself,
In the mystical moist night-air,
And from time to time,
Look’d up in perfect silence at the stars.

Walt Whitman (1819-1892)



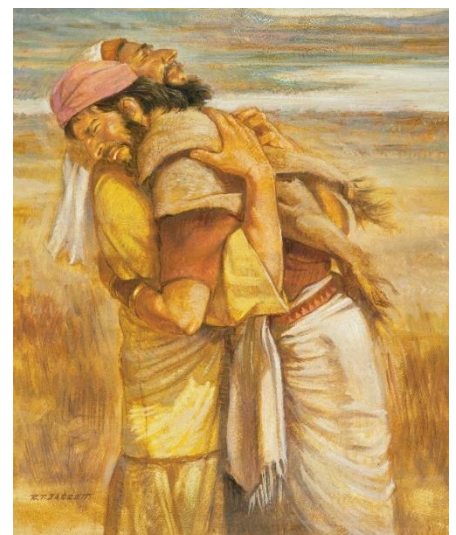
Isaac Blesses Jacob by Jan van't Hoff

Ulysses | Josh Garrels (4:17)
<https://youtu.be/wLv6B6t84tY>

6. “What a wild thing is that desire that incessantly aggravates the core of our being...Letting good things run wild is what I call ‘vertical wildness.’ We have wild desires in us because we’re made to ‘go wild’ with God, in God. The saints speak of this as a kind of ‘divine madness’ or ‘holy intoxication’. Take this desire to ‘go wild’ horizontally (that is, to the things of this world), & you end up at a frat party. But aim it heavenward (easier said than done), & you end up launching into infinity.” (FTH 47)
- Jacob’s passion is **aimed horizontally**, for his lack of trust in God has resulted in four jealous & neglected wives, 11 sons, and 1 daughter— **12 total children!** Leah has 6 sons and 1 daughter, her maid Zilpah has 2, Rachel’s maid Bilhah has 2 and finally Rachel is given a son, Joseph
7. “We’re all called to give ourselves away in love every day, to friends and family, co-workers and neighbors, even perfect strangers. We’re all made to be a gift. And we become that gift by using our bodies to serve, teach, comfort, correct, feed, clothe, shelter, heal, encourage, lead, suffer, sacrifice, and pray for others, helping them through it all to become more the men and women God calls them to be.” (TBB, 32)

B. The Story of Jacob & Esau: A Basic Overview

- The effect of Abraham’s sins on Isaac and Ishmael lead to generational chains in the lives of Isaac’s two twin boys
 - Esau and Jacob become rivals when Jacob deceptively steals his older brother’s birthright *and blessing*
 - Jacob is forced to flee his brother’s wrath, leave his home, and settle in Haran in hopes of returning home one day
 - His uncle Laban tricks him into marrying his older daughter Leah, but also allows Jacob to marry Rachel (the one whom he loves) in exchange for an additional 7 years of labor
 - After all the resulting children that come from this rivalry of wives & their additional maidservants—20 years, 4 wives, and 12 children later—God calls Jacob to return home & reconcile with Esau
 - After he and Laban enter into a parting Covenant, “Jacob went on his way and the angels of God met him...And Jacob sent messengers before him to Esau his brother” only to discover his brother is coming to meet him with 400 men!
8. “Is this a welcome party or an army? Fearing for his life and that of his family, Jacob cries out to the Lord...This time, however, rather than making a conditional request, Jacob begins by recalling God’s promises, faithfulness, and steadfast love, and Jacob’s own unworthiness! This deceiver has begun to turn away from his old ways. That night, Jacob meets a strange man and wrestles with him through the night. Jacob asks for a blessing **and receives it**. The man changes Jacob’s name to Israel, which means ‘he who strives [wrestles] with God’ (Gn 32:28). Jacob’s new name will become the name of the nation formed by the tribes of his twelve sons, a nation that will do its own wrestling with God.” (WWG, 55)
 9. “That ‘other world’, which according to revelation is the ‘kingdom of God,’ is also man’s definitive and eternal ‘fatherland’ (see Phil 3:20); it is ‘the Father’s house’ (Jn 14:2). That ‘other world’ as *man’s new fatherland comes forth* definitively from the present world—which is temporal, subjected to death or the destruction of the body—*through the resurrection*. The resurrection...means not only the recovery of bodiliness and the reestablishment of human life in its integrity, through the union of body and soul, but also a wholly new state of human life itself.” (TOB 66:3)



Esau & Jacob Embracing by RT Barrett

C. Raw Intense Love values & accepts Patient Delayed Gratification

- After Jacob's family settles in the land of Canaan—Dinah goes to visit the women of their city “when Shechem the son of Hamor, the prince of the land, saw her...” (Gen 34:2a)
10. “Sensuality by itself is not love, and may very easily become its opposite. At the same time, we must recognize that [in terms of human desire], sensuality, as [a] natural reaction to a person of the other sex, is a sort of *raw material* for true, conjugal love.” (LR, 108, emphasis added)
 11. “Love is always an interior matter, a matter of the spirit. To the extent to which it ceases to be an interior matter and a matter of the spirit it also ceases to be love. What remains of it, in the senses and in the sexual vitality of the human body, does not constitute its essential nature.” (LR, 117)
- The story of Jacob's children has only begun to unfold as the resentment toward their father continues to build.

Keep Me a Child | King's Choir (4:52)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UOBN1dnm4Hw>

Life is Wonderful | God made me and all that is.

God wants us to cross the threshold of hope, starting with an appreciation for His Wonders

12. “The Holy Scriptures contain an insistent exhortation to cultivate the fear of God. We are speaking here of that fear which is a *gift of the Holy Spirit*. Among the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, indicated in the words of Isaiah (Is 11:2), fear of God is listed last, but that does not mean it is the least significant, since it is precisely *fear of God that is the beginning of wisdom*. And among the gifts of the Holy Spirit, wisdom holds first place. Therefore, *we need to pray that people everywhere and especially people in our own time will receive the fear of God.*” (JP II, Crossing the Threshold of Hope, 226)

After Rachel dies in childbirth—Jacob's attachment to Joseph is felt as strong favoritism cupped with a blind neglect toward the rest of his family; this sows jealousy, anger, contempt, & a feeling of rejection in the brothers

A. Dreams have the power to see us through to Eternal Bliss

13. “Perhaps at the end of it, is the desire of men and women to find themselves. That self-knowledge, that sense of identity, is the pot of gold we all long to find!...“If [we] simply look upon one another, we might see that first light, that primordial light, shining on the original face of the person before us, & upon ourselves. If we allow ourselves to enter into this shared ache for self-discovery (for self-recovery in fact), we might just find, over the rainbow, that original unfiltered light of the Creator before it was splintered through the prism of our diverse & sometimes divergent desires. We would see another person who, at the core of their being, is made for a life-giving relationship. We are called to this, & made for this.” (Rainbow, B Donaghy)
 14. “On this side of Heaven, we all suffer from a lack, a deficiency, a “less than” that we wish were much more...Seven is a number in Scripture symbolizing wholeness, restoration & regeneration; it's the number of perfection. We all long for this wholeness, this sense of completeness. If we listen to God's creative Spirit, which is always present, always hovering over the abyss of our longings, then somewhere over the rainbow, where skies are blue, our true identity & final destiny **will become clear.**” (Over the Rainbow, Bill Donaghy, TOB Institute Blog)
- After Joseph's prophetic dreams of his future lordship over his family & when his father asks him to *spy on his brothers*, they throw him into a pit; Judah convinces them to spare his life so as to make a profit instead by *selling him as a slave & then convincing their father he was killed by a wild beast*

Fresh Prince | Will's Father (4:41)
<https://youtu.be/PI4Mv8R0mE0>

- Jacob is suffering a separation, a sense of *lost fatherhood* felt most clearly in the loss of Joseph but seen most visibly in the distant eyes and silent arrogance of his other sons

Chapter Five | Judah & Joseph – The Promised Future of Hope

“Lord, let your Face shine on me.” (Psalm 31:16)

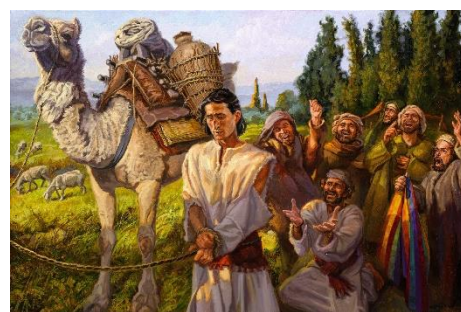
1. Why is Judah’s Journey suddenly filled with such Evil, Death, & Deceit?

15. “From the greatest moral evil ever committed—the rejection & murder of God’s only Son, caused by the sins of all men—God, by his grace...brought the greatest of goods: the glorification of Christ & our redemption. [Still] evil never becomes a good.” CCC312
- “Crossing the threshold of hope” for Joseph requires a long relentless journey through layers of temptation, tragedy, time, trust, truth, transformation, & treasure

Judah sold *himself* into Slavery, a slavery to sin, selfishness, & indulgence

2. What’s the fuller story of Judah & Joseph?

16. “From the Holy Scriptures we also know that this fear—the origin of wisdom—has nothing in common with the *fear of a slave*. It is *filial fear*, not servile fear! [This] paradigm of master-slave is foreign to the Gospel. It is a paradigm drawn from a world in which God is absent. In a world in which God is truly present, in the world of divine wisdom, only filial fear can be present. *The authentic and full expression of this fear is Christ Himself*. Christ wants us to have fear of all that is an offense against God. He wants this because He has come into the world in order to set man free for freedom.” (JP11, Crossing the Threshold of Hope, 227-229)
17. “Christ wanted to point out to his listeners the detachment from the spousal meaning of the body experienced by man [Think Shechem & Dinah or in this case Potiphar’s wife & Joseph] when [one] gives in to the concupiscence of the flesh with an interior act of ‘desire.’ [This]...brings with it a conflict with its dignity as a person: [a real] conflict of conscience...what we have in mind is an *intentional ‘reduction’*, a restriction...or closure of the horizon of the mind & the heart.” (TOB 40:1-3)
18. “Christian ethos is characterized by *a transformation of the human person’s consciousness & attitudes*, both the man’s & the woman’s, *such as to express & realize the value of the body and of sex* according to the Creator’s original plan, placed as they are at the service of the ‘communion of persons,’ which is the deepest substratum of human ethics and culture.” (JP11, TOB 45:3)
- Everything changes for this *splintered, hopeless family* after Isaac is “gathered to his people” when Pharaoh is awoken one night from a mysterious, miraculous, providential *dream* only Joseph can interpret



Joseph sold into Slavery | Hoff

A. Songs are only complete in Heaven where they can go on Forever

19. “A demand is made on the body in all its involvement in the circumstances of everyday life. The body is required to become ‘capable of resurrection’, to orient itself toward the resurrection, toward the Kingdom of God...The body must be trained, so to speak, for the resurrection.” (Ratzinger, Spirit of the Liturgy, 176)
20. “Who by his own strength can live this divine love? Only the grace of salvation makes it possible. And this is precisely what the Church’s liturgical life offers us.” (HS, 133)
- Isaac’s death as the first & only Patriarch who lived his entire life in the Promised Land may illustrate the origin of the ‘Communion of Saints’
- Joseph may or may not have sensed this—*though Isaac’s prayers to God in life and in death must have certainly contributed to Joseph’s sudden release from prison!*



Joseph Remains in Prison
JW Missionaries

21. "How many of us are embarrassed to sing, let alone 'sing joyfully,' especially in front of others? [Ps 98:3-4] Singing exposes our hearts, makes us vulnerable. So we tend to lock up our hearts and cling to 'mere rationality' out of fear...[but] God rejoices in us! He exults over his people 'with loud singing' (Zeph 3:17). What kind of singing? If it is 'heaven's song,' it must be the greatest of all songs. In other words, it must be...the *Song of Songs*. Since the dawn of creation, God has been singing to us, wooing us, enticing us, calling us, inviting us. And if we listen to the enchanting melody...of his Song, we will understand...that God's eternal plan is...that we might share in the bliss of his own eternal Communion of love." (Heaven's Song, 25 & 29)
22. "The Christian revolution transforms [anything] that is *worshiped* into something that *is worship*...[humanity can find] a sign, a foreshadowing, of ultimate satisfaction. And in that sign, through that sign, they [can] offer praise and worship *to God* with a living hope...It is union with God—participation in the eternal bliss of the divine exchange—that alone satisfies the heart's thirst." (West, Heaven's Song, 130-31)



Double Circle Rainbow | Anna Kim

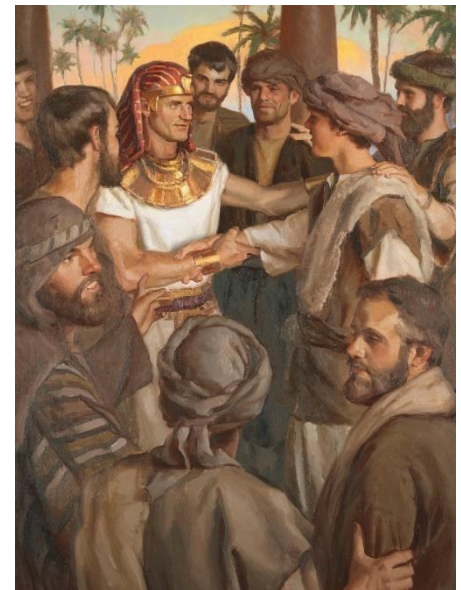
Field of Dreams | Father & Son (3:31)
<https://youtu.be/1W7bl6BPbqM>

A. The Story of Judah & Joseph: A Basic Overview

- Joseph is purchased by an Egyptian named Potiphar who entrusts him with many responsibilities, at least until his wife falsely accuses Joseph of rape in lieu of his resistance of her advances; Potiphar thus throws him into prison
- After Joseph is summoned & interprets Pharaoh's dreams, his days of slavery are over; his freedom from death and bondage has occurred, and his new life in Egypt begins
- Imagine the heartache & anger that flooded Joseph as his brothers' faces physically passed into his vision *for the first time in 22 years*

B. Our Hopes & Dreams for Happiness in Heaven *will be Fulfilled*

- Before Joseph begins this "testing" of his brothers (perhaps the very moment that prompted his reaction) "Joseph **remembered the dreams** which he had dreamed of them" as they "bowed themselves before him" (Gn 42:6,9)



Joseph Greeting Brothers
 by Michael Malm

C. Judah's Beatific Redemption with Joseph

- In light of Judah's clear & true conversion & total vulnerability, Joseph reveals himself to his brothers

Crescendo | Open Your Heart by Meeting Jesus in Genesis

1. Day 8 – God's bliss as we see Him face to face in the Beatific Vision

- "Israel said to Joseph, '**Now let me die, since I have seen your face and know that you are still alive**' ...Then Joseph brought in Jacob his father, & set him before Pharaoh, & Jacob blessed Pharaoh." (Gn 46:30 & 47:7)
23. "Our quest for happiness puts us on a rugged mountain pass, with many obstacles, challenges, and dangers to overcome. Sometimes the journey can seem unbearable...We are pilgrims. This life offers many astounding glimmers of happiness, but not happiness itself." (FTH, 59-60)
- God blesses Adam & Eve for the sake of their son Seth
 - God blesses Noah for the sake of Shem & His Family
 - God blesses Abraham for the sake of Isaac's Legacy



Generations | Timothy Schmalz

A. God blesses Israel for the sake of Jesus' worldwide blessing

- God blesses the 7th day for the sake of the 8th day of Eternity

24. "But I do have *hope* in happiness. I do have *hope* that someday I will have everything I want & want nothing wrongly—which is to say I believe that someday my desire for infinity will be met *with* infinity, not in some ethereal way, but in a tangible, even bodily way. For in Jesus Christ, infinity has given itself over to us in a tangible, bodily way & has promised an unfathomable gift: **human participation in infinity.**" (FTH, 59)

2. God the Father asks us to listen to His Beloved Son

A. "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me." (Gal 2:20)

- Joseph's reconciliation with his brothers and reunion with his father shows us the most important "nations" of which God invites us to "make disciples" *are our own families!*

25. "The first task of evangelization is to find out if a bridge of trust already exists. Does our friend or colleague or roommate or family member *trust* or have some kind of positive association with Jesus Christ, the Church, a believer, or something identifiably Christian? If this trust does not already exist, then our first job as an evangelizer is to help build that bridge. This is especially vital now that a fundamental distrust of Christianity in general and the Catholic Church in particular is the new normal in many places. After [the] scandal, Catholics must work hard to earn trust...primarily through relationships: through the integrity, compassion, warmth, and joy of our own life and faith." (Weddell, Forming Intentional Disciples, 133)

3. Life is Wonderful | God made me and all that is.

A. Songs in Heaven are Timeless, Ageless, and Spotless

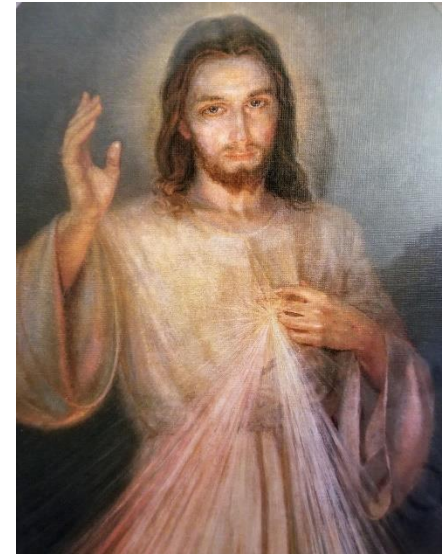
- Joseph invites us into the longer, fully story of his father's house as they continued to dwell in Egypt *even after his own death & entombment— all in hopes of a true, lasting Exodus*

B. Singing this Music can Build People Up, Establish or Restore Trust, and Invite Them to Open Their Hearts

26. "The Church must look again, as she has in the past, not to institutions or societal favors but to the power of the Holy Spirit, the redeeming work of Christ, the truth of the apostolic faith, the deep personal faith of her people, profound prayer and worship, and the intercession of the communion of saints. She must also look to the charisms, vocations, saints, cultural creativity, and mighty deeds that arise out of such faith—the faith that gave birth to the structures and cultures of Western Christianity in the first place." (Weddell, FID, 137-18)

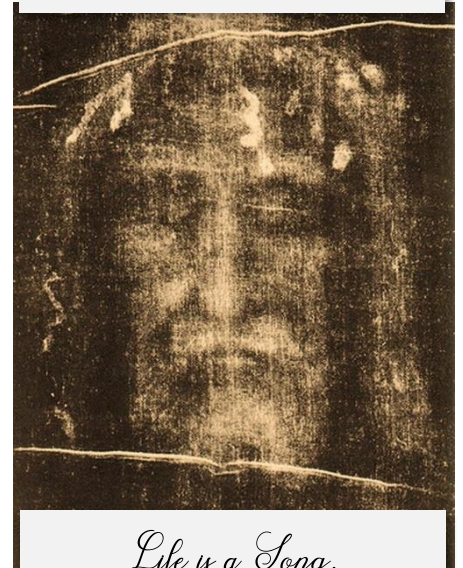
27. "Love...pushes both to seek the common past as though they descended from the same family circle, as though from infancy they had been united by memories of the common hearth. In this way, they reciprocally feel as close as brother and sister who owe their existence to the same mother. A specific sense of common belonging follows from this...*From here... arises...above all the peace of the encounter in humanity as the image of God—and the encounter by means of a reciprocal and disinterested gift.*" (TOB 110:1-2)

28. "The union of man & woman builds & shapes communities, communities shape cities, cities shape states, states shape nations, nations shape the world. When the sexual relationship breaks down, eventually so does everything resting on it...Love yearns to abandon itself, to let loose, to free itself from all restraint & measure, to drink all the wine [one] desires...But this kind of holy-abandoned-intoxication lies on the *other side* of lust's gravitational pull, & the Passover into zero-gravity can be excruciating. Few are willing to endure those "g's." It is called 'crucifixion with Christ.' Only if we are willing to "die with Christ" can we also expect to enter the ecstasies of his resurrection." (HS, 54, 61)



Jesus, I trust in You
Divine Mercy | Adolf Hyla, 1947

*Genesis is the original
song in the album of
God's Love Songs*



*Life is a Song.
God's Love is the Music.
Laughter is God's Melody.*

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Abbreviations

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CTH	<i>Crossing the Threshold of Hope</i> , John Paul II (Knopf, 1994).
FID	<i>Forming Intentional Disciples: The Path to Knowing and Following Jesus</i> , Sherry A. Weddell (Our Sunday Visitor, 2012).
FTH	<i>Fill These Hearts: God, Sex, and the Universal Longing</i> , Christopher West (Random House, 2012).
GS	<i>Gaudium et Spes</i> , Vatican II's Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World (Pauline, 1965).
HS	<i>Heaven's Song: Sexual Love as it was Meant to Be</i> , Christopher West (Ascension Press, 2008).
LF	<i>Lumen Fidei</i> , Pope Francis's Encyclical Letter on the Light of Faith (Pauline, 2013).
LR	<i>Love and Responsibility</i> , Karol Wojtyła's philosophical work on human sexuality (Ignatius Press, 1981).
LS	<i>Laudato Si</i> , Pope Francis's Encyclical Letter on Care for Our Common Home (Pauline, 2015).
TBB	<i>These Beautiful Bones: An Everyday Theology of the Body</i> , Emily Stimpson (Emmaus Road Publishing, 2013).
TL	<i>Theology of Liturgy</i> , Pope Benedict XVI Collected Works (Ignatius Press, 2014).
TOB	<i>Man and Woman He Created Them: A Theology of the Body</i> , John Paul II. Trans. Michael Waldstein (Pauline, 2006).
WDP	<i>World Day of Peace</i> , Pope John Paul II's Homily (1 Jan 1990).
WWG	<i>Walking with God: A Journey through the Bible</i> , Tim Gray and Jeff Cavins (Ascension Publishing, 2018).

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FAMILY RENEWAL PROJECT

DISCOVER YOUR STORY

- | | | | | |
|----------|-----------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| 1 | Look Up | <i>Meeting Jesus in Genesis</i> | Wonder & Awe | God made me and all that is. |
| 2 | Listen In | <i>Meeting Jesus in Exodus</i> | Understanding | God made me for a purpose. |
| 3 | Seek Him | <i>Meeting Jesus in Infancy</i> | Counsel | God shows me my purpose. |
| 4 | Endure | MEETING JESUS IN THE FLESH | Fortitude | God gives me the strength & courage to say Yes. |
| 5 | Trust Him | MEETING JESUS IN THE SPIRIT | Knowledge | God loves me. God loves me even when I fail. |
| 6 | Love Him | <i>Meeting Jesus in JP2</i> | Reverence | God desires my love. |
| 7 | See Him | <i>Meeting Jesus in TOB</i> | Wisdom | Lord, show me Your Way so I may walk in Your Truth. |
| 8 | Discover | <i>Meeting Jesus in Everyone</i> | Beatitude | Lord, let Your Face shine on me. |

Most Adequate Human Timeline



TOB Part I | The Words of Christ

Who am I? What does it mean to be human? What is my Identity?

Created

The Beginning | Our Origin
Solitude + Unity + Nakedness = Self-Gift



Chapter One
Christ Appeals to
the Beginning



Loved

The Battlefield | Our History
Shame + Purity + Eros = Freedom



Chapter Two
Christ Appeals to
the Heart

Called

The Beatitude | Our Glory
Resurrection + Heaven + Agape = Redemption



Chapter Three
Christ Appeals to
the Resurrection

TOB Part II | The Sacrament

What is my purpose? How do I live in such a way that brings me true happiness?

Given

The Betrothal | Our Design
Covenant + Grace = Mystery



Chapter One
The Dimension of
Covenant & Grace



Lived

The Beautiful | Our Desire
Reality + Wonder = Liturgy



Chapter Two
The Dimension of
The Sign

Received

The Beloved | Our Destiny
Love + Responsibility = Happiness



Chapter Three
He Gave Them the Law of
Life As Their Inheritance