

Session Two - The Search

Results of the Charism Inventory

Discussion: What did you think of the inventory questions? Were the suggestions on how to take the inventory clear? Were you surprised by any of the results? (10-15 minutes)

Understanding Charisms

For more information refer to P. 107-111 in Fruitful Discipleship. Mention that in the life of a Christian natural talents and charisms work together. Can you identify any natural talents in your life or in the life of another? (discussion should be short)

So how are Charisms different?

This would be a good time to explain the “Three Signs of a Charism”

1. Experience over time.
 2. My Effectiveness.
 3. Feedback from others
- (refer to page 2 of the called and Gifted Team Training Guide)

*Can anyone relate to the experience of using a charism? What was that like? How did that make you feel? How did that make the other person feel?

Discussion should be longer because of the importance of the topic (20-25 minutes)

Introduce the 23 charisms that we will examine and their grouping, explaining that we will be discussing and trying to explain each.

Pastoral Charisms

Refer to P.114-129 in Fruitful Discipleship

Ask the group members to look for similarities between the five Pastoral Charisms.

Alternating the co-leaders should explain:

Encouragement – nurturing others through his or her presence or words of comfort

Ex. St. Barnabas for his attempts to reconcile between St. Paul and John Mark

Helps – to empower other individuals to serve God

Ex. Brother Leo who was one of St. Francis’ first companions and nursed him during his last illness

Hospitality – to be a generous channel for those in need of food, shelter, and friendship

Ex. St. Benedict who founded western monasticism in the Benedictine Order, where every guest is received as though he or she was Jesus

Mercy – through practical deeds of compassion to relieve distress and show God’s love

Ex. St. Jerome Emiliani who is the patron saint of orphans and abandoned children

Pastoring – nurturing the long term spiritual growth of a group

Ex. St. Charles Borromeo who masterminded the First Council of Trent during the very troubled 16th century

Be careful not to just repeat what is in the workbook remember they have already read it. Ask as you are explaining if anyone was familiar with any of the Saints mentioned although you need not go over each one.

Discussion: Ask if anyone could see any similarities? **Has anyone seen any of these charisms at work?** It is important to reference our Saints but it is more important that we can highlight people who we know or have known that might exhibit these charisms. **Has anyone ever done something that might be associated with any of these charisms?** Encourage them to be specific (Explanation and discussion 20 minutes)

Closing Prayer

Share prayer requests, and then take turns with each stanza, pray out loud the prayer on p. 17.

For HW remind all that they should be reading Session three but offer if anyone like to for the next meeting to explain one of the charisms from the Communications or Organization categories. And that they need not feel they have to but if they wanted to they could, just raise your hand next week. Also ask the group to use the appendix p. 132-147 which may be helpful.