

“Living Your Discipleship” Small Group Facilitator Aide

Week 3: Forgiver and Prophet – Week of October 23rd

Pre-work:

- **Read** Chapters 6 and 7 (Forgiver and Prophet) in “Living Your Discipleship”
- **Watch** Joyce and Adam’s videos (all videos available at www.lives-explored.com)
 - **Forgiver:** Joyce describes her journey to self-forgiveness in moving beyond negative voices from her past and embracing the confidence of a new calling. After domestic abuse and divorce, Joyce felt called by God from chaos to a new vocation. See how this surprising twist allowed her to serve others.
 - Joyce’s video (watch time 6:35) - <https://youtu.be/OL3BjOSeBa8>
 - **Prophet:** Adam speaks about his passion for helping teens create powerful plays about provocative social issues. Adam didn’t like the way he was treated as a teenager. Watch how his work in theatre and therapy with teens challenges stereotypes today.
 - Adam’s video (watch time 5:50) - <https://youtu.be/N6Si8pIn96U>

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>Forgiver scripture reading (pg.57-58) – Luke 7: 36-50 Prophet scripture reading (pg.69) – Matthew 21: 10-14</p> <p>Lectio Divina Instructions:</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. <i>How might God be calling you to act through the word or phrase that first struck you? How might you respond to this call?</i> 	

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
 - **Forgiver video** – *Recommended segment: 4:50-5:56*
 - **Prophet video** – *Recommended segment: 4:06-5:49*
- 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.

Forgiver Reflection Questions (pg. 67-68):

1. The first line of the song "Hosea" is "Come back to me, with all your heart. Don't let fear keep us apart." What is the fear that keeps you from forgiving another or asking God for forgiveness?
2. How are you called to be a forgiver? Whom do you need to forgive? How might telling that story help you find some peace?
3. To whom do you need to say you are sorry? What can give you the courage to tell the truth about your sorrow and desire for forgiveness?
4. In addition to the sacrament of reconciliation, how can you seek God's gracious love to forgive all your sins so that you can be a person of great love and know Christ's peace?
5. What are some small steps to practice forgiveness? How might you celebrate anniversaries, birthdays, or other holidays by incorporating practices of forgiveness?

Prophet Reflection Questions (pg. 79):

1. Have you ever spoken up for what you believe or taken action in support of a belief or cause that was close to your heart? How did it feel to act prophetically?
2. Who are examples of prophetic people who inspire you – either from your own life or famous figures? Do you know any young people who are prophetic? Any elders who are unafraid to speak the truth?
3. Who is a source of comfort and encouragement to you in your parish community? Have you encouraged others in their prophetic efforts as Christians?
4. Think of the refrain to the popular hymn "Here I Am, Lord." Where have you heard God calling you? Where might God be speaking through your life? Where do you feel stirring or restlessness that might suggest God is leading you somewhere new?

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*

