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**Session Three | Joyful Invitation**

**Session Three Group Introduction**

* Take a moment to introduce yourself to the group again.
* What was it like for you to talk with someone you didn’t know at Mass this weekend?

**Session Three Video Content**

* Reference the “Thresholds of Conversion” image and the various descriptions below.

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**Thresholds of Conversion Descriptions\***

* **Non-believing, Non-trusting**
  + *Can look like*: “I don’t believe in God. I don’t trust what the Church says about God”
  + *How to help people here cross the next threshold*: Pray for them. Love them. Be a good friend who happens to be Catholic.
* **Initial Trust**
  + *Can look like*: “I’ve had a few positive experiences with the Church, a Catholic or a Christian, but I’m not sure I believe what they say about God”
  + *How to help people here cross the next threshold:* Continuepraying for them and being a loving friend. Let God use your life as bait. Love and live in a way that awakens their curiosity. When appropriate, share stories of how God has acted in your life.
* **Spiritual Curiosity**
  + *Can look like:* “Why do you do that Catholic thing you do? Why do you believe \_\_\_? Could it be possible that God loves me and wants me to know Him like you seem to know Him? I’m not really open to changing, but I am interested in your experience.”
  + *How to help people here cross the next threshold:* Continue praying, being a loving friend, and sharing stories. Answer their questions simply (don’t drown a teaspoon of curiosity with a gallon of answers). If you don’t know answers, find them. Do not assume their questions mean they’re seeking and do not push them. When appropriate, invite them to “come and see” your faith, community, service, prayer, etc.
* **Spiritual Openness**
  + *Can look like:* “If you’re out there God, show me. If you want to have a relationship with me, I’m here, I’m open to it.”
  + *How to help people here cross the next threshold:* Continue praying, being a loving friend, sharing stories, answering questions, and inviting them to “come and see.” Affirm their openness and invite them to “come closer” to God. Gently help them to understand that if they want to know God, they need to actively look for Him and His answers to their questions.
* **Spiritual Seeking**
  + *Can look like:* “I want to get to know God if I can. I’m looking for God and His answers to my life questions. How do I pray? How do I get to know God?”
  + *How to help people here cross the next threshold:* Continue praying, being a loving friend, sharing stories, answering questions, inviting them to “come and see” and “come closer.” Help them to understand the gospel message, wrestle with personal sin, find God’s healing for wounds, and choose to have faith and follow Jesus. Encourage them to enter RCIA if not Catholic or make a good confession to return to their Catholic faith.
* **Intentional Discipleship**
  + *Can look like:* “I’m all in. I believe Jesus is with me and I choose to follow Him in His Church. I’m willing to drop things which separate me from Him and I want to grow in relationship with Him, live my purpose, and take up my part in God’s mission.”
  + *How to help people here continue growing as a disciple (because there’s always more): Continue* praying, being a loving friend, sharing stories, answering questions, inviting them to “come and see,” “come closer,” wrestle with personal sin, find healing, and choose to live their faith. Accompany them as they learn and live the anatomy of a Catholic Disciple.

**Listening Evangelism: Having Threshold Conversations\***

1. Do you believe in God? or Where is God for you in that? or What has been your experience of God?

2. What kind of God do you believe in? (Personal or impersonal)

3. Do you believe in the possibility of a relationship with this God?

4. Do you have a relationship with this God? What kind of relationship?

5. Are you a part of a religious tradition? Which tradition? Are you Christian?

6. Do you have a positive association with Jesus or the Faith?

7. Do you have a relationship with Jesus Christ? Do you pray? How do you pray?

8. Is your faith something that causes you to change how you live your life?

9. If you could ask God one question and know the answer, what would it be?

*\*Adapted from Forming Intentional Disciples by Sherry Weddell*

**Group Discussion**

* What did you find helpful about the practical content given in this session?
* What did you find challenging for you to implement?
* Take a moment to reflect on the following scripture passage:
  + “Now Peter and John were going up to the temple area for the three o’clock hour of prayer. And a man crippled from birth was carried and placed at the gate of the temple called “the Beautiful Gate” every day to beg for alms from the people who entered the temple. When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked for alms. But Peter looked intently at him, as did John, and said, “Look at us.” He paid attention to them, expecting to receive something from them. Peter said, “I have neither silver nor gold, but what I do have I give you: in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazorean, [rise and] walk.” Then Peter took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles grew strong. He leaped up, stood, and walked around, and went into the temple with them, walking and jumping and praising God. When all the people saw him walking and praising God, they recognized him as the one who used to sit begging at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, and they were filled with amazement and astonishment at what had happened to him.” – Acts of the Apostles 3:1-10
* Identify and share one moment in your life that was a “threshold crossing” moment?
* What would have helped you to step over your next threshold?
* What do you love about your parish?
* Why do you go to Mass? Was there a moment in your life that you chose to make Mass attendance a priority in your life?

**Pair Share**

* Turn to the person next to you and discuss (different than last session):
* How has One Percent Prayer been for you this week?
* Share about one person who is really on your heart who hasn’t come back to Mass or engaged with their faith.
* What did you find helpful and/or challenging about this session?

**Application Activity: Invitation Brainstorming (See Grid Below)**

* Take a few minutes to brainstorm a list of 15-20 people you could personally invite to Mass.
* What threshold does it seem that they might be in?
* How might you be able to invite them this week?

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| **WHO** | **THRESHOLD** | **STUMBLING BLOCK** | **HOW TO INVITE** |
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