

People Best Express Who God Is - The Call to be such a person

Session Four

Session Four: Our youth will appreciate people as the greatest expression of God in space and time. They will see response to God as striving to show all people how God would have us live life.

Parents: This is a call to examine your own personal salvation history. Who were your priests, prophets, and kings? Share with your children the people God sent into your life who by their presence taught you it is God who gives meaning to life. Look for stories of your Mom and Dad, siblings, priests, nuns, relatives, friends, who powerfully and almost silently taught you what life was about. And then tell them about the times they – each of your children – by coming into your lives – taught you about God.

EXAMPLES

Story One: I remember my father coming into my room before I left for the seminary. We were living in the projects. He told me to kneel down. I asked why. He replied: "You are my oldest son. You are going to leave our home for the first time. Kneel so I can give you my blessing.

Story Two: I told my Pastor I was going to enter the seminary one evening after asking if I could see him. He lost it for a moment, then turned and said to me: "If you have a vocation, God bless you. If you feel you don't, come back home, it's OK. We will love you.

Story Three: I was in the hospital. I was feeling awkward. I didn't feel my best. Look My best, And in the ward where I was all the guys were in a funk. A nurse walked into the room with a smile on her face and said: "Hi, it's so good to see you all looking so fine on this beautiful day. All was better and stayed better.

These stories involve three people who taught one person by simple actions that were never forgotten. You have many stories if you will just start thinking of your experiences as stories.

Why is the notion of "God becoming one of us" in people important?

- It is because as sacrament is "Visible sign of God's presence and action in the world."
- Jesus was the first and most perfect sacrament – God Himself present in our world.
- Jesus founded a Church to continue His presence on earth as a Sacrament,
- And Church is people – each one of us..
- We each are called to use the power to think and the power to love and take charge of our own lives, showing love for God by the way we treat one another.

And in the Beatitudes Jesus tells us how to become God's presence – a sacrament for others.

Blessed are:

Poor in Spirit Those who mourn	To need little to be happy. To take joy in sharing with others. To think of others more than ourselves. Who know Jesus Himself had a tough life living for others. Who take tough things graciously knowing Jesus has called us to a life of joy forever.
Gentle Hunger to do Right	When people are angry, look beyond words, beyond emotion, and hear the pain. Be gentle – they hurt Sometimes it's hard to do right. Sometimes it's hard to want to do right. Ask God to help you with this.
Merciful	A merciful person is one who knows he or she makes mistakes and is always ready to forgive. They always presume that the other person didn't mean the hurtful things.
Clean of heart	The clean of heart are those who know God has given us a great world that sometimes is tough. But he's also made us to live forever. We take the good with gratitude – the difficult knowing this life begins eternal life.
Peace-makers	Jesus was a great peace maker – between God and ourselves, between others. Any time we overlook hurts and treat people gently – Jesus is right there saying "Great Work."
Persecuted for doing what is right	Some people have to put up with a lot of things they should not have to deal with. It's hard for them. When God sees people in this kind of situation, He is close to them and helps them.
Parents	These are some ideas which might help you personalize your faith sharing with your young people. The stories of Jesus are great also: Good Samaritan, Prodigal Son, Woman at the well, the Parables.