



Year A – Week 5: Meditation: The Battle for Life

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

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: **Jn 11:1-45**

After the Reading Conclude with this prayer:

Dear Jesus, we cannot comprehend Your love. We know that You are all good and wish all good things for us. May we rise to new heights with You this Lent by submitting to You fully in all areas of our lives. In Your Holy name. Amen.

Reflection or Discussion Question:

1. In this weekend's Gospel, Jesus shows us by His miracles and gestures His hatred for evil and sorrow for death. What do you find most compelling about this Gospel story?

YouTube Video: When the Battle Gets Tough: Fifth Week of Lent with Fr. Toups (8:05 min) -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FbIS476dZYk>

Reflection or Discussion Questions:

2. What did you think about the story Fr. Toups shared about burning the ships?
3. A fight or battle can cause us to flee or turn to sin. Have you experienced this? How did you respond?
4. In what ways do you escape your commitment to Christ? What things do you turn to in times of temptation?
5. Do you view Lent as a small window of time in which to sacrifice? What could help you to view Lent as a steppingstone to continual change?
6. Do you feel ready for the battle?

Session Challenges: {Choose one or both}

- What is preventing you from an unbridled relationship with Jesus Christ. Consider these questions in prayer this week: What ships in your life need to be burnt? How are these ships impacting your life and others? What's stopping you from asking God for everything? What are you going to do about it?
- In response to evil and sin, perform one loving act each day

Closing Prayer: (Leaders: We recommended offering time during the closing prayer for participants to offer personal intentions.)

Dear Jesus, You know how we struggle and You know the battles we are facing. Give us the determination and grace we need to burn the ships in our lives - to remove the temptations that keep us from an unbridled relationship with You. It is only through You that we can succeed. May this Lenten journey cause us to become the saints You call us to be. In Your Mighty name, Amen.

{Optional additional Readings} Sunday Reading 1: **Ez 37: 12-14**; Sunday Reading 2: **Rom 8: 8-11**