

Gabriel's Miracle at Lourdes

Have the students on a piece of scratch paper write down their responses. Tell them that they will have to share their answers. They will not turn anything in. The purpose of this exercise is to illustrate the connection between God's grace and the sacraments. However, this exercise also encourages the students to examine their own faith life. Most importantly: How are they responding to God?

Questions:

1. How did God use the tragedy of the train accident to bring Gabriel back to Him?
2. The train ride was very difficult for Gabriel and his family. Do you think that sometimes God allows us to go through suffering so that he can really touch our lives in a spectacular way?
3. Gabriel received the sacraments of Confession and the Eucharist. He was then placed in the miraculous water. It seemed that there was no effect on Gabriel. In fact after being placed in the water, his condition appeared to have gotten worse. However, after the priest blessed Gabriel with the Eucharist, he miraculously made a full recovery. **How do you think this incident with Gabriel affected the people around him who witnessed this miracle? What connection do you think the people made between the Eucharist and healing? Do we believe that the sacraments have the power to heal us?**
4. After Gabriel was healed through the grace of God, how did he show his gratitude to God? Do we show our gratitude to God when he answers our prayers?