

The School of Nazareth

A 30 DAY ST. JOSEPH NOVENA



FACILITATOR GUIDE

Small Group #1: A Just Man Before God - Days 1-7

Primary Objective

- Joseph experienced a life that no man in history can parallel. He knew Jesus and Mary most intimately. Not only that, in many mysterious ways, he led them. Let us set out on a 30-day spiritual journey with St. Joseph as our guide and spiritual father.

Secondary Objectives

- Spend the first few days of introduction by getting to know St. Joseph while at the same time reflecting on aspects of our own spiritual journey. Each day, we will seek to personalize the reflection on St. Joseph into our own experience.
- Before becoming a spouse or father, Joseph is known as a “just man before God” in Scripture. Before every other missionary work or relationship that defines us, first and foremost we are all called to be just men before God. Like St. Joseph, our relationship with God is the foundation for everything else.

Small Group Questions:

- Where did the Holy Spirit speak to you during the first seven days? What struck you the most personally?
- Have you ever considered that you were personally and individually chosen to lead your family: your spouse and your children?
- Do you make time each day to be attentive to the still, small voice of God?
- Do you ever get caught up in comparing yourself to other men and judging yourself or others in light of worldly accomplishments: finances, status, etc?
- Have you ever clearly heard God’s voice asking you to do something and responded faithfully and obediently?
- What distractions can you set aside to become that good soil which produces abundant fruit? What positive things can you do to become rich soil?
- What is holding you back from living in complete abandonment to God’s will? Are you willing to take the next step in faith?

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PREPARATION FOR NEXT SMALL GROUP

The School of Nazareth: The Spouse of Mary - Days 8-14

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Small Group #2: The Spouse of Mary - Days 8-14

Primary Objective

- Sacred Scripture reveals Joseph to be 1) A just man before God 2) The spouse of Mary and 3) The father of Jesus Christ. This week we contemplate the second relationship to bring clarity to our biblical identity as men of God - the call to lay down our lives for our bride.

Secondary Objectives

- Although Joseph never spoke a word in Scripture, several heroic virtues emerge loud and clear: his faith, merciful and sacrificial love, Most Chaste Heart, supernatural peace, and gratitude. Once again, we will seek to learn from St. Joseph and grow in these virtues.
- We ask St. Joseph to unveil for us the love of the Holy Spirit present in our spouse.

Small Group Questions:

- Where did the Holy Spirit speak to you during this second week of the journey? What struck you the most personally?
- Have you ever considered the heroic faith of Joseph in the midst of the most unprecedented conception in human history?
- Are you closer to your spouse spiritually than you are physically? If not, how can you grow closer spiritually?
- Do you have a spiritual battle plan when sexual temptation comes? Have you ever considered invoking the power of St. Joseph and his Most Chaste Heart?
- How do you think Joseph and the Holy Family maintained peace in the midst of the storms in their lives?
- When is the last time you thanked your spouse for the gift of your fatherhood?
- Do you pray for and with your spouse every day?

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PREPARATION FOR NEXT SMALL GROUP

The School of Nazareth: The Father of Jesus - Days 15-21

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Small Group #3: The Father of Jesus - Days 15-21

Primary Objective

- Sacred Scripture reveals Joseph to be 1) A just man before God 2) The spouse of Mary and 3) The father of Jesus Christ. This week we contemplate the third relationship to bring clarity to our biblical identity as men of God - the call to lay down our lives for our children as fathers.

Secondary Objectives

- “Behold, I will send you Eli’jah the prophet before the great and terrible day of the Lord comes. And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the land with a curse” (Malachi 4:5-6). The heart of a father beats for his children.
- We ask St. Joseph to reveal to us Christ’s hidden face present in our children and to teach us to manifest for them the Father who is rich in mercy.

Small Group Questions:

- Where did the Holy Spirit speak to you during this third week of the journey? What struck you the most personally?
- Are you raising your children to become saints?
- Do you teach your children that pleasing God is more important than pleasing the world?
- Has your image of fatherhood been tainted by your own father? How can you become the father who is rich in mercy for your children?
- Do you waste potentially valuable and precious time with your family on media or other personal interests?
- Does it strike you that the second greatest saint in heaven is simply a husband and a father?
- In what areas do you place the most energy and effort in your life? Why?

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PREPARATION FOR NEXT SMALL GROUP

The School of Nazareth: Days 22-27

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FACILITATOR GUIDE

Small Group #4: The School of Nazareth - Days 22-27

Primary Objective

- To enter into the School of Nazareth as Pope Paul VI so beautifully stated, “Here everything speaks to us, everything has meaning ... How I would like to ... attend the simply yet profound school that is Nazareth!”

Secondary Objectives

- “The Holy Family is the beginning of countless other holy families” (St. John Paul II). We seek to learn from St. Joseph so that our homes may truly become the domestic Church because the future of the world and the Church pass by way of the family.
- We ask St. Joseph to take us to Nazareth and train us in his ways, and to help us to exclude all evil from our heart and our home.

Small Group Questions:

- Where did the Holy Spirit speak to you during this fourth week of the journey? What struck you the most personally?
- Are you prepared to fight for the souls of each and every member of your family? Are you willing to make spiritual sacrifices for them?
- Do you have the spiritual eyes to see the hidden face of Christ present in your family members? If we could see this reality, how would it transform our homes?
- Do you worry more about the financial or spiritual state of your family members? Do you trust in God’s providence or place your confidence in material wealth?
- How often do you contemplate the life of Christ with Mary? How often do you pray the Rosary? Are you willing to implement the Rosary into your spiritual life?
- Have you ever considered that the greatest gift you can give to your family is the gift of faith?
- How great is the longing in your heart for paradise? In what ways do you try to quench that thirst with the things of this world?

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PREPARATION FOR NEXT SMALL GROUP

Preparation for Entrustment to St. Joseph: Days 28-30

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FACILITATOR GUIDE

Small Group #4: The School of Nazareth - Days 22-27

Primary Objective

- To enter into the School of Nazareth as Pope Paul VI so beautifully stated, “Here everything speaks to us, everything has meaning ... How I would like to ... attend the simply yet profound school that is Nazareth!”

Secondary Objectives

- “The Holy Family is the beginning of countless other holy families” (St. John Paul II). We seek to learn from St. Joseph so that our homes may truly become the domestic Church because the future of the world and the Church pass by way of the family.
- We ask St. Joseph to take us to Nazareth and train us in his ways, and to help us to exclude all evil from our heart and our home.

Small Group Questions:

- Where did the Holy Spirit speak to you during this fourth week of the journey? What struck you the most personally?
- Are you prepared to fight for the souls of each and every member of your family? Are you willing to make spiritual sacrifices for them?
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PREPARATION FOR NEXT SMALL GROUP

Preparation for Entrustment to St. Joseph: Days 28-30
