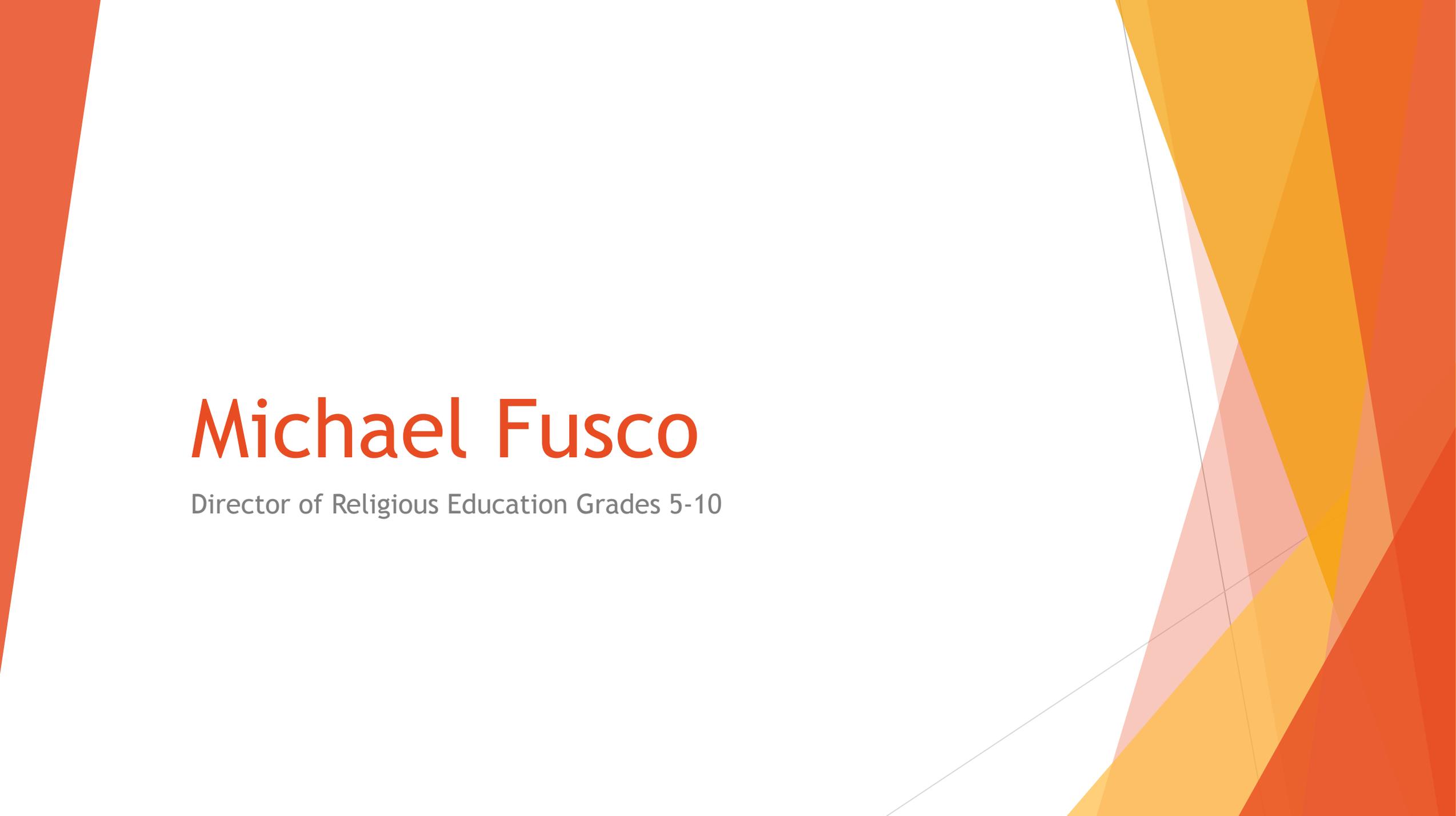




Spotlight Lesson 8
Saint Helen's Grades 5-8
Mercy

The background features abstract geometric shapes in shades of orange and yellow, primarily on the right side, with a white background on the left.

Michael Fusco

Director of Religious Education Grades 5-10

Welcome and Rules for Livestream

- ▶ Have Fun!!
- ▶ Learn something from this event
- ▶ The chat room is to be used sparingly. You are welcomed to greet each other but during the session we request that it not be used unless we ask you to use it.
- ▶ Chat will be monitored by Saint Helen's staff
- ▶ Feel free to pass this along to others for their use. You can watch as many times as you like!

Opening Prayer

- ▶ Dear God, I love and adore you. I am grateful for every breath I take, a roof over my head, for the shoes on my feet and the food on my table. Lord, I pray for your love and mercy to complete me and make me whole. As a human, I find myself complaining and being ungrateful. Teach me to always be content and know that your grace is sufficient everyday. Ignite my heart's desire to live in your presence and take me as your own. Amen

Goals of the Lesson

- ▶ Take a deep dive into the the scripture for the week.
- ▶ Learn what *Mercy* is.
- ▶ Learn how we too can be merciful to others.

Mercy

- ▶ What is Mercy?
 - ▶ “Mercy,” the Pope explained, “is something which is difficult to understand: it doesn’t eliminate sin”, for “it is God’s forgiveness” that does this. “Mercy is the manner in which God forgives”.
- ▶ **POPE FRANCIS**
- ▶ MORNING MEDITATION IN THE CHAPEL OF THE *DOMUS SANCTAE MARTHAE*
- ▶ *Forgiveness in a caress*
- ▶ *Monday, 7 April 2014*

John 8:1-11

Fifth Sunday of Lent

- ▶ In this Gospel reading, a woman is brought to Jesus who was caught in a sinful act. The scribes and Pharisees ask Jesus what they should do with her. By the law, she should be stoned to death. Jesus is silent and draws in the sand. Then he asks the crowd, those that have no sin, can cast the first stone. One by one they all left, and Jesus was alone with her. He then ask her where is everyone? Has no one condemned you? She replies, No One, then Jesus says, “Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin anymore.”

Jesus was being tested

- ▶ The sole objective was to put Jesus to the test and to trap him. The woman did not matter to those in power. What they wanted was for Jesus to give them a reason to bring charges up against him.
- ▶ We know in a few weeks we will read the scriptures of the trial, death and resurrection of Jesus. This is the Fifth Sunday of Lent, and we are seeing Jesus being tested. The people are looking for a way to condemn him and his teachings. They are trying to stir up trouble.
- ▶ **Do you know anyone who is like that? Trying to create trouble?**
- ▶ **Are there times when you intentionally stir up trouble?**
- ▶ **Write in the chat your answers!**

God's Mercy

- ▶ “Jesus forgives. But there is something more here than forgiveness. For as a confessor Jesus goes beyond the law, for “the law said that she had to be punished”. Indeed, as the Pope noted, Jesus “was pure and could have thrown the first stone”. But he “went beyond this. This, the Pope explained, is “the mystery of Jesus’ mercy ... in being merciful Jesus” goes beyond “the law which commanded that she be stoned”. “Mercy,” the Pope explained, “is something which is difficult to understand: it doesn’t eliminate sin”, for “it is God’s forgiveness” that does this. “Mercy is the manner in which God forgives”. For “Jesus could have said: ‘I forgive you, go!’ as he had said to the paralytic: your sins are forgiven!”. In this situation, however, “Jesus goes further” and counsels the woman “to sin no more”.
- ▶ (by *L'Osservatore Romano*, Weekly ed. in English, n. 15, 11 April 2014)

What is Mercy?

Ascension Presents

This video is used for educational purposes for this livestream

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C-d2w32LZ0E>

Celebrating God's Mercy

- ▶ The Gospel today reminds us that we all sin and make mistakes.
- ▶ We need to reflect on our sins so we can be better and like Jesus says, “to sin no more.”
- ▶ When we are silent and are talking with God this is when we can feel his mercy.
- ▶ Acknowledging our sins and asking for forgiveness brings freedom and love as God loves.
- ▶ The love of God brings forgiveness, healing and peace.

Questions

- ▶ Are you aware of your sins? How does this awareness affect your actions towards others who have sinned?
- ▶ How do you feel when you know you have made a wrong choice and now you are accountable for it?
- ▶ How do you feel when you apologize to someone?
- ▶ How would you have felt if you were the woman in the story?
- ▶ Have you felt mercy in your relationships with your parents or friends?
- ▶ How can you share Jesus' merciful love with others?
- ▶ When has God offered you mercy for your sins?
- ▶ Type your answers in the chat!

Who needs your mercy?

Pray for one person in your life that you have hurt recently or needs to feel the love of God.

Closing Prayer

God of gentleness and mercy, you shower your servants with your compassion and goodness. Prompt us to be generous with the gifts of love and kindness as we witness your joy and care in the midst of conflict and division. Through Christ our Lord, Amen



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