

Lent 2014: March 2 - 8

Parish Small Community experience: Week 1

(Maximum 2 hours ... it can be less)

- 1. Welcome...** greet the members of your group. Play a few minutes of quiet music, and be still. Let us be in the presence of the Lord Jesus.
- 2. Introductions:** Who am I? One fact of interest I don't mind telling people, about myself (e.g. hobbies). Please be brief ... 2 minutes each person
- 3. We will do things a little differently this Lenten season.** We will read sections of the Exhortation by Pope Francis, entitled: "Evangelii Gaudium". It is long, and we cannot read everything. We will read 2 or 3 excerpts each week. Read one section at a time. Here is what we will do:
 - a) Read the first excerpt** (not all 3!). Only the first. Do NOT comment on it. Be still and think for a minute or two. (the text is found on internet.... or we can copy it for you)
 - b) Reread the excerpt.** Then, each person takes a moment to mention one word, or brief sentence which touched them. No comments... just mention the word. Do NOT rush. When someone speaks, take the time to absorb what they said. Then the next person can speak.
 - c) Begin now to share** on what this passage meant to you. Give everyone a chance to share their thoughts. NO debates please. Just share your thoughts.
 - d) When you have finished, go to the next** excerpt and do the same thing. Watch the time, so as not to go too long.

EXCERPTS for this week: a) E.G # 1 and 2 (together)

b) E.G # 3

c) E.G. # 4 (Note that true joy is in the little things!)

(Last half hour.....)

- 4. Now** read the gospel for Sunday, and the first reading. Take some brief time to comment on the scriptures together, if you have time.

Gospel:) Matthew 4: 1 – 11
1st reading: Genesis 2: 7 – 3:7
- 5. Before leaving,** take a few moments to think how you will put what you have read today into action this week... either individually, or as a small community. Perhaps you can do something together.
- 6. Time of community prayer together...** spontaneous prayer of thanks