

THE *Creative*

CATECHIST
PLANNER



2018-2019





*Blessed
are you!*

Matthew 5:11



August 2018

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY |
|---|--|--|
|  |  | |
| 5 18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | 6 The Transfiguration of the Lord | 7 Pope St. Sixtus II and His Companions, martyrs St. Cajetan |
| 12 19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | 13 | 14 St. Maximilian Mary Kolbe |
| 19 20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | 20 | 21 Pope St. Pius X |
| 26 21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | 27 | 28 St. Augustine |

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Notes:

| WEDNESDAY | | THURSDAY | | FRIDAY | | SATURDAY | |
|-----------|---|-----------|---|-----------|-----------------|-----------|----------------------------------|
| 1 | St. Alphonsus Liguori | 2 | St. Eusebius of Vercelli St. Peter Julian Eymard | 3 | | 4 | St. John Mary Vianney |
| 8 | St. Dominic | 9 | St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross | 10 | St. Lawrence | 11 | St. Clare |
| 15 | The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Holy Day of Obligation | 16 | St. Stephen of Hungary | 17 | | 18 | |
| 22 | The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary | 23 | St. Rose of Lima | 24 | St. Bartholomew | 25 | St. Louis St. Joseph Calasanz |
| 29 | The Passion of St. John the Baptist | 30 | | 31 | | | |

| SEPTEMBER 2018 | | OCTOBER 2018 | | NOVEMBER 2018 | | DECEMBER 2018 | | JANUARY 2019 | | FEBRUARY 2019 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| MARCH 2019 | | APRIL 2019 | | MAY 2019 | | JUNE 2019 | | JULY 2019 | | AUGUST 2019 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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Week of August 12-18

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday's Readings

1 Kings 19:4-8
Psalm 34

Ephesians 4:30—5:2
John 6:41-51

Jesus said, "It is written in the prophets: They shall all be taught by God. Everyone who listens to my Father and learns from him comes to me."

Spread Sunday's News

God's love for the Israelites was and is very evident. Among the other things God did for them, he took care of their nutritional needs until they reached the Promised Land. Jesus' listeners in the Gospel were familiar with the story of the manna. (*We will listen to a "manna story" on the Fourth Sunday of Lent.*)

Jesus pointed out that even with God's intervention, those in the desert eventually died. To eat and drink of Jesus means that although death will happen to our physical bodies, our souls will live forever.

Those who were listening to these words of Jesus had no concept of what he was saying. How could someone give his flesh and blood as food? Even to us this seems like a very strange statement until we realize what he really meant.



- We are in Reading Cycle B, and we usually listen to the Gospel of Mark during this cycle except for the few weeks we hear from John.

Just Wondering ...

- Take a few minutes to discuss how the story about the manna is found in the Old Testament of the Bible. It happened thousands of years BEFORE Jesus was born.
- Read (*or tell*) the whole story of the Israelites and the manna to the class (*Exodus 16*).
- Introduce this year's focus: **Be a Blessing....** We will be learning about and reading these stories in the Gospel during this school year. Stories about the miracles of Jesus are found in the New Testament of the Bible. These stories were written down after Jesus was born, lived, died and rose from the dead.



Let's Pray

Lord God, in the name of Jesus, send your Spirit to be with me while I do my best to learn all he wants to teach me about your love. Amen.



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John 6:45

Who Knew?



What does Wednesday's feast of the Assumption celebrate? Which Mysteries of the Rosary contain the Assumption?

The Catechism of the Catholic Church speaks of the Assumption by referring to a church document from Vatican II called *Lumen gentium*:

- "The Immaculate Virgin, preserved free from all stain of original sin, when the course of her earthly life was finished, was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory, and exalted by the Lord as Queen over all things, so that she might be the more fully conformed to her Son, the Lord of lords and conqueror of sin and death" [1966].

Later it states:

- "The Most Blessed Virgin Mary, when the course of her earthly life was completed, was taken up body and soul into the glory of heaven, where she already shares in the glory of her Son's Resurrection, anticipating the resurrection of all members of his Body" [1974].

The Assumption is a dogma of the Catholic faith to which all Catholics are bound to adhere and it is one of the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary. Remind students that the Assumption is one of the **Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary**. What are the other Glorious Mysteries?



Challenge

Think of ways that with God's grace you can make this a great school year.
How will you help your faith grow?

Be A Blessing...

WGod took care of the Israelites in the desert. I know God is taking care of me, especially when ...



For All the Saints

Tuesday, August 14

St. Maximilian Mary Kolbe, 1894-1941



Like St. Teresa Benedicta (*August 9*), St. Maximilian was a victim of the Holocaust. Also like St. Teresa, Maximilian was born in Poland, but not into a Jewish family. He gave his life at Auschwitz for another reason.

Maximilian became a member of the Conventual Franciscan Order. He studied in Rome and served as a teacher and missionary in many countries. He and his fellow Franciscans tried to lead productive lives, even in the midst of the war. Eventually, the Nazis invaded Poland.

Maximilian and his fellow Franciscans were operating a radio station, and the Nazis did not agree with what they were broadcasting. Many of the Franciscans were arrested, including Maximilian. Eventually they all found themselves at Auschwitz, where they were mistreated and forced to do hard labor.

Maximilian worked with other priests doing special chores. Because they were priests, these men were especially mistreated by the guards. At one point, Maximilian was beaten and left for dead. Some of the prisoners found him and brought him to the infirmary to recover. He spent his time there hearing confessions until he recuperated enough to return to the prison camp.

In July 1941, someone was thought to have escaped from the prison. Standard punishment was to execute 10 people for each person who escaped. Among those chosen by the Nazis for execution was Francis Gajowniczek, a married man with young children. St. Maximilian, known as prisoner 16670, offered his own life instead. He was then isolated and left to starve. When that failed to kill him, he was given a lethal injection. His body was then burned in the prison ovens.

The Comfort Zone



- Gather in your **Prayer Space**.
- Discuss some of the new challenges facing the children this year. How do they feel about them? Which ones are exciting? Which seem a little scary? Tell them about a few fun things you plan on doing with them during the year.
- Stress the importance of listening—students need to listen to you and you promise to listen to them, too. And most important, all of you will learn to listen to Jesus.
- What are some things the students would like to learn about Jesus this year? Let them make up their own prayers to share with the class. Invite parents and other family members to make up a family prayer.
- Say a prayer together.

Next Sunday's Good News

Jesus said to the crowds: "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in Him."



John 6:56

Think about ...

Do you know the difference between "the bread that came down from heaven" in the Old Testament and the bread Jesus talks about?

Sunday's Readings

Proverbs 9:1-6
Psalm 34

Ephesians 5:15-20
John 6:51-58

Jesus said to the crowds: "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in Him."

John 6:56

Spread Sunday's News

Sunday's **Gospel** was a continuation of last Sunday's passage from the Bread of Life Discourse in the Gospel of John. This week the words of Jesus seemed to upset his listeners even more than last week's passage did. Imagine someone inviting others to eat his flesh! In the same circumstances as those who heard his words, we, too, might be turned off.

Luckily, we have the advantage of hindsight. We believe Jesus because we know what he meant. Faith and prayer, centered around the Sunday celebration of the Eucharist, where we have the opportunity to partake of the Body and Blood of Jesus help us remain on the right track to eternal life.

The words of Jesus give us hope. "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him." As Christians, we have already chosen to strive to remain in Jesus, yet we should ask ourselves what that means.



We get practical insights into the answer if we examine and learn from the lives of the saints. All were constantly aware of Jesus' presence within, and because they were aware of this they felt compelled to go out in the world to serve, to take action no matter what it cost them, including their own lives. All of them we totally devoted to receiving the Body and Blood of Christ, thus assuring Jesus' presence within them would continue.

Just Wondering ...

What does eternity mean?

- It keeps getting more difficult for any of us to grasp the meaning of eternity because we are all so used to the speed of modern technology which keeps getting faster all the time!
- There are fewer and fewer things left that really force us to wait!
- Discuss/make a list of some of them.
- Help students understand how Jesus wants to be with and in us for eternity (*always, always, forever and always!*).
- Why does Jesus want to be with us?
- What are some ways we know he is in us?
- When does Jesus first come into each of our souls? (*Baptism*)



Who Knew?

Sunday's Gospel closes with "This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever."

- Review last week's story about how God fed the Israelites in the desert with manna, the bread-like substance that came from the sky every morning. This special bread kept their bodies alive as they wandered in the desert. (*Exodus 16*)
- The manna was a real manifestation of how much God loved the Israelites.
- But even though they ate this bread, they still died. The bread Jesus talks about, his Body, is the source of eternal life for us.



Challenge

Think about your own appreciation of Jesus as "the bread of life." Is there a way you can help it grow?

Be a Blessing...

I am preparing to live an eternal life each time I ...

To help this come true I will try harder to ...



For All the Saints

Tuesday, August 21



Pope St. Pius X, pope 1903-1914

Giuseppe Melchiorre Sarto was born into a large family. Although his father worked hard to support them all, the family struggled in poverty. Because of this, St. Pius always had the needs of the poor on his mind.

He served for many years as a parish priest who was known for his pastoral sensitivity and love for the liturgy. Pius wanted to restore Gregorian Chant to its former place of pride in the Church, and made this a priority in his life. Pius was also responsible for directing the organization of the Code of Canon Law.

Prior to Pius' papacy, individuals did not feel worthy, nor did they feel the need to receive the Eucharist very often. Pius strongly encouraged everyone to receive Communion, recognizing that through the reception of the Eucharist we grow in faith and strengthen our love for Christ. **He also issued the directive that children "above the age of reason," considered to be age seven, should receive Communion.**

Pope Pius X was declared a saint on May 29, 1954. He was the last pope to be canonized until two modern-day popes were given the title "Blessed": John XXIII on September 3, 2000, and John Paul II on May 1, 2011.

The Comfort Zone



- If at all possible take the class to your church.
- Invite anyone who wants to share his/her reasons for believing in Jesus' real presence in the Eucharist. If no one wants to share thoughts, share some of your own.
- Spend some time in silence (of course you can have a period of silence in your classroom Prayer Space).
- Keep the silence as long as you can without restless stirring, etc. Then talk about eternity again. Keeping quiet even for a few minutes can seem like an eternity, yet it can't come close to the eternity God wants to spend with us!

We adore You, Lord and Creator, hidden in the Most Blessed Sacrament. We adore You for all the works of Your hands, that reveal to us so much wisdom, goodness and mercy. O Lord, thank you for your gift of the bread of life. Amen.

Based on a prayer by St. Faustina

Next Sunday's Good News

Jesus said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by my father."



John 6:65

Think about ...

What convinces you that Jesus is the Holy One of God?





Week of Aug. 26-Sept. 1

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday's Readings

Joshua 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b Ephesians 5:21-32
Psalm 34 John 6:60-69

Jesus said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by my father."

John 6:65

Spread Sunday's News

Sunday we heard the final installment of John's Bread of Life Discourse (see last two weeks).

Jesus asked the disciples, "Does this shock you?" It is not too difficult to imagine how hard it was for the disciples and the people to understand what Jesus was telling them.

"The first announcement of the Eucharist divided the disciples, just as the announcement of the Passion scandalized them: 'This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?' The Eucharist and the Cross are stumbling blocks. It is the same mystery and it never ceases to be an occasion of division. 'Will you also go away?': the Lord's question echoes through the ages, as a loving invitation to discover that only he has 'the words of eternal life' and that to receive in faith the gift of his Eucharist is to receive the Lord himself" [CCC 1336].



It seems fitting that these weeks spent reading the Bread of Life Discourse end with Peter's words, "You [Jesus] have the words of eternal life."

- Take a few minutes to review what you discussed last week about **eternal**.

Just Wondering ...

The Gospel told us that many of Jesus' disciples who were listening said, "This saying is hard; who can accept it?" He was referring to his direction to "eat my flesh" as well as what he taught them about eternal life.

Jesus asks us that same question: "Who can accept it?"

- Discuss/review the things Jesus said.
- Why were some of these teachings hard for people listening to accept?
- Which ones may have been particularly difficult to understand and accept?



Who Knew?

The Lord be with you.

And _____ your _____.

And WITH your SPIRIT.

- The Eucharist has two parts.
- The Liturgy of the Word allows us to HEAR THE WORDS OF ETERNAL LIFE.
- Nourished with these Words, we are then privileged to partake of Jesus as THE BREAD OF LIFE.

Prepare for next week with this family activity

- Encourage students to have a family discussion about traditions that are special. If possible send a note home with instructions.
- Next week invite students to talk about a favorite thing their family does together and why it is so special.

OR

- If that activity is not practical in your school, encourage children to think about their own favorite tradition.

OR

- Have a discussion about church or school traditions.

Challenge



Think about something you can do to convince someone that Jesus is real and loves us very much. Then go out and do it!

Be a Blessing...



Like Peter and the disciples, I am convinced Jesus is the Holy One of God because ...

For All the Saints

Monday, August 27



St. Monica, c. 332-387

St. Monica’s deep faith and love were manifested in a life devoted to prayer, especially for her husband and her **son, the great St. Augustine**. Monica loved both of them very much, but realized that until each of them was ready to change his life and be baptized a Christian, she could not do much but continue to pray.

Eventually her prayers were answered, and both men were baptized. She is truly a model of how to be a loving and patient spouse and parent.

- Discuss the relationship between St. Monica and St. Augustine. Though her son seemed hopelessly lost in sin, Monica never gave up on him. She prayed constantly for his conversion.
- Remind students that their own parents (teachers too!) want the best for them and will continue loving and praying for them no matter what.
- Help children realize why parents and teachers nag them sometimes. It is hard to listen when people nag us, but it usually means they love us.



Have a special Prayer Service for parents, godparents, teachers and all who influence your students’ lives. Pray that these people persevere in their efforts to support and care for all those whom God has entrusted to them.

The Comfort Zone



Jesus speaks to us in many ways and in different places. During the school year your classroom **Prayer Space** will be the special area in your classroom where everyone can pray and listen. *(To emphasize how special it is, ask one of your priests to come and bless your space.)*

Peter said that Jesus has the words of eternal life. So we must learn to listen for his voice and his words.

- Jesus can be heard in the Scriptures when we listen to the Liturgy of the Word every Sunday. He sometimes speaks through parents and teachers!
- Gather in the **Prayer Space**.

But Jesus doesn’t always wait until we are in a church or even a special **Prayer Space**. Jesus also “speaks” in our hearts whenever he chooses and wherever we are. We need to learn to listen for his voice.

Lord Jesus, please open our ears to listen as you speak through our parents and teachers whom you trust to show us the many ways to follow you. Amen.

Next Sunday’s Good News

Jesus summoned the crowd again and said to them, “Hear me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person; but the things that come out from within are what defile.”



Mark 7:14-15

Think about ...

Are you ready to think about how you are going to become a doer of the Word, not just a person who listens and does nothing?

 **Reproducible activity available.**
www.goodnewsplanners.com/create/



September 2018

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY |
|--|---|---------------------------------|
| <p><i>We are called We are chosen</i></p> | | |
| <p>2 22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</p> | <p>3 Pope St. Gregory the Great Labor Day</p> | <p>4</p> |
| <p>9 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</p> | <p>10</p> | <p>11 Patriot Day</p> |
| <p>16 24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Catechetical Sunday</p> | <p>17 St. Robert Bellarmine</p> | <p>18</p> |
| <p>23 25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</p> | <p>24</p> | <p>25</p> |
| <p style="text-align: right;">30</p> <p>26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</p> | | |

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Notes:

September 2018

| WEDNESDAY | | THURSDAY | | FRIDAY | | SATURDAY | |
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| 5 | St. Teresa of Calcutta | 6 | | 7 | | 8 | The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary |
| 12 | The Most Holy Name of Mary | 13 | St. John Chrysostom | 14 | The Exaltation of the Holy Cross | 15 | Our Lady of Sorrows |
| 19 | St. Januarius | 20 | Sts. Andrew Kim Tae-gôn, Paul Chông Ha-sang and Companions martyrs | 21 | St. Matthew | 22 | |
| 26 | St. Cosmas and St. Damian | 27 | St. Vincent de Paul | 28 | St. Wenceslaus, St. Lawrence Ruiz and Companion Martyrs | 29 | St. Michael, St. Gabriel St. Raphael, archangels |

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Sunday's Readings

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8
Psalm 15

James 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Jesus summoned the crowd again and said to them, "Hear me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person; but the things that come out from within are what defile." Mark 7:14-15

Spread Sunday's News

The Jewish people have always had many laws and traditions which give stability and direction to their lives. They know God gave them these laws as guides for their benefit because he loved them. In the First Reading from Deuteronomy, Moses told Israel to listen and learn the laws which have come from the Lord.

Observing these laws will allow them to enter the Promised Land someday. Notice that the people are told not to add to OR subtract from any of God's commandments. Only God as the Giver of the Law has the authority to make any changes in it.

Thousands of years later, Jesus and his disciples were still faithfully observing these traditions. But Jesus knew that following tradition for its own sake, without any connection to the meaning of that tradition, was starting to get off track. Tradition is there to guide us into that deeper meaning as soon as we're ready to accept it.

- We wash our hands mostly to promote cleanliness and to prevent the spread of sickness and disease.
- For the Jewish people, washing hands accomplished the same thing, except it went beyond physical cleanliness and became a regular religious ritual practiced by all faithful Jews. This is the reason the Pharisees questioned the behavior of Jesus and his disciples.



In Sunday's **Gospel**, Jesus is trying to help people grow in their understanding of what they do and why they do these things.



As a teacher you know well how hard it is to get your students to understand what you teach them. Jesus often faced the same obstacles as he delivered his message.

Just Wondering ...

- Call attention to another passage from Sunday's Second Reading from James: "Be doers of the word and not hearers only..."
- What does this mean for us?

Point out how in the lives of all the saints we have models that show us how to accomplish this.

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Who Knew?

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned in my thoughts ...

- This prayer is called *The Confiteor*.
- That Latin word means "I Confess."
- Encourage learning/reciting of the first part of the Confiteor. (Complete text can be found on the inside front/back cover of the planners.)

After a discussion about traditions in families and /or the Church, invite students to either write down their favorites, draw a picture of them or place pictures/photos on a piece paper.

Completing this project could be shared in families which will lend itself to family discussions and participation.

Assign a deadline and perhaps send home a note describing what you need them to do.



Challenge

Give some serious thought to how you are going to become a doer of the Word, not just a person who listens and does nothing. After you decide, go out and DO it!

Be a Blessing...



My favorite family tradition is ...

My favorite Church tradition is ...

I remember these because ...

For All the Saints

Monday, September 3

St. Gregory the Great, c. 540-604



Pope St. Gregory I was born into a wealthy Roman family and served the Church in extraordinary ways throughout his life. He sold most of his possessions and turned his house into a Benedictine monastery. Elected by his fellow clergymen and the people, Gregory was the first monk to serve as pope. Although he wanted very much to be a missionary, he accepted God's will, which he believed was present in the call from the people. When Gregory became aware that children in England were being sold as slaves, he sent missionaries there and to other countries to stop this inhumane practice.

Gregory was concerned with and had direct influence on many liturgical reforms. He may not have been directly responsible for what we call Gregorian Chant, but he was most likely involved in issuing the directives to reform and stabilize this important traditional music of the liturgy.

Chant was already flourishing within the Benedictine community, and was probably an important part of Gregory's own experiences of worship and prayer.

Gregory is considered one of the "Four Great Fathers of the Latin Church." (The others are Augustine, Ambrose and Jerome.) (Named a Doctor of the Church in 1298 by Pope Boniface VIII.) He is also considered to be a patron saint of teachers.

The Comfort Zone

- Go to your **Prayer Space**.
- Invite students to share their favorite traditions with the class.
- Make sure each explains why these traditions are special, and why they happen regularly in his/her family.
- The traditions that are the most special are filled with memories. While we constantly seek to make new memories, we must also draw on the past. This is true for both family and Church traditions.



Lord Jesus, please help me learn to appreciate traditions because they help me discover many things about you and my family, too. Amen.

Next Sunday's Good News

[Jesus] put his finger into the man's ears and, spitting, touched his tongue; then he looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him, "Ephphatha!"—that is, "Be opened!"

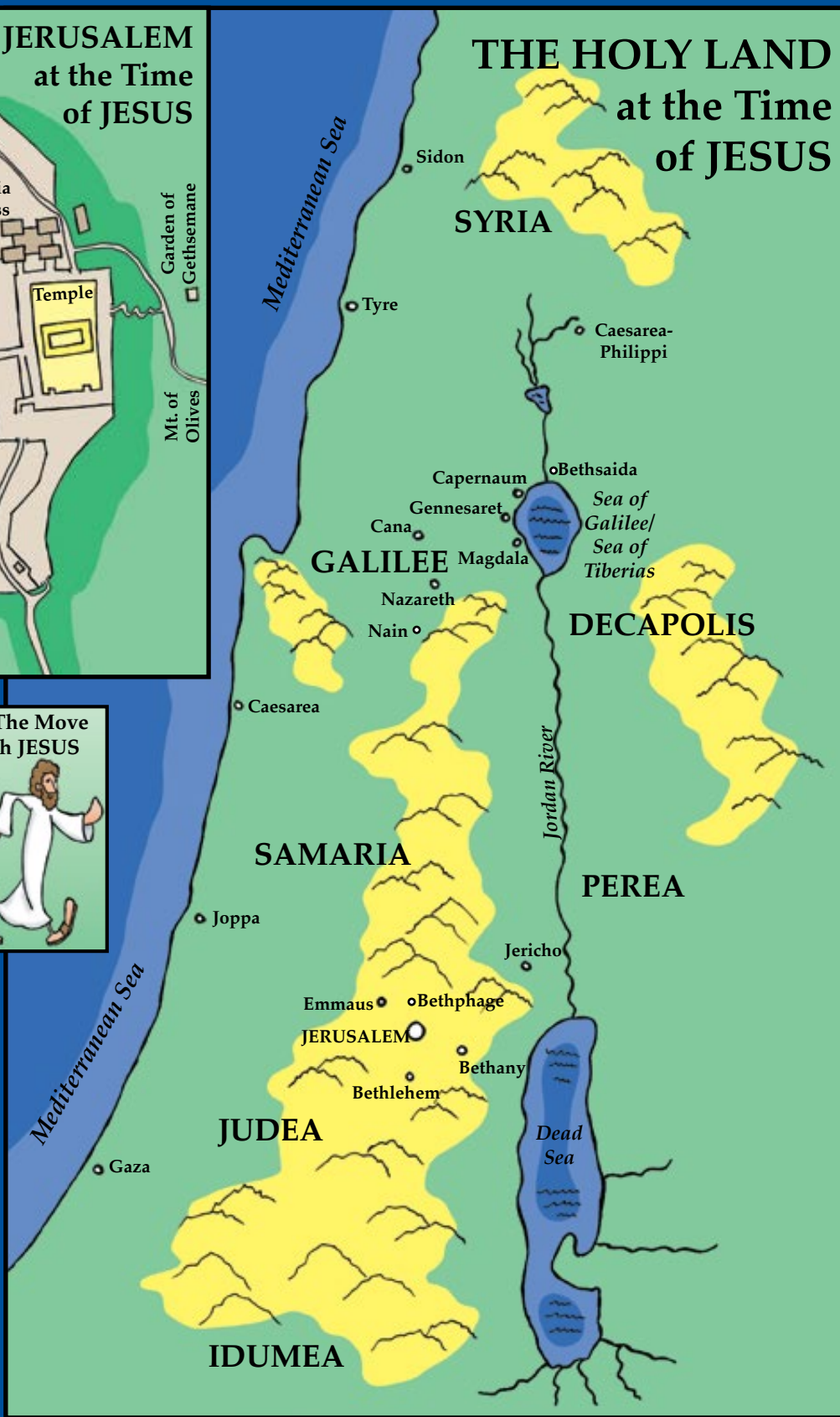
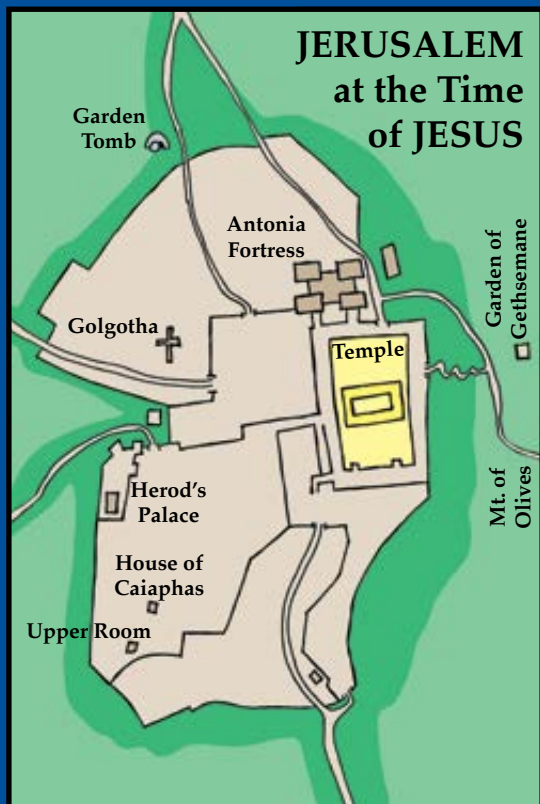


Mark 7:33b-34

Think about ...

Do your own ears and heart need to be opened in order to listen for God's voice?

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