

**Small Group Study For**  
*Go Make Disciples: Building a Culture  
of Conversion and Discipleship for the  
Archdiocese of Oklahoma City*



**PARTICIPANT  
GUIDE**



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## DIG IN

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### Small Group Discussion

*Who has been on a long journey, or a pilgrimage? Can you share some stories about your trip with the rest of the group?*

*How can you relate some of the details of this journey or pilgrimage to your own life?*



## PLANT SEEDS

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### READ:

- *“I call you to be disciples and go make disciples! This is why we are here! This is our mission.” – pg. 6*
- *“The deepest desire of my heart is to see the Church of central and western Oklahoma flourish as a community of faith that nurtures and raises up fervent missionary disciples. Our task is to prepare good soil to receive the seed of faith.” – pg. 8*
- *“Missionary discipleship is the fruit of good soil. If the goal throughout our archdiocese is to make more disciples, then we must address these kinds of obstacles, and do all we can to prepare good soil in our hearts.” – pg. 15*
- *“Till the soil of your heart, be generous in your response to Christ. Say ‘yes’ to him and embrace the call to holiness. Be a disciple and accept his challenge to go and make more disciples!” – pg. 21*

### SAY:

*The driving theme, the “golden thread” you could say, of the whole Pastoral Letter is this: Be Disciples Yourself, Go Make more Disciples of others!*

### PRAY:

*Lord Jesus, we pray that you would help our hearts to be open to the power of these words, and give us the grace of your Holy Spirit to respond generously to all that you are asking of us through our shepherd.*



## SINK ROOTS

### Good Soil

Type of Soil	Internal Condition	External Condition	Group of People Represented
Hard Path			
Rocky Soil			
Thorny Soil			
Good Soil			

### Discussion Questions:

- 1) Can I relate to any of these various types of soil from my own experience, past or present? How?
- 2) How might God be convicting me about what needs to change in my heart?





**LIVE IT**

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### **Tilling Good Soil**

<b>What God provides</b>	
<b>Ways we can respond</b>	



## TAKE IT TO PRAYER

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*Then the disciples came and asked him, “Why do you speak to them in parables?” He answered, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. For to those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. The reason I speak to them in parables is that ‘seeing they do not perceive, and hearing they do not listen, nor do they understand.’ . . . But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. Truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it.” Matthew 13:10-17*

### REFLECTION:

*As we imagine ourselves sitting with Jesus, and hearing his words to our question, what stirs in your heart? How does it feel to be in this inner circle with our Lord? Stay close to the Lord, sitting in his presence and soaking in this moment.*



### CLOSING PRAYER

*Let’s close our time together by praying the prayer that Jesus taught us, His friends, to pray:*

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be Thy Name  
Thy kingdom come.  
Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
Amen.



## Additional Prayer Experiences

1. Take a prayer hike outdoors, where you will be surrounded by things that are growing, living. Invite the Lord to walk with you and speak into your heart about how he is desiring you to grow and be more alive. Let the content of this study be in the backdrop as you take this time to pray. Talk with Jesus about all you learned, and what ways you feel called to respond to what he has taught you.
2. One of the times the Parable of the Sower appears in the Mass readings schedule, it is coupled with Isaiah 55 as the Old Testament reading. Take time to prayerfully read Isaiah 55:10-13.

Questions to prayerfully reflect on: This message from Isaiah gives us great hope. God's word, which we can also think of as the "seed of faith" from all we have heard from the Parable of the Sower, never goes forth and returns empty, or void. "It shall accomplish that which I purpose, and prosper in the thing for which I sent it."

3. How have I seen the seed of faith (God's word) bear fruit in my life over time? How has that seed of faith had effect despite the condition of the soil of my heart? What kind of hope does this give me for other areas in my life?
4. There is a good article on the Parable of the Sower on Aleteia.org. The link to the article is: <https://aleteia.org/2017/07/15/how-the-parable-of-the-sower-can-change-your-life/>
5. Take time to prayerfully read the article and meditate on the questions at the end of the article:
  - How does reading the Parable of the Sower as a call to conversion challenge you?
  - What are signs that the Word of God has taken root and is growing inside a person?
  - How is the Word of God "alive and active" in the Church? In you?



6. Pope Francis developed a beautiful prayer for Young people and Vocations. Take time this week to very intentionally join your prayers to those of the Holy Father and pray for young people. Make your prayer specific and personal if possible and pray for the young people in your own parish community, offering this prayer up for them:

LORD OF THE HARVEST,

BLESS young people with the gift of courage to respond to your call. Open their hearts to great ideals, to great things.

INSPIRE all of your disciples to mutual love and giving—for vocations blossom in the good soil of faithful people.

INSTILL those in religious life, parish ministries, and families with the confidence and grace to invite others to embrace the bold and noble path of a life consecrated to you.

UNITE us to Jesus through prayer and sacrament, so that we may cooperate with you in building your reign of mercy and truth, of justice and peace.

AMEN.



## BEAR FRUIT

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1. Go (whether alone or with your family, or with a group of friends) to serve in some way: Catholic Charities, a food pantry, a soup kitchen, Meals on Wheels, Sister BJ's Pantry, etc. The Archbishop speaks in several places in his letter about how these kinds of corporal works of mercy are signs of the fruitfulness of discipleship.
2. Go serve another person or family in some way – make them a meal, help them with some project, show a random act of kindness, etc. Little ways of showing love to others and serving their needs can be a powerful expression of discipleship in action.
3. Join a Bible study or Discipleship Group. Many parishes throughout the Archdiocese have Discipleship Groups running. If your Parish has a ministry like this, consider joining one for a period of time and growing even more in your faith life. There are also deeper and longer studies that have been developed on the Archbishop's new Pastoral Letter. You might be interested in digging even deeper than this one-session study was able to. Check out the additional study guide resources online, at [ArchOKC.org/2030](http://ArchOKC.org/2030).
4. Get involved in some way at your parish: volunteer with some ministry, help out with Confirmation or Youth Ministry, volunteer to be an RCIA sponsor, volunteer to help with Baptism Prep ministry, etc. Most parishes have multitudes of options for how you could get involved. Check out what is needed at your parish.



## GLOSSARY

**ACCOMPANIMENT** – The act of spiritually walking alongside another on a faith journey based on genuine care and concern for that person.

**ACCOMPANY** – From the letter: “...as missionary disciples, we are called to love and accept all people in a way that invites each person to a deeper relationship with Christ and a greater alignment of their lives with his teachings.” LMD

**COMMUNITY** – From the letter: “...relationship with everyone else who is in relationship with him (Jesus)...the Church...brought together by the unique work of the Holy Spirit.

**CONVERSION** – A spiritual turning away from sin in repentance and to Christ in faith. Conversion is the change of our lives that comes about through the power of the Holy Spirit. All who accept the Gospel undergo change as we continually put on the mind of Christ by rejecting

**DISCIPLE** – The term originally means a pupil (of a teacher) or an apprentice (to a master craftsman). It is the name given in the New Testament to all those men and women who followed Christ and were taught by him, and who helped spread the Gospel. Contemporary members of the Church, as followers of Jesus, are also referred to as disciples. A disciple of Jesus enters a life-long learning process to live the same life as Jesus lived.

**ENCOUNTER** – A meeting with the person of Jesus Christ that involves a perceptible experience of his love, peace, truth, beauty, goodness, and or power, in such a way that it transforms a person's life, giving it a new horizon and a decisive direction. Encounters are marked by joy, conversion, and evangelistic zeal. They come about through the Sacraments, prayer, the witness of Christians and sovereign acts of God.



**EVANGELIZATION** – The ministry and mission of proclaiming and witnessing Christ and his Gospel with the intention of deepening the faith of believers and inviting others to be baptized and initiated into the Church. It is bringing the Good News of Jesus into every human situation and seeking to convert individuals and society by the divine power of the Gospel itself.

**GRACE** – From the letter: “Grace is literally “God’s life” at work within us, sanctifying us and healing us, perfecting us and elevating us to participate in God’s divine life. This grace is given to us first at our baptism, and it is the same grace we receive every time we receive any of the Sacraments from the Church.”

**HOLINESS** – A state of goodness in which a person, with the help of God’s grace – the action of the Holy Spirit, and a life of prayer – is freed from sin and evil. Such a person, when gifted with holiness, must still resist temptation, repent of sins that may be committed, and realize that remaining holy is a lifelong journey with many spiritual and moral challenges.

**MISSIONARY** – A person who responds to the baptismal call to share their gifts in faith to build up the Body of Christ and to make the name of Jesus known and loved in our time.

**PASCHAL MYSTERY** – Christ’s Passion, Death, and Resurrection as one, inseparable event. It is paschal because it is Christ’s passing into death and passing over into new life. It is a mystery, because it is a visible sign of an invisible act of God.

**SEND** – The divine call to actively participate in building the Kingdom of God.

**SIN** – From the letter: “Sin is an offense against reason, truth and right conscience; it is failure in genuine love for God and neighbor caused by a perverse attachment to certain goods. It wounds the nature of man and injures human solidarity.” (CCC 1849-1850)