

Discussion Questions

FATIMA AT 100 · FATIMA TODAY

Ten Steps to World Peace

Step One. Honor the Lord.

The Angel of Peace appeared to Lucia, Francisco, and Jacinta at Fatima before Mary appeared to them. Why do you think the Angel's appearance was necessary?

Why are we instructed to not only *believe, adore, hope, and love* the Lord, but also to *ask for pardon* for those who do not?

How does the Angel's prayer parallel Jesus' instructions to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind" (Matthew 22:37)?

How do you love and serve the Lord?

Step Two. Ask for Forgiveness.

On October 13, 1917, Mary told the young visionaries that seeking forgiveness was a prerequisite for receiving an answer to prayer. Seeking forgiveness requires both the examination of conscience and the admission of sin.

How and when do you examine your conscience?

How do you understand the relationship between your admission of sin and your receptivity to an answer to prayer?

Step Three. Change Your Ways.

Mary told the children not to offend the Lord for he was already much offended. She also said that prayers would not be answered until those offending God changed their ways.

How do you feel about people who tell you they are sorry for hurting you but continue to treat you the same way?

Share what you can about a time you recognized your need to change. What did you do to make this change?

Step Four. Embrace Suffering.

Mary asked the children if they were willing to offer themselves to God and bear all the sufferings he would send them. She told them to sacrifice themselves for sinners and to pray for their conversion.

Why do you think those innocent children were asked to suffer for the sins of others?

Jesus tells us not to run from suffering but to embrace it. (See Mark 8:34-37.) What does that mean to you?

What purpose could our suffering serve?

Share your experience of offering up your suffering.

Step Five. Just Say, "Yes!"

On May 13, 1917, when Mary asked the children to give up everything to serve the Lord, they agreed without hesitation. From that point on, they suffered persecution and physical ailments.

Have you known someone who sacrificed on behalf of others? Describe what you admired about this person.

Could you say "yes" to that extent? Explain why or why not.

Step Six. Get the Word Out.

On June 13, 1917, Mary told Lucia, Francisco, and Jacinta that Jesus wanted them to encourage the world to know and love her by following her example—a pure heart open to God.

Share the ways in which you promote devotion to Mary and, ultimately, to God.

Have you ever been challenged for your devotion? Share one of your experiences.

Step Seven. Don't Be Afraid.

The first thing Mary said to the children was not to be afraid, that she would not harm them. Scripture also tells us over and over again that we are not to be afraid, that we are not to worry, yet who doesn't worry?

What do you do when you are worried or frightened? Do you give your fears to the Lord? Explain.

How easy is it for you to truly give your fears to God?

Step Nine. Pray Continuously.

Both the Angel of Peace and Mary spoke often of the need to pray continuously.

When is it the easiest for you to pray?

How can you incorporate prayer in all that you do?

Share the steps you will take to deepen your prayer life.

Step Eight. Meditate on the Rosary.

Mary asked that we pray the rosary every day. That can be a significant time commitment, but one that promotes peace within us and throughout the world.

Do you pray the rosary daily? Why or why not?

How do you incorporate, or how can you begin to incorporate, the rosary into your daily life?

Share your favorite mystery of the rosary or rosary prayer.

Step Ten. Seek God's Comfort.

Mary told the Fatima children that God would be their comfort during the difficult times ahead. Even in the most challenging circumstances, they found comfort in their devotion.

How are you aware of God's presence in your life?

Share how you will follow Mary's ten steps to world peace.

What steps are the easiest for you? The most difficult?

How will you find God's comfort through the difficult times ahead?