



Week Leading up to 3.28.21: Hope and Holy Week

***{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 11:1-10 {Entrance reading for Palm Sunday}

After the Reading Conclude with this prayer:

Dear Jesus, You are our true King. You are the reason for our hope! May we turn to You in times of great fear and times of discouragement knowing that You fully understand our suffering. We wait in anticipation to be with You in eternal glory. Amen.

Reflection or Discussion Question:

1. Did you find anything in this reading of particular interest?

YouTube Video: Role of Hope in Holy Week with Fr. Schmitz (8:03)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4sgbQJsS8uE>

Reflection or Discussion Questions:

2. Have you ever experienced a time of great fear or discouragement without hope? Have you ever felt hope in a time of great fear or discouragement? What was it like? Where did it come from?
3. Can you think of a time you turned inward to your own self confidence like Peter did rather than hope and trust in God? Why do you think/feel we do this?
4. Fr. Schmitz indicates that hope is something you have to fight for. What does this mean to you?
5. What do think/feel is the difference between Judas' denial and Peter's denial of Jesus? *{Helpful note: openness to God's love and their response to God's mercy}*
6. How do you know that Jesus is really with you?
7. Fr. Schmitz defines hope as trust in another extended into the future. Since true hope is based on a relational trust what are ways we can practice hope or support one another to trust God?

Session Challenges: {Choose one, two or all}

- Think of people in your life that you have real relational trust in. Thank them for their relationship with you and say a prayer to God for thanksgiving for having them in your life.
- Pray the stations this week: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aJF9XjG4Wko>
- Enter into the journey with Jesus this Holy Week by attending the Triduum Masses either in person or online. At these Masses, consider how you can better serve others in your life and thank Jesus for making Himself truly present in the Eucharist and being the reason for your hope.

Closing Prayer: (Leaders: We recommended offering time during the closing prayer for participants to offer personal intentions.) {Optional song to play before closing in prayer: Matt Maher's "Lord, I Need You" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gS9e0nxHP-w> }

Dear Jesus, as we enter Holy Week, we turn to You in great sorrow for the times we failed to serve You and our neighbor. It brings us such great sadness when we consider how our sins place You on the cross. Even though we deny Your love by sinning, You still willingly sacrifice Yourself for us. In great humility we ask for forgiveness and Your mercy. You have restored our hope of eternal life with You through Your resurrection and we offer great thanksgiving for Your boundless and eternal love. In Your Great Name. Amen.

{Optional additional Readings} Sunday Reading 1: [Is 50:4-7](#) Sunday Reading 2: [Phil 2:6-11](#)