



Week Leading up to 10.3.21: Bone of my Bones

***{Start with reviewing the previous meeting's 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: Mark 10: 2-16

After the Reading Conclude with this prayer:

Dear Lord, we adore You and thank You for making us in Your own image and likeness. Open our eyes to perceive reality as You have made it. May we delight in the gift of femininity and masculinity. May we see that our differences bring about a beautiful complementarity that further reveals Your own nature. Give us the grace to truly love everyone...EVERYONE we encounter. Amen.

Reflection or Discussion Question:

1. The readings for this Sunday focus on the bond of marriage and yet even more fundamental to marriage is gender and gender complementarity (Masculinity/Femininity). (Women) What have you found to be the greatest blessing/difficulty of being a woman? (Men) What have you found to be the greatest blessing/difficulty of being a man?

YouTube Video: Bruce Jenner & the Transgender Question - Fr. Mike Schmitz (8:17) https://youtu.be/4-9_rxXFu9I

Reflection or Discussion Questions:

2. Did you find what Fr. Mike shares in his video to be judgmental and/or intolerant? Why or why not?
3. At one point Fr. Mike shares that, "We have no idea what it actually feels like to be the opposite sex all we have is gender stereotypes." What do you think about this?
4. Are there any gender stereotypes you think/feel are destructive to humans flourishing?
5. Are there any gender stereotypes you think/feel are helpful to humans flourishing?
6. Thinking from a biblical perspective, how does masculinity and femininity reveal something of the nature of God?
7. Fr. Mike says, "If my perception doesn't match up with reality, it's not reality that has to change; it's my perception of reality that has to change." What are your thoughts on this statement from Fr. Mike?
8. As Fr. Mike asks, "Who is the wounded/broken person in your life, God is calling you to love and 'walk with?'" What does/could "walking with" concretely look like?

Session Challenges: {Choose one or both}

- Reflection Question: Is there any area in my life where my perception doesn't match up with reality? Prayerfully ask/beg the Lord to open your heart and shift your perception to His.
- Reach out to or pray for that wounded person in your life that God is calling you to love and walk with.

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. Help us to remember that we were made, male and female, in Your image and likeness and always see ourselves and others as people fashioned with love from Your own hand. May we walk with those who are hurting and be agents who reveal Your love, truth, and healing power. We ask this through the power of Jesus Christ. Amen.

{Optional additional Readings} Sunday Reading 1: Gn 2:18-24; Sunday Reading 2: Heb 2:9-11