

IDEAL

Purpose:

This talk is intended to begin the search for meaning which will continue through the weekend and into the Fourth Day.

- All people live by ideals, this is what motivates them.
- We need to know our Ideals
- We can discover our Ideals by discovering where our time, money, and thoughts go

Questions:

1. How do I discover my Ideals?
2. How can I translate this to my Christian Life?
3. How do my Ideals shape my personality?

Suggested readings:

Let Your Life Speak, Parker Palmer

Wishful Thinking, Frederick Buechner

Hebrews 12:1-2

1 Corinthians 13:11-12

1 Thessalonians 5:21

GRACE

Purpose:

Life in Grace is a Christian Ideal. Grace is the free gift of God. Life in grace results from a personal relationship with God. Grace is not a “thing” God gives us, but it is an integral part of our ongoing relationship with God.

Questions:

1. How do we live in God’s Grace?
2. What is God’s Grace?
3. How is Grace a Christian Ideal?

LAITY

Purpose:

This talk is intended to help you realize how essential you are to the life and ministry of the Church in the World.

- The layperson is the church in the world
- The Church is the community of those who live in Grace, and is a channel of Grace in the world
- We develop and grow in relationship with God and with others
- Each of us has a mission in the world; we are called to be apostles

Questions:

1. How can I be an effective Lay person in the church?
2. How can I use my Ideals with the Grace of God to bring God to my community?
3. What is my mission?
4. Does this message change your life?

Suggested Readings:

Going Home, the Most Rev. Frank Griswold

Life of the Beloved, Henri Nouwen

FAITH

Purpose:

Faith is saying “yes” to God’s revelation: wanting our lives to be lived in God’s way, receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit which empowers us to give ourselves fully to God’s will. By Faith we become members of the Body of Christ and are organically connected to God – “that we may be one.” Faith is the response to God’s plan of Salvation: through Grace, God enters into those who accept the God’s plan of salvation for you.

This talk is intended to help address fears about doubts of living the Christian life with confidence and encourage folks as they walk the journey of faith with Christ. This talk also provides insights regarding the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives that enable us to live a life of faith.

Questions:

1. Why is faith necessary to live a Christian life?
2. Why do some people seem to have more faith than others?
3. How does the Holy Spirit work in our lives?

PIETY

Purpose:

This talk illustrates an offer of a living witness to life of Grace. Living life as a committed Christian is something available to all, with the Grace of God.

- Our life in Christ is a covenant of love.
- God wants to be in a relationship with us.
- Piety is living a life of Grace in a conscious, growing, and shared manner.
- The practice of piety is an intentional process of spending time with God.

Questions:

1. What was your understanding of Piety before you came to Cursillo?
2. What is your understanding now?
3. What works for you when spending time with God?
4. What doesn't work for you? How can you change that?

Suggested Readings:

Mere Christianity, C. S. Lewis

Wisdom Distilled from the Daily, Joan Chittister

Amazing Grace, Kathleen Norris

Practicing the Presence of God, Brother Lawrence

What's so Amazing About Grace? Philip Yancy

STUDY

Purpose:

This talk is to encourage us to a life of study as a means of giving depth and strength to our Faith. It stresses the need for growth in our Christian life.

- We are called to grow in our life of Grace (Piety)
- We use our minds, as well as our hearts and souls, to learn how to be Christians
- In Study we seek to hear God speaking to us
- Study aids our growth in Christ and moves us into action in the world
- Our Piety calls us to Study, our growth in Christ leads us into Action

Questions:

1. What do you think when you hear the word “Study”?
2. Why is studying God’s word so vital?
3. Why is studying God’s word sometimes difficult?
4. What are the practical ways that you can study God’s word?

Suggested Readings:

Study Table handout

Harper’s Bible Commentary

The Life Application Bible

The New Oxford Annotated Bible

The Message, a Bible translation by Eugene Peterson

SACRAMENTS

Purpose:

It is possible to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ through the Sacraments. This talk does not dwell on the technical details of each sacrament, but rather on Christ's presence in them. The Eucharist is presented as the most vivid example of Christ's presence. Jesus touches us all through the practice of our Sacraments

Questions:

1. Are practicing most of the Sacraments important to my life as a Christian?
2. How is the Eucharist the most vivid example of Christ's presence?
3. Have the Sacraments changed over the centuries? If so, how?

ACTION

Purpose:

This talk's purpose is to encourage us all to reach out to others in the name of Christ, they we might draw others to Jesus Christ. Also, this talk emphasizes "if action is a natural element of being human, then Christian action is a natural element of being a Christian." Our action naturally flows out of our deep love for Jesus Christ.

- Piety is active and alive. A living Piety translates into Action.
- Bringing others to Christ is central to the mission of the church.
- The persons we are most likely to influence are those with whom we share common interests
- Christian action is natural – "Make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Christ"
- Christian action is a part of our baptismal covenant

Questions:

1. What does Action require of me?
2. What if I feel I am not equipped or qualified for Action?
3. What are some of the ways you can carry out Action?

Readings:

The Fundamental Ideas of the Cursillo Movement, NEC

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People - Steven Covey

The Book of Acts (yes, the whole thing)

CAC Website Daily Meditations from Richard Rohr

OBSTACLES TO A LIFE OF GRACE

Purpose:

It is not easy to live the life of Grace solely on our own as humans, even with the empowering strength of our own unique relationship with Christ. These are difficulties real and present which we need to recognize and accept. This talk highlights the unique role of the clergy – beyond sacramental function – in providing counsel and spiritual direction.

This talk is not meant to be a lecture on sin so much as a disclosure of God's power to forgive and to transform the sinner. In Christ we become more than conquerors (Romans 8:37).

Questions:

1. What is your major obstacle to grace and why?
2. What is necessary to identify an obstacle to grace?
3. Why are obstacles so difficult to identify?

LEADERS

Purpose:

This talk is to serve “as a kind of bridge between Action and The Study of Evangelization of Environments. This talk also is intended to be a clear call to leadership while answering some of the natural objections to this call. The message to us is indeed “You can do it too.”

- Each person, “by making use of his or her particular qualities, has a role to play in the world”
- Each of us, as a member of the Body of Christ, is called to help transform the world for Christ
- There are many kinds of leaders, and all followers of Christ can be leaders in their own unique ways

Questions:

1. Do you struggle with the role of Leadership?
2. What are the obstacles for you in stepping into Leadership roles as a Christian?
3. Do you find that you are a natural leader but don't want that responsibility?
4. What are the most helpful ways for others to support you in Leadership?

Readings:

The Great Divorce, C.S. Lewis

Becoming a Contagious Christian, Bill Hybels and Mark Mittleberg

THE STUDY AND EVANGELIZATION OF ENVIRONMENTS

Purpose:

We are encouraged to look at the environments we live in, consider the situations, and determine how to rebuild them on a Christian foundation. “How do I transform my environment for Christ?”

- We live in several different types of environments: family, work, parish, recreation, social. The persons we interact with in those environments may need to encounter Christ as we have.
- Evangelization is part of our baptismal covenant by proclaiming the good news of God, by seeking and serving Christ in all persons, loving our neighbor as ourselves, and striving for justice and peace and respecting the dignity of every human being.
- Evangelization is a basic expectation of our faith journeys.
- This does not happen by accident – it must be planned

Questions:

1. What do you think of when you hear the word “evangelize”?
2. What are your environments?
3. What concerns you about evangelizing?
4. What are some ways you could evangelize your environment?

Readings:

Book of Common Prayer

- Baptismal Covenant, p. 304-305
- Catechism, p. 858-859

CHRISTIAN LIFE (LIFE IN GRACE)

Purpose:

This talk presents our Rule of Life cards, which will help us structure our lives in Grace – through Piety, Study, and Action. Piety is keeping in contact with Christ; Study and Action relate more to our own unique environments. This talk concentrates on making a plan for growth in Piety.

Questions:

1. What exactly is my Rule of Life?
2. How do I follow it?
3. What is keeping me from living a life in Grace?

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN ACTION

Purpose:

This talk demonstrates that life in Christ is celebrated, deepened, and upheld within a community. There are no solo Christians – we are a group of people working together and accomplishing more for God than a single individual. A solitary Christian is a paralyzed Christian. Evangelization happens when communities of Christians work together towards the common goal of transforming the world for Christ.

- Community supports us as we follow the call of Christ in our lives
- Community is where we discover our gifts and help others to discover theirs
- The whole church is Christian Community in Action, but the church consists of smaller communities, both formal and informal
- Environments can and will be transformed through Christians working together

Questions:

1. Why do we undertake works (action) when we have Faith?
2. What Christian Communities are you currently experiencing as a member?
3. Do you participate in communities that might, with prayer, become Christian Communities in Action?

GROUP REUNION

Purpose:

This talk is to assure us that what has begun this weekend will not be lost. Group Reunion is a method which assists each of us in continuing the growth in Christ that begins this weekend. This talk also is to assist us in knowing that there is a method which is dependable and time proven.

- Personal Direction, Group Reunion, and Ultreya are the three main elements that we use in Cursillo for perseverance in our Faith. This is the Fourth Day.
- Group Reunion is a group of friends, perhaps 3-6 in number, who agree to meet regularly, share their spiritual journeys, and hold one another accountable in their growth in Christ
- Reunion provides a method of perseverance
- “We do not have Group Reunions so that there will be people to attend a Cursillo Weekend; on the contrary, we have Cursillo Weekends so that there will be people to make Group Reunions”

Questions:

1. In a group, why is smaller better?
2. What should be talked about in Group?
3. Why is community important?
4. Practice a Group Reunion

Readings:

The Purpose Driven Life, Rick Warren (especially Chapters 15-21)

ULTREYA

Purpose:

This talk is intended to offer us encouragement and confidence as we go back into our environments. While the world has not changed during this weekend, we now have a new set of tools for our spiritual journey. Group Reunion is the small group for growth in Christ, and Ultreya is the regular experience of the larger community. This is the full and final description of our life in the Fourth Day – regular contact with Christ and regular contact with one’s brothers and sisters in Christ.

- Perseverance is the key to growth in Christ through the Cursillo method
- The Fourth Day is the rest of one’s life – a pilgrimage to God in which we encourage one another by the cry “Ultreya!” – Upward, onward, forward!
- Participation in Group Reunion and Ultreya are key elements for continued Christian growth

Questions:

1. How can I find an Ultreya?
2. Why is it so important to do this?
3. How do I continue to grow in Christ in my Fourth Day?

