

## 2nd Session - Small Group St. John Neumann Confirmation Prep 2024

### Topic: Christ

By the end of the whole Confirmation program, we would like the teens to see how God is the fulfillment of all desires.

**Main objective:** By the end of this session, we want the students to come to a deeper understanding of the person of Christ and who He is, as well as how He is the fulfillment of their desires. The goal is to spark the desire to come to know Him more deeply and relationally.

Green text indicates special notes for mentors.

**This is more of a resource structured to be a springboard to prep for your teen sessions. We have filtered the videos “Chosen”.**

**You most likely will not have time to systematically go through everything in this document and watch every video with your teens. This resource is a guide to make you feel equipped when planning your session. Keep in mind the main objective mentioned above when structuring your session. At the end of this meeting that is what we want the teens to leave with after this session. The Holy Spirit will guide each of us in different ways to get our group to that end.**

### COMMUNITY BUILDING AND GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER

- I. Community Building - choose one, both, or create your own
  - A) High-Low Game
    1. Each teen shares a high and a low from the previous week,
- II. Quick Review on the Four Levels of Happiness - [printout with levels etc:](#)
  - A) **Happiness can be sought at any level. Until we ascend above choosing the comparative Levels 1 and 2 as our main drivers, we greatly limit our access to pervasive, enduring, and deep happiness.**
  - B) Refer back to their handout from the previous session, and see if they would make any changes to the ten things that bring them joy.
  - C) Allow the teens to reflect on the items they added to Levels 3 and 4 that they would like to commit to this summer.
- III. Who is Christ? [Teen Handout - Example](#)
  - A) Invite the teens to reflect on who they think Jesus is in their journals or pieces of paper. You can also create your own handout.
  - B) **Mentors, here is an opportunity for you to share your view of Christ. How has your view changed? How has your relationship changed and grown?**
  - C) After your testimony, ask the teens to look back at their reflections, and invite them to add additional thoughts that may have come to them.
  - D) Ask the teens, in relation to your testimony, what they could relate to, is their view different or similar?

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#### DISCUSSION: WHO DOES JESUS SAY HE IS?

- IV. Reading of Scripture: Who do people say that I am? Matthew 16:13-20
- V. Discussion of the reading
- A) What sticks out to you in the reading? What was interesting?
- B) Jesus affirms what Peter states, and by affirming, it could mean only three things: telling the truth, liar, or lunatic
- This is called the C.S. Lewis Trilemma, an argument for the divinity of Jesus
- VI. Watch video(s)
- A) Option 1 would be to watch Chosen's 5.1 and 5.2 videos
- To access videos, log in at [https://ascensionpress.thinkific.com/users/sign\\_in](https://ascensionpress.thinkific.com/users/sign_in)
  - Click on "Chosen - Leader Access"
  - On the left side of screen, click on "Lesson 5"
  - Click on "[Video 5.1](#): Who do you say that I am"
  - For next video, click on "[Video 5.2](#): Evidence for Jesus"
  - Use discussion guide found in your chosen leaders guide for this series.
- Overarching summary of both videos
- These videos help explain that Jesus was not just a moral teacher or prophet, but rather, that He is God. There are many places in Scripture where Jesus claimed equality with God, which is why He was crucified. Jesus was not just a prophet. He was not a liar. He was not crazy or delusional. If Jesus was not a liar or a crazy man, this would mean He was (and is) who He said He was, namely: God.
- VII. Discussion Questions
- A) What is the claim of Christianity, with regards to Jesus?
- B) Who did Jesus actually claim to be?
- C) Why can we not say that Jesus was a liar or a mad man?
- D) Why should we not say that Jesus was a 'good man'?
- E) We can accept or reject Jesus and His teachings. Why should we not be indifferent?

#### DISCUSSION: WHO DO YOU SAY JESUS IS?

- VIII. Allow the teens to share and discuss the following questions: Who do you say Jesus is? Do you see Jesus just as a good person? Is He just a teacher? A Historical person (something we can't deny)? A friend?
- A) Does Jesus shape your worldview if so how?

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- B) **Re-read the scripture reading** (Matthew 16:13-20). Now that we have some context, what do you think of the responses about who Jesus is? Do their responses mean anything in particular?

#### IX. **The historical and cultural context of the scripture reading** (Matthew 16:13-20)

##### A) Historical setting

1. Matthew informs us that they are with Caesarea Philippi. It's here where Jesus asks the question about who He is. Why here?
2. Caesar Augustus is the Roman emperor at this time and when he became emperor, one of the first things he did was have the senate give the title of "god" to Julius Caesar (deceased father and previous emperor). The Senate voted and approved. The next thing Caesar proclaimed was that if Julius Caesar is God then he (Caesar Augustus) is then the son of god. He immediately had coins and statues erected with his face and a new title on them ("son of god").
3. Peter and the disciples knew what Jesus was trying to get at when he asked them who He (Jesus) is.
4. By giving Jesus the title, Peter is rejecting the fact that the title "Son of God" is Caesar Augustus' title. If Peter truly believed this and professed it, it would put him in contention with Rome and he could be persecuted. As we will see in later stories in the Bible, all the disciples and the early Christians were persecuted due to their firm belief in who Jesus is.

##### B) Cultural context

1. Has anything changed? Talk about the view of how one is labeled if you are a Christian/believer or a Catholic.
2. What happens if you pray before a meal or a game? Do I dedicate a Sunday to the Lord? Do you participate in the mass, especially at the moment of consecration? If I relate to Christ as a friend, do I relate to him as Lord?
3. How is the image of friendship helpful in one's relationship with Christ? Why is our relationship with Jesus so much more?

#### RESPONSE/PRAYER

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.

#### X. **Option 1 on a video about prayer Chosen's 4.3**

- Can use discussion guide found in your chosen leaders guide for this series

#### XI. **Option 2 on a video about prayer Chosen's 18.3**

- Can use discussion guide found in your chosen leaders guide for this series

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#### CONCLUSION/ENCOUNTER

Conclusion: Our goal is to help them have an encounter and have that desire to build a relationship with Christ. In each session it would be good to help them learn different forms of prayers and to end with prayer.

You can use the PDF resource, [“Lectio-wrap-summary-reference”](#) or [“Prayer-Discipleship types of prayer”](#) to do a guided meditation. Feel free to use the scripture verse we reflected on, or any other verses that fit. For those who are more visual, feel free to use a piece of art to pray with as well.

- While doing lectio can have the group share their experience of praying with scripture.

Another option can be to end with a review of the four aspects of humanity: If they started the session reviewing how they did in giving attention to their relational, physical, intellectual, and spiritual needs, have them end with reflecting what they will do till the next time you meet.

Here is an option to find the next time you will meet either for next session or to do something socially

Challenge till next time:

To foster that community in the group you can come up with something that the group will commit to. Some ideas can be:

- Committing to pray during the week
- Having a scripture challenge where they pray with certain scriptures
- Fasting as a group and doing something