

Name: _____

Date Due: 10/26/2025 _____

SESSION #3: FAITH & REASON



Please read the provided material and answer the questions to the best of your ability. Please turn your work into Matt Jennerson or Mark Vallone before the due date.

- 1** In your own words, what is divine Revelation, and why do we “need” it to know certain things about God?

- 2** Choose an everyday act of faith mentioned in the reading and explain how it shows faith and reason working together in your life.

- 3** The reading says “faith is beyond reason but not unreasonable”. Explain this, and give one situation where your reason got you started and faith helped you go further.

- 4** Summarize the doctrine of the Incarnation and share one practical way that belief could change how you handle stress, friendship, or failure this week.

- 5** The text says God “can neither deceive nor be deceived” (CCC 156). Why does that make His Revelation worthy of trust?

Main Point 1:

God has chosen to gradually present Himself to human beings through a process called divine Revelation. These revealed truths call us to faith.

Tell a story of a time someone revealed something to you about themselves that you couldn't have known otherwise. This could be a hidden talent, an event from their past, a passion or hobby they have, etc.

- Certain things can only be known about people when we are in a relationship with them and they reveal them to us. We can study other people from the outside all we want, but some things can only be known in a relationship with them.
- Human beings are unique because we have the capacity to reveal our inner lives to one another. Through our words and actions, we reveal our thoughts, emotions, and personality.
- In an analogous way, God has chosen to reveal Himself to all of us.
- Throughout salvation history, God's actions in the world and His words to the human race have gradually revealed who He is. We couldn't know these things about God unless He revealed them to us. We call this self-unveiling of God to humanity divine Revelation. **(CCC 50-52)**
- The truths of divine Revelation teach us about God, but they also teach us about ourselves and the world we live in.
- What God reveals about Himself, the world, and human beings is worthy of our trust. God is the Creator of the universe and the source of all truth. He can neither deceive nor be deceived. There is nothing and no one more trustworthy than Him. **(CCC 156)**
- This is the heart of faith. God's revelation calls us to have faith in Him and to believe what He has revealed. Faith is not suspending our intellect and not thinking. It is placing our confidence in a trustworthy source, even though we can't verify it ourselves. **(CCC 143)**

Main Point 2:

Believing in something based on faith is not exceptional. Acts of faith are part of everyday life.

- It's common to hear people claim that faith and reason are opposed to one another. Intellectual people who take science and reason seriously don't believe in faith or religion, they only believe in what they can prove and verify — or so the story goes. **(Going Deeper #1: "Science and Faith")**
- Though we may not often think about it, we all make acts of faith every day.
- Whenever you get in a car, you trust that the person driving and those you encounter on the road are all capable of operating their vehicle, even though you may not have verified it. You don't check to see if they have a license, or go a step further and verify the integrity of the state department that issued it.
- You believe you were born on the day your parents told you, even though most of us probably haven't referenced our birth certificates. Even if we have consulted our birth certificate, we trust that the doctor who signed it isn't lying to us. We have no way of confirming when we were born; we can only believe in faith in the testimony of those who were present.
- When your teachers show you how to solve a math problem, share a story from history, or explain a scientific principle, you don't go and independently verify every single thing they say. You probably haven't even checked to see their education level or what qualifies them to be a teacher. Ideally, you trust the school institution and your teachers to give you accurate information.
- Living a normal human life requires faith. Otherwise, we would go through life radically suspicious of everyone and everything.
- These simple examples show us that faith is not unreasonable. Based on our experience, it is logical to put our faith in people and institutions that seem trustworthy. Not everything we accept as real and true is proven with hard evidence.
- If we are willing to trust the word of other humans as a source of truth, does it not make even more sense to trust the word of God?

Main Point 3:

Faith ushers us into truths that are beyond reason but not contrary to it.

- Faith is given to us by God. We trust in what He has revealed because He has said it and is trustworthy, not because we understand or grasp it. At the same time, there is a correlation between faith and reason. **(CCC 156)**
- Imagine you are driving down a road and coming to a curve. You can't see around the curve, but the road to this point has been well-paved, secure, and helpful in moving you toward your destination. There is no reason to doubt that the road continues around the bend, even though you can't see it in the same way you can see the road now.
- It can be helpful to think about the relationship between faith and reason in the same way, as two parts of the road that lead to God. Reason puts us on a track toward God. When we look at the world and examine ourselves, it is reasonable to believe that there is a God. **(Going Deeper #2: "Motives of Credibility")**
- Faith is kind of like the road around the curve. We can't know about it in the same way we know with our reason. However, it's not unreasonable to believe what faith proposes. Reason puts us on the road; faith takes us further than reason alone can get us. Faith is beyond reason, but it is not unreasonable. **(CCC 35)**
- This doesn't mean that we never have questions about our faith. In fact, it is good to ask questions when we have doubts about our faith or are unsure about something. It's actually a sign of a healthy relationship.
- God doesn't ask us to turn off our brains to believe in Him; He asks us to use them to the best of our ability as we grapple with coming to know who He is and, consequently, who we are.
- At the same time, we'll never understand our faith the same way we understand a mathematical equation or scientific principle. God always exceeds our ability to completely know Him. We can master a formula with our mind; we cannot master God.
- This is why divine Revelation is so incredible. It entails truths that God has revealed to us and that we accept in faith, but we will never completely understand them.
- For example, consider the doctrine of the Incarnation. This doctrine states that Jesus Christ was 100% God and 100% man. This concept cannot be completely grasped by our reason. However, that doesn't mean that we should never think about it. God revealed it to us because wrestling with it benefits us.

- When we accept in faith that Jesus is true God and true man, we can then ponder what that means with our minds. We can contemplate Jesus' experience as a human being and take consolation in the fact that He knows what we are going through. We can meditate on the truth that God walked among us on earth, humbled Himself as a baby, manifested His power to us, and died for our sins.
- The mysteries of our faith are like wells that never run dry. The more we think about and contemplate them, the more we realize that they always have something more to offer and teach us.
- These revealed truths aren't just nice things to think about. What we come to know affects how we live. Contemplating these mysteries impacts the way we view the world, informs our actions, and leads us into a deeper experience of God's love. Thinking about our faith and Christianity leads us closer to the ultimate Truth. It is an intellectual and spiritual challenge well worth our effort and attention.
- When you love someone, you want to know more about them. The more you know about them, the more you are able to love them for who they are. The same is true with us and God.
- By embracing faith and reason, we can come to know God intimately by listening to what He has revealed and paying attention to the world and people He has created. The more we come to know God, the greater our capacity to love and praise Him for who He is. **(CCC 52)**

Conclude the teaching with a personal story of a time when you needed to exercise faith or benefited from applying reason.