

SESSION ONE

- 9:00 **Session 1:** Ananias for One Another
Introduction/Housekeeping
- 9:10 Opening Prayer – 3 people
Lectio Divina ACTS 9:10-19 (PM-pg 1)

Objectives

- To travel two learning journeys as we go through materials today
- Personal Journey
 - How to accompany others on their personal journeys
- 9:20 Reading/Questions (PM pg 2)
- What part of the story stands out for you?*
 - If you were Ananias, what would you do with Saul?*
- 9:40 **VIDEO 1: Ananias for One Another and Discussion** (PM pg 3-4)
- Discussion/Questions (PM pg 3-4)
- What does it mean **to you** to know you are called to journey alongside your brothers and sisters in Christ as an Ananias?*
 - What does it mean **for you** to know that you are called to become a missionary disciple and that you are not alone in that call?*
 - What **gifts** do you think God has given you to be an Ananias for others? What tools do you think you still need? (Called and Gifted, Faith Formation, etc.)*
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10:00 BREAK

- 10:15 **Discussion: Three Spiritual Journeys** (PM pg 6 – 7)
- Ecclesial Journey** (Reception of Sacraments)
 - Baptism – beginning of new life
 - Confirmation – strengthening of our relationship with Jesus
 - Eucharist – nourishes and bonds us to Jesus as we live our lives in Him, through Him and with Him
 - Personal Internal Journey** (Live relationship with Jesus) – Matthew Kelly 4 Signs of a Dynamic Catholic – how to strengthen, nourish, apply and share our relationship with Jesus
 - Active or inactive Journey** (Participation in the life of the parish) – the community strengthens us as we grow closer to Jesus and discover **how** we are called to participate in His Mission
- VIDEO 2: The Three Spiritual Journeys**
1. Saul/Paul and Ananias
 2. St Augustine and his mother St Monica; St Ambrose (Bishop of Milan)
 3. St Elizabeth Seton and Filicchi family of Pisa, Italy
- Listening with the **Ears of the Heart** (PM pg 4)
- Self-reading (pg 4): Listening with Ears of the Heart (self-reading PM pg 4)
 - Discussion (pg 5): Being a Good Listener
 - Never Accept a Label (self-reading – PM pg 5)
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- 10:35 **VIDEO:** Three Concurrent Journeys _ James McKay
- What are you hearing?
- James was baptized/confirmed Catholic (***Ecclesial Journey***)
 - Until he was confirmed, he regularly went to Mass, serving as altar server among other things (***Journey of Active Participation***)
 - After confirmation, he quit going to Church completely

What are you hearing?

Divorced twice, father of two, James' life takes a turn when he decides to put his son in Catholic school. In his son's proclamation that "I love you the same way God does." Over six months changes James. His words bring James back to the Catholic Church (***Journey of Active Participation***) It took my child to bring me back to our Lord:" (***Personal Interior Journey***)

What are you hearing?

James' response to this desire to come back to Church is "all in". Jesus becomes more personal through the regular reception of the sacraments. He deletes the objectionable material on his FaceBook page and posts Scripture (***Personal Interior Journey***) His relationship with Jesus grows and inspires him to challenge his friend to change his life as well.

What are you hearing?

After six months, James has a dream. He asks a priest to interpret this dream for him. He sees Jesus as the one who freed him from his previous life, is forgiven of his sins and the loneliness he experienced is replaced with joy and happiness (***Personal Interior Journey***)

Questions: Who was Ananias for James? (Sometimes more than one person)

11:00 LUNCH

SESSION TWO

Objectives

To better understand the Thresholds of Conversion in our personal lives
Recognizing where others are in their Thresholds of Conversion

11:30 No Two Journeys are the Same

Opening Prayer (PM pg 9-10) – 2 people

Read/Discussion – (PM pg 10)

What part of the Samaritan woman's story strikes you?

What part best fits with your own relationship with Jesus right now?

12:00 VIDEO: Introduction to Thresholds and the Threshold of Trust (PM pg 11)

What have been the "Bridges of Trust" (persons, places, things) along your own journey?

Think about a time you may have been a "Bridge of Trust" for another

12:30 VIDEO: (Spiritual) Curiosity (PM pg 12 - 13)

- Know *The Story of Jesus*
- Passive Threshold
- Needs safe, non-threatening space w/o over-reactions or pressure
- Use Catholic Heap; Apologetics; personal sharing

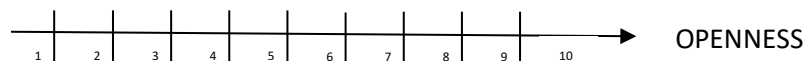
QUESTIONS :(PM pg 13)

Can you recall when your first considered the possibility of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ?

What stirred your curiosity - A person, event, something at church, a bible story, or Jesus Himself?

EXERCISE: *Think of your own Journeys of the following and that of a friend. Where do you feel you and your friend might be on the charts below for each of the thresholds?*

CURIOSITY?



1:00 VIDEO: (Spiritual) *Openness* (PM pg 13- 14)

- Needs to see God; imagine Him and possibilities of a relationship with Him
- One of hardest transitions to make
- Must lower defenses

QUESTIONS (PM pg 14)

Have you journeyed with someone at this threshold? What was it like?

What experiences drew you, or draw you, to a place of *Openness* to a personal relationship with Christ



1: 30 VIDEO: (Spiritual) *Seeking* (pm PG 14) and *Intentional Discipleship*

- Seekers seek Jesus
- Seeking is *active; intentionally* exploring discipleship
- “Dating with a Purpose”, not marriage
- May not want to come to a conclusion
- Seeks resolution; feels like a *quest*
- Cannot remain a Seeker for long; sense of urgency
- Help them by answering their questions, praying with and for them and tell them!



Intentional Discipleship (PM pg 15)

- Acceptance of a personal relationship with Jesus
- Genuine commitment to follow Him and live as His disciple
- People are different
- Not a straight line to becoming a disciple
- Can have many twists and turns
- Sometimes can even go in reverse or stall for a long time

2:00 Trace your own journey (PM pg 16 - 17)

2:30 Prayer Ritual

EXERCISE

Think of a *WORD* that would encompass what giving your life to Jesus means to you. Write down that word. (If time, may want to share the Word)

2:45 Mystagogy: Listening and Sharing

(What gifts from your Baptism and Confirmation do you feel Jesus is calling you as a disciple? Gifts, Fruits and Charisms Handout)

Resources

DO CHAT: Having a *Threshold* Conversation (PM pg 20 – 24)

Threshold Conversations: The Basics (See also PM pg 44 - 45)

- Invite an individual to talk
- Simple, direct conversation about how live life
- Learning to identify their spiritual threshold
- Conversation is *Prayerful, Respectful, Companionable, Supportive, Friendly, Inviting, Open-ended*

Section A: How to Identify and address self-descriptions (PM pg 25 – 32)

On the Verge of Intentional Discipleship? Now what? (PM pg 33 – 35)

Conversation with Daniel (PM pg 36 – 41)

Appendix 1: Lectio Divina

3:00 Closing prayer: PM pg 8) – 4 people