

“Living Your Discipleship” Small Group Facilitator Aide

Week 2: Witness and Neighbor – Week of October 16th

Pre-work:

- **Read** Chapters 4 and 5 (Witness & Neighbor) in “Living Your Discipleship”
- **Watch** Mary Margaret & Ken and Jane’s videos (all videos available at www.lives-explored.com)
 - **Witness:** Mary Margaret and Ken share their story of keeping faith throughout their journey through Alzheimer’s in order to help others who face this difficult diagnosis. When Ken was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s, his wife Mary Margaret struggled to pray—until a doctor helped her trust God again. Learn how this couple found a new calling to help others.
 - Mary Margaret & Ken’s video (watch time 8:43) - <https://youtu.be/CiCRiTHa6Ao>
 - **Neighbor:** Jane remembers God’s promise to send her the people she needs as she considers a new calling to serve neighbors outside her comfort zone. Jane had just gotten her biggest break as a Hollywood actor. But when she walked onto Sunset Boulevard, she felt empty. See what happened when Jane made a surprising career change.
 - Jane’s video (watch time 7:01) - <https://youtu.be/TTkxowfKlrs>

TOPIC	TIME
OPEN & CHECK-IN	5 MINUTES
<p>Open with something like, <i>“As we gather together, I am going to...(light a candle, ring chime or bowl, etc.) as a way to mark the beginning of our time together and to call our presence to this moment, to this room and with each other.”</i></p> <p>Check in. <i>“I invite us to each take one minute to tell the group (share one word/one sentence) about “How do you come tonight?”</i></p>	
PRAYER	10 MINUTES
<p>Begin with a prayer of lectio divina using one of the scripture passages from the beginning of the week’s chapters</p> <p>Witness scripture reading (pg.33) – Luke 24: 36-49 Neighbor scripture reading (pg.45) – Luke 14: 12-14</p> <p><u>Lectio Divina Instructions:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Find a quiet place for your reflection. <i>Begin in prayer: Lord, open my heart to reflect on your call in my life and for your world. Amen.</i> 2. Read the Scripture passage aloud. Spend a few moments in silence reflecting on the passage. <i>What word or phrase strikes you? Hold that word or phrase in your mind as you spend a few moments in quiet reflection.</i> 3. Read the Scripture passage aloud a second time, holding in mind the word or phrase that struck you when you first read it. <i>What might God be saying to you through this word or phrase? Spend a few moments in quiet reflection.</i> 	

4. Read the Scripture passage aloud a third and final time.

How might God be calling you to act through the word or phrase that first struck you? How might you respond to this call?

5. Sit with the Scripture passage for another minute in quiet reflection and thanksgiving.

Close with a final prayer: *Lord, open my heart to reflect on your call in my life and for your world. Amen*

REFLECTING

50 MINUTES

- Start with a brief summary of the chapter's main points to review what participants read in preparation
- Show a brief clip of each of the videos for the week
 - **Witness video** – *Recommended segment: 4:29-5:33*
 - **Neighbor video** – *Recommended segment: 4:32-6:28*
- Discuss reflection questions. You may not have enough time to cover all questions but these should offer enough prompts to get participants thinking and sharing about how they live this aspect of discipleship.

Witness Reflection Questions (pg. 43):

1. How can you be a witness about God's calling in your life?
2. How do you need to embrace both the doubt and the joy that are part of the faith?
3. What truth can you tell others about what God has done in your life and is doing now?
4. In the context of Guardian Angels – how can you invite others to tell their stories?
5. Recall your confirmation: what sense of calling did the sacrament have for you?
6. Optional – sing the song "Christ Be Our Light", or review the lyrics; How might you be a radiant witness of the light of Christ?

Neighbor Reflection Questions (pg. 55):

1. Picture the first person who comes to mind when you hear the word "neighbor." Why did you pick this person? How have they influenced the way you think about being a neighbor? Now picture someone who comes to mind when you hear the word "enemy." Why did you pick this person? How might God be calling you to show love toward an enemy?
2. When was the last time you stepped out of your comfort zone – at work, home, school, or in the wider community? How did this experience feel? What did you learn?
3. When have you acted as a neighbor to someone who lives near you? A stranger? To someone whom you struggle to love?

4. Call to action –

- Next time you are at Mass, pay close attention to the Prayers of the Faithful. Which petition can you carry with you for the next week to practice being a neighbor through your prayer?
- Read the U.S. bishops' pastoral letter on immigration, "Welcoming the Stranger Among Us: Unity in Diversity" (available at <https://www.usccb.org/committees/pastoral-care-migrants-refugees-travelers/welcoming-stranger-among-us-unity-diversity>)
- What part can you play to welcome immigrants from other countries into your community?

SENDING FORTH

15 MINUTES

- Ask participants where they might be called to live out the aspects of Follower and Worshiper in the next week
- Offer each person to name how they plan to focus on this feature of discipleship – whether through concrete action, change in attitude, or a commitment to prayer

BLESSING

Closing Prayer:

*May God bless you with ears to listen to the still, small voice
May you have strength to follow Christ's call to be his disciple
May you discern the Spirit's bountiful gifts showered upon you
And may you live a life of service for others, in joy and gratitude*