



Week Leading up to 10.24.21: Why does Faith Save?

***(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 10:46-52**

After the Reading Conclude with this prayer:

Heavenly Father, just as You did for the blind man in today's reading; have pity on us. Help us to see. Help us to truly see with spiritual eyes of faith filled with love. Amen.

Reflection or Discussion Question:

1. In this Gospel reading Jesus says, "Go your way; your faith has saved you." Jesus could have said, "I have saved you." Or even, "The power of God has saved you." Why do you think it's important that Jesus said, "Your faith has saved you?"
2. Before we watch the video, take a moment to reflect on what faith is to you. Think about how you would define what faith is if someone asked you. There will be an opportunity to share your reflections after watching the video.

YouTube Video: Bishop Barron on What Faith Is and What Faith Isn't (11:01) https://youtu.be/m_4PSgFjtvI

Reflection or Discussion Questions:

3. Did your definition of faith change after watching the video? How so?
4. Bishop Barron begins by describing how modern people commonly misunderstand or characterize faith. Have you heard some of the same sentiments expressed from others? Why do you think others understand faith in this way?
5. Did you find Bishop Barron's analogy of coming to know another person and faith helpful/enlightening? Why or why not?
6. Bishop Barron affirms that Catholic tradition says authentic faith never sacrifices the intellect (reason). What do you think/feel about this? How does this concept tie into accepting God's will, especially when we don't understand it?
7. Bishop Barron says that faith is that moment of trust when we choose to believe in the God who speaks. Consider this definition in light of the Gospel today. Does this definition shed more or new light on the story? {NOTE FOR LEADERS: Faith from this Gospel story can also be considered the RESPONSE to the person and power of Jesus as God. So in a sense for God's grace and miracles to really work he demands our response in faith.}

Session Challenges: {Choose one or both}

- In the Gospel story Jesus asks the blind man, "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus is even now asking you that same question. What is your response?
- Pray daily for an increase in faith.

Closing Prayer: (Leaders: We recommended offering time during the closing prayer for participants to offer personal intentions.) *Lord, we desire to believe fully and completely in You. Allow our faith to grow and flourish, to be unreserved and strengthened even though we may not see You with our eyes. Penetrate our thoughts so that we may more clearly understand Your supreme Divinity and love for us. Gift us with a joyful faith that brings great gladness and peace to our souls. Create in us a spirit disposed for prayer that yearns to hear Your whispers and have holy conversations with others. Lord, let our faith be a solid anchor to our whole being so that we become Your beacon to those around us. We ask all this in Jesus' name. Amen.*

{Optional additional Readings} Sunday Reading 1: **Jer 31:7-9**; Sunday Reading 2: **Heb 5:1-6**