



1st Discipleship Series - Session 1: Am I the Exception to God's Rule?

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

Overview: *(Please read to your group before the Opening Prayer)*

We will be starting a 4 week theme on the topic of discipleship. We will learn about our mission to live and share the Good News and our call to be good disciples of Jesus. As we walk through this journey of discipleship, let's make a point to look at ourselves through the eyes of our Lord. Let's now start with our Opening Prayer.

Opening Prayer:

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

Say: In today's reading from Luke, we will hear how people were asking John the Baptist what they should do to be saved. Pay close attention to John's response to the question of what they should do.

Read: ***Luke 3:7-15***

After the Reading Conclude with this prayer:

Heavenly Father, we thank You for all the ways You call us. Open our hearts and our minds so that we may always hear Your call and listen to Your will. We ask this all in Your holy name. Amen.

Reflection or Discussion Question:

1. What are your thoughts regarding the specific guidance John the Baptist gives to those in verses Luke 3:8, 9, 11, 13 and 14?

YouTube Video: Fr. Mike Schmitz – Am I the Exception to God's Rule? (7:47 Min)

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

Reflection or Discussion Questions:

2. Exceptionism (Trade Mark by Fr. Mike Schmitz) is the idea that "I understand most people are called to X, but in MY case I can't be expected to do this thing because I'm the exception." Do you wrestle with the attempt to justify your sin?
3. Fr. Mike Schmitz talks about being called to pray/tithe and how we give excuses of why we can't do these things (not enough time, etc.). Can you share some specific ways you can implement changes to make time to pray and/or tithe?
4. The second type of exception Fr. Schmitz explains is "to stop now is too difficult." Do you justify not doing anything about the sin? Are there things that hold you back from making changes?
5. Fr. Schmitz says "if now is not the right time (to change), then never is the final answer." What does that mean to you?
6. Can you share a time that you overcame this exceptionist attitude?
7. Do you feel you are a disciple called for a mission by God? How can you be a disciple at home or at school?

Session Challenge:

- Choose one way you are called to drop the exceptionist attitude and "just say yes" to God's call. After the week, think about the difference changing just that one thing made in your life.

Closing Prayer:

Dear Lord, we thank You for continually showering us with Your grace to help us live with fulfillment and purpose. Trusting in Your love for us, Lord, we humbly ask You to accept our petitions.

(Insert any personal needs that may have come to light this week.) Pause...We offer all these intentions and those we hold in the silence of our hearts to You. As we move into this week, we ask You for the grace to stop making excuses. We don't want to give into the temptation for exceptionism. Heighten our awareness to fully realize that we are called. Help us to just say yes to Your call. Amen.