Catholic Heroes of the Faith

Student Handouts for

The Story of Saint Augustine

STUDENT

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NOTE: Answer key for selected pages is on page 23 of the Leader's Guide.

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Rhetoric Rally

Rhetoric is the effective use of language or words. In Saint Augustine's day, the study of rhetoric was a very big deal. Modern day speech and writing classes are similar to the rhetoric courses of ancient Rome. Try these "Tongue Twisters" to spruce up your rhetoric skills. Challenge a friend to see who can say each phrase three times fast without any errors!

Romans really rallied 'round rather rousing rounds of rarely reasonable rhetoric.

Ample answers Ambrose ably offered as he ambled amiably about the Empress' abode.

The Empress' impressive excess exceeded expectations of excellent success.

"For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it" (Romans 7:19-20).

Write your own Tongue Twister here:

Now that you know what rhetoric is, define **rhetorician**.

Dig into the Story!

Questions to get you thinking and talking about Saint Augustine

1. At the beginning of the story, Augustine runs from his mother. Why does he do this?

2. What job does Augustine take when he arrives in Rome? What skill is he known for?

3. How does Augustine define success? How does he view Christianity?

4. The two "spies" in the video are based on real men who converted to faith and then joined a monastery. Can you compare them to Augustine?

5. Augustine experiences a good deal of worldly success. Do you think worldly wealth has an impact on a person's desire to become a Christian? Why or why not?

6. Augustine had several people in his life who introduced him to Christ and tried to help him find his way. Can you name some of them? Who are the people in your life that help to show you faith?

7. Augustine was seeking truth and knowledge. As part of his search he studied the Bible. Do students today consider the Bible as a book to study? How is the Bible used in your home and school?

Dig Deeper

Thinking through some tough issues

1. In the time of Saint Augustine there were a lot of different religions practiced. Some people followed pagan gods and others followed distorted forms of Christianity. Which type of person do you think is harder to convince to become a follower of Christ?

2. Augustine is known as a man who sought truth. His journey to faith was marked by a great intellectual struggle. Was his high intelligence a help or a hindrance in his quest for the truth?

3. The two "spies" in the video are based on real men who converted to faith and then joined a monastery. Can you compare their faith journey to Augustine's? Whom do you relate to more?

4. Monica, Augustine's mother, is known to have been a woman of great prayer. Besides prayer, what else did she do to try to convince her son to become a Christian? Do you think her actions helpful or harmful in Augustine's search for truth?

5. In Augustine's quest for truth he studied a large number of subjects, but he also studied the Bible, where he found ultimate truth. Do you think students today are interested in finding truth? If so, will they look in the Bible? Why or why not?

6. Augustine used the term "The City of Man" to describe our selfish nature. How does this term describe your experience?

Famous Speeches

Can you match up these lines from famous speeches?

Abraham Lincoln	Give me liberty or give me death.
Ronald Reagan	I have a dream.
Martin Luther King, Jr.	Four score and seven years ago.
John F. Kennedy	The only thing we have to fear is fear itself.
Patrick Henry	Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall.
Astronauts on Apollo 13	Ask not what America will do for you, but what together we can do for the freedom of man.
Franklin D. Roosevelt	Houston, we've had a problem.

Discuss: Often a person's words live well beyond the person. How can you use your words for good? How can you avoid hurtful words?

"Whoever of you loves life and desires to see many good days, keep your tongue from evil and your lips from telling lies." Psalm 34:12-13

Story Mix-Up

These pictures of Saint Augustine's story are all mixed up.
Number the pictures in the correct order.

☐

Saint Augustine speaks with influence to persuade the people.

☐

Saint Augustine takes a stand for truth.

☐

Saint Augustine is enamored with the "Kingdom of Man."

☐

Saint Augustine tricks his mother and leaves for Rome.

☐

Saint Augustine believes God's Word and accepts forgiveness.

☐

The Empress wants the Basilica for Roman use.

☐

Bishop Ambrose speaks to the masses about God's Kingdom in the Basilica.

☐

Saint Augustine works as the Voice of the Empire.

Scholar Interview

Invite a pastor, scholar, or theologian to come to your class or home to share what they know about Saint Augustine. Begin by sharing what you have already learned from the Saint Augustine video. Use the questions here to help get the discussion flowing.

1. Have you read any of Augustine's books? Which ones? Do you have a favorite?

2. How has Augustine impacted your faith personally?

3. Augustine's mother prayed for him and also tried to convince him to become a Christian. Do you know anything more about Augustine's personal life and his conversion?

4. Why do you think Augustine's books are still read and his ideas are still taught today?

5. Augustine compares the "City of God" to the "City of Man." Can you explain this concept?

6. What has been Augustine's greatest impact on the church?

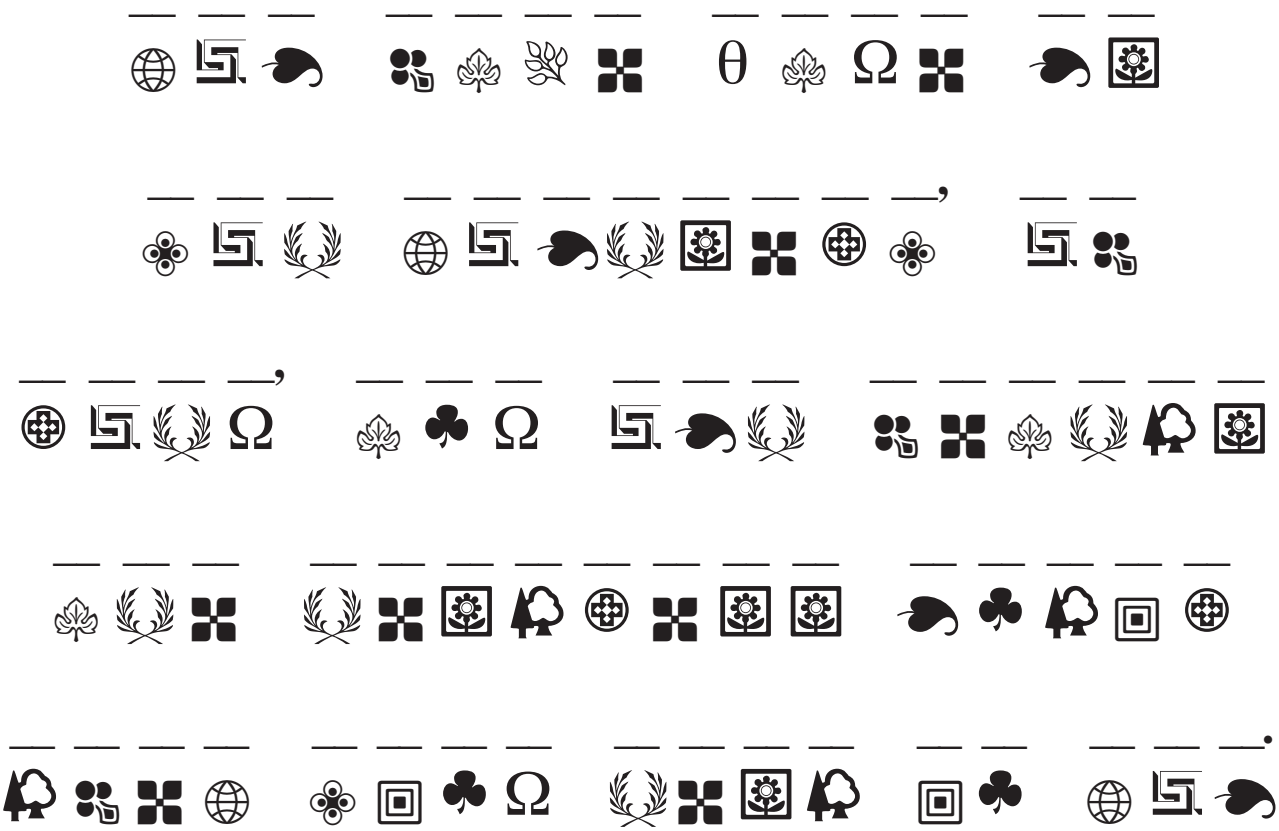
Debate Club

In our DVD Saint Augustine says, "Tell me what to debate and I will win on your behalf." A good debater can persuade others, no matter what the topic. Find a friend and choose a topic to debate. Decide who will be "for" and who will be "against" the statement. Work on your main points and then allow each side to present for one minute. If you have an audience, they can vote on who won the debate!

Students should be required to leave their cell phones in a basket on the way into all classes.	The government should require all children to get the chicken pox vaccination.
Chewing gum should be banned from public places.	Schools should ban all snack foods and sugary drinks.
Schools should spend more time on academic subjects, like math and science, and less time on extra subjects, like art and music.	When Jesus said, "upon this rock I will build my church" he meant on Peter, whose name means rock. (See Matthew 16:15-18)

Saint Augustine Says

Use the code at the bottom of the page to solve the puzzle and uncover one of Saint Augustine's most famous quotes.



a	*b*	*c*	*d*	*e*	*f*	*g*	*h*	*i*	*j*	*k*	*l*	*m*
n	*o*	*p*	*q*	*r*	*s*	*t*	*u*	*v*	*w*	*x*	*y*	*z*

Discuss: What does it mean to have a restless heart? How was Augustine's heart restless? What is the opposite of a restless heart?

Mosaic Stone Craft

Ancient Rome is known for beautiful mosaics. Make your own stepping stone mosaic to remind you to build your house upon the rock of faith.

SUPPLIES

- Safety First: goggles, rubber gloves, old clothes, and a drop cloth will keep you safe! Make sure you have a parent or teacher to help with this involved project.
- Mold: a cardboard box, aluminum pie plate or plastic saucer will work.
- Concrete: quick-setting cement, such as Quickrete, is inexpensive.
- Decoration: tile pieces, marbles, seashells, colorful stones and even bottle caps. You may also use leaves, cookie cutters or your own hand to make a print in the stone. Use a stick to carve letters or symbols if you wish.
- Also: Old bucket, mixing stick, nonstick spray, water, old spoon, and sand.

MAKE IT

- Choose a good spot to work, preferably outside. Cover the area with a drop cloth.
- Spray the inside of the mold lightly with cooking spray. Sprinkle a handful of sand on the spray.
- An adult should mix the right amount of concrete in the old bucket according to package directions. Quickrete uses five parts water to one part mix. Aim for the consistency of cookie dough.
- Scoop the mix into your mold with an old spoon or measuring cup. Shake and tap the mold until you have a smooth, even surface, free of air bubbles.
- Decorate your stone as desired! You can carve letters or symbols with a stick, use the embellishments you've collected, or do an imprint. Be creative!
- Dispose of extra mixed concrete carefully. Do not wash it down the drain!
- Let your masterpiece dry for a week. Spray lightly with water every day to make it stronger. Once it is dry, display it where it can remind you to build your house on the Rock of Faith in Jesus!

Color the Scene #1

"Where can I go from Your Spirit? Where can I flee from Your presence?...
If I take the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea...."
— Psalm 139:7,9

Color the Scene #2

"Whoever speaks on their own does so to gain personal glory, but he who seeks the glory of the one who sent him is a man of truth; there is nothing false about him." — John 7:18

Color the Scene #3

"Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today." — Exodus 14:13a

Color the Scene #4

"Clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ." — Romans 13:14a

Color the Scene #5

"Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding." — Jeremiah 3:15