



# Greater

## Adult Guide

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## Week One



# Adult Guide

## Welcome to Greater!

Thank you for bringing your teen or Confirmation candidate to this retreat. Even if it was just bringing them to the computer, their phone, or other device. Thank you for loving this child. Investing in teenagers can sometime be challenging, but it is always rewarding. Your willingness to journey with your teenager shows them that they matter. Thank you for walking with them on their faith journey. And thank you for continuing on your own faith journey. Your example is inspiring.

This is the adult guide for the parents/guardians and sponsors. In it you will find everything you need to know about what your teen is experiencing each week. There are discussion questions for each lesson video so that you can engage in deeper conversation. There are also places for you to do some of your own reflecting and journaling over the course of the retreat. We encourage you to take this experience and grow personally and with your teen, maybe even your entire family.

Our goal for the retreat is to take your teen from a place of complacency to a place of zeal and our hope is that you will be a source of encouragement, positivity, and love throughout this experience. This may be something that is completely out of your comfort zone, and that's ok! Lift up any anxiety you may be feeling and place it at the foot of the cross. Ask for the guidance and wisdom to be the person your teen needs you to be during this retreat.

Enjoy this experience!

# Best Practices

Use these quick tips to help your teen have the best online retreat experience ever:

- ➡ Pray for your teen every day.
- ➡ Be enthusiastic!
- ➡ Carve out some dedicated time for your teen to be “on retreat”
- ➡ Check in with them daily.
- ➡ Ask questions. This helps them process the information and their thoughts and feelings.
- ➡ Encourage them to set up a dedicated prayer space.
- ➡ Give yourself and your teen the grace to fall and get back up.
- ➡ Attend Mass
- ➡ Go to Confession

# Reminders

- ➡ YOU are doing a GREAT job!
- ➡ Your teen loves you and wants you to be part of their faith journey.
- ➡ This is not confirmation class. This is a virtual retreat experience to get to know Jesus better.
- ➡ You are welcome to join your teen for any and all of it, but are not required to be there.
- ➡ Don't forget the conversation starters! It's important for your teen to be able to talk about what he is experiencing, thinking, and feeling.
- ➡ Make this fun! Enjoy it together.

# Week One – Greater Love

This week, we'll talk about how God is in love with us. He wants to be in a relationship with us and has always been faithful. We're the ones that have fallen, rejected Him, said no. ***But God never leaves us or gives up.***



## Jesus Desires a Relationship with Us

God's love for us is unconditional, absolute, and unlimited. God wants us to love Him, not out of fear, but because He is our Father. We don't have to be perfect to have a relationship with Him.

### KATIE PREJEAN MCGRADY

Katie Prejean McGrady is an international speaker, educator, and author. Since 2007, Katie has been traveling throughout the U.S. and Canada sharing a unique blend of humor & storytelling, coupled with teaching theological truth, to engage audiences of all ages. Katie has written and published two books – ***Room 24: Adventures of a New Evangelist*** and ***Follow: Your Lifelong Adventure with Jesus***.



## God's Promise

We were created to be face to face with God. Sin makes us turn away. All throughout scripture we see instances where the people of God have turned away. But God, in his infinite love, gives us so many opportunities to turn back to him.

### JIL MILLER

Jil Miller is the Youth Office Manager for the Diocese of Hamilton, New Zealand. She is a graduate of Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio with a degree in Theology and Catechetics. Jil is a friend of Jesus, wife of Rob, bacon enthusiast, and coffee addict. Her hobbies include breakfast, lunch, and dinner.



## Jesus is Real

Jesus is real and He reveals his love and truth to us through the sacraments. Jesus calls us BY NAME to be in relationship Him.

### ALYSHIA KOERNER

Alyshia Koerner has a Masters in Special Education and has been using her gift of engaging teens in the Catholic faith in a tangible and comical way for over 15 years. She currently resides in Atlanta with her three kids where she enjoys hiking and playing outside when she isn't teaching.

# Prayer Intentions

Take some time to talk about some prayer intentions for this week. In what ways do you hope God moves in your teen this week? In what ways does your teen hope God moves in him or her this week? What do you want to see God do in your family this week? Write those and anything else below.

## Conversation Starters

Below are conversation starters for each session. They are designed to encourage deeper conversation with your teen and help them continue to process the information and apply it to their lives. Use these as a springboard. If you come up with your own questions, that's great too!

### Session One

1. What is your relationship with Jesus like right now?
2. If you were sitting with Jesus right now, what would you want to talk to Him about?
3. Have you ever had an encounter with Jesus that makes you *want* to go tell people about Him?

### Session Two

1. When was a time you deliberately turned your back on God? What made you turn back?
2. What do you need Christ to help you handle in your life?

### Session Three

1. Do you feel Jesus is present when you receive the Eucharist?
2. What do you think it would have been like to be Zacchaeus and have Jesus call you by name and ask to come to your house for dinner?
3. What is your favorite story about an encounter with Jesus? Why?

# Daily Prompts

Below are the daily prompts that your teen will reflect on during the week. You are invited to do any and all of them yourself. It would also be a good way to engage in deeper faith conversations with your teen.

## Day Two

***"Our hearts were made for You,  
O Lord, and they are restless  
until they rest in you."***  
(St. Augustine of Hippo)

What are 3 things keeping your heart "restless"? In other words, what are 3 things turning you away from the Lord?

## Day Three

***"We love because he first loved us."***  
(1 John 4:19)

What is a way you can spend time with your family today?

## Day Four

***"All the earth will worship You, And  
will sing praises to You; They will  
sing praises to Your name."***  
(Psalm 66:4)

What are 3 things you're grateful for?

## Day Five

***"Faithful friends are a sturdy shelter;  
whoever finds one finds a treasure."***  
(Sirach 6:14)

Who is a friend you are grateful for? Why? Call or meet up with this friend to ask them how they're doing.

## Day Six

***"You need to hold fast to two virtues:  
kindness toward your neighbor and  
humility toward God."***  
(St. Padre Pio)

What is an act of kindness you can do for your family today?

## Day Seven

***"Let the heavens be glad and the  
earth rejoice; let the sea and what  
fills it resound; let the plains be  
joyful and all that is in them. Then let  
all the trees of the forest rejoice." -***  
(Psalm 96: 11-12)

Spend 10 minute outside today. Use your senses. What are 3 things you've never noticed before?

# Reflect

This section is an opportunity for your personal reflection. Use the questions below to reflect, or write whatever else is on your heart. You do not need to share this with your teen, but you can if you want to.

- ➡ What do you hope your child gets out of this retreat?
- ➡ Where are you in your faith journey right now?
- ➡ What do you hope your family gets out of this retreat?