



Year A – 26th Sunday of Ordinary Time: **Belief Tied to Action**

(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: **MT 21:28-32** - <https://bible.usccb.org/> - 10/1/2023, 9/27/2026, 9/30/2029

After the reading, conclude with this prayer:

Heavenly Father, give me the grace and strength to put Your words and ideas into action. May my belief and faith in You drive my daily actions and worldview. May I see as You see, hear as You hear, act as You desire and love as You love. Amen.

Reflection Question from the Gospel Story:

1. What does this Gospel story mean to you?

YouTube Video: Bishop Barron on Why What You Believe Matters (9:23 min) - <https://youtu.be/carFbpDsRPI>

Reflection or Discussion Questions:

2. Did anything Bishop Barron say in this video stand out or resonate with you?
3. Bishop Barron describes how actions begin from ideas/beliefs and therefore what you believe deeply matters for right actions to take place. Have you considered this before?
4. Do you believe there is a wedge in our society between theological doctrine-based beliefs and actions? Do you have any examples to share?
5. Can you think of an example when your Christian/Catholic belief concretely drove your action even when it went against your comfort? Please share.
6. After listening to this video do you think/feel it's important to know the dogmas of the Church? Do you think/feel that having a set of doctrines makes it easier or harder to make decisions to guide your actions? Why or why not?
7. Bishop Barron shared how Love is a participation in God's way of being. How would you go about defining love if there is no God?

Session Challenges: (Choose one or both)

- Read over the infallible teachings of the Catholic Church (Dogmas):
<http://www.catholicapologetics.info/thechurch/councils/summary.htm>
- Pick one of the infallible teachings from the list above and discuss with someone before your next meeting.

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

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You for Your Church. Increase our belief, faith, and understanding of You and Your Church. We know that our understanding of what love is comes from You. Continue to shower us with Your grace so we can respond to Your love by living according to Your plan. Amen

{Optional additional Readings} Sunday Reading 1: **Ez 18:25-28** Sunday Reading 2: **Phil 2:1-11** or **Phil 2:1-5**