

Part 3: Where am I headed?

1. Quarter Review
2. Where am I headed?
3. Two Directions
4. Three Questions
5. What God Sees
6. Following Jesus
7. Can I make a difference?
8. Year in Review (gratitude)
9. Year in Review (affirmation)

Part 3: Where am I headed?

1/ Quarter Review

- Purpose: to identify God's graces and movements this last quarter
- Exercises: Quarter Awareness Examen
- Action: pray, "What do you hope to get out of CLC this quarter?"
"What does God hope for me?"

2/ Where am I headed?

- Purpose: to cultivate a discerning heart to know where I am headed
- Exercises: Discerning Heart
- Action: pray, "Where am I headed?" and share with your prayer partner

3/ Two directions

- Purpose: to identify consolation and desolation in my life
- Exercises: Guided Ignatian Contemplation
- Action: repeat the prayer (Mt 14:22-33) at home

4/ Three Questions

- Purpose: to explore the questions of vocation
- Exercises: either watch video clips or pray with the 3 questions
- Action: talk with your prayer partner about the meeting tonight

5/ What God Sees

- Purpose: to see the world through God's eyes and identify the needs in our community
- Exercises: Skit, "What God sees"
- Action: talk with your prayer partner about God's hopes and dreams for the world

6/ Following Jesus

- Purpose: to courageously follow Jesus in building God's kingdom of peace and justice
- Exercises: Ignatian Meditation (Lectio Divina) on the Rich Young Man (Mk 10:17-30)
- Action: repeat the prayer (Mk 10:17-30) at home.

7/ Can I Make a Difference?

- Purpose: to identify my five loaves and two fish and give them to Jesus to feed others
- Exercises: YouTube on Rosa Parks
- Action: to do one good deed a day for the rest of the year

8/ Year in Review (gratitude)

- Purpose: to identify the graces of the year and come up with a response in living out those graces
- Exercises: Year-End Examen
- Action: to support one another over the summer

9/ Year in Review (affirmation)

- Continue with meeting #8

#1 Quarter Review



Scripture

Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for your selves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light. (Mt 11:28-30)

Mk 6:31 “Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.”
Luke 5:1-6 “Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch.”

Note: This meeting is meant to be a first meeting after break.

Introduction & Welcome (1”)

Welcome members back after the break and to the new quarter. Thank them for coming.

I. Opening Prayer (5”)

Grace: To identify God’s graces and movements this last quarter

Use the grace or a suggested scriptural passage above to create your own prayer. You may also use the prayer below. After reading the scripture, say:

Almighty God, we thank you for gathering us here tonight. Thank you for your invitation to come to you for rest and learn from you, for your yoke is easy and your burden light. We pray for the grace of being attentive to how you have loved us over the quarter and the break and help us to identify those graces and give you glory. Amen.

Note: ask for a volunteer to lead opening and closing prayers for the next meeting.

II. Short Check-In (5”)

III. Focus Exercise (40”):

Materials Needed: CLC supply box (Journal booklets, instrumental music, CD/Ipod player, candles, etc.)

✦ **Introduction:** This meeting will center around looking back at the past quarter and the break in order to help the group process all that has happened and changed. It will help deepen the group’s practice of finding God in all aspects of our lives and learning to be more attentive to God’s movements in our everyday experiences as well as more momentous times, particularly in change.

✦ **Exercise:** invite members to pray with the Quarter Awareness Examen. Allow 10 minutes to pray with the Examen, which can be found in their journal booklets also.

3.1 Quarter Awareness Examen Who is God for me?

Presence of God: I take some time to relax, breathe slowly, and imagine where God is right now....allow God to look at me.

Grace: I ask for the gift of gratitude and sensitivity to God's spirit so that I may more deeply understand and appreciate who God is and how God has been working in my life this last quarter and the break.

Review: with God

I read over my journal entries this last quarter as a way to recall what took place within me. I particularly pay attention to my covenant with God, my hopes and desires at the beginning of the year. I underline key words, phrases, or insights, especially those which reoccur or form a pattern of meaning.

1/ Gratitude: praising God

- Looking back this last quarter, what are you most grateful for?

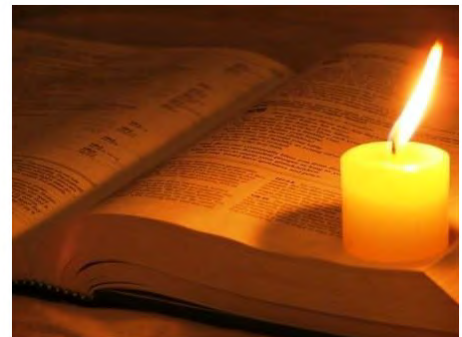
2/ Review: choosing God

- How would you answer to the question, "Who is God for me"? Is your answer now any different compared to when we began to explore the question at the beginning of the quarter?
- Are you growing in your images of God? Describe (see the list of images of God)
- Are you moving forward in your relationship with God? Describe (see 6 Paths to God in meeting #2)

3/ Moving forward: planning with God

- What questions do you still have about God?
- What meeting topics would you like to explore this new quarter?
- What graces would you like to receive?

Closing Prayer: As with any prayer, I spend time to listen or talk to God about whatever else is in my heart...



Scriptural Images of God

Earlier, we looked at the different images of God we've held throughout our lives and our images at that moment. In reflecting on what our images of God are right now in our lives, it's always important to let our understanding and articulation of our images come from our actual experiences of God. Only we can really know how we see and understand God. And only God can ultimately be the source of positive change in these images, change resulting in a more authentic image reflective of who God really is and how God really sees us.

It can often be helpful, however, to consider our images in light of the genuine images of others, especially those found in Scripture. Exploring other true images can help us to better articulate, appreciate, and embrace how God is uniquely loving us and revealing His true nature and identity to each of us. Truly, no image of God can fully describe God. God cannot be confined to an image. In this earthy life, however, images are tools to help us be in relationship with God. They help us to understand and be open to that relationship a little bit more.

The following Scriptural images may be helpful for you in this process of being in-touch with your images of God and allowing God to reveal Himself to you...

1. God as Father – Found in the story of the Prodigal Son, this image portrays God as a father who loves unconditionally and forgives. He endlessly greets you just as you are with a warm hug. (Luke 15:11-32)
2. God as Mother – This image portrays God as the perfect mother whose love for her child is endless. Even if an earthly mother can abandon her child, God as mother will never abandon you. (Isaiah 49:5-6, 15-16)
3. God as Shepherd – This image portrays God as a shepherd who knows his flock and the flock knows him. It portrays a God that is willing to lay down his life for his sheep. He loves each sheep so uniquely that he is willing to leave his flock to find one that is lost. (Jn 10:13-16, Luke 15:4-10)
4. God as a Wise Woman (Wisdom) – The book of Wisdom portrays God as Wisdom, describing how "...in her is a spirit intelligent, holy, unique, manifold, subtle, agile, clear, unstained...good...beneficent kindly...tranquil, all-powerful, all-seeing..." (Wisdom 7:23).
5. God as Friend – This image describes God as a friend who shares mutual openness together with you in a common purpose and who loves at the sake of his own life. (Jn 15:11-17)
6. God as Teacher - This image describes God as a teacher who guides our lives. He knows and teaches us all that we need to be ourselves and to be with Him (Jn 14:25).
7. God as Healer or Doctor - This image describes God as the ultimate source of our healing. (Mt. 9:9-13, any passage of Jesus' healing miracles)
8. God as Lover - The Song of Songs describes the relationship and conversation between a lover and his beloved. In much the same way, God can be understood and experienced as a lover who desires and pursues His beloved. (Song of Songs, esp. chapter 2)
9. God as Creator: This image describes God as the Creator of all that exists, including humanity. He is our ultimate source of life and everything that sustains our lives. (Psalm 104)
10. God as the Light of Life - This image depicts God as the light that prevents us from stumbling in darkness and fear. He illuminates our hearts and lives, guiding and giving warmth to our lives. (Jn 8:12, Isaiah 60)
11. God as the True Vine - This image describes how God is our ultimate source of life. Apart from Him, we cannot truly live. As a vine enables its branches to live and bear fruit, so too God enables us to live lives of goodness and true life. (Jn 15:1-10)

‡ **Sharing:** invite members to share their reflections.

‡ **Listening deeper**

1. What has struck you as you have been listening to others share? Do you notice any patterns or commonalities?
2. How have you been feeling throughout the meeting? Comforted? Anxious? Curious?
3. Is there anything you would like to share after having heard other people share?

IV. Moving Forward (5")

‡ **Wrap-Up:** Thank members for their openness and participation.

1. Meeting topics: explore vocation questions (see table of content)
2. Commitments: renew 3 CLC commitments (weekly meetings, pray with Ignatian Examen, get involved in community services)
3. Looking ahead to meeting #4, "Three Vocation questions." One of the questions is, "What does my community need from me?" We need to gather information from our community service placements or immersions.

‡ **Action:**

1. pray with the question, "What do you want to get out of CLC this quarter? "What does God hope for me?"
2. share with your prayer partner

‡ **Announce:** Topic for next meeting and upcoming CLC events

Make sure to confirm that the group is still in agreement on the meeting day and time for this quarter.



V. Closing Prayer (5")

Invite members to pray for one another. One suggestion: to pray for a person on your left. Group leader should begin.....

Spiritual Exercises / General Principles & Norms

The way of life of Christian Life Community commits its members, with the help of the community, to strive for continuing personal and social growth which is spiritual, human, and apostolic. In practice, this involves... discernment by means of daily review of one's life...(GP #12).

Truly it is a retreat in every day life (SpEx 19)

#2 Where am I Headed?



Scripture

Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” Jesus said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” (Mt 14:22-33)

Lk 9:51-56 “...Jesus resolutely determined to journey to Jerusalem...”

Deut 30:15-20 “Here, then, I have today set before you life and....death...”

Introduction & Welcome (1 min.)

Introduce the topic

I. Opening Prayer (5’)

Grace: to have and cultivate a discerning heart to know where I am headed.

Use the grace or a suggested scripture above to create your own prayer, or use the one below. After reading the scripture above, say....

Loving God, we pray for the grace of a discerning heart to discover and live out your dream for us. May our hearts become our inner GPS to guide us in our daily choices. May all of our choices have only one goal in mind: AMDG (for your greater glory). Amen.

Note: ask for a volunteer to lead opening and closing prayers for the next meeting.

II. Short Check-In (5’)

- What were some of your high and low points of the week?

III. Focus Exercise (40’):

Materials Needed: CLC supply box (instrumental music, CD/iPod player, candles, CLC journal booklets)

Introduction: Make connection with last year’s meeting on vocation. Last year we explored the questions of vocation: what it means and some of the key aspects and questions. Tonight, we are going to explore another question, “Where am I headed?”

‡ **Exercise 1: Where am I headed?** (15')

Invite members to pray with the question, “Where am I headed?” “Do I like the path I’m on?” The questions can be found in their journal booklets.

- Take a few minutes to recognize God’s presence and ask God for help.
- Draw the path (or other motif) you are on since the beginning of college. What were some of the moments you felt closer to God? Distant from God?
- What feelings and thoughts stir within you as you reflect upon those moments?
- Imagine where you are now is point A. Do you have a point B (where you want to be)? If yes, what is it? Describe point B.
- What were some of your feelings and thoughts about point B?

‡ **Sharing 1:** invite members to share

‡ **Exercise 2: Discerning Heart**

Note: you can have members read the article below out loud or use the slideshow presentation about the article. (The slideshow presentation can be found on the CLC website under Leadership Resource). We recommend that you discuss the article a paragraph at a time. See suggested questions below.

Discerning Heart: *Choosing from My Being*

What is discernment?

Discernment comes from the Latin word *discernere*, which means to separate, distinguish, determine, and sort out. Discernment is “sifting through” our inner and outer experiences to determine their origin. In the context of faith, discernment means a process of sifting through our inner and outer experiences or movements to determine their origin (from God or not) and making choices for the greater glory of God.



Question to discuss: Have you ever “sifted through” the choices to determine a better choice? For example, choosing Santa Clara vs. others? How did you know that it’s a better choice and come to the decision? Describe.

Two Levels of Discernment

There are two aspects or levels of discernment. First, it is about orientating ourselves toward God. Second, it is about making a particular choice A or choice B, as in choosing to major in Math or English, etc. For now we are going to focus on the first level of discernment—orientation.

Foundation and Context for Discernment

There are three aspects of orientation. First, discernment flows from a growing personal relationship with God. God, who loves us, desires to share life with us and we want to share life with God. God dreams for each one of us to live fully and have an abundant life (Jn 10:10). We have the ability to discover and live out God’s dream for us.

Second, discernment is rooted in prayer and deep listening. In prayer, we pray for the grace of *sentir*, which is heart-felt experience of God. We want to deepen our unique “sense of God” and how God works in our lives. In addition, God instills an inner GPS in our hearts to navigate and identify which spirit is operating in our lives and to determine in which direction we are moving to, either toward God or away from God.

Third, discernment is a particular way of being that is in touch with and attuned to God. It reveals a fundamental desire to respond to God’s invitation. It is saying to God, “God, I want to love you and share my life with you.” We strive for interior freedom and to be open to where God’s spirit is leading us.

Question: What/who has kept you grounded in faith and outlook in life to make choices? Describe.

Where am I headed?

In discernment we are primarily dealing with the spiritual movements operating in our lives. For Ignatius, we have only two spiritual directions or movements. We either move toward God or away from God. These spiritual movements are called consolation or desolation. How do we know whether we are headed toward God or away from God? What are the signs of consolation and desolation? Any experience that increases our faith, hope, and love for God, others and ourselves is considered consolation. Any experience that decreases our faith, hope, and love for God, others, and ourselves is considered desolation. Here are some of the main signs of desolation and consolation.

Desolation	Consolation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · decreases our faith, hope, love for God, others, or ourselves · turns us inwards on ourselves · drives us down the spiral ever deeper into our own negative feelings · cuts us off from community · makes us want to give up on things that used to be important to us · takes over our whole consciousness and crowds out our distant vision · covers up all our landmarks · drains us of energy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · increases our faith, hope, and love for God, others, or ourselves · directs our focus outwards and beyond ourselves · lifts our hearts so that we can see the joys and sorrows of other people · bonds us more closely to our human community · generates new inspiration and ideas · restores balance and refreshes our inner vision · shows us where God is active in our lives and where he is leading us · releases new energy in us

(adapted from Margaret Silf)

Question: In looking at the list above, which ones have you experienced lately? Give examples.

Tools of Discernment

The best tool of discernment is the Examen. It helps us to be attentive to God’s movements and directions in which we are moving.

Question: Have you been praying with Ignatian Examen lately. How do you find praying with it?



‡ **Listening deeper**

1. What has struck you as you have been listening to others share? Do you notice any patterns or commonalities?
2. How have you been feeling throughout this meeting? Comforted? Anxious? Curious?
3. Is there anything you would like to share after having heard other people share?

IV. Moving Forward (5')

- ‡ **Wrap-Up:** Thank all members for their openness and participation.
- ‡ **Action:** invite members to pray with the question, “Where am I headed?” and discuss with his/her prayer partner.
- ‡ **Announcement:** Topic for next meeting and upcoming CLC events

Note: Looking ahead to meeting #4, “Three Vocation questions.” One of the questions is, “What does my community need from me?” We need to gather information from our community service placements or immersions.

V. Closing Prayer (5')

Invite members to pray for one another... One suggestion: to pray for the person on his/her left. You (coordinator) may begin to set the tone. End with the prayer below....

I Have No Idea Where I Am Going
By Thomas Merton

*“My Lord God I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
Nor do I really know myself,*

*and the fact that I think I am following your will
does not mean that I am actually doing so.*

*But I believe that my desire to please you does in fact please you.
And I hope that I have that desire in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.
And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road
though I may know nothing about it.*

*Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.
I will not fear, for you are ever with me,
and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.”
Amen.*



#3 Two Directions



Scripture

...Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” Jesus said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?”... (Mt 14:22-33)

Lk 9:51-56 “...Jesus resolutely determined to journey to Jerusalem...”

Deut 30:15-20 “Here, then, I have today set before you life and....death...”

Introduction & Welcome (1 min.)

I. Opening Prayer (5')

Grace: to identify consolation and desolation in my life.

Use the grace or a suggested scripture passages above to create your own prayer.

II. Short Check-In (5')

III. Focus Exercise (40'):

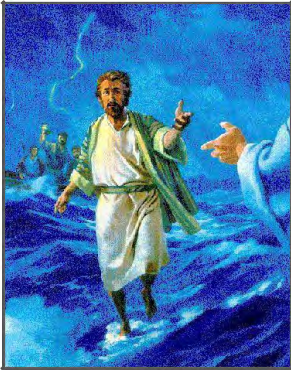
Materials Needed: instrumental music, CD/iPod player, candle, CLC journal booklets

- ✦ **Introduction:** connect tonight’s topic with last week’s topic. Last week, we explored the question, “Where am I headed?” We looked at the definition and key aspects of discernment. We also briefly talked about 2 different spiritual movements or directions: towards God (consolation) and away from God (desolation). Tonight we are going to continue to talk about these two directions. In a few moments, we are to going to have a guided Ignatian Contemplation on Peter’s own experience of consolation and desolation.
- ✦ **Review:** Ignatian Contemplation allows you to use your imagination and imagine that you are there as the event occurs. Allow God’s spirit to guide your imagination and spirit. Let’s read the story first so that we can be familiar with what happens.

Rise and Fall of Peter (Mt 14: 22-33)

Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking towards them on the lake. But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, saying, 'It is a ghost!' And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.'

Peter answered him, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.' He said, 'Come.' So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord, save me!' Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, 'You of little faith, why did you doubt?' When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, 'Truly you are the Son of God.'



(**note:** after reading the gospel passage above, then proceed to the guided contemplation below....)

Guided Ignatian Contemplation *The Rise and Fall of Peter*

Instruction: read slowly and prayerfully....pray as you read....pause at the ellipses (...) pause for a longer period of time at places with more ellipses (.....) If possible, play instrumental music in background

Introduction

Sit in an upright position and close your eyes; relax but stay focused; do not fall asleep. Take a deep breath and relax. Breathe deeply in...and breathe out. Relax. Again, breathe in slowly...and breath out. Be aware of your breathing...

With each breath, slowly fill your lungs completely and then slowly exhale. Notice your breathing becoming slower, more gentle...feel any part of your body that is tense...Relax it...Let go of the tension...

Setting

Now I invite you to take a journey with me...Imagine yourself as **Peter** with your friends on the boat....It's at dawn. You are in the mist and fog of a dark dawn. You feel the strong wind and the fresh air of the lake....You hear the sound of the waves bouncing and shaking your boat.... You ponder what occurred yesterday: this new rabbi, Jesus, challenged you and your friends to feed the poor with only five loaves and two fish....Yet, he took what you had and fed more than 5,000 people and then went off to the mountain... You wonder where he is now....(pause)

As you are wondering, your friends screamed, "Look, it's a ghost!" And then there is a familiar voice, "It's me, don't be afraid." Notice your reaction at the moment...Are you surprised? Frightened? Confused? Amazed?(pause)

"Lord, if it's you," you said, "let me come to you on the water."

"Come." The voice is firm, inviting, and challenging....Notice how you feel....shocked? nervous? Desire to take the challenge to step out of the boat, out of your comfort zone to walk on water to the unknown? You look at Jesus and start walking....What helped you walk on water?(pause)

You walk and walk towards Jesus....you get closer and closer....but then you are hit by the strong wind and waves....fear takes over you....You doubt yourself and lose sight of Jesus.....You sink under the water and get frightened.....You scream and scream....notice how you feel under the water....(pause)

You struggle under the water and cry out, "Lord, save me!" "Lord, save me!" "Lord, save....!" Then a strong hand grasps your hand and pulls you out of the water....Notice how you feel....Nervous? Safe? Joyful? ...

How did Jesus look at you? look into his eyes....feel his hands. Then Jesus asks you, "why did you doubt?"you respond....(pause)

Both of you start walking on the water toward the boat seeing your friends.....you talk and talkspend a few minutes to talk with Jesus and your friends about the incident..... (pause for a minute or two)

Now it is time for you, your friends, and Jesus to move on to the shore....and continue his mission.... It's time for you to leave this place....to leave your imagination and return to this room ..take your time...when you are ready, open your eyes....(pause)

(Note: invite members to pray with the questions below. These questions can be found in their journal booklets)



Suggested Questions to pray and share

1. What thoughts and feelings stirred within you during the guided meditation?
2. When was the last time you "walked on the water" towards Jesus? (Ignatius calls it consolation). What/who helped you? Describe.
3. When was the last time you "sank under the water" away from Jesus? (Ignatius calls it desolation). What/who hindered you? Describe.
4. Is there anything else you want to talk about?

- ✦ **Sharing:** invite members to share their prayer experiences. Use suggested questions to facilitate.
- ✦ **Listening deeper**
 1. What has struck you as you have been listening to others share? Do you notice any patterns or commonalities?
 2. How have you been feeling throughout this meeting? Comforted? Anxious? Curious?
 3. Is there anything you would like to share after having heard other people share?

IV. Moving Forward (5')

- ✦ **Wrap-Up:** Thank members for their openness and participation.
- ✦ **Action:** Invite members to repeat the Ignatian Contemplation on Mt 14: 22-33 at home and share with their prayer partners.
- ✦ **Announcement:** Topic for next meeting and upcoming CLC events

Note: Looking ahead to next meeting, “Three Vocation questions.” One of the questions is, “What does my community need from me?” We need to gather information from our community service placements or immersions.

V. Closing Prayer (5')

Invite members to voice any prayers or petitions out loud. End with the prayer below.

Prayer for the Offering

Gracious God,
 You call us to let go of the things we cling to
 and step out in faith,
 trusting in Your love and provision.

Give us courage to step out boldly,
 and sufficient faith to follow without fear.

Take our lives and our gifts.
 Use them to accomplish more than we could
 possibly imagine,
 so that, through us, Your kingdom might come
 and Your will be done
 on earth as it is in heaven.
 Amen.



#4 Three Questions of Vocation



Image

Scripture

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. ‘Teacher,’ he said, ‘what must I do to inherit eternal life?’ He said to him, ‘What is written in the law? What do you read there?’ He answered, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.’ And Jesus said to him, ‘You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.’ (Lk 10:25-28)

Mk 10:17-31 “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

Micah 6:8 “...To act justly, love tenderly, walk humbly with God...”

Introduction & Welcome (1’)

Introduce the topic

I. Opening Prayer (5’)

Grace: for openness in exploring the questions of vocation.

Use the grace or the suggested scriptural passage above to create your own prayer. You can also use the one below. After reading the scriptural passage above, say....

Loving God, we are going to continue exploring the questions of vocation tonight. Help us to get in touch with our deepest desires and dare to ask you as the lawyer did, “Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Help us to be attentive to you and one another. Be here with us and guide our conversation. Amen.

II. Short Check-In (5’)

III. Focus Exercise (40’):

Materials Needed: instrumental music, CD/iPod player, laptop, CLC journal booklets, candle.

✦ **Introduction:** make connection with last week’s topic and introduce tonight’s topic.

✦ **Exercise: The Three Vocation Questions**

You have two options: either watch the video clips or pray with the vocation questions. Choose one only.

Option #1: Watch video clips

Note: The video clips can be found on the CLC website under Leadership Resources. We recommend to watch and discuss a video clip at a time.

First Question: What are you passionate about?

- Video: Batman begins

1. How did Batman discover his desire or passion?

Bruce Wayne (Batman) discovered his strengths and passion by facing and embracing his fear of bats.



2. What are you passionate about?

(Think: fears, energy, what consistently gets you up in the morning, what you love to do, etc.)

Second question: What are you good at?

- Video: Incredibles

1. How did Violet discover her talents and gifts?

Violet, with patience, uncovers her special talents that lie beyond her poor self-esteem and the confusion she felt about her own identity.



2. What are you good at?

(Think: talents, skills, gifts.....things you have done well and easily, things you really enjoy doing, things you have done where hours passed by without notice...)

Third question: What does the World need from you?

- Video: What the World Needs is Love

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2cW8Alo_5uI

- Or Video: *Oz the Great and Powerful*

1. What do you think about the video? Discuss.

2. What does the World need from you?

(Think: what stirs compassion within me wanting to make a difference in the world. If members have gathered information from their recent community service, have them share. If not, invite them to share from their past experiences of community service.)



Option #2: Pray with the Vocation questions

- ✦ **Note:** invite members to pray with the questions below. These questions can be found in their journal booklets. *Give members about 10 minutes to pray and then discuss them.*

Suggested Questions to pray and share:

- ✦ Imagine God is sitting in front of you and ask you the following questions. What would you say?

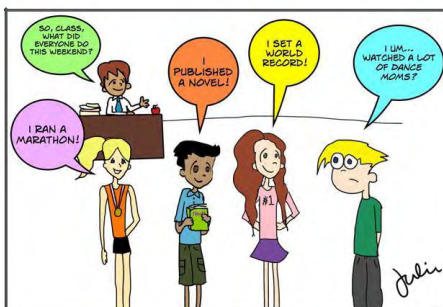
First Question: What are you passionate about?

- What are you passionate about?
(Think: your fears, energy, what consistently gets you up in the morning, what you love to do...)



Second question: What are you good at?

- What are you good at?
(Think: talents, skills, giftsthings you have done well and easily.....things you really enjoy doing.....things you have done where hours passed by without notice....)



Third question: What does the world need from you?

- What does the world need from you?
(Think: what stirs compassion within me wanting to make a difference in the world. If members have gathered information from their recent community services, have them share. If not, invite them to share from their past experiences of community service.)
1. "Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive." (Howard Thurman)
 2. "What the World Needs Now Is Love" (sung by Jackie DeShannon 1965)
 3. more wisdom
 4. Good leaders
 5. "God," said Pope Benedict XVI.
 6. Clear vision and purpose of life
 7. Less complacency....more jobs....more food, healthcare, shelter....equal rights for women and children.....



‡ **Listening deeper**

1. What has struck you as you have been listening to others share? Do you notice any patterns or commonalities?
2. How have you been feeling throughout the meeting? Comforted? Anxious? Curious?
3. Is there anything you would like to share after having heard another person share?

IV. Moving Forward (5')

- ‡ **Wrap-Up:** Thank members for their openness and participation.
- ‡ **Action:** talk with your prayer partner about the meeting tonight.
- ‡ **Announcement:** Topic for next meeting and upcoming CLC events

V. Closing Prayer (5')

Pray for one another. End with Arrupe's poem.

*Nothing is more practical than
finding God, than
falling in Love
in a quite absolute, final way.
What you are in love with,
what seizes your imagination, will affect everything.*



*It will decide
what will get you out of bed in the morning,
what you do with your evenings,
how you spend your weekends,
what you read, whom you know,
what breaks your heart,
and what amazes you with joy and gratitude.
Fall in Love, stay in love,
and it will decide everything.*

Spiritual Exercises / General Principles & Norms

God calls each of us to a personal vocation, which reveals itself in our deepest inclinations and our most authentic desires. (CLC Charism I)

The goal of our life is to live with God forever. God who loves us, gave us life. Our own response of love allows God's life to flow into us. (Ignatius' first principle and foundation)

#5 What God sees



Scripture

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be.... The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came to be through him, but the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him. But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name, who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice nor by a man's decision but of God. (John 1:1-3, 9-13)

Introduction & Welcome (1')

I. Opening Prayer (5')

Grace: To see the world through God's eyes and identify the needs in our community. Use the grace or the suggested scriptural passage above to create your own prayer.

II. Short Check-In (5')

III. Focus Exercise (40'): "What God Sees" Skit

- ✠ Introduction: make connection with last week's meeting. Last week, we explored the three vocation questions. One of them is, "What does the world or community need from me?" Tonight we are going to use the skit called, "What God sees," to identify the world's needs through God's eyes.



- ✠ This skit involves the three persons of the Trinity looking down on humanity (as Ignatius describes in the Second Week of the Exercises #101-109). We invite you to use your imagination to imagine that you are with God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. You see what God sees. You hear what God hears. You enter into what this relationship and conversation might look like.

- ✠ We need four people to serve as readers: Father, Son, Spirit, and Mary.

Exercise: Skit - God in Community

Father: My Son, come and sit with me a while. I want to check in on the people and the world and see how things are going. The lands are formed and teeming with animals, the seas are formed and filled with fish and whales. All over plant life is growing. What do you see when you look at these people and things?

Son: Dad, I see a variety of peoples throughout the world -- peoples of different races, colors, creeds, with differing gifts and limitations; some making peace and others making war; some weeping, others laughing; some well, others ill; some being born and others dying; some cooperating, others refusing to cooperate.

Father: I see that too. It really bothers me that I see so many hungry mothers and children, men who have been scarred by wars and are unable to heal and now live on the streets. I also see how some people are using so many of the natural resources that others are left thirsting and hungry. I thought when I created the world that I created enough for everyone to have what they needed. Now it looks like some of them are taking more than they need, more than what really belongs to them.

Son: What can we do?

Spirit: I have been trying my hardest. I have been planting seeds of awareness in the hearts of many people. I have been trying to help people notice the injustices. Some do. But not enough have felt this pain. Their hearts are hardened against my invitations and my urgings. The other thing I have noticed is that even the ones who notice the problems are not sure how to respond to them. They cannot imagine a world that is so radically different from the one they see now.



Father: Also, I think they cannot imagine a way of living themselves that is different from how they are living now. They see the laws and promises we gave them - to Moses and Abraham and so many others - but still they struggle to see how to respond to the needs of their own communities. They cling to the laws for hope, instead of finding hope in us. They forget that we gave them the laws as guides, to help them to love us and each other. The laws are supposed to free them, but instead they bind themselves up with them, and use them as a weapon.

Son: It really hurts when I see the way they are hurting - hurting each other, hurting themselves.

Spirit: and hurting the world that we created for them to enjoy! We sent Isaiah to warn them about joining field to field, forcing the farmers to grow cash crops and starving the people in the process. When will they learn to use the land with justice?

Father: My heart is heavy. All these things we gave them as gifts, they have spent so much time and energy protecting and hoarding. Haven't they learned yet that we will provide for them whatever they need in order to be fully alive and at peace?

Spirit: Yes! They seem less peaceful now that they have so many things. They are stressed about claiming what they think they own and fighting over who got the best of everything. This is not what we had intended.

Son: If only there was something we could do. I feel in my heart that we need to respond... but not in any way we have before. In the past it has been within the heart of one person, in a dream, in a vision, in an inspiration. This time calls for something much more.

Spirit: I agree. There are so many things we have tried and nothing seems to be working. What if one of us goes?

Son and Father: Goes?!

Spirit: Yes, what if one of us goes to earth as a human. Like the prophets who spoke for us...but now, one of us would speak. All three of us would speak through one of us. And live the way that we have been hoping for the humans to live. It would be so much more powerful than words... we need to act. We need to make into flesh the Word that we have proclaimed to them.

Father: Yes, but how... how could we do this? From the beginning we gave humanity free will. That free will should be a part of Our plan. We need a collaborator with us who could care for us on earth, to serve as a lasting example of courage and generosity. If we are going to join them and live amongst them, we will need someone to care for us in our bodily form.

Spirit: There is a woman... I have heard what is in her heart. She is kind and generous and faithful. But she is also tough. We need someone strong to help us... someone on earth who would be able to handle the immensity of what we are asking.

Father: Ahhh yes, Mary. I know her well. She has such a beautiful spirit. And that laugh! Oh I could listen to that all day.



Son: I have loved her for so long! I have known she would be capable of responding to the needs of those around her if she was asked. If I had to pick someone to care for me in my most vulnerable state - as a child- I would want it to be someone like her.

Spirit: Oh how I would love to go... to look into the eyes of the people I have loved so much, and in so many ways. I know them more deeply than they can ever know themselves. I just want to be close to them and for them to really feel how much I love them. I am so close to them, and yet they feel I am so far. If I could look into their eyes, they could look back and they would recognize me.

Father: I have also wanted to really reach them in a way that I do not feel I have been able to. I feel their awe as they gaze at the tall mountains I have created for them, I feel their pain as they cry at the deaths of their parents, and I feel their joy as they hold their newborn children and grandchildren. But there is something more I long for... a closeness with them that they have not yet experienced. I am right there with them in the land and the created world and in the people around them - and even within their very souls - but they do not see me.

Son: What if we all go? We can go together. It would be so much fun! And all three of us together could really make a difference!

Spirit: No, that would be too much. And it would be important for us to all work together, each in our unique ways. I think it should be one of us. I think we know what we need to do. We will go to Mary.

Father: Then let us send Gabriel to ask her. He will be our messenger.

Son: What if it is too much for her? What if she is afraid at what Gabriel will say?

Father: Gabriel has heard the cries of humanity and We will give him the words to give her reassurance. He will be the one to share with her the Good News that will come to all people through her. We have a plan for them!

Spirit: And then my power will come upon Mary and We will begin to dwell within her. Through her we will come to them in a new way. If she will trust us so fully, then we shall do the same.

Father: Yes, you will overshadow Mary....Jesus, I will be your heavenly Father, and you will be the Son of God on earth. You will walk, talk, and dine with them. You will laugh with them, you will cry with them. You will feel all that we feel for them, and you will also feel all that they feel. In you we will embrace everything they are. And we will be right there with you, because you are a part of us, a part of this family of the Trinity. Whatever pain you feel, we will feel too. In you, all that We are and all that they are will be one. In this way, we will all be present there on earth, but you will be the flesh and blood given for them. Son, will you go for us? We will go with you and be with you, but you must go, vulnerable and weak. You will remain in us, and we will remain in you. You will show them to love as We love, in ways they will understand. Trust that this woman we have chosen and her husband Joseph will protect you from all harm.

Son: Yes, I will go. I will go even if it means people could hurt me or kill me, if it means I drink water that makes me sick, if I have to starve with the other children who are starving. I want to feel the pain and the joy, the love and the fear. When I am afraid, I will trust in You; I will trust in your will to carry me through. Then, now is the time.

Father and Spirit: Yes, we are ready.

Son: I think Gabriel is done with his work and Mary is with her cousin Elizabeth now. Let's listen.



Mary:

*"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord;
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.*

For he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness;

behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed.

The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

His mercy is from age to age to those who fear him.

He has shown might with his arm,

dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart.

He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones but lifted up the lowly.

The hungry he has filled with good things; the rich he has sent away empty.

He has helped Israel his servant, remembering his mercy,

according to his promise to our fathers,

to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Luke 1:46-55

‡ **Sharing**

1. What is your reaction to this skit? Do any thoughts and feelings emerge within you?
2. How would you describe the relationship among the three persons?
3. What does the Trinity see in the world? Describe.
4. What is in the heart and mind of God as God looks at the world?
5. If God has called Mary to participate in building God's kingdom of peace and justice, God would call each one of us. Do you have a sense of how God call you to engage in the world today?

‡ **Listening deeper**

1. What has struck you as you have been listening to others share? Do you notice any patterns or commonalities? *Any common experiences and images of God?*
2. How have you been feeling throughout the meeting? Comforted? Anxious? Curious?
3. Is there anything you would like to share after having heard other people share?

IV. Moving Forward (5')

- ‡ **Wrap-Up:** Thank members for their openness and participation. Share with them any of these clarifying points on the skit if there is still any confusion.
- ‡ **Action:** talk with your prayer partner about God's hopes and dreams for the world
- ‡ **Announce:** Next topic and any other upcoming CLC events.

V. Closing Prayer (5')

Invite members to voice any prayers or petitions out loud. End with Taize Song, "Bless the Lord." <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t4Svh-9ohg4>

Spiritual Exercises / General Principles & Norms

Union with Christ leads to union with the Church where Christ here and now continues his mission of salvation. By making ourselves sensitive to the signs of the times and the movements of the Spirit...This sense of the Church impels us to creative and concrete collaboration for the work of advancing the reign of God on earth, and includes a readiness to go and serve where the needs of the Church so demand. (GP #6)

#6 Following Jesus



Scripture

As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.’” He said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.” Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions. (Mk 10:17-30)

Jn 1:39 “...Come & See....”

Jn 14:6 “I am the way, the truth, and the life.”

Introduction & Welcome (1 min.)

I. Opening Prayer (5’)

Grace: courage to follow Jesus in building God’s kingdom of peace and justice.

Use the grace or the suggested scriptural passage above to create your own prayer. You can also use the one below. After the scriptural passage above, say.....

Lord, we thank You for gathering us here. We believe You are here with us, for You promised to be present wherever two or three are gathered in Your name. We pray for a grace of courage to let go of things that keep us from following you in building your kingdom of peace and justice here on earth. Amen.

II. Short Check-In (5’)

III. Focus Exercise (40’): Following Jesus

Materials Needed: instrumental music, CD/iPod player, candle, CLC journal booklets

- ✦ **Introduction:** Make connection with last week’s meeting. Last week, we had a chance to see the world through God’s eyes. We have identified so many needs, challenges, and opportunities for us to engage the world with God. Tonight, we are going to use Ignatian meditation (a.k.a. *Lectio Divina*) to explore Jesus’ calling and radical way of life.
- ✦ **Exercise:** Explain briefly about *Lectio Divina*. This method has 3 steps. First, it involves reading a scripture passage a few times. Second, notice any word, phrase, or image especially speak to you personally. Third, take time to meditate on what that word, phrase, or image means to you personally and how it relates to your life situations.

Ignatian Meditation (*a.k.a. Lectio Divina*)

1. PRESENCE OF GOD

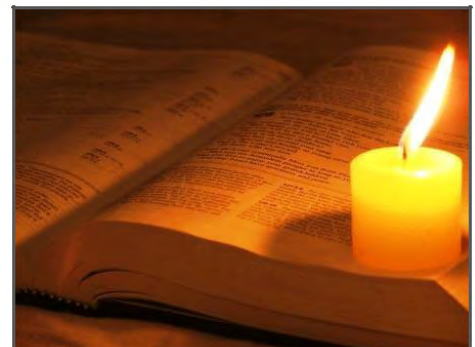
- **Place yourself in God’s presence:**
Sit in a comfortable position. Breathe in and out fully and imagine God before, around, and within you like the air that fills you.
- **Centering/Quieting:**
Try your best to quiet and focus your mind. Use candles or instrumental music if helpful.
- **Ask for the grace desired:**
Peace, the gift of prayer, deep listening, letting go, surrender, faith...

2. MEDITATION

- **Read the passage** two or three times. Notice any words, phrases, or images that strike or *challenge* you. Stay there and ruminate on them; let God’s Spirit guide your thinking, imagining, remembering, etc.
- **Notice what feelings** emerge within you as you meditate on the passage. Do the feelings lead you to a deeper experience of God/grace? Savor that experience and listen to what God might reveal to you.
- **Pray with the question**, “What does this passage mean for me today and how does it relate to my life situations?”

3. COLLOQUY/CONVERSATION

- Enter into an **intimate conversation** with the Lord.
- End the prayer period with an *Our Father*, *Glory Be*, or an expression of gratitude, etc.



Tonight, we are going to use this method to discern God’s calling in our lives. We are going to read the passage of the Rich Young Man (Mk 10:17-30) three times out loud. (The story can be found in the Scripture Box). After each time, we will discuss the passage.

First time: invite a member to read the passage out loud. After reading it, spend a moment of silence.

Second time: invite another member to read the passage out loud. After reading it, ask members, “Are there any words, phrases, or images that strike you?” Please voice them out loud.

Third time: invite another member to read the passage out loud. After reading it for the third time, give members 5-7 minutes to pray with the questions below. Encourage them to stay with the word, phrase, or image that strikes them earlier. Notice any feelings or movements emerge within them. Invite them to jot down any thoughts or feelings from the questions in their journal booklets.

Suggested Questions to pray and share

1. What does the passage mean for you today personally? How does the passage relate to your life situations?
2. What does it mean for you personally to follow Jesus? Describe.
3. What is the cost in following Jesus? Is there anything Jesus might challenge you to let go or put on? Is it worth it?

† **Sharing:** invite members to share their prayer experiences. Use the questions above to facilitate the conversation.

† **Note:** If time allows, you may use the following questions to generate more discussion....

Suggested questions to discuss the passage:

1. Could the rich young man’s question of “What must I do to inherit eternal life?” be a vocational question? What drives the young man to ask Jesus this question?
2. Is it enough for us to follow God’s ten commandments? Why or why not?
3. Why does Jesus ask him to sell everything he has, give to the poor, and follow him?



Here is one possible answer: **freedom.**

- The heart of God’s commandment is covenant and relationship. Its purpose is not just the list of rules and laws but a way of living in relationship with God.
- It supposes to free us from what we have (money, intellect, skills, relationships, virtues, letters of the law....) for who we are meant to be and to do (sharing life and mission with Jesus to build God’s kingdom of peace and justice).

‡ **Listening deeper**

1. What has struck you as you have been listening to others share? Do you notice any patterns or commonalities?
2. How have you been feeling throughout this meeting? Comforted? Anxious? Curious?
3. Is there anything you would like to share after having heard other people share?

IV. Moving Forward (5')

- ‡ **Wrap-Up:** Thank members for their openness and participation.
- ‡ **Action:** Use *Lectio Divina* to pray over the passage of the rich young man (Mk 10:17-30) again. Talk with your prayer partner about the meeting topic tonight.
- ‡ **Announcement:** Topic for next meeting and upcoming CLC events

V. Closing Prayer (5')

- ‡ Invite members to voice any prayers or petitions out loud.
- ‡ End with a song, "I have decided to follow Jesus." Encourage members to sing along.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kbUIyutceTU&feature=related>

I have decided to follow Jesus
([Christian hymn](#) originating from [India](#).)

1. I have decided to follow Jesus (3x)
No turning back, no turning back.

2. The world behind me, the cross before me (3x)
No turning back, no turning back.

Ref: I will follow you Jesusno turning back....

4. Though none go with me, still I will follow (3x)
No turning back, no turning back.

5. Though I may wonder, I still will follow (3x)
No turning back, no turning back.

6. Will you decided now to follow Jesus? (3x)
No turning back, no turning back



#7 Can I make a difference?



Scripture

When it grew late, his disciples came to Jesus and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now very late; send them away so that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy something for themselves to eat.” But he answered them, “You give them something to eat.” They said to him, “Are we to go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread, and give it to them to eat?” And he said to them, “How many loaves do you have? Go and see.” When they had found out, they said, “Five, and two fish.” (Mk 6:30-56)

1 Sam 17:33 “David, you are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a young man”
Jn 11:8 ‘Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?’

Introduction & Welcome (1 min.)

I. Opening Prayer (5’)

Grace: to identify my five loaves and two fish and give them to Jesus to feed others.

Use the grace or the suggested scriptural passage above to create your own prayer. You can also use the one below:

Lord, we thank You for gathering us here. We believe You are here with us, for You promised to be present wherever two or three are gathered in Your name. There are so many problems and issues in our community....it can be overwhelming to think of them....like the disciples we just want to send people away and don't have to deal with the problems. But you challenge us to feed them. Give us a discerning heart to identify our five loaves and two fishes. With you, we can feed more than 5,000 people in our community. Amen.

II. Short Check-In (5’)

III. Focus Exercise (40’):

Materials Needed: instrumental music, CD/iPod player, candle, CLC journal booklets

† **Introduction:** Make connection with last week’s meeting. Last week, we talked about Following Jesus. Tonight, we are going to explore what it means to follow Jesus in a more concrete way. The question is, “Can I make a difference?”

† **Exercise:** Explain what you are going to do. We are going to watch a video clip on the life of a young woman who has changed American History forever. Her name is Rosa Parks. As you watch, pay attention to what drives Rosa to choose to fight for justice rather than give in.

Youtube: Rosa Parks bio

Show <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v8A9gvb5Fh0>

Note: If you don't have access to youtube, read the article below out loud.

One life changed American History

(from <http://www.biography.com/people/rosa-parks-9433715>)

SYNOPSIS

Civil rights activist Rosa Parks was born on February 4, 1913, in Tuskegee, Alabama. Her refusal to surrender her seat to a white passenger on a Montgomery, Alabama bus spurred a city-wide boycott. The city of Montgomery had no choice but to lift the law requiring segregation on public buses. Rosa Parks received many accolades during her lifetime, including the NAACP's highest award.

ORDERED TO THE BACK OF THE BUS

The Montgomery, Alabama city code required that all public transportation be segregated and that bus drivers had the "powers of a police officer of the city while in actual charge of any bus for the purposes of carrying out the provisions" of the code. While operating a bus, drivers were required to provide separate but equal accommodations for white and black passengers by assigning seats.

This was accomplished with a line roughly in the middle of the bus separating white passengers in the front of the bus and African-American passengers in the back. When an African-American passenger boarded the bus, they had to get on at the front to pay their fare and then get off and re-board the bus at the back door. When the seats in the front of the bus filled up and more white passengers got on, the bus driver would move back the sign separating black and white passengers and, if necessary, ask black passengers give up their seat.

On December 1, 1955, after a long day at work at the Montgomery Fair department store, Rosa Parks boarded the Cleveland Avenue bus for home. She took a seat in the first of several rows designated for "colored" passengers. Though the city's bus ordinance did give drivers the authority to assign seats, it didn't specifically give them the authority to demand a passenger to give up a seat to anyone (regardless of color). However, Montgomery bus drivers had adopted the custom of requiring black passengers to give up their seats to white passengers, when no other seats were available. If the black passenger protested, the bus driver had the authority to refuse service and could call the police to have them removed.

As the bus Rosa was riding continued on its route, it began to fill with white passengers.

Eventually, the bus was full and the driver noticed that several white passengers were standing in the aisle. He stopped the bus and moved the sign separating the two sections back one row and asked four black passengers to give up their seats. Three complied, but Rosa refused and remained seated. The

driver demanded, "Why don't you stand up?" to which Rosa replied, "I don't think I should have to stand up." The driver called the police and had her arrested. Later, she recalled that her refusal wasn't because she was physically tired, but that she was tired of giving in.



The police arrested Rosa at the scene and charged her with violation of Chapter 6, section 11 of the Montgomery City code. She was taken to police headquarters where later that night she was released on bail. On December 8, Rosa faced trial and in a 30 minute hearing was found guilty of violating a local ordinance. She was fined \$10, plus a \$4 court fee.

† **Pray:** After the video, give members 5-7 minutes to pray with the questions below.

Suggested questions to pray and share

1. What thoughts and feelings stir within you when you watched the life of Rosa Parks?
2. What motivates or drives Rosa Parks to choose to be arrested rather than give up her seat?
3. What would have happened in the American History if Rosa had chosen to give up her seat?
4. “We all want to make a difference. Most people hope that when their lives are over, they will be leaving the world a slightly better than it was when they arrived....And just as surely, most of us don’t really believe our lives can make a difference. We think we are too small to count, too insignificant to have any impact on the big scheme of things, too unimportant for our tiny voices to be heard....” (Margaret Silf, *Simple Faith*, p. 37-38).
 - In what concrete ways does God invite you to make a difference here and now?
 - What are your five loaves and two fish?

† **Sharing:** Invite members to share. Use the questions above to facilitate if helpful.

† **Listening deeper**

1. What has struck you as you have been listening to others share? Do you notice any patterns or commonalities?
2. How have you been feeling throughout this meeting? Comforted? Anxious? Curious?
3. Is there anything you would like to share after having heard other people share?

IV. Moving Forward (5’)

† **Wrap-Up:** Thank members for their openness and participation.

† **Action:** to do one good deed a day for the rest of the year.

† **Announcement:** Topic for next meeting and upcoming CLC events
* Bring any items that we have done in the CLC meetings this year that remind us of God’s love (e.g., my self box, etc.)



V. Closing Prayer (5’)

Pray for one another. One suggestion: to pray for the person on your left. Group leader might begin..... End with the prayer below by St. Teresa of Avila.

*Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
Compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
compassion on this world.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.*

#8 Year in Review



Scripture

During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God." (Mt 14:22-33)

Note: This meeting may last for two meetings

Introduction & Welcome (1')

I. Opening Prayer (5')

Grace: To identify the graces of the year and come up with a response in living out those graces.

Use the grace or a suggested scripture above to create your own prayer or use the prayer below. After reading the scripture above, say, *"Almighty God, we thank you for gathering us here tonight. As the year comes to an end, our hearts are full of emotions...excitement about summer break, anxiety about final exams, looking forward to going home....We pray for the grace of being open and honest as we reflect upon our year together. Help us to identify some of the consolation moments that helped us walk on water toward you and some of the desolation moments that made us drown under the water. Amen."*

II. Short Check-In (5')

III. Focus Exercise (40'): The Year in Review

Materials Needed: journal booklets, CLC cloth/poster, members' items (My Self box or any "spiritual" items that remind them of God's love), Year-end Evaluation handouts

‡ Introduction:

1. Feel free to use any song to set a tone.
2. Explain the topic and preview the meeting: Tonight we are going to reflect upon our year together and to give each other honest feedback. We have learned the skill of the Awareness Examen last year and the inner movements of consolation and desolation this quarter. We will now use these tools to identify the graces of the year, our consolations and desolations, and God's invitation. To do this, we are going to use our journal entries and "spiritual" items.

‡ **Exercise:** The Year in Review

Invite members pray with the questions which can be found in the next page.

‡ **Sharing and Feedback**

1. Explain the procedure: tonight we are going to do something different. After each person has shared, we are going to write to the person our prayer notes, which include both affirmations and challenges. Our group only grows if we can be honest with each other, assuming it's ok with everyone (check to see if it's ok with everyone).
2. Invite each member to share: after each member has shared, allow times for all members to write a prayer note to the person who just shared. Then each member will share her/his note either by reading it out loud or summarizing its main thoughts to the person.

‡ **Listening deeper**

1. What has struck you as you have been listening to others share? Do you notice any patterns or commonalities? *Any common experiences and images of God?*
2. How have you been feeling throughout the meeting? Comforted? Anxious? Curious?
3. Is there anything you would like to share after having heard another person share?

IV. Moving Forward (5')

‡ **Wrap-Up:** Thank members for their openness and participation.

‡ **Evaluation:** have members to fill out the “Year-end Evaluation” and discuss it.

‡ **Action:** Discuss the following

1. Is there any unfinished business (such as apologies, peacemaking, thank-you's...) of the past year we need to address?
2. Remind members of God's invitation and their responses to live out the graces received.
3. How can we as a group grow and support each other over the summer? (e.g., prayer partner, group sharing on facebook every week, etc.)

‡ **Announce:** Upcoming CLC events
Try to set a meeting day and time for next year.



Year-End Awareness Examen

Presence of God: I take some time to relax, breathe regularly, and place myself in God's presence. I ask for the gift of gratitude and sensitivity to the Spirit, so that I may more deeply understand and appreciate how God has been working and inviting me this year.

Reflect: I read over my journal entries as a way to recall what took place within me. I particularly pay attention to my covenant with God, my hopes and desires at the beginning of each quarter. I *underline* key words, phrases, or insights, especially those which recur or form a pattern of meaning.

1. Gratitude: Looking back this year, what are you most grateful for?

2. Consolation

- Which activities or persons in this year helped you to “walk on water” and grow closer to God as Peter did? Describe.
- How would you answer the question, “Where am I headed” tonight?

3. Desolation

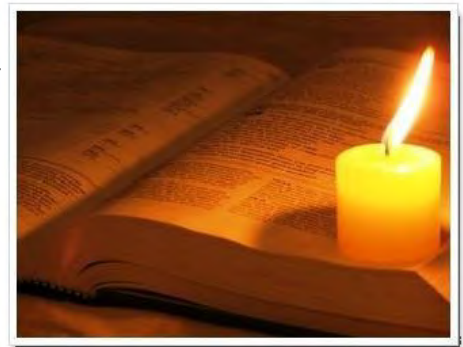
- Which activities or persons in this year caused you to “drown under the water” and pull you away from God? Describe.
- How have you not responded to God? Might you need God's forgiveness?

4. God's Invitation

- Name one or two areas that God is inviting you to work on during the summer and next year.
- In what concrete ways or habits do you envision to live out these graces?

5. Image of the year: if you have to choose an image to describe your inner journey this year, what would it be? Draw it out on the next blank page.

Closing prayer: As with every prayer, I spend time to listen, talk, or convey to God whatever is in my heart.



My image of the year

V. Closing Prayer (5')

- ✠ Encourage everyone to pray in thanksgiving for each other by praying for the person to their left. (Coordinator should begin first) *I would like to pray in thanksgiving for*
- ✠ We may conclude the prayer with your favorite prayer or the one below

Before The One Who Is Mystery

Holy One, Mystery, Caring God
Now I know that you are always greater than anything I can think or imagine,
and for this I am most grateful.
I am glad that I can not locate you, define you, describe you.
I used to worry about self-identity, about who I was.
Now I am glad not to know,
and I can thank you for the mystery of my being....
I do not know how much longer I shall live,
nor what shall become of me.
I do not know if the way I am trying to live now really is your will.
You have shown me something of the depths of self-deception
that are in me, and I may still be deceiving myself.
But what I do know is that you are the God of every situation,
God in our darkness drawing us to light,
God in our sinfulness offering us healing, God
in our self-deception leading us into truth,
God who is for us, even when we are against ourselves.
So I know that even if I am unwittingly deceiving myself,
if I follow what truth there is in me, then you will draw me further into your truth,
and that there is no situation, no state, no place I can reach
where you will not still be closer to me than I am to myself.

Adapted from Gerard Hughes in "God, Where Are You?"
(Darton, Longman and Todd Ltd., 1997) p. 269f.

Spiritual Exercises / General Principles & Norms

Love is shown more in deeds than in words (SpEx #230).

I beg for the gift of an intimate knowledge of all the goods which God shares with me. Filled with gratitude. I want to be empowered to respond just as totally in my love and service. (SpEx #233).

Inspired by the Holy Spirit, we respond with gratitude to God for this gift of Jesus in every circumstance of our lives (GP #5).

