



Week Leading up to 10.10.21: We Don't Earn or Deserve Heaven

***{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: **Mk 10:17-30**

After the Reading Conclude with this prayer:

Heavenly Father, You have called us to a life of discipleship - a high call which demands super human strength and, therefore, demands our dependence on You. Grant us the humility to always acknowledge our utter nothingness without Your grace and love. Amen.

Reflection or Discussion Question:

1. Many people go to church because they “want to be a good person.” However, in the reading for today, the rich young man says he has followed the commandments and yet Jesus says, “You are lacking in one thing. Go, sell what you have... then COME, FOLLOW ME.” This means that our faith is about much more than simply being a “nice/good” person; it’s also tied directly to Jesus Himself. What do you think about this?

YouTube Video: How to Get to Heaven – Bishop Barron’s Sunday Sermon (13:45) <https://youtu.be/PqnxgwRrmv0>

Reflection or Discussion Questions:

2. Did Bishop Barron say anything in today’s video that you found particularly difficult to understand or digest?
3. Bishop Barron shares the Biblical tenet that Jesus Christ is the FULLNESS of salvation and God’s revealed truth. What do you think makes Christianity and specifically Catholicism FULL?
4. Are there any “participations” or “rays of light” that you have come to see and appreciate in other religions?
5. After listening to this talk by Bishop Barron and better understanding that Church teaching is about the centrality of Jesus Christ for salvation, what do you think is the most natural response? If we believe this teaching of the Bible and the Church, what should we do?
6. Bishop Barron speaks about how we put such a premium on being non-judgmental, inclusive, and allowing everyone to have a place around the table but hear some uncompromising words from the Gospel which can lead to a feeling of exclusivity. He suggests we let the difficulty of the text sink in. Is this something you struggle with? What are your feelings or thoughts about this?

Session Challenges: {Choose one or both}

- Prayerfully read the Gospel reading this week and consider what is the “one thing” that most holds you back from following Christ.
- Directly and prayerfully ask the Lord how He desires you to evangelize in your regular daily life. What would Christ really ask of you that makes sense and would be authentic and not off-putting to others?

Closing Prayer: (Leaders: We recommended offering time during the closing prayer for participants to offer personal intentions.) *Holy Spirit, we thank You for the gift of faith. Increase our faith. Give us the courage and humility to examine our commitment to You. Grant us the best words and actions to bring those around us closer to You. Amen.*

{Optional additional Readings} Sunday Reading 1: **Wis 7:7-11**; Sunday Reading 2: **Heb 4:12-13**

Additional Info: Vatican II Document - Lumen Gentium #16 (Referenced by Bishop Barron in the video)