

Living Life as Sacred Story 2014: FORTY WEEKS

Weeks 20: Advice and Suggestions

Week 20 presents the next word of *Sacred Story Prayer*:

MEMORY

MEMORY is our **third** word in *Sacred Story Prayer*, but because this is the first time we have seen the Prelude and Illuminative Grace text for this word, we will spend this week focusing exclusively on MEMORY.

We remember that every hour on the hour, St. Ignatius briefly “looked backwards” to the inspirations that had shaped his thoughts, words and deeds. In asking the Holy Spirit for the grace to activate our spiritual memory, we can become aware of the forces of God and the enemy of human nature. These are the two ultimate shapers of our story—for the Sacred or for the profane.

We must also note that MEMORY has two modes: the immediate past, and the more remote past. By God’s grace, we can understand how our remote past shapes us by paying attention to the themes of our recent past.

The [Week 20 E&W](#) is especially practical this week, as it explains the importance of the MEMORY word within *Sacred Story Prayer*, and gives examples that can clarify and deepen our understanding of this week’s lesson. MEMORY can be difficult to encounter, but we know we are never alone – it is Christ who journeys with us through our past, and desires to redeem even the most painful episodes. As we read in our Affirmation for this week:

“Impossible” is not a word in God’s vocabulary!