

2021 - 2022

SPiRiT *Guide*

Pastoral Vision

SPiRiT brings the Sunday gospels of the Church year to teens. It sows the Word of God in the good ground of their lives, where it can multiply a hundredfold in our world.

SPiRiT develops the bishops' curriculum framework. *SPiRiT* develops the content of the first course outlined in the 2008 Curriculum Framework from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, namely, the "Revelation of Jesus Christ in Scripture" and highlights content from other courses as it flows from the Sunday gospels.

SPiRiT aims to teach. Every *SPiRiT* issue brings the Sunday gospel and Catholic tradition into dialog with young people and invites them to question, pray, think, and share about what Jesus' message asks of them in our world.

SPiRiT is a transforming process that brings young people together in groups where they can make friends who call forth their faith and support their commitment to living the gospel in our world.

SPiRiT's stories and articles bring teens' own life experience, doubts, conflicts, joys, and anxieties into their religion class or youth group. Every *SPiRiT* issue calls teens to put their faith into action.

The SPiRiT program imitates the way the liturgy teaches the whole Church—by cycling the mystery of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection into our lives Sunday by Sunday. Any single gospel can claim our commitment. Reflecting on the Sunday gospels is a prayerful habit that aims to transform the Christian into Christ over a lifetime.



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WELCOME to SPIRIT 2021-2022

From its beginning *SPIRIT* has focused its issues on the Sunday gospels, October to April, following the Church's three-year cycles of scripture readings for the Sundays of the liturgical year. *SPIRIT* is really a three-year, not a one-year program

SPIRIT integrates its gospel-centered approach with the content outlined in the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops 2008 Curriculum Framework, course one, "The Revelation of Jesus Christ in Scripture." Over its three-year program *SPIRIT* incorporates in its issues:

- The thirst for God
- God's self-revelation in creation
- God's self-revelation in Israel's history
- Oral tradition
- Scripture in the life of the Church
- Ways to interpret scripture
- Bible and science
- The Old Testament—Pentateuch, historical books, Prophets, Wisdom Writings
- The New Testament—letters, Acts, Revelation
- The character of the four gospels, their content and the communities for which they were written
- Literary forms—miracle stories, parables, sayings, apocalyptic
- Formation of the gospels

SPIRIT also posts online key concepts from course one, such as inerrancy, revelation, inspiration, canon, literalist, fundamentalist, *Divino Afflante Spiritu*, exegesis. This online reference allows young people to look up doctrinal concepts when they have questions and assures access to all that the framework outlines.

How *SPIRIT* Works

Each *SPIRIT* issue provides four pages written just for teens that include stories about life, the Sunday gospel in reader parts, and presentations of Catholic tradition.

- **Stories and interviews** anchor each session in teens' experience.
- **Questions** invite teens to interpret what the gospel asks of them.
- **Our Catholic Faith** is a feature that helps teens explore Catholic tradition in their language.
- **Faith in Action** activities challenge teens to put the gospel into action globally and locally in their schools, parishes, and neighborhoods.

The *SPIRIT* Program

SPIRIT is all about your success as a catechist and engaging your teens' in Catholic tradition. The *SPIRIT* program includes not only its 28 issues and 28 lesson plans, but also these essential additional components.

Practicing Prayer

Alive in God: Prayer Experiences for Teens *SPIRIT* lessons will identify prayer experiences from this companion book to the program to conclude each lesson. *Alive in God* introduces teens to many prayer forms to help them discover ways to practice prayer that fit them. **\$20.00**

Gospel Themes in Music

Each week *SPIRIT* suggests a popular song that reflects the Gospel theme. Go to the *SPIRIT* page at goodgroundpress.com to find key lyrics and a video of the song.

Icebreakers

Icebreakers for Teen Groups, 2nd Edition collects 50 icebreakers for introducing young people to each other, energizing groups, challenging groups to get to know one another better, and helping groups recognize and value diversity. **\$5.00**

Facilitating Groups

Faith Sharing with Teens: A How-to Guide for Catechists and Parents Talk can transform, especially conversation that connects the scriptures and life and moves faith into action. *Faith Sharing* offers practical help in leading groups, helping teens learn from one another, and ensuring teens gain skill in the roles and dynamics that make conversation a doorway to deep and active faith. **\$9.95**



How to Use a *SPiRiT* Issue

S *SPiRiT* is a teen-friendly catechetical program that centers around the Sunday gospels of the liturgical year. This makes *SPiRiT* a lectionary-based program; the lectionary is the book that organizes the Church's reading of scripture into three yearly cycles.

The *SPiRiT* program is catechetical, 28 weekly issues that aim to instruct teens in the faith of the Catholic community lives.

Each *SPiRiT* issue has a one-page lesson plan that outlines a 60- to 90-minute session with teens. These lesson plans are the key to using every *SPiRiT* issue effectively.

Lessons are numbered and dated, so catechists can find the lesson plan for each *SPiRiT* issue with ease.

Each *SPiRiT* session follows a three-step plan:

- 1 **Sharing Life Stories**
- 2 **Reflecting on the Gospel**
- 3 **Living Our Catholic Faith.**

Step 1 Sharing Life Stories

Prayer *SPiRiT* provides a prayer on its cover for each session. The prayer opens the theme of the gospel and lesson. Lesson plans suggest gathering your teens in a prayer circle and inviting them to bring any concern they have about people in their lives or events in the news into the prayer. Some teens may always keep these concerns in their hearts; some may welcome praying about them in the group.

Music Each week suggests popular music to fit the gospel theme of each weekly issue. *SPiRiT*'s music editor describes the theme of each song, provides key lyrics, and suggests questions that teens can discuss after listening to the song. Find music suggestions on the *SPiRiT* page at goodgroundpress.com.

Icebreakers *SPiRiT* lessons often provide easy and fun activities to help groups feel at ease and connect with themes in the issue.

A good icebreaker gives each group member a chance to speak, to hear his or her voice aloud talking about something non-threatening. Checklists, short games, remembering exercises, and preference questions invite participation rather than right answers. Icebreakers help groups

bond in fun. *Icebreakers for Teen Groups*, is available from Good Ground Press: 800-232-5533 or goodgroundpress.com.

Stories, Articles, Interviews

SPiRiT provides fiction, articles, and interviews by or about teens. These stories and articles provide teens a common medium for discussion and a catalyst for surfacing their own experiences. These stories are not an end in themselves but a means for teens to talk about their own issues.

Stories work like magic in helping young people explore their own experience. By struggling with the dilemmas of believable fiction or real-life characters, teens gain practice in making their own moral judgments and expressing their own spiritual values.

Familiarize yourself with the story or article before the session. Always let teens respond freely to the piece when the group finishes reading it. Let their responses be a starting point for discussion.

Look over the questions in each issue. Make them your own, so you can work them into a session creatively. Look over the answer section in the guide to confirm what a question is getting at.

To read the stories, articles, or interviews, have teens take turns

reading the piece aloud, breaking for a new reader at each large capital letter. Some stories lend themselves to silent reading. Some lesson plans suggest that teens read aloud to each other in small groups.

Many adolescents have difficulty talking about themselves in any way or finding words for their feelings. Being able to talk about a story or interview can be a stepping stone to faith sharing in the group. Teens need to talk because they often feel isolated and alone; without talking they won't know others have similar feelings.

Building up the trust that will make teens comfortable talking about their real struggles takes time. It can take a year for them to realize you as a catechist or teacher will listen and help them think things through, not just put them down or tell them an easy right answer.

Questions *SPiRiT* questions invite teens to interpret the story. Make the questions your own, but don't be afraid to ask them as written. Ask your own questions, too, and invite teens to do the same. Don't have group members write answers out. That makes a faith-sharing group too much like school.

Step 2 Reflecting on the Gospel

Gospel *SPIRIT* puts the gospel in drama form to invite teens to step into conversation with Jesus and the other people in the stories. Putting the gospel in reader parts allows several teens to take an active part in proclaiming the gospel each week.

Be creative in proclaiming the gospel. Invite members of your group to create a gospel skit or do a contemporary version of the gospel situated in our time. If you have teen liturgies, have teens dramatize the gospel for these eucharistic celebrations.

Invite teens to respond to the gospel. Notice if someone has a

question or an insight. Use the questions to interpret the gospel but not to limit faith sharing. If something in the gospel hits a chord, let the Spirit speak in the teens. Every lesson plan provides scripture background for the catechist.

Questions Questions ask teens to interpret the gospel and challenge them to make links between the *SPIRIT* story or article, the gospel, and their lives. Talking about the gospel helps teens interpret it at their own level and explore its meaning for them in today's world.

The few questions *SPIRIT* raises in no way exhaust the possible meanings of the gospel but are questions the editors think relevant to teens. Don't hesitate to go beyond these questions.

The aim of *SPIRIT* is conversion and transformation in Christ. The questions invite faith sharing—reflecting on one's own life experience. This is a transforming process. Teens and catechists open themselves to the possibility of Jesus and his teachings claiming their hearts, giving them direction, vision, and hope. A single insight may be enough to change a teen's life.

Step 3 Living Our Catholic Faith

Our Catholic Faith Page 4 of each *SPIRIT* issue is about our Catholic faith and Catholic practice. These topics follow from the theme of the gospels and the liturgical seasons. For young people accustomed to the relentless chapter by chapter approach of textbooks, this is a welcome change. It also puts them more in touch with the worshiping communities of which they are a part. Because the Gospels are about Jesus and his mission among us, the *Our Catholic Faith* part of the lesson helps teens to understand more about the scriptures, the doctrine of the Incarnation, the centrality of the Eucharist, and the bishops' teaching at the Vatican II Council. These page-4 features are also where *SPIRIT* integrates the topics the bishops' curriculum guidelines require. See the list of doctrinal topics on page 2.

Faith in Action *SPIRIT* lessons lead teens toward action in their communities. *Faith in Action* activities especially call young people to do or act on the word Jesus speaks. *SPIRIT* faith-sharing groups can become small Christian communities that reflect on and practice the gospel in an ongoing process.

Faith in Action features often emphasize Catholic social teaching and concrete ways to do the work of both charity and justice. The work of charity involves addressing immediate needs for basics, such as food, clothing, shelter, health care. The work of justice involves changing systems that leave people out or behind. Many of these references provide Internet sites that link teens to national and international groups working for human rights.

Prayer: Alive in God

As the concluding prayer for each session, *SPIRIT* identifies a prayer experience in its companion book, *Alive in God, Prayer Experiences for Teens*. The book provides ready made, easy to use prayer experiences on the gospel themes. Leaders can prepare to lead the prayer experiences by reading over the Introduction and Preparation sections of each experience and gathering any necessary materials. Votive candles are a handy staple in many of these experiences.

A catechist's or teacher's willingness to pray with teens gives powerful witness to the importance of God in our lives. It is a concrete way of sharing our deepest faith and of bonding together as a community. By participating in these prayers, teens can discover kinds of prayer that work for the each of them.

Working at Reconciliation

Lent is springtime in the Church, time for renewal. Reconciliation and forgiveness are recurring themes this Lent in the Cycle C lectionary readings which come mainly from Luke’s gospel.

In these gospels the devil tempts Jesus to be superhuman rather than revealing in his human nature what God is like. Jesus struggles in the transfiguration gospel with his exodus, his going forth to Jerusalem where dangerous conflict awaits him.

A gardener must decide whether to dig around and fertilize a fig tree to give it one more year to bear figs or to cut it down. A prodigal son decides to return home and

discovers his father welcomes him back into his love but his older brother is less forgiving. Although Jesus tells an adulterous woman to sin no more, he resists condemning her and calls those who would to look at their own sins.

SPIRIT in its Lenten issues evaluates principles for making moral choices and explores conscience, consequences, and sin. These doctrinally-oriented features aim to help teens develop a Christian vision of what is good as a foundation for making practical moral judgments. In *SPIRIT* stories during Lent teens struggle. How does dissatisfaction with body image lead to eating disorders? How does one cope with losing a parent?

What does one learn from a car accident, from a pregnancy, from sexual abuse that is not a young woman’s fault?

The issues for Palm/Passion Sunday and Easter invite young people to experience a Passover supper and to reflect on a teen’s experience of her mother’s death. Each Lent calls Christians deeper into the mystery of Jesus’ death and resurrection and the new life it promises.

The *Upper Room Experience* in *SPIRIT* for April 14, 2019, is a Christian Passover that requires planning and preparation. Look ahead to directions in the guide for that issue.

Unit 4 Working at Reconciliation

Sundays/Seasons	Gospel/Theme	Teens’ Lives	Catholic Faith, Practice
March 6, 2022 1st Sunday of Lent	Luke 4.1-13 Temptation	Body image, its temptations	Making moral choices
March 13, 2022 2nd Sunday of Lent	Luke 9.28-36 Transfiguration	Five responses to pain	Discernment, visioning
March 20, 2022 3rd Sunday of Lent	Luke 13.1-9 Second chances	Teen car accident	Consequences, fairness
March 27, 2022 4th Sunday of Lent	Luke 15.1-3, 11-32 Prodigal son	Pregnancy, adoption	Life of conscience
April 3, 2022 5th Sunday of Lent	John 8.1-11 Woman taken in adultery	Sexual abuse	Sin, what is it?
April 10, 2022 Palm/Passion Sunday	Luke 22.14—23.56 Passion	Upper Room Experience	Holy Week
April 17, 2022 Easter	John 20.1-10, 19-30 Easter	A parent’s death	Jesus’ resurrection

SCRIPTURE BACKGROUND

Sunday's gospel about the barren fig tree begins with an ancient current events lesson. Some in the crowds which Jesus has been teaching believe with certainty that recent victims of violent death must have been sinners. Not Jesus. He questions whether the Galileans Pilate punished and the 18 who died in Jerusalem when a tower fell were any greater sinners than anyone else. Anyone in the crowd could suffer the same end, he maintains.

Rather than label people sinners, Jesus challenges his hearers and us to reform and conversion, to opening our hearts to God and others. Opening ourselves is just the opposite of pointing the finger to label victims as sinners. The story of the barren fig tree raises the question—how long does a gardener or landowner put up with a tree that bears no fruit? Adolescents may side with the owner who wants to cut the tree down. Teens see the world in black and white. A business person who values efficiency and cost effectiveness also has reasons to cut down the tree.

However, if the tree stands for human beings, the parable raises questions such as how long one puts up with inaction or fruitlessness in a friend. Should God give up on us? Should we give up on one another? The gospel calls us to patient growth, to openhearted acceptance of others, to tough love of those who need to change destructive habits.

SHARING LIFE STORIES

Objective: The young people will explore their own attitudes toward second chances.

Music: Visit the *SPIRIT* page online for a song that fits today's Gospel theme.

Pray (cover) Gather your teens and pray the prayer on the cover, top left, together. It expresses the gospel theme.

Icebreaker: Second Chances, When Should I Give Them?

(cover) Have your class or group read, discuss, and respond thumbs up or thumbs down to the cover situations—all events that may have happened in their experience.

Story: "Second Chances" (pages 1-3) Introduce this story by having your teens look at the title and illustrations. Ask if any of them have had dumb accidents, or problems because they were adjusting their radios or talking/texting on their cell phones.

- Have your teens read the story aloud to each other in small groups of three or four and reflect together on questions 1-3. Listen to groups to help keep them focused. Join a group that has questions or seems confused or off the topic. Talking in small groups allows more teens to talk and think together.

- Bring the whole group together to share their responses to the questions. *1. The accident doesn't hurt Jason, his girlfriend, or the man in the truck. Jason himself realizes he wasn't paying attention. His dad will give him chances to learn more attentive driving. 2. Teen drivers often learn painfully that a driver who turns left in front of traffic is at fault for an accident or someone who rear ends another is at fault. Teen drivers often realize when they narrowly miss an accident to drive slowly or pay more attention. Let teens share. 3. Open-ended. Don't force teens to share but some teens may have clear examples they are willing to share. Share your own experience if you have one that fits.*

REFLECTING ON THE GOSPEL

Objective: The young people will recognize Jesus' attitude toward giving second chances.

Gospel: How many chances do we get? (page 3) Have four teens take parts and proclaim the gospel. Discuss questions 4-6.

4. People want to explain tragedy and identify its causes in order to protect themselves from such a happening. Thinking that victims deserve their fate is one way people protect themselves in biblical times and today. Today this viewpoint would assume people get what they deserve—the homeless like living on the streets; the poor prefer not to work; women ask to be raped. Rather than categorize others and put them down, Jesus reaches out to all people. 5. If teens see God more like the owner, they are tending toward hardline righteousness with themselves and others; if they see God as more like the gardener, they are tending toward Jesus' values of forgiving and trying. 6. Help teens share real experiences.

LIVING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH

Objective: The young people explore why people so often learn consequences the hard way.

Our Catholic Faith: Revelation of Jesus Christ in Scripture, Consequences, How do I see them coming? (page 4) Read

aloud the quotation from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Read aloud the situation in italic type. It's a true case. Invite teens who think the person in the story should be charged with breaking and entering to stand on one side of your meeting space and those who disagree on the other side. Have one teen from each side interview the others about their reasons. Invite teens to tell their own experiences of such situations. Trashing and stealing often happen.

Faith in Action: Have your teens sit down and take turns reading aloud the rest of the feature. Have them do *Faith in Action 1* in pairs.

- Lead your class or group in doing *Faith in Action 2*. Invite them to identify a choice they face that they feel they can talk about with others. Provide paper and pencils for teens to make a list of reasons for and against a course of action in their choice. Have them consult each other in pairs. Suggest they follow through and consult an adult later. Suggest your teens try item 3, a prayer practice for the last three weeks of Lent.

Objective: The young people will practice attentiveness.

Alive in God: Prayer Experiences with Teens, "Temple Tea Ceremony," page 47.

SCRIPTURE BACKGROUND

Jesus' parable of the prodigal son is a story about more than a younger son's turnaround and a father's mercy. The parable is also about the elder son's hard-hearted righteousness. This is a parable about relationships, broken, mended, and strained.

The younger son who insists on his independence and his inheritance severs his relationships by going away and wasting his inheritance on sunshine friends who forget him when his money is gone. When he is alone and hungry, the value of his relationship with his father resurfaces in him and he turns home to seek a servant's place in his father's household.

The father still loves the younger son; on his end the relationship persists. He rushes to meet him when he returns. The father embraces the son before the son can express his sorrow. The father restores him to a son's place in the household and calls for a celebration. The relationship between the father and younger son models the healing power of forgiveness and mercy.

The parable breaks off before the hard-working, loyal son decides if he will sulk in righteous jealousy because his father welcomes home his high-living brother with a party or whether he will join in the restored relationship. The parable remains unfinished at its end for a reason. It asks us to examine our own relationships. *SPIRIT* explores how parents' acceptance helps a young woman decide to have a baby and give the child up for adoption.

SHARING LIFE STORIES

Objective: The young people will explore the life-giving power of parents' acceptance.

Music: Visit the *SPIRIT* page online for a song that fits today's Gospel theme.

Pray (cover) Gather your teens and pray the prayer on the cover, top left, which expresses the gospel theme.

Story: "Not Forever" (pages 1-3) Introduce this powerful true story about how a young woman carries a child and gives the child to an adoptive couple. Have strong readers take turns reading the story, switching every five paragraphs.

- Discuss questions 1-3. 1. *Many young people, when they disappoint their parents, think their parents will be angry rather than supportive and accepting. Guilt and shame can prevent seeking acceptance.* 2. *Sarah says her mother's acceptance and support are what gave her the strength to have the baby and give the child up for adoption. Sarah makes her choice, and they support her. Sarah uses her own family experience in picking a family for her child. Her mother helps her reflect in giving her the Gibran quotation. Her family blesses the child at the good-bye ritual.* 3. *Invite your teens to share experiences of family support and recognize they receive it even if the media often paints parents as old-fashioned, punishing ogres.*

REFLECTING ON THE GOSPEL

Objective: The young people will explore and interpret Jesus' parable of the prodigal son.

Gospel: What relationships give life? (page 3) Have seven members of your class or group take parts in the gospel story and proclaim Jesus' parable. Ask your teens what they think the older son should do. Discuss as a group questions 4-6. 4. *The younger wants to try his wings, make his own friends, and probably succeed in his own way. His faith-weather friends influence him to give parties and spend his money. They live off him while they can but form not real, sustaining friendships. The young son returns when he finds himself living on the food of pigs with no friends. He thinks his father may form at least a servant relationship with him.* 5. *The father loves the son, never wanted him to leave, and welcomes his return.* 6. *Like the father, Sarah's parents accept her. Her brother guesses she is pregnant, so probably her family worried about her relationship with her using boyfriend. Her parents' acceptance is life-giving and strengthening for Sarah.*

LIVING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH

Objective: The young people will explore conscience and analyze steps in making decisions.

Our Catholic Faith: Revelation of Jesus Christ in Scripture, Discerning right from wrong (page 4)

Ask teens to define conscience and character. What character do they see in the teen in the page-4 photo? Make a list of moral characteristics teens value in other teens and adults. Have volunteers read aloud the first five paragraphs. Have your teens compare their definitions of conscience and character with those in the feature. Ask your teens to explain in their own words the two statements in paragraph 5.

Read aloud to the group paragraphs 6 and 7, which describe conscience as vision of what is good and who each of us wants to be. Invite your teens to give examples of people whose vision of what is good attracts them.

Objective: The young people will practice weighing their choices.

Faith in Action: The last half of the feature explores a four-step process that shows consciences in action making a practical decision. It uses "Not Forever" as an example. Lead your teens through the four steps of the process. Then give them 10-15 minutes to do *Faith in Action* 1 privately. Invite your group to talk about whom they consult when they are making a decision.

- Invite your teens to analyze the attitude toward parents and adults in films and television shows and compare it with the adults in their lives, item 2. To conclude, read the description of conscience from the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* on page 4.

Alive in God: Prayer Experiences with Teens, "Will You Let Your Light Shine?", page 50.

SCRIPTURE BACKGROUND

Jesus teaches God's generous mercy toward sinners. He teaches righteous people, who think they have earned God's love, that no one deserves God's love. God freely gives God's own self in creation, in Jesus, in the Spirit. God loves us not because any one of us is worthy but because God's very being is creative love. The Lenten gospels hammer away at what makes fig trees yield fruit, prodigal children come home, and transforms sinners into saints and takers into givers.

In Sunday's gospel Jesus does not excuse the woman found in adultery; he challenges her to sin no more. In this issue *SPIRIT* explores what sin is—deliberate, knowing wrongdoing. It also describes the kind of community people build when they keep the ten commandments and the kind that results from breaking them. The *SPIRIT* story examines the sin of sexual assault and how it scars the victim with undeserved blame.

SHARING LIFE STORIES

Objective: The young people will explore teens' experiences of sin and blame.

Music: Visit the *SPIRIT* page online for a song that fits today's Gospel theme.

Pray (cover) Gather your teens and pray together the prayer on the cover, top left.

Story: It Wasn't My Fault (pages 1-3) Have your teens read the statistics on sexual assault scattered throughout the story. Note: 90-95% of all sexual abuse cases go unreported to the police.

- Have your class or group read this story, in which a college student reflects back on a sexual assault she experienced in seventh grade.
- Discuss questions 1-4. *1. The author is young; the event confusing. She doesn't tell her mother because she thinks her mother will blame her. Many parents would be able to help their daughter or son deal with this trauma and protect him or her from the abusive person. Such events leave scars and have to be dealt with. This "first kiss" associates fear and violence with her sexuality—a scar to her growth as a whole person. Teens should be clear that Gary's drunken state causes his inappropriate sexual advances toward her. The girl does nothing to signal she wants to be kissed. She refuses and resists his advances. 2. The girl presumes her mother will blame her; she is young and just becoming pretty. Her mother has told her she tries to get her way through sarcasm and innocent looks. Her mother's stereotype and her own self-knowledge leads the girl to think she must have manipulated Gary into assaulting her. Encourage your teens to talk to their parents about this story. Many teens presume wrongly that parents will be angry and condemning rather than supportive of them. Gary's advances are a crime. 3. Young people in your group may have experienced sexual assault or abuse. Be prepared to help them find a counselor to talk with. 4. Read the yellow box on the bottom of page 2. Placing responsibility where it belongs is healing. Counseling can help sort these issues out.*

REFLECTING ON THE GOSPEL

Objective: The young people will interpret why Jesus refuses to blame the woman caught in adultery.

Gospel: Jesus will not condemn (page 3) Have five teens take the gospel parts and proclaim Jesus' message. Discuss questions 5-7. *5. Since the woman was caught in adultery, a man must have been with her, but the scribes and Pharisees bring only the woman before Jesus. They use her to trap Jesus. If he demands that she be put to death as the law of Moses prescribes (Leviticus 20.10; Deuteronomy 22.22), he usurps the power of the Romans, who alone had a right to put people to death; if he speaks against the death penalty, then Jesus goes against the law of Moses. 6. Jesus clearly considers the woman's adultery a sin. "Sin no more," he tells her as he sends her off. 7. Jesus' attitude toward the sinner is accepting. He refuses to condemn, blame, or enact the punishment. He has come to befriend sinners; that's all of us.*

LIVING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH

Objective: The young people will define sin and create an examination of conscience.

Our Catholic Faith: Our Catholic Faith: Revelation of Jesus Christ in Scripture, What is sin? (page 4)

Give your teens time to evaluate on a scale of 1-5 the wrongs itemized on the list, page 4. Tally their results and invite them to discuss their disagreements on which actions are worst. This will probably tap into their own experience of some of these wrongs.

- Have your group or class members read this feature and define sin for themselves.
- Ask volunteers to respond to the questions in the second to the last paragraph—when have you been hurt physically or emotionally? Been betrayed by someone you trusted? Been cheated? Felt used? Do you regard these actions as wrong, as sin? Why?
- Raise the positive question in the last paragraph: how does recognizing what sin is help us understand how to mend relationships?

Faith in Action: Ask your teens to work in threes and fours to create the examination of conscience for teens their age in their relationships, item 2. Have these small groups report to the whole group and come to consensus on a list of 10 sins your group members think teens must not do. Conclude by inviting your group members to share responses to item 3. *Read aloud the quotation from the Catechism. Encourage teens to do item 1 before Lent is over.*

Objective: The young people will do a walking meditation.

Alive in God: Prayer Experiences with Teens, "Walking Meditation," page 34.