

Spiritual Growth at the Grotto Kids Version



This workbook is for you to use while you are touring The Grotto. The questions are divided into sections that one would ordinarily see on a basic trip through this area.

The Grotto is an outdoor/indoor area that offers you an opportunity to experience God's story through Jesus, creation, and the lives of men and women who have influenced the past 2000+ years of Christianity.

The Grotto is divided into two main sections. The lower level includes the Grotto worship area, the Chapel, and various statues/artwork. This area is free and open to the public. The upper level is only accessible through the elevator. To enter this area you will need to purchase a token at the gift shop (at the entrance to the Grotto) which is \$4.50 as of 6/15/2014. The upper level consists of artwork/statues within many various gardens, ponds, and nature areas. A large glass walled chapel is also at the top along with St. Anne's chapel in the wooded area.

A note should be written concerning The Grotto, reverence, respect, and our experience. You can approach this booklet and The Grotto in one of two ways. First, you can use this time to find the faults with the Catholic Church, the history of the saints, and the general theme of mediation and idolatry. However, this booklet is written for you to use the second approach; this approach involves following the guidance of the area for self reflection, prayer, and a deeper walk with God.

At various places in this booklet you will have an internet address to find out more about the question/individual discussed. You can view this on an electronic device while at The Grotto, or you can research at home.

Please feel free to answer as many questions as you wish and write more if you wish.

These booklets are free of charge but we request that you not sell these to others. Jesus says, "Freely you have received, freely you shall give." Matthew 10:8.

Entrance



As you enter the Grotto and begin the path you will notice the following statues/sites. Feel free to stop at each one, or whatever one you wish and go through the questions. If you want to journal any thoughts please do so.

St. Philip Beninzi (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philip_Benizi_de_Damiani)

Who was this man?



What importance does he have for Christianity?

Christus Garden

What do you see on this statue? Draw this statue and write what you see.

What thoughts or prayers come to your mind?

The Grotto of Our Sorrowful Mother

This site is a large cave in the cliff with candles, altars, statues, and a prayer railing. There are also seats behind on the lower level. Feel free to sit or stand where you wish. Take some time to go through this area before working on the questions.

1. What is a “grotto”? Why is this in a cave?
2. Who is the sorrowful mother?
3. Why is she sad?
4. How do you think Mary felt when she saw that Jesus had died?
5. Why are there candles on each side of the area (candles in the large wooden structures)?
6. Is there a need to be sorrowful in our Christian life today?
7. What are the people doing around this area—if there are people?
8. Draw a picture of the Grotto and what you see in the cave.

Draw your pictures here

Front of the Chapel

As you enter the chapel notice that you naturally lower your voice (or at least you should)? Why does this happen?

**Remember that for many, and possibly you, this is considered a sacred/holy place. There may be people inside who are hurting, needing prayer, or are spending their time in reflection and praise. Please be respectful of them and be quiet. If you are with a group soft whispering is acceptable but if someone is being disrespectful you need to ask them to stop. Parents = this is a great time to teach our children about respect, honor, and peace. They will naturally lower their voice and this is a good time to explain how art and architecture work together to inspire a sense of awe within us. No matter what we believe, this is a place of holiness and respect. The phrase Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus at the front is a word we get Sanctuary from. Sanctuary is a place of safety, peace, and quiet.*

Inside the Chapel

What do you see on the wall? Write and/or draw all that you see and take time to express what you see along the center back wall and around the “altar” area.

What does Sanctus Sanctus Sanctus mean? Where in the Bible is it located?

What do you remember about this place? How did you feel being in here?

Read the verses on the left and right of the walls. What do they say to you today?

What type of music is playing in the background?

Draw a picture of a few things you see while in here.

Can you follow the sculptures/pictures of the life of Jesus, along the walls, and tell the story? What do you remember about it? Write the story below.

Top Level

*You are welcome to spend your full time at the lower level or purchase an elevator token (\$4.50 as of 6/15/2014 at the gift shop near the entrance) and ride to the top. The upper level is different from the lower but still deserves the same level of respect and peace as the one below.

On exiting the elevator you can go to the left to the upper chapel or go right to follow the prayer trail. This guide will follow the trail first and then end at the chapel.

Walk

St. Joseph Grove

1. Who was this man?
2. Notice that each station has sorrow and joy. Why?
3. Notice the details of each sculpture. Look especially in the backgrounds of the stages.

These are hidden messages in the story. What do you notice?

4. Who is Joseph holding in the big statue? Where have you seen this before?
5. What is the boy holding and what do they mean?

World Peace Prayer Pole

1. What 4 languages are written on this pole?
2. What do they say?
3. What are your thoughts about world peace?
4. How have Christians contributed to world peace?

Labyrinth

Note = in keeping with the level of respect at The Grotto, there may be people walking along this path. There may also be people who want to be on the Labyrinth for prayer, reflection, and meditation. Please be courteous to others, slow down and reflect if they are ahead of you, and be mindful that they will be focusing on various issues in this part of the garden.

Walk along this path and pray about what you are experiencing today. On the return (or if you go a second time) pray about all those who have walked with you in your Christian walk. Thank God for them and think about how they have helped you, challenged you, and loved you.

Way of the Sorrowful Mother

These are stations in the life of Jesus. They may seem repetitive, yet they are unique and have their own story to tell.

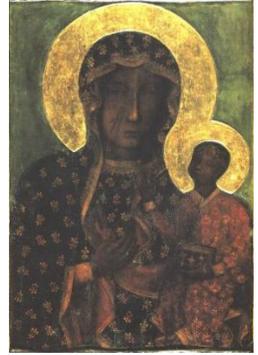
1. Look at each statue/carving and notice the detail. What do you notice in the artwork that adds to the story of Jesus?
2. Does your understanding of the story of Jesus change, become enhanced, or did you learn something new?
3. Explain what you found in #2.
4. Draw some one of the scenes you remember and tell the story to someone.

Czestochowa (Poland)

(<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cz%C4%99stochowa>)

Who is in the rug picture/fabric?

Notice the artwork—what are some of the details you see and what do you think that they mean?



Draw what you observe in this area and tell what you are thinking.

Chapel

Note = this is to be a place of quiet, reflection, and respect. There may be people here talking and making a lot of noise. They will leave quickly so just wait for them to go. The comfortable chairs are to be enjoyed and add to a sense of peace and rest.

Notice the statue in this location. Where have you seen this before?

Why is this a common statue here at The Grotto?

What do you think of when looking at it?

While here spend some time in prayer for what you have observed and experienced. Before heading back into Portland while what you see out the window.

Is it possible to experience what we just observed only here or are we sent back to our world?

Draw a picture of what you see going on outside the large glass window. Then write what you see happening below. Is God working in these people's lives? How

