



Core Teachings of Francis of Assisi

Francis's life was characterised by his acceptance of poverty and devotion to God, as well as his intense desire to help all living beings.

Francis taught:

The Wonder of the Incarnation	That God took on human nature and became a man in the person of Jesus Christ.
Evangelical Poverty	<p>Poverty was a virtue St. Francis of Assisi lived both in his interior and exterior life. He had a poverty of spirit, inspired by (Matt. 5:3)</p> <p><i>"How blessed are the poor in spirit, the kingdom of heaven is theirs."</i></p> <p>_____</p> <p>Find a quote from Francis on his teachings regarding "poverty".</p>
Living the Gospel	To follow in Christ's footsteps is to live the Gospel. Francis saw it as a map for learning to love.
Go and Repair God's House	<p>"Repair my house". Eventually, Francis understood this as a spiritual mission to preach the Gospel and serve the Church, not to rebuild the physical bricks and mortar.</p> <p>Repairing the house of Christ involved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a radical change in Francis's own_____, from one of economic ease and stability to the minimalisation of his personal needs. a leave-taking from a comfortable residence to a lifestyle that presumed physical mobility in imitation of the _____ who followed Jesus. _____ the Gospel to ordinary people (unbelievers and heretics alike, in small towns and villages) who felt alienated from the institutional church. <p>"Repair my house"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> led to the change from dramatic liturgical ritual performed in Latin in ornate churches to simple re-enactments of _____ narratives. became an effort to convert the political and economic _____ exerted by ambitious clerics upon the poor. <p>DISCIPLES EXPLOITATION GOSPEL LIFESTYLE PREACHING</p>



<p>Peace</p>	<p>Interior peace is the awareness that God is and dwells in all of creation, and from that awareness flows concern for nature, justice for the poor, and commitment to society.</p> <p>“Francis instructed his brothers in this Gospel life:</p> <p><i>As you announce peace with your mouth, make sure that you have greater peace in your hearts, thus no one will be provoked to anger or scandal because of you. Let everyone be drawn to peace and kindness through your peace and gentleness. Peace comes from the heart, and if peace can transform from within, then peace will guide the brothers as they travel through the world: Whatever house they enter, let them first say: Peace be to this house.’ Such peace is possible only through the sacrifice of one’s very self.”</i></p> <p>Francis of Assisi: A Symbol of Peace America Magazine</p> <hr/> <p>Reflect on the St Francis of Assisi Prayer</p> <p><i>Lord, make me an instrument of your peace...</i></p> <p>Make a list of the teachings conveyed.</p>
<p>God’s House Is All of Creation</p>	<p>Francis praised God through Jesus Christ with all creatures, for all creatures, and in and by means of all creatures. The Joy of Humble Praise and Service of God.</p> <p>Francis learned how to live with all creatures, loving them and serving them, and giving God thanks for them.</p> <p>For Francis, people, creatures and creation were all related as “sisters and brothers.” Therefore, he worked to bring opposing parties together in a spirit of dialogue and forgiveness as reflected in his <i>Canticle</i>.</p> <hr/> <p>Reflect on the prayer “<i>Canticle of the Creatures</i>”</p> <p>Canticle of the Creatures - FRANCISCAN SCHOOLS AUSTRALIA (franschools.au)</p> <p>Complete the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The fundamental spiritual insight of the Canticle is that... • The Canticle of the Creatures is a hymn of _____. • The Canticle reflects on Francis’s journey to _____. • For Francis all creation is a manifestation of the _____ of God.



The Joy of Humble Praise and Service of God	<p>Francis believed everything belongs to everything else, and everything belongs to God. Therefore, everything is holy and worthy of care, reverence and a song of God's praise.</p> <hr/> <p>Find a prayer of Francis's that sings God's Praise.</p>
Love	<p>Francis's love of all God's creatures distinguished his life.</p> <hr/> <p>Find three quotes from Francis on love and explain their meaning.</p>



Solutions to Worksheet CC-CH569 Core teachings

Evangelical Poverty

Find a quote by Francis in relation to poverty.

An example:

"My dear and beloved Brother, the treasure of blessed poverty is so very precious and divine that we are not worthy to possess it in our vile bodies. For poverty is that heavenly virtue by which all earthy and transitory things are trodden under foot, and by which every obstacle is removed from the soul so that it may freely enter into union with the eternal Lord God. It is also the virtue which makes the soul, while still here on earth, converse with the angels in Heaven. It is she who accompanied Christ on the Cross, was buried with Christ in the Tomb, and with Christ was raised and ascended into Heaven, for even in this life she gives to souls who love her the ability to fly to Heaven, and she alone guards the armour of true humility and charity."

Francis of Assisi, *The Little Flowers of St. Francis of Assisi*

[Top 31 Quotes & Sayings About My Beloved Brother \(quotessayings.net\)](http://quotessayings.net)

Go and Repair God's House

Repairing the house of Christ involved:

- a radical change in Francis's own lifestyle, from one of economic ease and stability to the minimalisation of his personal needs.
- a leave-taking from a comfortable residence to a lifestyle that presumed physical mobility in imitation of the disciples who followed Jesus.
- preaching the Gospel to ordinary people—unbelievers and heretics alike, in small towns and villages—who felt alienated from the institutional church.

"Repair my house"

- led to the change from dramatic liturgical ritual performed in Latin in ornate churches to simple re-enactments of Gospel narratives.
- became an effort to convert the political and economic exploitation exerted by ambitious clerics upon the poor.

God's House Is All of Creation

Canticle of the Creatures - fundamental spiritual insight of the Canticle is that each aspect of God's creation gives glory and praise to God by being what it was created to be.

The Canticle of the Creatures is a hymn of praise that recapitulates Francis's journey to God in and through the beautiful things of creation. For Francis, all creation became a theophany, a manifestation of the goodness of God.

Love

Example

"Let us love the Lord God with all our heart and all our soul, with all our mind and all our strength and with fortitude and with total understanding, with all of our power, with every effort, every affection, every emotion, every desire, and every wish." –Rule of 1221, Chapter XXIII