

## SESSION 9.4 TEN GREAT REASONS TO BE CATHOLIC

WATCH VIDEO



**TIP**

Tell them you love being Catholic and why.



4 MIN

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS [WB236]

- 1) What do you think is the best reason to be Catholic?
- 2) What did you learn in this session that really made you stop and think?
- 3) How did the top ten reasons to be Catholic change the way you view Catholicism?



10 MIN



# STEP 3 ENGAGE: WATCH & DISCUSS

CONTINUED...

## EXERCISE VIRTUE IN FOCUS



5 MIN

## TIP

This session highlights the virtue of faithfulness. Invite a candidate to read aloud the **Virtue in Focus** section. Choose one of the questions from the section and encourage the candidates to share their answers. [WB230]

HO PROCEEDS FROM THE FATHER AND THE SON, WHO WITH THE FATHER AND THE SON IS ADORED AND GLORIFIED, WHO HAS SPOKEN THROUGH THE PROPHETS. I BELIEVE IN ONE, HOLY, C



What would it be like if Mary was in your parish?

### VIRTUE IN FOCUS

#### Faith-ful-ness

[feyth-ful-ness]

loyalty, constancy, and steadfastness

What are you faithful to?

Who is the most faithful person you know?

What can you do to increase your faith?

#### The Lies

History is also full of lies about the Catholic Church. These lies are often perpetuated by modern popular culture. Let's take a look at some.

One lie is the idea that the Church is against science and wants to keep everyone ignorant so they can be controlled. This is nonsense. Many of the great scientific discoveries were made by Catholic priests. And if the Church wanted to keep everyone ignorant why did it develop universities and become the champion of education for the common man?

Another lie that is perpetuated about the Church is that it is opposed to progress and is an obstacle to progress. This is also an absurd lie. The Church has been a champion of progress from the very beginning, and this is a tradition that has continued throughout our rich history of contribution. The Catholic Church has nurtured and encouraged progress in education, law, art, music, architecture, science, philosophy, theology, language, and human rights. In fact, many of the best minds of our times believe that Western civilization is almost completely indebted to the Catholic Church.

Today one of the biggest lies surrounds the priesthood. The media would have you believe that every priest sexually abuses children. In a recent poll, when asked what percentage of priests were pedophiles, respondents said between 33 and 50 percent. In fact, 1.8 percent of priests were involved in the scandal. The great majority of priests are good men who have given their lives to help you and me grow spiritually, become the best-version-of-ourselves, and get to Heaven.

The world tends to ignore the goodness of the Church and blow our mistakes out of proportion to make them all-encompassing. At the beginning of this section we talked about some of the Church's great contributions—how many of those did you already know about? I've met many Catholics who didn't know any of those things.

The last lie I want to explore briefly with you is the idea that the Church is always behind the times. Not so. It is easy to present the Church as being old-fashioned and out of date, but this is a lie. The Church is a prophet and as such is ahead of the times.

One modern example of this can be found in the papal encyclical "Humanae Vitae." In it Pope Paul VI explained what would happen if artificial contraceptives became widely used in society. It was written in 1968, before you and I were born. It was written in a time very different from the world we live in today. But it is full of prophecy, and what Paul VI predicted would happen is exactly what has happened.

Pope Paul VI predicted artificial contraception would be bad for marriage, bad for families, and in particular, that it would lead to the objectification of women.

He was an unwelcome prophet of his times, and remains an unwelcome prophet in our times—but he is modern proof that the Church is ahead of the times, not behind the times.

The bottom line is this: Don't believe everything you hear about the Church. When someone criticizes the Church, ask them to prove it. If you have doubts about something, delve into the issue yourself so that you can really understand the great history of the Catholic Church. It is not a perfect history, but the Church has always been a force for incredible good in the world.

There have been some regrettable moments in the life of the Catholic Church, but a fair look at history demonstrates that violence and abuse are not the overarching story of Catholicism. Our story is primarily one of agape love, incredible contribution, and the relief of human suffering.

I'm proud to be Catholic, and the more I learn about our history, the prouder I become.



FREDERIC WAS TWENTY STUDYING HE FELT CA POOR. HE TOGETHER A THE POOR. SELVES "TH CHARITY." TI AND ADVOC LATER THEY THE SOCIET DE PAUL. TO ISTS IN DOZ AROUND TH THOUSANDS A SAINT VING THEY FEED. PROVIDE HEI FOR MILLIO AND CHILD SOCIETY OF PAUL IS JUST OF CATHOL THAT SERVE GINALIZED O OLICS HAVE OF CONTRI WASN'T THA YOU WHEN H WORK. HE C VISIONED W BUT THAT'S

230

DECISION POINT



THE CHURCH

