

# SACRAMENT

## CHECKLIST: WHAT YOU NEED

- Pencils and pieces of paper
- Copies of the downloadable 622 service booklet
- Copies of the lesson handout
- Copy of the leader's notes
- A white board, easel pad, or chalk board with markers/chalk
- OPTIONAL: Bibles (ESV or similar recommended)
- OPTIONAL: Have notebooks on hand for teens to take home and use as prayer journals if they wish

## ICE BREAKER: SACRAMENTUM

Write this word on your board: *sacramentum*. Ask the teens to see how many words they can come up with by rearranging the letters.

DEPENDING ON YOUR GROUP, YOU MIGHT ASK THE TEENS TO WORK INDIVIDUALLY ON THEIR OWN PAPER OR IN TEAMS TO COMPETE FOR THE LONGEST LIST, OR HAVE THEM WORK ALL TOGETHER.

## 622: BEGINNING WITH PRAYER

Begin the formal part of the lesson by saying together the first part of the order of service for young people in the booklet, up to the middle of page 4.

AT THIS POINT IN THE LESSON, ASK IF THE TEENS SUCCEEDED IN DOING LAST WEEK'S CHALLENGE, HOW IT WENT, AND WHETHER THEY HAVE ANYTHING TO SHARE.

## DISCUSSION: MAKING PROMISES

As an introduction to the lesson ask the teens to discuss the following questions.

DEPENDING ON THE COMFORT LEVEL FOR SHARING IN YOUR GROUP, IT MAY BE EASIER TO HAVE THEM VOLUNTEER ANSWERS WITH ALL RESPONSES WRITTEN TOGETHER ON A BOARD.

- What is the most important promise you have ever made?
- What is the most important promise that was ever made to you?
- Have you ever sworn an oath of allegiance? (What is that?)

*A few things worth pointing out (if they don't otherwise arise during the discussion):*

- *Invite the teens to talk a bit about promises in their own experience. This is a good opportunity to share a story of your own (such as wedding vows, godparent/sponsor promises, etc).*
- *Wikipedia defines an oath of allegiance as "an oath whereby a subject or citizen acknowledges a duty of allegiance and swears loyalty to monarch or country".*

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## THE LESSON: LUKE 23, 24

The first part of the lesson gives a brief explanation of what is meant by a “sacrament”. You may wish to pause after reading the lesson so that the teens can ask any questions they might have about that before moving on to the scripture text. Then the teens are asked to read the Bible text (either silently to themselves or aloud together), followed by some additional questions for discussion.

(IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TO HELP RESPOND TO QUESTIONS THAT MAY BE RAISED DURING THIS UNIT, WE RECOMMEND “DISCOVERING THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER: A HANDS-ON APPROACH, VOLUME 2: OUR LIFE IN THE CHURCH” BY SUE CARELESS.)

The crucifixion of Jesus took place under the rule of the Roman Empire. In those days a *sacramentum* was a solemn oath of allegiance that the soldiers made to Caesar. And this is where our word “sacrament” comes from.

But when the Church talks about sacraments today, we are talking about a different kind of oath, one that binds believers to God and to one another in Baptism and Holy Communion. The catechism describes a sacrament as “an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace, given to us by Christ himself, as a means whereby we receive this grace, and a pledge to assure us thereof”.

This image of an oath or pledge serves as a powerful reminder of the solemn importance of Holy Communion as a sign for us: of our salvation, of the gift of eternal life, of the sacrifice made on our behalf, and of all that we proclaim when we participate in it. The next time you receive Holy Communion, pay attention to how the liturgy invites you to focus your attention on Jesus: the Lamb of God, the Bread of Life, the Perfect Sacrifice, and Risen Lord.

Refer to Luke 23: 32 - 24 :12.

(THE TEXT IS PROVIDED ON THE BACK OF THE HANDOUTS AND IN THESE LEADERS’ NOTES SO THAT EVERYONE CAN MARK IT UP AND MAKE NOTES ON IT IF DESIRED. ALTERNATIVELY, YOU CAN READ OUT OF A BIBLE).

Read through the text. Then ask the teens to respond to what they’ve just read. Here are some questions to help guide the discussion.

- In Luke’s account, Jesus says only three things. What are they?
- Make a chart with two columns, one for those who respond to Jesus with faith, and another for those who respond with unbelief (in some cases shown by derision or contempt). Have the teens comb through the story and note together the different people who respond in the one way or the other.
- Ask them to think about how they will respond to Jesus.

*A few notes and reflections for reference:*

- *In Luke’s account, Jesus speaks from the cross three times: 1) a prayer for forgiveness for the soldiers who “know not what they do”, 2) a promise to the believing criminal, and 3) a prayer to commit his spirit to the Father.*
- *Responded with faith / Responded with unbelief*  
*Criminal No. 2 / Criminal No. 1*  
*Believing Centurion / Mocking soldiers*  
*Joseph of Arimathea / (Pilate)*  
*The women, Peter / The apostles*
- *We always have a choice as to how to respond to the Gospel of Christ, like the people in this narrative. Notice which column most of the apostles fall under! Those who belong to the “unbelief” column don’t have to stay there!*

DURING EACH LESSON, IF THE TEENS RAISE THEOLOGICAL OR BIBLICAL QUESTIONS THAT YOU DON’T FEEL CONFIDENT ABOUT ANSWERING, SAY SO, BUT LET THEM KNOW THAT YOU’LL FIND THE ANSWER AND RESPOND AT THE NEXT MEETING.

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## PREVIEW: AT-HOME CHALLENGE

Take a brief moment to look at the at-home challenge together.

THE WEEKLY "AT-HOME CHALLENGE" IS TYPICALLY A SIMPLE ASSIGNMENT TO SPEND SOME QUIET TIME IN PRIVATE PRAYER. ENCOURAGE THE TEENS TO GET NOTEBOOKS THAT CAN BE USED AS PRAYER JOURNALS. ASSURE THEM THAT THEY WILL NOT BE REQUIRED TO SHOW THEIR JOURNAL OR THEIR PRIVATE PRAYERS TO ANYONE.

Each morning and evening, follow the prayer plan that you created for yourself.

(If you didn't make one, try saying the morning and evening prayers from the "Forms of Prayer to be used in Families", which begins on page 728 of the BCP. If you don't have a copy, you can look it up here: <http://prayerbook.ca/resources/bcponline/family-prayer>.)

Set aside a few moments when you pray, to quietly reflect upon this verse from scripture (Revelation 5:12):

***"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honour and glory and blessing!"***

- AND/OR -

Take some time to pray through this prayer, pausing to reflect after each phrase.

*Almighty Father, who of thy great love to men didst give thy dearly beloved Son to die for us: Grant that through his Cross our sins may be put away, and remembered no more against us, and that, cleansed by his Blood, and mindful of his sufferings, we may take up our cross daily, and follow him in newness of life, until we come to his everlasting kingdom; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

(PRAYER FOR PARDON THROUGH THE CROSS, BCP PAGE 730)

## 622 (AGAIN)

Close with any prayers that might be appropriate in the context of the discussion of the day.

AT THE END OF EACH LESSON, IF YOU FIND THAT YOU STILL HAVE LOTS OF TIME REMAINING, YOU MIGHT CHOOSE TO TAKE SOME TIME TO EXPLORE THE "PRAYERS AND THANKSGIVINGS" SECTION IN THE BCP (PAGES 39-62, OR YOU CAN USE THE DOWNLOADABLE BOOKLET). AS YOUR GROUP MEMBERS COME ACROSS PRAYERS THAT THEY FIND RELEVANT, PAUSE AND PRAY THEM TOGETHER. IF YOU'RE PRESSED FOR TIME, YOU MIGHT CLOSE WITH THE THEMED PRAYER FROM THE AT-HOME CHALLENGE.

Then finish with the "Grace", the final prayer in the booklet.

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## LUKE 23, 24: **HOW WILL YOU RESPOND?**

**23** <sup>32</sup>Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. <sup>33</sup>And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. <sup>34</sup>And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide his garments. <sup>35</sup>And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!” <sup>36</sup>The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine <sup>37</sup>and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” <sup>38</sup>There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

<sup>39</sup>One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!” <sup>40</sup>But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? <sup>41</sup>And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” <sup>42</sup>And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” <sup>43</sup>And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

<sup>44</sup>It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, <sup>45</sup>while the sun’s light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. <sup>46</sup>Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!” And having said this he breathed his last. <sup>47</sup>Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, “Certainly this man was innocent!” <sup>48</sup>And all the crowds that had assembled for this spectacle, when they saw what had taken place, returned home beating their breasts. <sup>49</sup>And all his acquaintances and the women who had followed him from Galilee stood at a distance watching these things.

<sup>50</sup>Now there was a man named Joseph, from the Jewish town of Arimathea. He was a member of the council, a good and righteous man, <sup>51</sup>who had not consented to their decision and action; and he was looking for the kingdom of God. <sup>52</sup>This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. <sup>53</sup>Then he took it down and wrapped it in a linen shroud and laid him in a tomb cut in stone, where no one had ever yet been laid. <sup>54</sup>It was the day of Preparation, and the Sabbath was beginning. <sup>55</sup>The women who had come with him from Galilee followed and saw the tomb and how his body was laid. <sup>56</sup>Then they returned and prepared spices and ointments. On the Sabbath they rested according to the commandment.

**24** <sup>1</sup>But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. <sup>2</sup>And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup>but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. <sup>4</sup>While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. <sup>5</sup>And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? <sup>6</sup>He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, <sup>7</sup>that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise.” <sup>8</sup>And they remembered his words, <sup>9</sup>and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. <sup>10</sup>Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, <sup>11</sup>but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. <sup>12</sup>But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.