

Session 3 – The Search Continues

Pages 18-26 of Gold Bound (GB) unless otherwise noted

Welcome everyone including those on Zoom (housekeeping, questions, announcements, encouragement as needed)

Opening Prayer

Page 18

Have the group take a moment to let go of the day and whatever may be interfering with their heart connecting with God. You can lead them by doing a few slow deep breaths with them. Then, ask the group to silently read the prayer below from St. John Newman.

*God was all complete, all blessed in Himself;
but it was His will to create a world for His glory.
He is Almighty, and might have done all things Himself,
but it has been His will to bring about His purposes by the things He has created.
We are all created to His glory—we are created to do His will.
I am created to do something or to be something for which no one else is created.
I have a place in God's counsels, in God's world, which no one else has;
whether I be rich or poor, despised or esteemed by men,
God knows me and calls me by my name. Amen!*

Prayer Discussion

After a pause, ask the group for their reactions. What words or phrases speak to their hearts. Seek to include all, although each does not have to respond to each question.

2 Goals for Session 3

1. To Explain the Discernment Process.
2. To continue exploring groups of Charisms

5 Steps of Discernment

Explain that discernment is a process.

Some definitions of discernment: A) it is a wise way of judging or B) it is a discovery leading to an action.

1. EXPLORE all of the possibilities What? How? When? Why?
2. EXPERIMENT action is required, do it and see what happens
3. EXAMINE your experience, what was your reaction
4. EVALUATE your effectiveness, did it accomplish its purpose
5. EXPECT and look for feedback in any form or reaction

Discussion

How long is the process?

How long is each step?

Can a person discern by themselves?

Communication Charisms (“FD” Fruitful Discipleship book, “GB” from Gold Bound Complete Resource Appendix, “BB” from Black Bound Team Training Manual).

In order to get people involved, ask if there is anyone would like to present the first of the

Communications charisms?

Page 130-139 FD

1. Evangelism – (Page 130 FD, 134 GB, 19 BB) by sharing faith with others in a way that draws them to become disciples of Jesus

Example is St. Catherine of Siena who worked ceaselessly for the healing of schism in the Church in the 14th century.

2. Prophecy – (Page 133 FD, 143 GB, 71 BB) communicating a call of God through inspired words or actions.

Ex. St. Dominic founded his famous order as a response to the Albigensian heretics.

3. Teaching— (Page 137 FD, 145 GB, 81 BB) enabling others to learn information to help reach their spiritual and personal potential.

Example is St. John Baptist de La Salle who founded the Christian Brothers and changed the process of education.

Discussion:

Which of the Communications charisms is least likely to manifest itself? Just because it is not as “common” please look for God’s words in your personal life. Have you ever been part of any of these charisms? If so how?

Organizational Charisms

Repeat the same process from earlier in the session by asking for volunteers and choosing the charisms they want to do first. Ask for volunteers even if there were none for the Communications charisms, someone may have grown bolder. Ask the group to look for similarities between these charisms as they are discussed.

1. Administration— (Page 141 FD, 132 GB, 1 BB) planning and delegating to accomplish God’s purpose for us.

Example is St. Vincent De Paul who founded the Sisters of Charity to create a network to assist the poor and sick

2. Leadership— (Page 144 FD, 140 GB, 51 BB) directing the overall efforts of a group to complete a vision for a better future

Example is Ignatius de Loyola who created the Jesuits and managed the order for 15 years as superior general.

3. Giving – (Page 146 FD, 135 GB, 27 BB) by providing exceptional generosity to those in need

Example is the blessed Katherine Drexel who had a vision from the Blessed Virgin “to give freely” of her family’s wealth.

4. Service – (Page 149 FD, 144 GB, 77 BB) recognizing problems that prevent good things from happening and solving them Ex. Blessed Catherine Jarrige who created a network to restore the Catholic Church after the Fr. Revolution.

Discussion (20 minutes)

- Do we see any similarities between these charisms?
- Why isn’t Katherine Drexel associated with the charism of Prophecy?
- What is the difference between Administration and Leadership?
- Which grouping are you closer to Communications or Organization? How are these two groups different? (20 minutes)

Wrapping Up.

- Remind the group that right now they are EXPLORING and that discernment is a process.
- As you approach the end of this session, make the time to thank everyone for their commitment to C&G, for their participation in the group, their efforts to read and review the materials at home, the sacrifices they are making to answer this call, and the support that God gives all of us.
- Homework is session four.

Closing Prayer

Page 26

Suggestions: Each person could take a line or two. Or divide the group in half. Or slowly read aloud together. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead to choose the method which is best for your group

Lord, you are the Good Shepherd

Who fills the hungry with good things,

Who spreads a table before us,

Who fills our cup to overflowing,

Who calls each of us by name and leads us out.

Today I am seeking to discern those special gifts you have bestowed.

May I embrace these charisms that I may be a channel of your love for others.

Open my eyes to see your ways.

To my ears to hear your voice.

Teach me what is important for me to know right now as I reflect on who I am and the meaning of my life. Especially, Lord, make the next step clear to me and fire me with the desire to take it.

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen!