Christianity Discussion Questions

1. Watch the video for Lauren Daigle’s song “You Say”: [Lauren Daigle - You Say (Official Music Video) - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sIaT8Jl2zpI)
2. Discuss what themes you see in this song?
3. Discuss how does this song relate to what we have studied about Christianity so far?
4. Discuss how does this song relate to “IB Ways of Knowing”?
5. Discuss what is the function and purpose of ‘RELIGIOUS RITUALS’?
6. What do you think is the purpose of religious rituals?
7. How do religious rituals relate to ‘IB Ways of Knowing’?
8. What do you think it means when some religious scholars say a religious ritual is ‘alive’ or ‘dead’?
9. Open my website to “Week 10 Rohr Naked Now Part 1”. Read some excerpts from this popular (and somewhat controversial) Christian priest- Father Richard Rohr:
10. Read pages 15-16 and stop and discuss the main ideas here:
11. Read pages 18-19 “When you Joyfully Surrender” and stop and discuss the main ideas here:
12. Read pages 22-24 (especially the quote on pg 24) and stop and discuss the main ideas here:
13. How do these pages relate to
14. Question #1 and the song ‘You Say’ by Lauren Daigle
15. Question #2 and the purpose of religious rituals
16. IB Ways of Knowing?
17. Now let’s re-watch a video we saw a few weeks ago of Christians singing Psalm 23: [Psalm 23 (I Am Not Alone) [Live at Linger Conference] People & Songs ft Josh Sherman - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8OlMGnPUAdw)

Discuss how does this video relate to Questions 1, 2, and 3 above?

1. To summarize- religious scholars say a religious ritual is ‘alive’ if it assists the person to move from the IB Way of Knowing of ‘reason’ to ‘experience’. The ‘belief/faith of the religion’ is *made real, alive, and true* to the person through the ritual. On the other hand, a religious ritual is ‘dead’ if this process does not happen. In other words, the person is just ‘saying words’ and ‘going through the motions’, but they never have a genuine experience where the religious idea is made more real, alive, and true.
2. Discuss what are your thoughts about this idea? Do you have any experience with this idea?
3. Let’s now apply all of this to the homework you prepared for today’s class about Christian rituals.
4. What is the purpose of the Christian ritual of baptism- and how does it relate to today’s conversation so far?
5. What is the purpose of the Christian ritual of Eucharist- and how does it relate to today’s conversation so far?
6. What is the purpose of the Christian ritual of Confirmation (usually only practiced by

Catholics)- and how does it relate to today’s conversation so far?

1. Now let’s talk in more detail about the video you watched about a Christian ‘liturgy’ or ‘mass’. (Again- this video was from a Catholic Mass, so other Christians might do weekly Mass differently)
2. What are your overall thoughts, impressions, and questions about the video you watched of a Christian, Catholic Mass?
3. What is supposed to be the #1 purpose of going to Mass? How does this relate to today’s conversation so far?
4. In your opinion (or personal experience) do you think this Christian ritual of going to Mass to receive the Eucharist ‘works’ ( is ‘alive’) or ‘doesn’t work’ (is ‘dead’)?
5. Now let’s talk about another important Christian ritual (that you can use on the IB Paper #1 Exam….and also happens to be occurring this very week)- which is ‘Holy Week’ and ‘Easter Sunday’
6. First open my website to ‘Week 10 Lent and Holy Week Intro” and quickly skim over this handout
7. To summarize:

Lent is the 40 days before Easter Sunday.

Christians are supposed to repent and ‘sacrifice something’ these 40 days

(Mardi Gras & Carnival is the ‘Fat Tuesday’ celebration before Lent)

The final week of Lent is called “Holy Week”

Holy Week begins with ‘Palm Sunday’ which remembers Jesus’ final entry into Jerusalem on Passover before he is killed.

Holy Week continues with ‘Holy Thursday’ where Christians remember Jesus’ Last Supper (this is supposed to be the best Mass to receive Eucharist)

Holy Week then continues with ‘Good Friday’ which remembers Jesus’ crucifixion. For many Christians this is the ‘saddest’ day of the year, and many Christians will ‘re-walk’ the last steps of Jesus to his crucifixion.

Holy Week then ends with ‘Easter Sunday’ which remembers the Resurrection of Jesus. This is considered the ‘happiest’ day of the year for many Christians.

1. Let’s examine how different Christians celebrate Holy Week differently around the world:
2. When Mr. C was a boy at Catholic school- every year on ‘Good Friday’ I would have to ‘Walk the Stations of the Cross’. Let’s watch some of a video about this and discuss your thoughts about it: [Stations of the Cross HD - TV Version - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wW1t7M8HKT8)
3. Catholics in The Philippines are very famous for their unique Good Friday rituals. Many people will literally re-enact the crucifixion of Jesus up until the moment of death. Let’s watch a video about this and discuss your thoughts about it.

(WARNING- These videos are very graphic and contain a lot of blood, so do not watch if you do not want)

[Crucifixion in the Philippines - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NItfxWdweBQ)

1. For the final discussion let’s step back and reflect again on two major themes of this class: How to Read a Sacred Text? And IB Ways of Knowing?
2. Obviously for many Christians they read and understand the story of Jesus’ Crucifixion and Resurrection literally. For many Christians it is very important to believe these events literally happened. But let’s now examine these stories from a ‘symbolic’ or ‘didactic’ point of view:
3. Discuss how could you interpret the Crucifixion of Jesus ‘symbolically’ or ‘didactically’?
4. Discuss how could you interpret the Resurrection of Jesus ‘symbolically’ or ‘didactically’?
5. How do all of today’s examples of Christian rituals relate to the theme of ‘IB Ways of Knowing’?
6. Since we began with a Lauren Daigle song, let’s end with another one of her songs and discuss how it relates to today’s discussion: [Lauren Daigle - Rescue (Official Music Video) - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gYR0xP1j4PY)