

SMALL CHURCH COMMUNITIES

WEEK 4
(Day 78)

GATHER

Check in with each group member, and then pray the Our Father together.

PROCLAIM

Read or listen to CCC #547-553 together (day 78 of the podcast).

BREAK

- #547-#549 describe Jesus's works and miracles as proofs of his identity as the Messiah. Have you ever seen the grace or power of God at work in another person or yourself in a way you knew could only be Jesus?
- The Catechism also explains that miracles are not for show, and while Jesus has delivered some from natural evils, there is still pain and suffering in the world. How can we handle this as Christians? How would you comfort someone who is experiencing something very difficult and wonders how God can still be good?
- CCC #550 states that the coming of Jesus's kingdom means the defeat of Satan's kingdom. How can we combat the rule of Satan in our lives and the world around us?
- Have you ever experienced a time when it was difficult to trust the authority of the Church?
- When have you been most grateful that the Church holds authority and the "keys to the kingdom" in your life?
- How would you explain the authority of the papacy to someone else?

SEND

Challenge

As Catholics, we have the gift of knowing that God will not let the Church be led astray, especially in matters of faith and morals. This week's challenge is to think of a Church teaching or social situation that might be difficult to understand. Once you have chosen something, commit to learning more about what we believe and why. Take some notes on what you learn so you can share with the group next week!

Prayer

Spend some time with the reflections on the back of this page, then pray St. Padre Pio's Prayer of Trust and Confidence together.

MEDIA RECOMMENDATIONS

Do it Again by Elevation Worship

OVERVIEW

This session focuses on the Keys to the Kingdom (as given to Peter) as well as the Signs of the Kingdom. We are challenged to make the Kingdom present, here and now, in the world around us.

SCRIPTURE

Both for our own understanding, and to prepare us to explain the authority of the Church to others, it is helpful to know what Sacred Scripture says about this. Read through and consider memorizing where these scriptural proofs of the authority of the Church are found!

- Matthew 16 - Keys to the Kingdom
- Mark 3:13-19 - Jesus appoints the 12 apostles
- Luke 22:29-30 - "I appoint a kingdom for you" and the 12 apostles
- Acts 1:12-26 - Matthias is chosen to replace Judas after Jesus has ascended. This is the first of the bishops to be appointed by the Church.
- Acts 15:1-31 - Council of Jerusalem and the primacy of Peter
- 1 Corinthians 15:5 - Jesus appeared to "Cephas (Peter) and the twelve"

Scan the code to find
these resources on
our website!



SEND - CHALLENGE

Use this space to write down some Church teachings you would like to understand better or be more prepared to defend. Keep some key points here so you can share with the group next week:

SEND - REFLECTION QUESTIONS

From the Gospels, we see that Peter was not chosen simply because he had the most perfect faith or always made the best choices on his own. Yet, Jesus still chose him as the first pope. Some of Peter's qualities (for example, he often acted or spoke boldly and then later thought about the consequences) were things he struggled with at times, but were perfect at Pentecost when he needed to courageously preach.

- What qualities do you think you have that God has given you for a purpose?
- How have you seen God use you in ways that were unexpected?

SEND - ST. PADRE PIO'S PRAYER OF TRUST & CONFIDENCE

O Lord, we ask for a boundless confidence and trust in Your divine mercy, and the courage to accept the crosses and sufferings which bring immense goodness to our souls and that of Your Church.

Help us to love You with a pure and contrite heart, and to humble ourselves beneath Your cross, as we climb the mountain of holiness, carrying our cross that leads to heavenly glory.

May we receive You with great faith and love in Holy Communion, and allow You to act in us, as You desire, for Your greater glory.

O Jesus, most adorable heart and eternal fountain of Divine Love, may our prayer find favor before the Divine Majesty of Your Heavenly Father. Amen.