



PART VII

Small Group Discussion Questions

The purpose of this part of the *Participant's Book* is to provide a practical means to use the application questions offered at the end of each of the sixty lesson plans in the ON THE JOURNEY series companion *Catechist's Manual*. A catechist or RCIA director may opt simply to copy these pages a number of times and slice up the copies to give each small group a set of questions.

However, many parishes will decide to combine certain lesson plans or expand sections of other lesson plans into entire teachings. In these cases, the sixty categories of these questions are not the desired breakdown. As well, some parishes will decide not to use all of the questions suggested for a given session, or may like to add questions more suitable to a given set of participants. For all of these reasons, these questions are offered in this book to be copied as needed, and in electronic form to be altered as desired.

Angels — Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. How have angels worked to carry out God's plan of salvation?
2. How has Jesus destroyed the works of the Devil?
3. How can you imitate Jesus in resisting the temptations of the Devil?
4. Have you sensed the work of angels in your life? What part might angels play in helping your own faith in God's plan and providence?

Anointing of the Sick and Redemptive Suffering — Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. How does the Christian view of suffering differ from that of our culture?
2. How does Christ's suffering and Death take our sin and illness and use it as a means of our own redemption?
3. Why did Jesus do so much healing when he was on earth?
4. Is suffering a consequence of sin?
5. How could redemptive suffering give more meaning to our daily lives? Do we expect too much physical healing as a result of our prayers? Have you ever experienced God's presence in the midst of suffering?

Baptism — Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. How is Baptism similar to a birthday?
2. How do the physical aspects of Baptism (for example, the water) help us to focus on the eternal meaning of the sacrament?
3. When have you been given a chance to turn over a new leaf? How is Baptism similar to this?
4. Why is Baptism so important in our spiritual lives?

The Battle of Prayer — Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. What distracts you from entering into prayer? What are some ways to handle distraction?
2. Is it possible that God will answer your prayer with a "no"?
3. If you prefer your will to God's will, what effect might that have on your prayer?
4. What effect will it have if your prayer is filled with petitions but lacks adoration and thanksgiving?

The Blessed Trinity — Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. Why does it matter that God's nature is that of a community, or family?
2. How might faith in the Trinity allow for a personal knowledge of God?
3. How does God's nature (a community of Persons whose life is love) determine what he does?
4. Why is God being both transcendent and immanent essential to believing in what he does?

The Blessed Virgin Mary — Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. Does it detract from God's power that he often relies on a free response in faith from human beings? What does it show us about God's respect for his creation and the importance of our faith response?
2. What qualities and privileges did the Son of God give to the Mother he had chosen for himself?
3. Why did Mary's "yes" take so much faith? Have you been called to say "yes" when it wasn't easy?
4. What does the indispensable role of Mary in God's plan of salvation say about the dignity of women?

Cardinal Virtues and the Virtues of Chastity and Humility — Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. What characteristics have I noticed about other people that I consider virtuous?
2. What are some ways that society encourages a lack of temperance and a lack of chastity?
3. What outside influences in my life challenge my own exercise of virtue?
4. How might I seek to grow in virtue?