

1. Read (Seek) — Read the verses slowly and prayerfully several times. Write down any words or phrases that seem to stand out:

2. Meditate (Find) — Now begin to reflect on the verses and ask God what it means and how he wants to speak to you through the passage.
God what are you saying to me through this?

3. Pray (Ask) — Respond from your heart to what God has been saying to you. **What do you want me to know?** Write down your prayer to him or record whatever he says to you.

4. Contemplate (Taste) — Be quiet before the Lord enjoying His presence. **How is God calling you to act in response to what he has shown you?**

[1] Romans 1:19-20

[2] Saint Pope John Paul II; *Fides et Ratio*

[3] Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J.; *Modern Catholic Dictionary*; page 468

[4] Tantum Ergo

[5] John 8: 31-32

[6] Revelation 22:4-5

[7] <http://www.catholic.com/thisrock/2004/0404clas.asp>

[8] Jn 20:29

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Gospel Reading – Matthew 11:25-30 – Roman Missal

At that time Jesus exclaimed: “I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to little ones. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him. Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.”

Spiritual Reading

From Pope St. Gregory the Great

Touching Christ, he cried out: My Lord and my God. Jesus said to him: Because you have seen me, Thomas, you have believed. Paul said: Faith is the guarantee of things hoped for, the evidence of things unseen. It is clear, then, that faith is the proof of what cannot be seen. What is seen gives knowledge, not faith. When Thomas saw and touched, why was he told: You have believed because you have seen me? Because what he saw and what he believed were different things. God cannot be seen by mortal man. Thomas saw a human being, whom he acknowledged to be God, and said: My Lord and my God. Seeing, he believed; looking at one who was true man, he cried out that this was God, the God he could not see. What follows is reason for great joy: Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed. There is here a particular reference to ourselves; we hold in our hearts one we have not seen in the flesh. We are included in these words, but only if we follow up our faith with good works. The true believer practices what he believes. But of those who pay only lip service to faith, Paul has this to say: They profess to know God, but they deny him in their works. Therefore James says: Faith without works is dead.

Childlike Faith - Lesson and Discussion

“you have revealed them to little ones.”

How does God uncover the mystery of life, the mystery of Himself?

There are three ways. First, is through nature, this is called natural revelation. It can be known to all through reason. “For what can be known about God is evident to them, because God made it evident to them. Ever since the creation of the world his invisible attributes of

eternal power and divinity have been able to be understood and perceived in what he has made. As a result, they have no excuse.”[1]

The second way God revealed the mystery of Himself was by speaking through the prophets of the Old Testament. The third and complete revelation of Himself happened when the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. Both the second and third ways are considered supernatural because our natural reason could not have come to these truths without God communicating with humanity. The Catholic Church has always taught that both faith and reason work together. “Faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth; and God has placed in the human heart a desire to know the truth—in a word, to know himself—so that, by knowing and loving God, men and women may also come to the fullness of truth about themselves.”[2] The first way God reveals Himself is through reason, the second and third are through faith. This is why Jesus tells us that we must have faith like a child. “There are two levels of supernatural revelation, as capsulized by the author of Hebrews: ‘At various times in the past and in various ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son, the Son that he has appointed to inherit everything and through whom he made everything there is. He is the radiant light of God’s glory and the perfect copy of his nature’ (Hebrews 1:1-2). The difference between these two kinds of supernatural communication lies in the fact that, before Christ, God spoke but only indirectly through the prophets who were inspired to tell others what Yahweh had told them. In the person of Christ, however, it was no longer God speaking merely through human seers chosen by him; it was God himself speaking as Man to his fellow members of the human race.”[3]

We see Jesus as the Son of God through the Father, but we must be open to receive this knowledge. This is the childlike faith. We can’t be arrogant, haughty, or closed-mindedness when it comes to our faith. If we are closed-minded then it can chip away at our core beliefs. For example, the Eucharist: if we only look at it as a piece of bread and look for a way “to be moved” emotionally then we miss the point when Jesus said, “This is my body”. As Saint Thomas Aquinas said, “Faith will tell us Christ is present when our human senses fail”. [4] When our human intellect cannot comprehend what is taking place, it is God who instructs us to have faith of a child to accept His Will. God does not expect us to grasp everything with our natural reason (first way) alone and so He graciously gives us faith. This faith is revealed in the Old Testament, through messengers and events and in the New Testament by God Himself, the Word made flesh. Faith is supernatural because it is an infused grace that is above our nature. When we are children we are not able to easily do things that come naturally for us, we must be aided to walk, talk, read, eat, etc. We must become like little children in regard to Faith by becoming humble, poor in spirit, and obedient. It is only through these ways that we will come to know God through Faith.

Why would God hide something from the wise and the learned?

God wishes to show himself, but only if we understand that we are nothing before Him. All the wisdom we gain, and all the knowledge we have is only given to us because God allowed it to be. However, no amount of wisdom and knowledge on this earth will enable us to completely understand the fullness of God and His Church. The mystery and unity of the Father and Son is expressed in the words of Christ in the Gospel reading. If we are to truly know God the Father we must go to His Son, the Word made flesh. This was too difficult for many people to believe then and is still hard for many to believe today. God stays hidden from them until they come to believe in Him. If we accept God, He will make it easier for us to believe in Him. The Law of Contradiction states that something cannot be both true and not true at the same time. God cannot be true and not true, you believe one or the other. If you believe that God does not exist, then the opposite, “God exists” is hidden from you. “Jesus then said to those Jews who believed in him, ‘If you remain in my word, you will truly be my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.’”[5] When we know the truth, we are free and nothing is hidden. This is why we are reminded each Sunday night during Night Prayer in the Liturgy of the Hours, “They shall see the Lord face to face and bear his name on their foreheads. The night shall be no more. They will need no light from lamps or the sun, for the Lord God shall give them light, and they shall reign forever.”[6] In Heaven, the Beatific vision, nothing is hidden. We can begin now, through faith, to be set free by the truth, walking on the path of perfection to heaven, where nothing is hidden.

Why should we have childlike faith? To have “childlike” faith means to see, understand, and accept God more simply and more completely. When living with childlike faith we see the heart of Christ and we see how the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit want us to act. The ability to have this type of faith goes against our ordinary human intellect. We are at times constrained by certain truths that we cannot escape. Math equations, certain sciences, history of events, these are simply truths and we have no choice in the matter. However, our faith in God presents a free choice to our will to either accept or reject the teachings of the Catholic Church. We are free to accept or reject matters of faith, such as the Sacraments, the Eucharist, Mary, and The Church. Many have accepted these and many have rejected them, but we all face the consequences of our choices. We see the Pharisees and Scribes today reject that Jesus is truly God, and Jesus praising those who believe in Him like a child.[7] He tells St. Thomas, “Blessed are those who have not seen, and yet believe”[8] Children trust. This is why the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy and the words inscribed below the Divine Mercy image are so important in our time, “Jesus, I trust in You!”