Session 5

Authority

1 Opening Prayer (5 minutes) - Psalm 91:1-2,5-6,

The opening prayer of each session is modelled after the Liturgy of the Hours, the collection of Psalms recited daily by priests, religious, and many laity.

Side 1: He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High, and abides in the shade of the Almighty, says to the LORD, “My refuge, my stronghold, my God in whom I trust!”

Side 2: You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the plague that prowls in the darkness, nor the scourge that lays waste at noon.

Side 1: Upon you no evil shall fall, no plague approach your tent. For you has he commanded his angels to keep you in all your ways.

Side 2: They shall bear you upon their hands, lest you strike your foot against a stone. On the lion and the viper you will tread, and trample the young lion and the serpent.

Side 1: Since he clings to me in love, I will free him, protect him, for he knows my name. When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will be with him in distress; I will deliver him, and give him glory.

Side 2: With length of days I will content him; I will show him my saving power.

All: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.
Video Presentation (20 minutes)

Works quoted and cited:


“But if it is by the finger of God that [I] drive out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. When a strong man fully armed guards his palace, his possessions are safe. But when one stronger than he attacks and overcomes him, he takes away the armor on which he relied and distributes the spoils.” (Luke 11:20 – 22 NABRE)

“He delivered us from the power of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.” (Colossians 1:13 – 14 NABRE)


“If you do not believe in the devil, you do not believe in the Gospel.” (Pope St. John Paul II, quoted in *Resisting the Devil*, p. 99)


“I’ve appointed the Devil to tempt and to trouble My creatures in this life. I’ve done this, not so that My creatures will be overcome, but so that they may overcome, proving their virtue and receiving from Me the glory of victory... My love permits these temptations, for the Devil is weak. He can do nothing by himself unless I allow him. So I let him tempt you because I love you, not because I hate you. I want you to conquer, not to be conquered, and to come to a perfect knowledge of yourself and of Me.” (God the Father to St. Catherine of Siena, quoted in *Manual for Spiritual Warfare*)

“The seventy[-two] returned rejoicing, and said, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us because of your name.” Jesus said, “I have observed Satan fall like lightning from the sky. Behold, I have given you the power ‘to tread upon serpents’ and scorpions and upon the full force of the enemy and nothing will harm you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice because the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice because your names are written in heaven.”” (Luke 10:17—20, NABRE)

“He said to them, “Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned. These signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will drive out demons, they will speak new languages... They will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.” (Mark 16:15—18 NABRE)

“We who have been reborn through the sacrament of baptism experience great joy when we feel within us the first stirrings of the Holy Spirit. We begin to have insight into the mysteries of faith; we are able to prophesy and speak with wisdom. We become steadfast in hope and receive abundant gifts of healing. Demons are made subject to our authority.” (Hilary of Poitiers, quoted in Deliverance Ministry 4.1)

“By his obedience unto death, Christ communicated to his disciples the gift of royal freedom, so that they might “by the self-abnegation of a holy life, overcome the reign of sin in themselves”: “That man is rightly called a king who makes his own body an obedient subject and, by governing himself with suitable rigor, refuses to let his passions breed rebellion in his soul, for he exercises a kind of royal power over himself. And because he knows how to rule his own person as king, so too does he sit as its judge. He will not let himself be imprisoned by sin, or thrown headlong into wickedness.” (CCC 908, quoting St. Ambrose)

3 Small Group Discussion (30—60 minutes)

1. What do the following passages reveal about coming of the Kingdom of God and the defeat of the devil?

   A. **CCC 550** The coming of God's kingdom means the defeat of Satan's: "If it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you." (Matthew 12:26) Jesus' exorcisms free some individuals from the domination of demons. They anticipate Jesus' great victory over "the ruler of this world" (John 12:31). The kingdom of God will be definitively established through Christ's cross: "God reigned from the wood" (Hymn Vexilla Regis).

   B. **1 Peter 5:8—10** Be sober and vigilant. Your opponent the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion looking for [someone] to devour. Resist him, steadfast in faith, knowing that your fellow believers throughout the world undergo the same sufferings. The God of all grace who called you to his eternal glory through Christ [Jesus] will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you after you have suffered a little.

   C. **James 4:6—8** "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." So submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.
2. How can our battle against temptation and sin actually strengthen us in holiness? How can it deepen our knowledge of ourselves and of God? Have you experienced this in your own life?

3. How do you think the average Catholic thinks of the devil? That he doesn’t really exist? That he’s irrelevant? That he’s someone we should fear? What’s a more balanced, biblical perspective?

4. St. Teresa of Avila said, “Not a fig shall I care for all the devils in hell: it is they who will fear me. I do not understand these fears. ‘O, the devil, the devil!’ we say, when we might be saying, ‘God! God!’ and making the devil tremble.” (See Deliverance Ministry 5.4.10) Why shouldn’t Christians fear the devil, even when we know that he is working for our destruction?

5. Based on what you’ve heard about UNBOUND ministry so far, what need do you think that it meets in the Church? Do you think you might benefit from an UNBOUND session?

4 Closing Prayer of Discernment (5 minutes)

As a group, spend three to five minutes in silent personal discernment. Ask God to prayerfully guide you in answering this question: What is God calling me to do this week based on what I’ve heard today? Afterward, pray together the Lord’s Prayer slowly.

God is calling me to:

I will do this on ________________(date) at ________________ (time)