

Grace in the grotto

Our Lady of Lourdes

WATCH MOVIE: Song of Bernadette

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-6zAoq8tRfI>

"the message of our lady of Lourdes" teaching

Everything that Our Lady of Lourdes said to Saint Bernadette in these apparitions still applies to us today. One of the first things she said to Bernadette was, "I do not promise you happiness in this world but in the next." Not only does this bring hope for Bernadette for the eternal happiness of heaven, but it is also a great encouragement for her in the midst of all of her suffering. For us, it is a reminder to always keep our focus on heaven. If we are having a hard time now, we should not forget there is hope for eternal happiness. This does not mean that we cannot be happy on earth, but it is a reminder that happiness in this life is not our ultimate goal.

In many of the apparitions, Our Lady of Lourdes asked St. Bernadette to do penance and pray for poor sinners. To do penance means that we do difficult or unpleasant things out of love and humility to make up for the sins we have committed. For example if you were mean to your brother or sister or talked back to your parents, they make you go to your room or do chores to make up for your bad behavior. Penance works the same way, but it is for our souls. After we sin, we do things (penance) for God out of love because we sinned. Our Lady of Lourdes asks us to do penance and asks that while we do it we offer up prayers for our souls and sinners everywhere.

Mary asks us to do these things so that we can help ourselves and our brothers and sisters in Christ. Our Lady of Lourdes also reveals the great love of God by showing us that she intercedes for those who are in pain and suffering. Because of the prayers of Our Lady of Lourdes, many people have been healed physically and spiritually.

Take a look at your own life and your own sin. Know that God loves you but is also calling you to so much more; He is calling you to live a life of freedom. Do not be afraid! If you are having trouble or know someone who is really struggling, ask for the intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes and offer up your hardships for the conversion of sinners everywhere.

break

(15 min)

Please answer the following questions.

Why do you think that Mary chose to appear to Bernadette even though she did not seem very important?

Is there anything about this story that you find hard to believe?

How would you feel if you were in Bernadette's place?

What are some ways that you can do penance and offer prayers for the conversion of sinners?

To conclude with the lesson prayerfully and thoughtfully answer the questions:

Instructions:

Reflect on the questions below.

Our Lady of Lourdes chose to appear to Bernadette who was very poor. What does poverty mean to you? Why do you think poverty is such a big deal to Christians?

Our Lady of Lourdes asked Bernadette to pray for sinners. Think of people in your life or in the world that may not know God or choose not to follow him and need you to pray for them. Write a prayer for them.

What are some small acts of love and humility that you can do in your daily life to offer up for the conversion of sinners?

How do these things affect the way you now think about Mary and her role in your life?
