

December- Session 4, ACTS 2:42 Eucharistic Revival Small Group

Two-hour Session, 7-9 p.m., adjust to your meeting time as needed.

7:00 Welcome/Gathering Time

7:15 Opening Song- O Come O Come Emmanuel (Choir with Lyrics, Advent Hymm)

If you watch Bishop's message on YouTube, you can search this song on YouTube or copy this link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ley1aOPDHCE&list=PLOi3zt2m4ggRhIFETMN_PMNgynCNg-Rea

7:18 Opening Prayer

- The opening prayer can be found on page 33 in the participant book.
- Read the first sentence under Opening Prayer and then invite people to close their eyes.
- Lead them in making the sign of the cross.
- Then read the guided meditation slowly and with some pauses when there is an action they are taking. Take your time and let their imaginations engage.
- Practice reading it a couple times and allowing yourself to imagine this encounter to give you a better understanding of how much time to allow for silence.
- After you close with any other prayer intentions, ask the group what that experience was like for them? Some may have a powerful experience and others not but encourage them to pray with this mediation again as we approach Christmas.

7:25 God Sightings- Invite the group to share some of ways they have found God in their daily lives over the past month. Any new breakthroughs, beginnings or struggles in your life where you see God at work, or where you really need/hope to?

7:45 Invite members to volunteer to read pages 35-36 a paragraph or two at a time.

While it is not super important, I do want to draw attention to one word used in the Bishop's document that may be unfamiliar to many. Perhaps telling people ahead of time might help them understand it. The word is Fortiori and "signals an argument that is based on even a stronger argument."

7:50 Discuss the four questions on page 37-38.

Question one would be better stated like this, "What do you most enjoy about the Advent and/or Christmas Season?" Since we are in Advent, it might be nice to highlight this season.

Additionally, it was suggested in our recent survey to Host Teams that we "add a question that impacts our lives directly to stimulate good conversation." Such as the question that was asked "How we can help others find hope in the midst of despair" a couple sessions back. Feel free to add a question that speaks to this idea, as the outcome of a good question is good conversation. Following up on question number four, we might ask, "how do you deal with doubt in your own faith and how might we help others with their doubts?"

8:10 Play Bishop Medley's Video- Session 4

8:20 Discussion Questions:

1. What struck you in Bishop's message today?
2. As the early Church found, what are some of the benefits of "coming together" as a small faith community?
3. Why do we appreciate hearing one another's faith stories?
4. As disciples of Jesus, how can we more intentionally reflect on Jesus's stories and become more like him? (By both meditating on his teachings and becoming the Eucharist we receive!)

8:35 Closing Prayer

- Then turn to page 39 and close with prayer. Feel free to lead a spontaneous prayer or to invite others to close the evening with prayer as they feel led.

8:40 Announcements:

1. Our next meeting is _____. Would someone like to bring a dessert?
2. Any parish announcements or events coming up this month? What Christmas Mass do you attend?
3. A limited number of tickets are available for the Eucharistic Revival in Indianapolis next summer and each parish has been given two tickets to share. Additional tickets may be available January 1, if not all parishes use their two tickets. Visit Owensborodiocese.org/eucharistic-revival or to take a picture of the QR code on page 72 to learn more about local celebrations and ticket updates.
4. Please continue to pray for the people in our small group and for all those participating across the Diocese in an Acts 2:42 group.

8:40 Social time

Plan to have a dessert to share with the group and encourage people to stick around and enjoy one another's company.

9:00 End

Wishing you and yours a blessed Advent and Christmas Season. Thank you for your partnership in our Acts 2:42 Small Groups. May God bless you abundantly!