

St. Therese Adult Study Series
The Religion of the Day with Father Andrie

Reflection Questions for the Second Half of Chapter 4

For the next session on April 30th, please read Chapter 4, pages 80-94 in *The Religion of the Day* book. Begin with this or another prayer of your choice: “*Lord Jesus, remembering Your Passion, may I follow where you lead, and though I may be fearful, find in you the strength I need. When I am burdened or distressed, please roll away the heavy stone so that I may feel you with me, not abandoned or alone. Risen Savior, you appeared, but unrecognized at first; when I fail to see your face, in your love my heart immerse. Amen.*” <https://www.aleteia.org> Your reflections will be shared **April 30th** 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.

1. On page 80, we are introduced to the *Kerygma* (to proclaim the Gospel message). If you’ve ever listened to Jeff Cavins, he breaks this down into seven simple concepts. 1. God loves you and has a plan for your life. 2. Sin separates us from God. 3. Jesus Christ died to save you. 4. Repent and believe the Gospel. 5. Be baptized and receive the Holy Spirit. 6. Live in Christ, through his body, the Church. 7. Go forth and make disciples. This framework of truths gives a solid method to share The Good News. How could you use these principles to share your own faith story with someone?

2. God chose an unlikely plan to save us from our rebellion and “reunite us in friendship and freedom to the source of love and goodness.” As St. Paul wrote in 2 Cor 5:21, “For our sake God made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” What does this mean for you personally?

3. Section 7 talks about Jesus’ catching the diseases of the world, “by taking them upon himself and healing them from within his own body.” How do you feel about Jesus contracting all the diseases of our age? Where do you see the healing antibodies flowing into the Church today?

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4. St. Teresa of Avila (p. 86) said that "God writes straight with crooked lines." Are there examples in your life where you have seen good coming out of something evil?

5. "Jesus knowingly chose Judas as one of his picked men, as if to make clear that there would always be Judases, betrayers of Christ, at the highest levels inside the Church." Does this give you pause for hope? How?

6. "Though he was grieved, Jesus was not surprised or confused by Peter's denial, by Judas's betrayal, or by the resistance of the Chosen People to his message." (p 94) How does this give you hope for the Church?

What else stood out for you in this chapter?

For your personal prayer:

We all need healing in our lives. Here is a powerful healing prayer attributed to St. Padre Pio for your prayer time.

Hold onto this truth: "Christ in the Church never fails. The medicine of God has a one hundred percent success rate." (p. 85)

