

St. Therese Adult Study Series
Spiritual Warfare with Father Andrie & Brendan McInerny

Reflection Questions for Chapters *What is an Exorcism and Gospel of Mark*

For the next session, please read the fifth & sixth chapters on pages 45-67 in the *Exorcism* book. Begin with this or another prayer of your choice: *"In you, O Lord, I seek refuge; let me never be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me! Incline your ear to me, rescue me speedily! Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me! Yes, you are my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake lead me and guide me, take me out of the net which is hidden for me, for you are my refuge. Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God."* (Pg. 151 Psalm 31:1-5)

Your reflections will be shared **November 14th** in your small group. Your group may not get to all the questions. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you to those questions most important for your group.

NOTE: Each week we will begin our small group sessions as a large group using the Lectio Divina prayer format with the Sunday Gospel. This will be provided each week on your tables.

1. According to the New Advent Catholic Encyclopedia, exorcism is the act of driving out, or warding off, demons, or evil spirits, from persons, places, or things, which are believed to be possessed or infested by them, or are liable to become victims or instruments of their malice. Fr. Lampert says that "to exorcize means to bind with an oath," showing the stricken the face of God. What are your thoughts on the three ministries that comprise this "act of mercy that unleashes God's love against the attack of the devil?" (pg. 47)

2. Have you ever said a "minor prayer of exorcism on behalf of someone else," perhaps to ward off a temptation? What, if anything, happened?

3. Do you agree with the logic in pastoral care described on pages 51-52? Explain.

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4. How do you see the link between the forces of evil and confession? Do you agree that the more one “confesses, the more he is aware of his defects?” Why?

5. On pages 57-58, Fr. Lampert gave us some insight into the nature of demons. Which one surprised you the most? Why?

6. Why was the Syrophenician woman’s account such a significant turning point in Jesus’ mission and ministry? See also: <https://ncec.catholic.edu.au/faith/scripture-resources/commentaries/the-gospel-of-mark/the-syrophenician-womans-faith-mark-724-30/#:~:text=The%20story%20of%20the%20Syrophenician,outside%20of%20the%20Jewish%20people> .

7. How/does it give you comfort to know that the point of exorcism is “not simply a matter of casting the evil out, it is also about bringing God in.” They are not left with an empty hole. (pg. 65)

8. Which of the four accounts of Jesus performing exorcisms stood out to you? Why?