

Session 1 – Introductions

Pages 2-9 of Gold Bound (GB) unless otherwise noted

Introduction. (10 Minutes)

Welcome everyone including those on Zoom and reassure them that it is good that they are here.

Commend them for listening to that inner voice that is leading them to transformation.

Introduce yourself and ask each person to do the same with possible prompts:

- Name, years parishioner?
- What makes you happy?
- What do they think it means to be called and gifted?
- What you hope to get from this program?

Review the importance of confidentiality. The ability to trust will foster a firm foundation for all.

Housekeeping: give out books, point out where the bathrooms are, review where/when we meet, any changes in schedule, any questions?

Opening Prayer – Suggested that leader read

Page 2 GB

Lord Jesus, Lord of the Gifts, we know that we are gathered to begin contemplating a very mysterious reality – how you enter and change our world through us, through our cooperation with your grace. We need you to be present in our midst now as our Lord and our teacher, the one who gifts us and calls us. We are all at different points in our lives. We all have different relationships with you. So, what each of us seeks to receive from you is different. We ask that you meet each of us where we are, and that we be open to seeing what you want us to see and hearing what you want us to hear, this day.

In your most holy name, we pray. Amen

Prayer Discussion (5-10 minutes) Consider re-reading the prayer in silence.

- Ask them to share which word or phrase resonated with them and why.
- Try to include everyone but be respectful that people may be quiet the first few times they're in a group.
- Also, allow for those who participate virtually.

Look for ways to bring the focus on that we are all on, "the same journey, just different paths."

Session 1 has 2 goals:

1. To help the group come to realize that it is Christ who calls them to participate in his work. This call is an invitation to a unique life...a vocation. This call will transform them and the world. This transformation begins with discerning their Charism.
2. To teach the signs and characteristics of a charism, as well as assist the group in the discernment process.

Outlining the Program (10 minutes)

Outline the program in its entirety to set expectations (timing, time commitment, different aspects).

There are 5 video segments that can be used during session 1. See list below for video titles and length as well as the Page numbers that coincide with each topic.

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| 1. Introduction to the Discernment Process | Page 2-3 |
| 2. Introduction to Charisms and You | Page 3-5 |
| 3. Holy Spirit | Page 5-7 |
| 4. Introduction to Charisms, Role & Gift Mix | Page 7-8 |
| 5. How to Take the Inventory | Page 8-9 |

Wrapping Up

- Watch your time.
- As the evening begins to wind down, assess your group members... Are they in the moment, lost, stressed, etc. As His disciples, how we minister to others is important.
- Homework is to complete the self-study for Session Two.
- Any Questions?

Closing Prayer

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- Ask the group to take a deep breath, and to: recall that God is here with us, or that they are chosen and beloved by God, or feel that they each are in God's hands.
- Thank them for being with you tonight...for their attendance and participation.
- Acknowledge that this is a lot to take in. Encourage them to be patient with themselves and to stay close to God in prayer. Assure them that you, along with the entire C&G team will be praying for them.
- Ask candidates to consider "What might God be saying to you?"

Prayer Choice #1 – from St. John Henry Newman

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"God Has created all things for good; all things for their greatest good; Everything for its own good. What is the good of one is not the good of another; What makes one person happy would make another unhappy.

God has determined, unless I interfere with this plan, that I should reach He looks on me individually. He calls me by name. He knows me better than I know myself. He knows what I can do, what I can best be, what is my greatest happiness, and He means to give it to me.

Prayer Choice #2 – A Prayer of Openness

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God, if you are real, please let me know.

Lord, help me to be open to your purposes for me.

Jesus, I want to follow you. Help me to grow as your disciple.

Jesus, show me how I can be an instrument of your love and provision for others.

Amen