

The Call to Discipleship

(Worksheet for Sponsor & Student)

Goals:

- To help the candidate realize that by their Baptism they have been called as members of the Christian community.
- To help them understand their call to be Disciples of Christ.

Rational:

A CALL is an INVITATION. A call and/or invitation requires a response. At times we find excuses of obstacles to our Christian response.

Outline of Session:

1. Read the reading portion out loud with the candidate
2. Complete "Activity I – Discussion".
3. Complete Activity II- The Beatitudes

Summary:

A summary page is given for you to fill out and return to Purpose night on December 8th.

Reading :

- When we hear the word disciple the first things that come to mind are likely the names of the twelve disciples of Jesus, and on a broader level, any person who follows Jesus. We may think of someone from many years ago who has a halo, or someone who is holy right now. We may even think of ourselves as disciples.
- A **disciple** is any person who accepts the call of Jesus to follow Him.
- Jesus calls all of us to be His disciples. It doesn't matter who we are, where we have been, what we have done, or how "holy" we perceive ourselves to be. Christ calls everyone to follow Him – when he was preaching he called tax collectors, sinners, prostitutes, Pharisees, rich and poor.
- If you think that you still don't fit the description, consider the call of Peter, James, and John:
 - Read the excerpt Luke 5:1-11 or the candidate read it.
- Peter, the man who would become the first Pope, is so convinced of his unworthiness and sinfulness that he begs the Lord to leave him behind. Jesus calls him anyway.
- James and John are young, probably no older than 14; Jesus doesn't ask about age –He calls them anyway.
- He called those disciples while they were fishing on a boat, so, how does Jesus call us?
- Think about a phone call. Once our phone starts ringing, we have two choices – answer or ignore. We cannot choose whether or not we want to initiate the contact though – that has already been done. Someone has decided to call us first, we can only respond.
- This was true for the early disciples. Jesus said they didn't "choose Christ," because he chose them first. They could only respond.
- The first time Christ called you might have been a lot like this old phone. You may not have known that it was Him who called, but you answered and as you talked you realized that you needed to be a disciple.
- Christ calls and challenges us continually. We are called to a different standard than what the world sets, and we are called to share our faith in Christ with others.
- Jesus calls us to be recognized as disciples by our love for God and our love for one another, especially our love for our enemies.
- Jesus reminds us that if we want to be disciples, we need to take up our own cross, and die to ourselves and to our sins continually.
- These commandments were not part of the initial call of the disciples. They happened after they left everything they had to follow Christ.
- Christ is still calling us today. But now we know who is calling – and again, we have a choice to respond or ignore.
- What happens when you feel that divine phone start to ring? Do you hit ignore, and say you will respond later? Do you silence it and pretend it never rang? Do you answer?

ACTIVITY I: Discussion

- Have you felt the call to follow Christ? If so what were the circumstances and what was your answer? Describe the experience.

- Where do you struggle to live as a disciple? Are there places or times that you ignore the call to holiness?

- Why are the sacraments and prayer so important to growing closer to Christ as a disciple? How can you grow in these areas?

- Do you feel Christ is calling you to be a leader for your faith? What do you need to do to live that calling?

Activity II- The Beatitudes

Directions- The beatitudes are teachings of Christ that teach us how to live as a Christian disciple. They stand in contrast with what the world defines as “happiness,” and reveal a path towards true joy and blessedness. Living out the beatitudes is challenging, but not impossible, because with God’s grace all things are possible.

Read each beatitude and answer the two Questions after it.

1. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 5: 3)

- a. In your life right now are you practicing this Beatitude?
How?
- b. How can we practically live his Beatitude every day?

2. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted (Matthew 5:4)

- a. In your life right now are you practicing this Beatitude?
How?
- b. How can we practically live his Beatitude every day?

3. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land (Matthew 5.5)

- a. In your life right now are you practicing this Beatitude?
How?
- b. How can we practically live his Beatitude every day?

4. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied (Matthew 5:6)

- a. In your life right now are you practicing this Beatitude?
How?
- b. How can we practically live his Beatitude every day?

5. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy (Matthew 5:7)

- a. In your life right now are you practicing this Beatitude?
How?
- b. How can we practically live his Beatitude every day?

6. Blessed are the pure of heart, for they will see God (Matthew 5:8)

- a. In your life right now are you practicing this Beatitude?
How?
- b. How can we practically live his Beatitude every day?

7. Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called Children of God (Matthew 5:9)

- a. In your life right now are you practicing this Beatitude?
How?
- b. How can we practically live his Beatitude every day?

8. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 5:10)

- a. In your life right now are you practicing this Beatitude?
How?
- b. How can we practically live his Beatitude every day?

SUMMARY SHEET NO. 1 – CHRISTIAN CALL AND OBSTACLES TO FOLLOW THE CALL

Name of Candidate: _____

Name of Sponsor: _____ Date of Session: _____

- 1. Jot down your impressions of your candidate's present state of faith development in relation to this topic. (How does candidate see what a call is, their own obstacles.)**

- 2. In your discussion and sharing on the topic, how was the information received from you by the candidate?**

- 3. How does the candidate see their Christian call?**

- 4. What is your overall impression of the candidate in their seriousness for the Sacrament of Confirmation:**

- 5. Your personal thoughts and suggestions on how you were able to present this session.**
