SESSION ONE: MEETING THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 14th

Jesus focus: Jesus as Obedient Servant


NOTES FOR HOST – thank you for your part in this ministry!

* Prepare a comfortable meeting space – ideally a circle of chairs. Place a small table in the center with a candle & matches, a cross or crucifix, and a Bible.

* Set out light refreshments, and name tags if necessary.

* Welcome people as they enter and help with any introductions.

NOTES FOR FACILITATOR – thank you for your part in this ministry!

BEFORE THE SESSION:

• See the TIPS FOR FACILITATORS presentation on www.stannavon.org.

• Before you meet, look over this discussion guide so you’re familiar with the plan.

• Have an answer of your own prepared for each question, in case you need to get the conversation off the ground.

• YOU WILL NOT GET TO ALL THE QUESTIONS – that’s okay! Choose from among them, according to how the Spirit moves you.

• Pray that the Holy Spirit will enable you in your role. Pray for your group, that they will be open to sharing their thoughts and growing in faith. Know that the program coordinators are praying for you all!

• If any questions arise during your session that you can’t answer, please bring them to Ann DiStefano (ames.distefano@gmail.com, (860) 463-7495) or to one of our priests ordeacons.

DURING THE SESSION:

* Spend the first 15 minutes socializing and enjoying refreshments.

* Gather everyone into the meeting space

* Pass out discussion guides.
* Light the candle: *Jesus promised that wherever two or more are gathered in his name, he is present in a special way. As we light this candle, we quiet ourselves and welcome Jesus, the Light of the World.*

* Invite all to make the Sign of the Cross as you lead the opening prayer:

**OPENING PRAYER**

*(In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, AMEN.) Lord Jesus, thank you for enabling us to gather together to learn more about you and your place in our lives. Send your Spirit to guide our conversation today, that we may grow together as a community of individuals created and loved by God our Father.*

* Ask if anyone has an intention – something or someone they want to pray about. If there are none, offer your own brief intention (to model for next time) and conclude the prayer:

_We ask these things, and those that we keep in the silence of our hearts, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, AMEN._

**HOUSEKEEPING**

- Explain the format
  - Meet weekly – 90 minutes
  - Rotate hosting (if applicable)

- Go over ground rules
  - Speak if/when you’re comfortable.
  - What is shared stays in the room, unless other permission is granted.
  - No judgment of other’s comments – we all have individual faith journeys and we’re all here to grow.
  - It’s okay to have questions – that’s how we more fully embrace faith as our own.
  - Try to stay on topic – save tangents for ‘the parking lot.’ 😊

**GETTING TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER**

* Ask people to make a fuller introduction – their family, their work, how long they’ve been in the parish, where they might be involved in parish life, whether they’ve been in a Small Group or Bible Study before.

* Pose this question: As you begin this book, what are your expectations? What do you hope to learn or explore about Jesus?
ICEBREAKER – Open Our Hands

Each week in the Rediscover Jesus Program, we will ask God to help us open ourselves – mind, body and spirit – to become more like Jesus. There will be a different focus each week. (Clues can be found in the Sunday Mass and on the display board in the Gathering Space!) This week, the focus is “Open my Hands.”

St. Teresa of Avila said, “Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours…”

Which part of the Body of Christ are you, primarily:

**HEAD**: You like to think about what’s really important, and help others do the same.

**MOUTH**: You like to encourage others with your words.

**EYES**: You have a way of seeing what’s needed and making connections.

**HEART**: You prioritize empathy and compassion.

**SHOULDERS**: You don’t mind taking responsibility.

**HANDS**: You want to do for people.

**FEET**: You go out of your way to meet people where they are.

*Share your answer and one or two words about it, if you like.*

**QUESTIONS FROM THE READING**

- **A) Rediscover Jesus, Prologue**
  - What interested, surprised or challenged you in this chapter?
  - What areas of your life suffer due to busyness?
  - How might busyness prevent us from "living the life God is calling (us) to live?" (pg. 15)
B) *Rediscover Jesus, Opening Thoughts*

- What interested, surprised or challenged you in this chapter?

- What do you think Matthew Kelly means by a "dynamic relationship" with Jesus? (pg. 16) What might that be like?

C) *Rediscover Jesus, Chapter One - New Beginnings*

- What interested, surprised or challenged you in this chapter?

- Is there a time in your day or year that you look at as an opportunity for a new beginning?

- How about in your spiritual life? Where does your faith/and or the Church offer the opportunity to ‘start fresh’?

D) *Rediscover Jesus, Chapter Two - Getting to Know Jesus*

- What interested, surprised or challenged you in this chapter?

- The author lists just some of the many names of Jesus. (pg. 21) To those, one could add "teacher," "brother," "friend," "guide," "hero," "role model," etc. What name for Jesus do you connect with most at this point in your faith journey? Why?

E) *Rediscover Jesus, Chapter Three - An Invitation*

- What interested, surprised or challenged you in this chapter?

- How might rediscovering Jesus impact you? How might your rediscovering Jesus impact your children/grandchildren, our church, our community, etc.? (pg. 25)

- Where are people looking for that someone or something to "solve the crisis of our lives and of our times?" (pg. 26)

F) *Rediscover Jesus, Chapter Four - The Jesus Question*

- What interested, surprised or challenged you in this chapter?

- What might we be trying to avoid when we "avoid the Jesus question?" (pg. 28)

- Why do you think it was important for Jesus to be fully human, as well as divine?

- Jesus says, “I came into the world to testify to the truth.” (pg. 31) What is the truth?
G) *Rediscover Jesus*, Chapter Five - The God Claim

- What interested, surprised or challenged you in this chapter?
- Have you ever been “awestruck by Jesus?” (pg. 35) Describe the circumstances.
- "What is holding you back from believing in Jesus completely?” (pg. 36)

**GATHER**

- As you attended Mass this week, could you connect anything from the *Rediscover Jesus* Program to the Scripture readings, the prayers, the homily or the music?
- Was your experience of receiving Jesus in the Eucharist different as a result of *Rediscover Jesus*?
- If you attended a Parish Gathering or Faith Formation Parent Gathering this weekend, share your impressions of the speaker's presentation. Parish speaker: Karen Finocchio; Confirmation speaker: Jane Ellen Peregrin.

**ACT**

- Did you do any of the suggested activities in this week's readings? Describe your experiences.
- The Corporal Works of Mercy (CWM) collection/activity at church this weekend was "Feed the hungry/Give drink to the thirsty." How was your participation more meaningful, in light of the *Rediscover Jesus* book/discussions?
- Next week, the CWM activity is “Clothe the Naked,” and the *Rediscover Jesus* focus will be on Jesus and Human Dignity.

**CLOSING PRAYER**

(FACILITATOR:) *Lord Jesus, you model for us how to be an obedient servant.* (ALL): In the coming week, *open our hands*, that we may give ourselves freely in service to others, like you do.

(FACILITATOR:) *May God bless us until we meet again!*

**CONCLUSION**

Firm up plans for gathering next time: Date/time, place, who will provide refreshments.
SESSION TWO: MEETING THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 21st

Jesus focus: Jesus and Human Dignity
Book Discussion: Rediscover Jesus, Chapters 6-12 (Mon. Feb. 15-Sun. Feb 21)

(HOST AND FACILITATOR, PLEASE SEE YOUR NOTES ON PAGE ONE.)

OPENING PRAYER

Light the candle. Jesus promised that wherever two or more are gathered in his name, he is present in a special way. As we light this candle, we quiet ourselves and welcome Jesus, the Light of the World.

ALL: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen. FACILITATOR: Lord Jesus, thank you for enabling us to gather to share what we’ve been learning about you and ourselves. Send your Spirit to guide our conversation today, that we may continue to grow together in friendship and faith.

Ask if anyone has an intention. If there are none, offer your own brief intention and conclude:

We ask these things, and those that we keep in the silence of our hearts, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, AMEN.

See Icebreaker on next page

ICEBREAKER – Open Our Eyes

This week, we ask Jesus to “open our eyes” to see him more clearly. What image of Jesus below resonates with you? Why? Is there another image of Jesus that’s your favorite?
QUESTIONS FROM THE READING

• **A) Rediscover Jesus, Chapter Six – There is More**
  - What interested, surprised or challenged you in this chapter?
  - Did any of the claims of Jesus surprise or challenge you? 1) Jesus is able to give eternal life. 2) Jesus is the Messiah (savior). 3) Jesus could/can see into the future. 4) Jesus preexisted the world. (pgs 37-38) If so, why?

• **B) Rediscover Jesus, Chapter Seven – The Third Question**
  - What interested, surprised or challenged you in this chapter?
  - Where might we find the answers to the question, “Who does Jesus say that you are?” (pg. 42)
  - “God values freedom so much that he gives you the freedom to reject him?” (pg. 45) What does this say about God? About you?

• **C) Rediscover Jesus, Chapter Eight – Jesus Was a Radical**
  - What interested, surprised or challenged you in this chapter?
  - What story from Scripture do you recall in which Jesus behaved or spoke like a radical?
  - What are some of the ways we are tempted in our everyday lives to have a “casual relationship with the truth?” (pg. 48)

• **D) Rediscover Jesus, Chapter Nine – The Greatest Teacher Ever**
  - What interested, surprised or challenged you in this chapter?
  - Have you ever spent time reading the Scripture readings for a coming Sunday? How did it change your experience of the Mass – the music, hearing the readings from the ambo (pulpit), the homily, recognizing Jesus in the Eucharist?
  - How might you make time in your week to “ponder” and “meditate” on the teachings of Jesus? (pg. 51)

• **E) Rediscover Jesus, Chapter 10 – Forty Words**
  - What interested, surprised or challenged you in this chapter?
- Why is it difficult to break the habit to care more about what others think than what God thinks? (pg 55)

- What resonated with you in Matthew Kelly’s section on gift giving? (pg. 55)

• **F) Rediscover Jesus, Chapter Eleven – The Heart of the Gospel**

  - What interested, surprised or challenged you in this chapter?

  - In what area is it more difficult for you to be generous: Time, talent, treasure? Praise and encouragement? Compassion and patience? Why is that?

• **G) Rediscover Jesus, Chapter Twelve – The Soul of the Gospel**

  - What interested, surprised or challenged you in this chapter?

  - Do you know of a true story in which a person forgave an individual who did them or a loved one grave harm? How do you react to this?

  - Why is forgiveness considered countercultural in today’s society? (pg. 61)

**GATHER**

- As you attended Mass this week, could you connect anything from the Rediscover Jesus Program to the Scripture readings, the prayers, the homily or the music?

- Was your experience of receiving Jesus in the Eucharist different as a result of *Rediscover Jesus*?

- If you attended a Parish Gathering or Faith Formation Parent Gathering this weekend, share your impressions of the speaker's presentation. Parish speaker: Fr. Cheah; K-8 Faith Formation Parent speaker: Lisa Stevens.

**ACT**

- Did you do any of the suggested activities in this week's readings? Describe your experiences.

- The Corporal Works of Mercy (CWM) collection/activity at church Feb 20th/21st was "Clothe the Naked." How was your participation more meaningful, in light of the *Rediscover Jesus* book/discussions?

- Next week, the CWM activity is “Shelter the Homeless,” and the Rediscover Jesus focus will be on Jesus’ Priorities.
CLOSING PRAYER

(FACILITATOR:) Lord Jesus, you honor the dignity of all human beings. (ALL): In the coming week, open our eyes, that we may see ourselves and others like you do: as beloved children of God. (FACILITATOR:) May God bless us until we meet again!

CONCLUSION

Firm up plans for gathering next time: Date/time, place, who will provide refreshments.

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SESSION THREE: MEETING THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 28th

<table>
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<td>Book Discussion:</td>
<td>Rediscover Jesus, Chapters 13-19 (Mon. Feb. 22-Sun. Feb 28)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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(HOST AND FACILITATOR, PLEASE SEE YOUR NOTES ON PAGE ONE.)

OPENING PRAYER

Light the candle. Jesus promised that wherever two or more are gathered in his name, he is present in a special way. As we light this candle, we quiet ourselves and welcome Jesus, the Light of the World.

ALL: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen. FACILITATOR: Lord Jesus, thank you for enabling us to gather together to draw closer to you and to one another, as members of our parish family. Send your Spirit to guide our conversation today, that we may continue to grow in faith.

Ask if anyone has an intention. If there are none, offer your own brief intention and conclude:

We ask these things, and those that we keep in the silence of our hearts, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, AMEN.
ICEBREAKER – Open our Minds

1. What are the two common names for the Sunday before Easter

2. At which Holy Week service do you hear a loud bang from the choir loft? Why do they do that?

3. What do we do with the leftover palms from Palm Sunday?

4. How many times does Jesus fall during the Stations of the Cross?

5. On what day during Lent does the Bishop bless holy oils for the year?

6. On what days are Catholics required to fast during Lent?

7. What word is never said or sung during Lent?

8. What is the special name for the fourth Sunday of Lent? What does it mean?

9. What is the liturgical color of Lent, and what does it symbolize?

10. What was the original meaning behind the word “Lent”?

1) Palm Sunday, Passion Sunday. 2) Good Friday; symbolizes the closing of the tomb. 3) Burn them for ashes for the following Ash Wednesday. 4) Three. 5) The Tuesday of Holy Week. 6) Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. 7) Alleluia. 8) Laetare (lay TAR ay) Sunday. It means “joy”- we’re more than halfway to Easter! 9) Purple; penitence & royalty (Christ our King). 10) Spring.
QUESTIONS FROM THE READING

• **A) Rediscover Jesus, Chapter Thirteen – Who is the Greatest?**
  - What interested, surprised or challenged you in this chapter?
  - Would you say that every child or person is considered to be “of equal inestimable value” in today’s society? (pg. 63)
  - The author claims that Jesus “makes a connection between the way we live our lives here on earth and where we end up in the afterlife.” (pg. 67) We don’t talk much about hell these days. Why is that?

• **B) Rediscover Jesus, Chapter Fourteen – Purity of Heart**
  - What interested, surprised or challenged you in this chapter?
  - What vices and platforms these days pose the greatest challenges to our self-control? (pg. 69)
  - Do you worry about what young people are being exposed to? How might you help counteract negative influences in the lives of young people – even if you don’t have children of your own?

• **C) Rediscover Jesus, Chapter Fifteen – Making Sense of Suffering**
  - What interested, surprised or challenged you in this chapter?
  - Have you ever had an experience where you found meaning in suffering – yours or another’s? Can you share about it?
  - Did you or your parents/grandparents ever say, “Offer it up?” (pg. 74) How might it be helpful to adopt this phrase/mentality today?

• **D) Rediscover Jesus, Chapter Sixteen – Do Not Judge**
  - What interested, surprised or challenged you in this chapter?
  - What do you make of the notion that being judgmental “is also an obstacle in our quest to love **ourselves** as God wants us to?” (pg. 76)
  - Did you do the counting exercise to see how many times you judge someone or something in a day? (pg. 77) How do you feel about your results? What could make that number lower?
• **E) Rediscover Jesus, Chapter Seventeen – Radical Relationships**
  
  - What interested, surprised or challenged you in this chapter?
  
  - Who are the people in your life who “encourage and challenge (you) to be the best-version-of-(yourself)?” (pg. 82) Do you spend enough time with them?
  
  - Why do you think Jesus chose unlikely, imperfect people to be his followers and grow the Church?
  
• **F) Rediscover Jesus, Chapter Eighteen – Jesus on Lifestyle**
  
  - What interested, surprised or challenged you in this chapter?
  
  - How does it feel to be asked to examine what you spend your money and time on!? Do you see the need for any changes? (pg. 84)
  
  - What fuels our culture’s “inordinate desire to be noticed…and our obsession with fame?” (pg. 87) Why is this a dangerous inclination?
  
• **G) Rediscover Jesus, Chapter Nineteen – Miracles Abound**
  
  - What interested, surprised or challenged you in this chapter?
  
  - Which is your favorite of Jesus’ miracles? Why? If you could perform any of Jesus’ miracles, which would it be and why? (pg. 90)
  
  - Who do you know who seems to allow God to work through him/her? What might hold you back from embracing this power? (pg. 92)
  
  **GATHER**
  
  - As you attended Mass this week, could you connect anything from the Rediscover Jesus Program to the Scripture readings, the prayers, the homily or the music?
  
  - Was your experience of receiving Jesus in the Eucharist different as a result of Rediscover Jesus?
  
  - If you attended a Parish Gathering or Faith Formation Parent Gathering this weekend, share your impressions of the speaker's presentation. Parish speaker: Mary Beth Bruder; K-8 Parent speaker: Lysa Termeer. Confirmation Parent speaker: Deacon Jeffrey Sutherland
ACT

- Did you do any of the suggested activities in this week's readings? Describe your experiences.

- The Corporal Works of Mercy (CWM) collection/activity at church Feb 27th/28th was "Shelter the Homeless." How was your participation more meaningful, in light of the Rediscover Jesus book/discussions?

- Next week, the CWM activity is “Visit the Sick,” and the Rediscover Jesus focus will be: Jesus as Communicator.

CLOSING PRAYER

(FACILITATOR:) Lord Jesus, you came to proclaim that the last would be first. (ALL): In the coming week, open our minds to think like you do, making the poor and marginalized a priority. (FACILITATOR:) May God bless us until we meet again!

CONCLUSION

Firm up plans for gathering next time: Date/time, place, who will provide refreshments.

SESSION FOUR: MEETING THE WEEK OF MARCH 6th

Jesus focus: Jesus as Communicator

Book Discussion: Rediscover Jesus, Chapters 20 - 26 (Mon. Feb. 29-Sun. March 6)

(HOST AND FACILITATOR, PLEASE SEE YOUR NOTES ON PAGE ONE.)

OPENING PRAYER

Light the candle. Jesus promised that wherever two or more are gathered in his name, he is present in a special way. As we light this candle, we quiet ourselves and welcome Jesus, the Light of the World.

ALL: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen. FACILITATOR: Lord Jesus, thank you for enabling us to gather together to explore who you are and who you call us to be. Send your Spirit to guide our conversation today, that we may continue to grow together and encourage one another.
Ask if anyone has an intention. If there are none, offer your own brief intention and conclude:

_We ask these things, and those that we keep in the silence of our hearts, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, AMEN._

**ICEBREAKER – Open Our Lips**

Jesus walks into your advertising agency and asks you to create a slogan to promote him to the world!

Take a current or past slogan or catchphrase and adapt it for Jesus.

_e.g. Jesus – The Real Thing (Coke)_

**QUESTIONS FROM THE READING**

- **A) Rediscover Jesus, Chapter Twenty – Radical Love**
  - What interested, surprised or challenged you in this chapter?
  - Who do you know/know of who expresses unconditional/agape (_AH gu pay_) love. What makes it hard for us to love this way? (pg. 93)
  - Matthew Kelly says that Jesus “was constantly pouring himself out for others. Then he would go away to a quiet place to get reenergized so that he could pour himself out again.” (pg. 95) Taking a day of rest is no longer part of our American culture. Where do you build in Sabbath moments? What about the Mass reenergizes you?

- **B) Rediscover Jesus, Chapter Twenty-One – The Main Event**
  - What interested, surprised or challenged you in this chapter?
  - Why is belief in Jesus’ Resurrection so essential to Christianity?
  - Are you aware that Jesus is alive and at work TODAY, and interested in a relationship with you, or do you think of him mostly in the past tense?
• C) *Rediscover Jesus, Chapter Twenty-Two – Beyond Tweaking*

- What interested, surprised or challenged you in this chapter?

- What holds some people back from reading the Bible on their own? What could remedy that?

- Describe the feelings that arose when you read the prayer of transformation. (pg. 103)

- “What will be the hardest thing about letting God transform your life?” (pg 104)

• D) *Rediscover Jesus, Chapter Twenty-Three – Upside Down*

- What interested, surprised or challenged you in this chapter?

- The author offers several transformation stories in this chapter: Zacchaeus, who boldly and proactively seeks Jesus. Nicodemus, who comes to Jesus slowly and uncertainly at first, then embraces faith courageously. The rich young man, who was ready to follow Jesus, until he realized the cost. Lazarus, who found new life through his relationship with Jesus. Paul, who, in high school would have been voted “least likely to become a Jesus follower!” Do you see yourself here? If not, what’s your story?

• E) *Rediscover Jesus, Chapter Twenty-Four – The Gap*

- What interested, surprised or challenged you in this chapter?

- What are the dangers of the “comparison trap?” (pg. 113)

- Can you describe a time when you “went out of your way to get close to Jesus?” (pg. 114) (You had to find a church, said a prayer at an unexpected time, etc.) What made you do that? What could help you ‘get close to Jesus’ more regularly?

• F) *Rediscover Jesus, Chapter Twenty-Five – Delve Into the Gospels*

- What interested, surprised or challenged you in this chapter?

- What is the best time/place for you to read and reflect on Scripture? Do you prefer a paper Bible, an online source? Is there a ‘prayer posture’ that helps you focus on your prayer?

- How could imagining yourself in the Gospel story affect your engagement with Scripture? (pg. 119)
G) *Rediscover Jesus, Chapter Twenty-Six – The Prayer Process*

- What interested, surprised or challenged you in this chapter?
- Who has taught you how to pray over the years?
- Jesus gave us the Lord’s Prayer, but also talked to God spontaneously. Why are rote prayer AND spontaneous prayer both important? Are you comfortable with both? If not, why not?

**GATHER**

- As you attended Mass this week, could you connect anything from the Rediscover Jesus Program to the Scripture readings, the prayers, the homily or the music?
- Was your experience of receiving Jesus in the Eucharist different as a result of *Rediscover Jesus*?
- If you attended a Parish Gathering this weekend, share your impressions of the speaker's presentation. Parish speakers: Nancy Casey & June Bryant.

**ACT**

- Did you do any of the suggested activities in this week's readings? Describe your experiences.
- The Corporal Works of Mercy (CWM) collection/activity at church March 5th/6th was "Visit the Sick." How was your participation more meaningful, in light of the *Rediscover Jesus* book/discussions?
- Next week, the CWM activity is “Visit the Imprisoned,” and the Rediscover Jesus focus will be: *To Love Like Jesus.*

**CLOSING PRAYER**

- (FACILITATOR:) *Lord Jesus, you are the great communicator.* (ALL): In the coming week, *open our lips* to speak the truth in love, like you do.

  (FACILITATOR:) *May God bless us until we meet again!*

**CONCLUSION**

Firm up plans for gathering next time: Date/time, place, who will provide refreshments.
SESSION FIVE: MEETING THE WEEK OF MARCH 13th

Jesus focus: *To Love Like Jesus*


(HOST AND FACILITATOR, PLEASE SEE YOUR NOTES ON PAGE ONE.)

OPENING PRAYER

Light the candle. *Jesus promised that wherever two or more are gathered in his name, he is present in a special way. As we light this candle, we quiet ourselves and welcome Jesus, the Light of the World.*

ALL: *In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.* FACILITATOR: *Lord Jesus, thank you for enabling us to gather together to learn more about you and your place in our lives. Send your Spirit to guide our conversation today, that through friendship and community, we strengthen each other to do God’s will.*

Ask if anyone has an intention. If there are none, offer your own brief intention and conclude:

*We ask these things, and those that we keep in the silence of our hearts, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, AMEN.*

ICEBREAKER – Open Our Hearts


What is your love language? Does it match that of your spouse, parents or children? If not, what does that mean to you?
QUESTIONS FROM THE READING

• A) Rediscover Jesus, Chapter Twenty-Seven – Deny Yourself
  - What interested, surprised or challenged you in this chapter?
  - Why do you think Matthew Kelly is so insistent on self-denial as the key to success in most areas of life, including the Christian walk?

• B) Rediscover Jesus, Chapter Twenty-Eight – Spontaneous Prayer
  - What interested, surprised or challenged you in this chapter?
  - Has there been a time in your life when a particular prayer (rote or spontaneous) had special meaning for you? Can you share it?
  - Why is it difficult for some people to have a conversational relationship with God – to complain to God, to talk to God about the ‘small stuff.’ (pg. 130)

• C) Rediscover Jesus, Chapter Twenty-Nine – Dancing for Joy
  - What interested, surprised or challenged you in this chapter?
  - What would be different “if Christians behaved like Christians” in your family? At our parish? In our town? (pg. 137)
  - Can you describe a time when you felt the presence of God so strongly that you wanted to dance for joy? When you knew beyond a doubt that it was a God moment?

• D) Rediscover Jesus, Chapter Thirty – Blind Spots
  - What interested, surprised or challenged you in this chapter?
  - Have you ever heard of spiritual direction, or been to a spiritual director? If so, can you share a little about the experience? If not, what might the value be in talking to someone about your journey of faith? (pg. 142)
  - Which is the more difficult trait to develop, humility, docility or being non-judgmental? Why? (pg. 143)
• E) *Rediscover Jesus, Chapter Thirty-One – Man’s Ways and God’s Ways*

- What interested, surprised or challenged you in this chapter?

- Matthew Kelly says, “Every problem we experience has a spiritual dimension, but often we leave the spiritual dimension of things unconsidered.” (pg. 149) Why do we do this? Can you give an example of the spiritual dimension of an everyday problem?

- “What is one practical example of how God is inviting you to let go of your way and open yourself to his way.” (pg. 150)

• F) *Rediscover Jesus, Chapter Thirty-Two – The Real Problem*

- What interested, surprised or challenged you in this chapter?

- What is your definition of sin? Has it changed over time?

- How does it feel to think that every time we sin (‘miss the mark’), we’re rejecting the “best-version-of-ourselves?” (pg. 153)

- Does it change your attitude toward sin to consider that “sin is more than just bad behavior. It is the rejection or destruction of something good…in some way a rejection of God.” (pg. 153)

• G) *Rediscover Jesus, Chapter Thirty-Three – Comfortably Comfortable*

- What interested, surprised or challenged you in this chapter?

- The author talks about “the accountability of friendship and community.” (pg. 159) Have your Small Group, Large Group or Online Gatherings during the Rediscover Jesus program given you this accountability? What has it meant for your faith journey?

- How does the Church help us to practice denying ourselves?

**GATHER**

- As you attended Mass this week, could you connect anything from the Rediscover Jesus Program to the Scripture readings, the prayers, the homily or the music?

- Was your experience of receiving Jesus in the Eucharist different as a result of *Rediscover Jesus*?

- If you attended a Parish Gathering this weekend, share your impressions of the speaker's presentation. Parish speaker: Marylou Connors and Sister.
ACT

- Did you do any of the suggested activities in this week's readings? Describe your experiences.

- The Corporal Works of Mercy (CWM) collection/activity at church March 12th/13th was "Visit the Imprisoned." How was your participation more meaningful, in light of the Rediscover Jesus book/discussions?

- Next week, the CWM activity is “Bury the Dead,” and the Rediscover Jesus focus will be: Jesus and Prayer.

CLOSING PRAYER

(FACILITATOR:) Lord Jesus, you love us without questions or conditions. (ALL): In the coming week, open our hearts to love others unconditionally, like you do.

(FACILITATOR:) May God bless us until we meet again!

CONCLUSION

Firm up plans for gathering next time: Date/time, place, who will provide refreshments.

SESSION SIX, MEETING THE WEEK OF MARCH 20th

(HOST AND FACILITATOR, PLEASE SEE YOUR NOTES ON PAGE ONE.)

OPENING PRAYER

Light the candle. Jesus promised that wherever two or more are gathered in his name, he is present in a special way. As we light this candle, we quiet ourselves and welcome Jesus, the Light of the World.

ALL: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen. FACILITATOR: Lord Jesus, thank you for enabling us to gather together in these last days of Lent. Send your
Spirit to guide our conversation today, that we may enter Holy Week with a deeper understanding of you, ourselves and each other.

Ask if anyone has an intention. If there are none, offer your own brief intention and conclude:

We ask these things, and those that we keep in the silence of our hearts, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, AMEN.

ICEBREAKER – Open Our Ears

Music can have a deep effect on people, evoking memories, calling to mind loved ones, giving a sense of the grandeur or intimacy of God, etc.

What songs from church have special meaning for you?

QUESTIONS FROM THE READING

- **A) Rediscover Jesus, Chapter Thirty-Four – Two Wrestling Questions**
  - What interested, surprised or challenged you in this chapter?
  - If “life is not about getting what you want,” then what is life about? (pg. 161)
  - So that our motives don’t get in the way, how can we remain aware of and focused on what God wants for us?

- **B) Rediscover Jesus, Chapter Thirty-Five – Complete Joy**
  - What interested, surprised or challenged you in this chapter?
  - What is the difference between happiness and joy?
  - How might we get in the way of our own joy? (pg. 166)
  - The author states, “Gratitude is a sure path to joy.” (pg. 167) Can you think of someone who seemed joyful despite his/her many trials? What was the source of their joy?