



MORALITY

St. Paul told the Galatians "For freedom Christ set us free (Galatians 5:1)." But oftentimes when we hear the word morality we think of "restrictions" and "rules" instead of a pathway to happiness both in this world and in eternity. This series on morality aims to change our perception and show us the path to the Father who has great plans for us (Jeremiah 29).

SERIES NIGHT 1: FREEDOM

OVERVIEW: "Who are you to tell me what to do?" This phrase is the perfect litmus test for the post-modern, post-enlightenment world we find ourselves. *Freedom* is understood as a freedom *from* restraint – at any cost. No government, no authority, nobody should tell me what to do or how to do it. I am the master of my fate and the captain of my soul. But what if we have got it all wrong? What if this type of freedom ultimately ends in slavery? What now? The Church offers us another way, and surer path, and freedom not *from* something but a freedom *for* – for life, for excellence, for fulfillment.

GOALS FOR UNDERSTANDING AND CONVERSION

UNDERSTANDING: Teens will understand that true freedom is found in choosing Christ and will understand the Church's definition of freedom as the foundation for all moral acts.

CONVERSION: Teens will be challenged to reexamine their own pursuits of freedom and offered a view of freedom that can unleash their potential to become who they are created to be.

KEY CONCEPTS:

- A common conception of freedom is a freedom *from restraint*. The freedom that God Himself offers to his people is a freedom *for* something and requires much, but is the only true means of attaining happiness and fulfillment.
- Choosing to love and serve God – choosing the good is the only path to authentic human freedom.

SCRIPTURE	CATECHISM	YOUCAT
2 Samuel 11 Matthew 7:13-14 Galatians 5:1	1036 1696 1730-1748	286-290

SERIES NIGHT 2: BEATITUDE- vid. Idea: guardrails

OVERVIEW: What do I do with my freedom? How do I choose the good? Where do I find the pathway to happiness? As we dive into the Beatitudes we find the blueprint to happiness – God's plan for our happiness is found in freely choosing Him and His way.

GOALS FOR UNDERSTANDING AND CONVERSION

UNDERSTANDING: Teens will understand what the Catechism calls the "heart of Jesus' teaching" – the Beatitudes.

CONVERSION: Teens will be equipped to apply the Beatitudes to their everyday lives and moral decisions.

KEY CONCEPTS:

- "True happiness is not found in riches or well-being, in human fame or power, or in any human achievement – however beneficial it may be – such as science, technology and art, or indeed in any creature, but in God alone, the source of every good and of all love." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1723)



- The Beatitudes confront us with decisive choices concerning earthly goods; they purify our hearts in order to teach us to love God above all things. (Catechism, 1728)
- "God put us in the world to know, to love, and to serve him, and so to come to paradise. Beatitude makes us "partakers of the divine nature" and of eternal life. With beatitude, man enters into the glory of Christ²² and into the joy of the Trinitarian life." (Catechism, 1721)

SCRIPTURE Matthew 5:1-16	CATECHISM 1716-1729	YOUCAT 59 281-285
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SERIES NIGHT 3: CHOICE

OVERVIEW: Freedom gives us the ability to choose. What does this choice look like in everyday moral decisions? Tonight we will offer a handful of real-world moral situations that teens frequently face and look for the guidance of the Church to lead us to the path that leads to life (cf. Mt. 7:13). Teens will get the option to go to 1 of 2-3 short Proclams, each on a different moral topic.

GOALS FOR UNDERSTANDING AND CONVERSION

UNDERSTANDING: Teens will understand how the fundamental moral principles discussed in the first two nights can be applied to real life moral situations.

CONVERSION: Teens will be given the opportunity to form their conscience in regards to particular moral acts.

KEY CONCEPTS:

- A well-formed conscience is upright and truthful. It formulates its judgments according to reason, in conformity with the true good willed by the wisdom of the Creator. Everyone must avail himself of the means to form his conscience. (Catechism, 1798)

SCRIPTURE TBA - more to follow	CATECHISM 1749-1761 TBA - more to follow	YOUCAT TBA - more to follow
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PRAYERS FOR THIS SERIES

A fundamental aim of our work in Life Teen is to foster a life of prayer in the teens - through opportunities to grow in the use of spontaneous *and* memorized prayers. Cardinal DiNardo has offered a list of common prayers to be memorized and prayed by the faithful in the Archdiocese. Each series, we will focus on a few of these and encourage teens (with their families) to memorize and use them in their own prayer life. Here are this series' prayers:

THE BEATITUDES: Found in Matthew 5:3-12