

Notes for
Amazing
Extravagant
Love and Mercy
Presentation –
Nancy Longo
Slide 1



When they come into the room – there are three sheets on the walls:

Gratitude Wall – What are they thankful for today?

Prayer needs – What do they or family/friends need prayer for?

Creativity wall – What can you say to God – draw picture, poem, song, scripture, anything to give Glory to God!

Slide 4



Purpose of workshop
God's great love and mercy has changed my life forever! I am not junk!

I was created for a purpose!
Every day I fall more in love with God and with those God sends into my life!

Isn't that what we want for our students: not to entertain them, but to foster continuing lifelong conversion?

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Today we will share JOY & Mercy together in this workshop, as we experience activities and prayers (for all ages) using media, scripture and the ordinary to explore God's great love and mercy – so that we can pass it on! Let's start with a Prayer of JOY!!!

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Joy of the Gospel Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fu6wL9a6rn4>

Memorizing verses – dancing with joy – whole body movement - prayer

We are all God's children – God does NOT have grandchildren/ He smiles when we come to Him as innocent children – free of walls of pride or pretenses!

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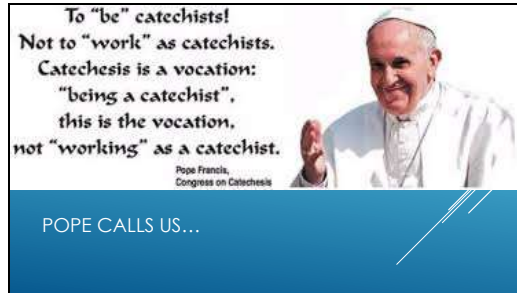
The Bible is full of stories of REAL people who JESUS met where they were....and LOVED them completely – and called them to more – If I relate to them – I have hope!!!! They had a choice to accept or not – same as us!

It's a process.... Who are some real people in scripture that you relate to and why....shout out!

Woman at the Well, Peter, King David, Mary Magdalene

They are all sinners! And so are we! They all have stories and God met them where they were at and invited them into Living Waters!

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We need to love Our students for their limitations as well as their potential.

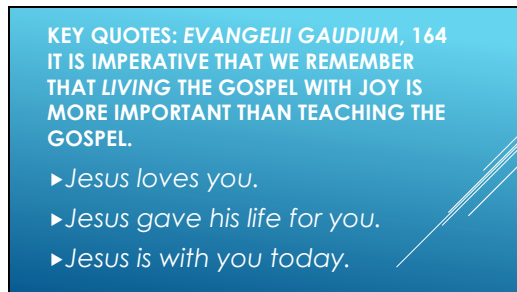
It's not a job ,it's a vocation – it's our passion to share the Good News of Jesus! I am compelled to share it! Jesus has changed my life! The kids will know if Jesus is real to us or just a story in a book!

Slide 9



In our own unique way –
(include the Catechism! But also the Heart of the Gospel))
He asks us to teach 3 things:

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167: "*Proclaiming Christ means **showing** that to believe in and to follow him is not only something right and true, but also something beautiful, capable of filling life with new splendor and profound joy, even in the midst of difficulties.*" (emphasis added)

This reminds me of the adage "You can preach a better sermon with your life than with your lips."

Slide 11



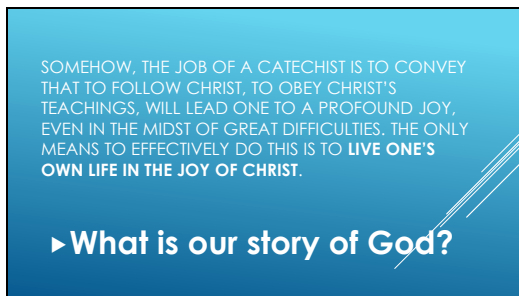
what we teach – has to tie into their lives –

Practices connect faith and life.

If we are living our faith – we can share examples of how we live out the gospel-

- Being a person of and prayer, - how do I pray? (so many ways!)– Pray unceasingly
- Being a person of reconciliation and forgiveness – why?
- What does it mean to participate in liturgy? Explain it so that it has meaning
- What is Scripture saying to me? How does this affect my life?
- act for justice & service. Why should I care about others? What about me?

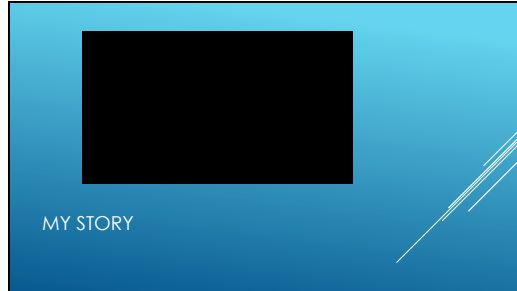
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I believe we have to be the example of what the difference Jesus makes in our lives!-

Our lives are filled with Stories of God in them....What stories stick out in your life? What has transformed you?

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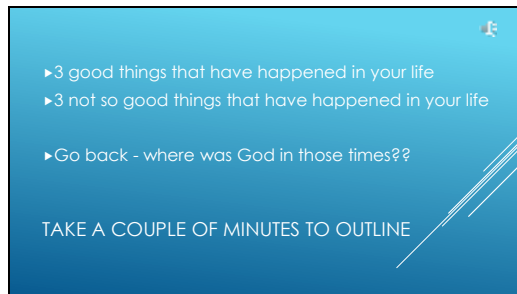


Video 4:38 min.

My Story – Big Daddy Weave

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sKvcHOqjA8A>

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Can you think of 3 good things and 3 challenges that have happened in your life? Go back – where was God in those times?

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What have you learned about God in these stories?

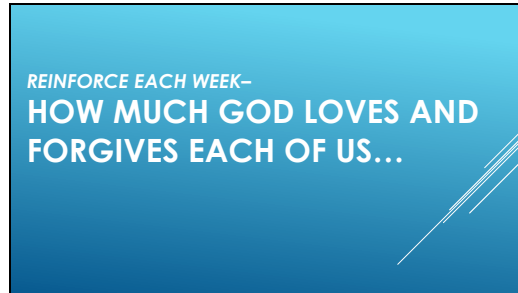
Answers:

God is faithful, God is always there, God's timing is not our timing! God is always with us! God is LOVE!

There is nothing we can do to earn God's love

There is nothing we can do to lose God's love

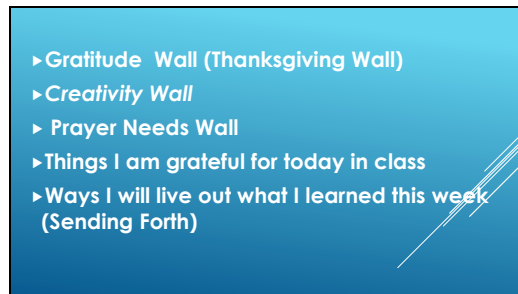
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Tie your lesson into their personal story –
How do you know What happened in their lives this week?

The Walls we wrote on when we came in to class will give us a glimpse into their lives...go back to those...

Slide 17



Knowing what's going on in your students' hearts and lives

When they come in – post on the prayer boards – then acknowledge them during the class. We need to know what is going on in their lives – so that we can tie their life to the Gospel!

Slide 18

Using Journals – Lots of ways of journaling

–

**Have students write on a topic - / scripture / struggle / sharing the love of God –seeing God act in my life – seeing that He is real
Journaling**

How do we get our students to recognize God in their everyday, ordinary lives?

Journaling! Reflecting on Where they have seen God – daily.

Examine –Good / Struggles each day

Par 3 –

- P-presence (in the presence of God) Let us remember we are in the holy presence of God (silence for 5 seconds)

- A – Ask (ask God – where did I see you today – where did you show yourself today?)
- R- Review the day – what positive/negative things happened today?
- I - sorrow/contrition for faults/failures you had during the day What is one thing you are sorry for?
-
- 2 - Gratitude What is one thing you are grateful for? –
- 3 - entrustment -- What is one thing you need to trust in God more?

Slide 19



List 25 things you are grateful for in one minute! - 2 minutes

Who is one person who you are most grateful for? Write down their name and write a letter on why you are grateful for them...
5min

Slide 20

▶ Who is one person who you are most grateful for?


▶ Write down their name and write a letter on why you are grateful for them...

Share with one other person after list of grateful

Look at the happiness in this room – smiles

Your challenge:
After writing letter – call your person and reading it to them

Slide 21



HAPPINESS EXPERIMENT

7:05min

The Happiness Experiment by Soul Pancake

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Hv6vTKD6lg>

Slide 22

WHO ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR TODAY?

LET THEM KNOW!

TODAY
IS THE DAY
to show your
APPRECIATION!

GO OVERBOARD!
GO CRAZY WITH IT.
THERE ARE PEOPLE IN YOUR LIFE WHO DESERVE IT.

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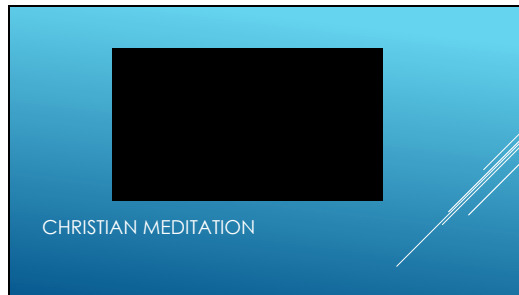
Our students: Making appreciation cards for others – then have that be a sending forth...talk about the response and reactions next week!!!!

Slide 23



–in world of noise – we all crave silence...even if we don't know it..
Start with breathing
Slow down - sit up
Breath in
Breath out
Then add hand on heart
Next – prayer – take breath – breath in- breath out – God has called you by name –
You are not here by accident....just listen to His small quiet voice...

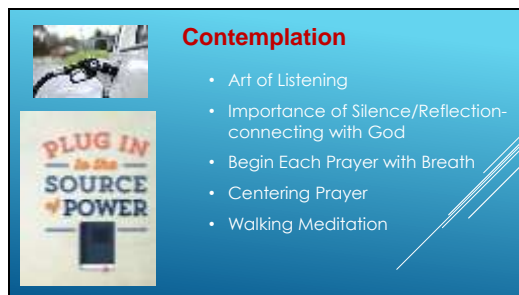
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7:17 – bishop and 9:00 joy at the end

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X2CK8h3E9f0>

Slide 25




Contemplation

- Art of Listening
- Importance of Silence/Reflection- connecting with God
- Begin Each Prayer with Breath
- Centering Prayer
- Walking Meditation

Connecting to God – creates a deep relationship with God – a deep sense of peace and joy!

Take spiritual walks! In silence – using the mantras!

Slide 27



**Beginning Dec 8
The Pope is
calling for a
Year of Mercy**

Mercy is
"the beating heart of the Gospel"

The *logo* and the *motto* together provide a fitting summary of what the Jubilee Year is all about. The motto *Merciful Like the Father* (taken from the Gospel of Luke, 6:36) serves as an invitation to follow the merciful example of the Father who asks us not to judge or condemn but to forgive and to give love and forgiveness without measure (cfr. Lk 6:37-38).

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GREAT MERCY OF GOD 

- ▶ Forgiveness – from God

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- ▶ Leads to Our Forgiveness of others

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- ▶ Leads to our Compassion for others suffering

I believe we get to the Mercy of God – through His great Love!

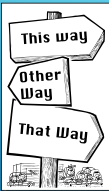
I learn to trust His mercy – when I feel His great love for me!

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**WE HAVE FREE WILL –
WE MAKE THE CHOICE... GALATIANS 5:13-26**

Life without the Spirit of God leads to:
sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like.

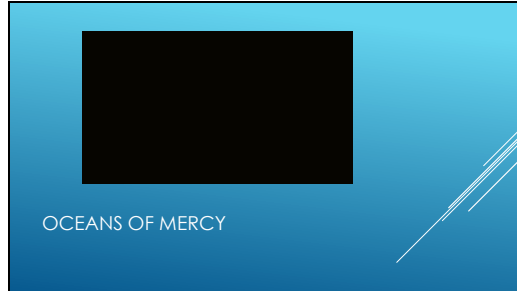
Life With the Spirit of God
But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control



I make the choice –

Fruits of the spirit are the perks of living a life with God!

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2:35 min

There is no reason – not to take God up on His great Mercy!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CvZ4I9Zl67A>

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Sacrament of Reconciliation is a Shower for the soul – when sin comes back to you – let it go – it's over...it has no power over you!!! Forgive yourself...God has.

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Slide 33



Love Your Enemies

“But I say unto you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you”

-Matthew 5:44

- ▶ **Is there someone who you think is an enemy? Write the person’s name on a rock.**
- ▶ **Hold that rock in the hand you write with.**
- ▶ **Think about how difficult it would be to go about your daily tasks if you had to hold on to that rock all the time.**
- ▶ **Carrying around the burdens of hatred, anger, and resentment is similar; they prevent you from doing what you need to do and being whom God wants you to be.**
- ▶ **Spend some time praying for your enemy. When you are ready, lay the rock on the foot of the cross. Say a prayer of blessing for your enemy.**

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Just Do it!

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PUTTING MERCY INTO ACTION
COMPASSION FOR OTHERS

- ▶ Blessing Bags – for homeless
- ▶ Clean out closets / clothes and toys – especially at Birthday and Christmas time – donate to those who need it.
- ▶ Earn money by doing chores at home to buy food for Adopt a family or other food donations.
- ▶ Make Cookies for Get on the Bus or Other Prison ministries
- ▶ Not only make cards for nursing homes, but go visit as well. Sing songs of joy!
- ▶ Treat all people like you want to be treated!

– Put into Action what we learned -
Ideas to involve our Heads, Heart
and Hands
Corporal works of mercy

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When we are free from the burden of sin and grudges – we overflow with the Joy of the gospel!

Slide 38

MOTHER TERESA – DO IT ANYWAY

We love because God first loved us!
We don't love others because they are nice to us
We love them because God loves us! Is merciful to us -
I created this video and I will be posting this on the website!

Blessing Each Other

- Bless hands/heads
- Pray Over – Birthday, Illness, Special Intention
- Prayers for school, sports, etc.
- Bless the Classroom/ Space

Instead of Cursing each other

Love brings us to Mercy! The more we love - the more we are merciful!

Sending forth blessings

Bless each other as you leave

Cross foreheads and palms

In the name of the father , son and holy spirit

Be Sent Forth to Overflow in

God's Joy, Love and Mercy