

DISCIPLE



A SIX WEEK COURSE EXPLORING

COMMUNITY GROUPS

TWO: Repent and Believe

[How We Respond]

HOST
SHEET

This session builds upon the first one. Jesus died and rose for us; this is how we respond to him. The goal is discipleship, not just belief, what Scripture calls “the obedience of faith.” Such a faith is marked by a total and ongoing dedication to Jesus Christ. We are pilgrims on a journey, always in need of grace, of repentance and more faith. Many of us really don’t know what repentance means so we will use the figure of St Peter and his two conversions to lead us deeper into becoming Followers of the Way. St. Ambrose says there are two conversions in the Church: the water and the tears. The first conversion is through the waters of baptism. The second conversion is the tears of repentance.

We read the Call of St. Peter, how he repented at our Lord’s feet and first began following him:

And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.” -Luke 5:7-8

Then we look at the midnight trial of Christ where St. Peter denies him three times then, when he sees Christ looking at him, runs out and repents through bitter tears.

And immediately, while he was still speaking, the cock crowed. And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, “Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times.” And he went out and wept bitterly. -Luke 22: 60-62

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Bring your Bible to this session. You will need to read Luke 5:1-11 and two parts from 1 John
- Print out for each member ahead of time the PRAYER FOR ACCEPTING CHRIST

Talking Points: The Catechism on Interior Penance

Repentance is first an inward conversion of heart before it is anything external, like ashes, fasting, and other mortifications.

Repentance is a “radical reorienting of our whole life” both returning to God and a repugnance towards the evil we have done. It is experiencing spiritual affliction at neglecting God’s grace and a desire and resolution to cooperate with it.

Repentance is a return to the life of the community as well as with God, so it has a social dimension as well as an interior dimension. So there is the Sacrament of Forgiveness, or Confession, as well as the authority of the bishop and his priests to forgive sins in the name of Christ.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

TWO: Repent and Believe

[How We Respond]

session
sheet

Introduction- 20 minutes

- Welcome guests as they enter your home, greeting them with a smile
- Serve drinks (and/or food) at this time
- FELLOWSHIP QUESTION: We prayed for your specific intention throughout the week. How did it go? How did you see Christ in your week?

Talk – 15 minutes

Host reads Luke 5: 1-11, *The Call of the First Disciples*

Turn on the Video: *Repent and Believe* [How We Respond]

Discussion – 45 minutes

1. Have you ever experienced something like a call from God? Are you living that call?
2. Do you agree with Michael's statement that Catholics are often not taught how to truly repent, but only how to go to Confession? Explain why or why not?
3. What are your thoughts regarding the Sacrament of Confession? Does it make you nervous, joyful, or do you just want to get it over with? Or do you avoid it altogether?
4. Repentance is both interior and exterior. How often do you bring together those two in your life? (almsgiving, fasting, and prayer with deep sorrow and reorientation of your life)?
5. Peter needed to "drop his nets" so that he could follow the Lord. What do you need to drop in order to follow Christ?

COMMUNITY GROUPS

DISCIPLE

Hand
out

A life centered on the Gospel

1 JOHN 1:5-10 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not live according to the truth; but if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

PRAYER OF

Lord God,

I have sinned against you, rejecting your Fatherly love. I am sorry and ask you now to forgive my sins. Lord Jesus, I love you and want to love you more. Thank you, Jesus, for dying on the cross for me. I accept you as my Lord of my life and the Savior of my soul.

Please give me the grace to faithfully accept all of your teachings. I submit my life completely to you, Lord. I promise to do my best to avoid sin and to follow you each day with the help of your grace.

1 JOHN 2:1-6 My little children, I am writing this to you so that you may not sin; but if any one does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the expiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. And by this we may be sure that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He who says "I know him" but disobeys his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him; but whoever keeps his word, in him truly love for God is perfected. By this we may be sure that we are in him: he who says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.