



Week Leading up to 1.24.21: Sharing the Gospel Story

***{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: Mk 1:14-20

After the Reading Conclude with this prayer:

Dear Jesus, You came to Galilee to proclaim the gospel of God. Just as the apostles immediately accepted Your invitation to follow You, we ask You to give us the courage to also abandon our nets and follow You. Through the Holy Spirit, infuse in us Your words so that we may share Your Good News with others. Amen.

Reflection or Discussion Question:

1. We hear in this gospel reading that Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God. Do you have an example of a time when you shared the message of Christ with another person?

YouTube Video: How to Live the Joy of the Gospel: Part 3 - Thomas Smith (5:08)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TkIj76nG_6w

Reflection or Discussion Questions:

2. Have you ever thought of the Bible as your story too?
3. What do you think/feel makes a person a good story listener?
4. What do you think about using this approach to open a discussion? Have you ever asked someone to share their spiritual journey with you? If not, what holds you back?
5. What do you think is the difference between imposing vs. proposing?
6. Have you ever thought about why you are or are not Catholic? Do you feel you are ready with a response for the reason for your hope within?
7. Do you have other ideas of ways to learn the faith stories of others? Do you have suggestions on ways to propose your faith story?

Session Challenges: {Choose one or all} **Leaders: Please download the Listening Skills and Testimony Worksheet from the Leader Documents area and send to your group or handout if gathered in person.**

- Spend time in prayer and let God know that you are open and eager to listen to someone's spiritual journey and to make this person known to you.
- Watch the Part 4 video that is the follow up to the video we watched tonight: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b1dTio6qOAg&t=105s>
- Take some time to think about your faith story. Review the Listening Skills and Testimony worksheet that your leader will give you and take some time to fill it out.

Closing Prayer: (Leaders: We recommended offering time during the closing prayer for participants to offer personal intentions.)

Holy Spirit, we call on You to fill this space. Create in us a great desire to share Your message with others in our lives. Give us the courage and words we need to share our story and reason for hope. We ask that You shower us with the virtue of patience needed to plant seeds. Through the power of Jesus Christ we ask these things. Amen.

{Optional additional Readings} Sunday Reading 1: Jonah 3:1-5, 10; Sunday Reading 2: 1 Cor 7:29-31