



1st Discipleship Series - Session 4: Influencing the World

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

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. *Let us join in listening to your living Word from Philippians.*

Read: *Philippians 4:8-9*

After the Reading Conclude with this prayer: *Jesus you are the greatest model we have for discipleship. Thank you for your living Word and guidance from the Holy Spirit to help us follow your example. Help us to see how our actions can draw others closer to you. Amen*

Reflection or Discussion Questions:

1. Have you ever experienced the peace of God when you did His will? What was it like?

YouTube Video: Fr. Mike Schmitz – Influencing the World (5:35 Min) -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dtGNcgCP1zU>

Reflection or Discussion Questions:

2. Do you have anyone in your life that you feel you influence or lead (coworkers/friends/classmates/ family)?
3. How does Leadership in the non-religious world differ from the example of Leadership Jesus gave us? (think of bosses, CEO's, teachers, administrators, presidents of clubs, etc.)
4. Is there a difference in your mind between Leadership and modeling? If so, is one more important than the other or are they uniquely linked?
5. Now that we've talked a bit about how you are Leading or Modeling well. Fr. Schmitz challenges us with the question, "As an influencer or model, would others you have influence with become great saints or would they become just OK Christians? Why or Why not?"
6. When considering all the Discipleship sessions together (*briefly review previous topics covered – 1. There are no Exceptions - I am called, 2. What is Holiness, 3. How to be a good Disciple, and 4. Influencing the World*) what are the next steps you can personally take to embrace discipleship? What can your Emmaus Small Group do to further embrace discipleship?

Session Challenge:

- Reflect on some of the active steps you have taken this year to become a better Disciple of Christ and celebrate how you have improved. Maybe you are praying more often, maybe you have built more authentic relationships with others, maybe you attend the sacraments more, maybe you've gotten more involved with some sort of charity or service. Whatever steps you have taken, let God know in prayer how thankful you are for his loving gentle guidance and pray for continued fortitude in growing into a deeper relationship with Him in the following year. Please pray for discernment on continuing with Emmaus Small Groups and if you would like to step into a leadership role. After time in prayer, be sure to talk with your ESG leader about your thoughts.

Closing Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You for showing us the importance of leadership and how to live as a servant disciple. Our lives are so intertwined with one another. Because of this and for those that have had a positive influence on us we ask You to accept these 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 heart to You. We thank You for all the ways our Emmaus Small Group has helped and challenged us to become more like You. In return, place before us opportunities to share and witness our love for You to others. Give us an open-heart willing to model You to others in support of the mission You have given us. We pray for the needs of our parish and continued guidance for us to become Your Holy Disciples eager to fill those needs. Amen*