



Week Leading up to 1.17.21: Jesus Wants a Relationship with Us

***{Start with reviewing the previous Meetings Challenge or discuss prior to sharing this week's challenge.}**

Let's Begin: Think about how the challenge went for the last session. What went well? What was difficult?

Opening Prayer:

Begin with a brief moment of silence shaking off any and all distractions or difficulties of the day and remembering that God is always with us.

Read: [Jn 1:35-42](#)

After the Reading Conclude with this prayer:

Dear Jesus, You are calling us each by name to follow You. May we recognize You and willingly follow You as our teacher. Place a hunger on our hearts to know You in a deep and personal way. In Jesus Name. Amen.

Reflection or Discussion Question:

1. In this Gospel, do you think/feel that it is significant that John the Baptist refers to Jesus as the Lamb of God? *{hint: refer to <https://catholicexchange.com/242-wanting-right-thing-john-135-42>}*

YouTube Video: Bishop Barron on Having a “Personal Relationship” with Jesus (12:38)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w2KZDQsXwF4&t=195s>

Reflection or Discussion Questions:

2. If you reflect on how you pray, would you say it's more often formal or informal?
3. Do you struggle with praying to God in an intimate way? Do you think the words you use to speak to God matter? Why or why not?
4. Bishop Barron explained in the video how Christianity is personal in comparison to other religions. Do you believe this to be true? If so, do you find it to be an important distinction?
5. Do you think/feel that taking a Bible study or spending more time reading Scripture would be helpful in knowing Christ in a more personal way? Why or Why not? Is there anything holding you back?
6. What things have helped you develop a more personal relationship with God? What are some things that could help you to draw closer to God?
7. Bishop Barron shares that evangelization is the introduction of someone into a relationship with Jesus. What do you think/feel about Bishop Barron's perspective on needing a personal relationship with God to effectively evangelize?

Session Challenges: {Choose one or all}

- Write a letter to Jesus telling Him what He means to you. Highlight who Jesus is to you at this point in your life. This is a great practice to do yearly and reflect on each Christmas or Lent.
- We can easily spend hours with a friend talking and listening. Increase the amount of time you spend with Jesus this week to build on your friendship with Him. Spend at least 5 minutes each day to share with Jesus what is on your heart and make a special effort to speak to Him as you would a friend. Take at least 5 minutes each day in silence and ask Jesus to share what is on His heart with you.
- Tell one other person what Jesus in your life means to you and invite them to join an Emmaus Small Group this Lent.

Closing Prayer: (Leaders: We recommended offering time during the closing prayer for participants to offer personal intentions.) *Dear Jesus, Your love for us is like the sun in the sky. It can seem so far away and untouchable. Yet You are always there, steady, ready to give us the light we need to see our path; yearning and longing for us to reach out to You. In our greatest desires, we hunger for the warmth and intimacy of Your friendship. We ask to enter Your light; to really know You and believe how dear and unique we are to You. Help us to identify and eliminate the barriers that block the warmth of Your love from our hearts. Our hearts wish only to walk in light with You as our true Savior, King, teacher and friend. We offer our praise and thanksgiving for Your invitation to know You! Thank You, Jesus. In Your Great Name. Amen.*

{Optional additional Readings} Sunday Reading 1: [1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19](#) Sunday Reading 2: [1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20](#)