

## Chapter One



# QUESTIONS

For Meditation and Discussion

1. Does any part of Jesus choosing his apostles speak to you? Do you feel like you are one of Jesus' chosen ones? Do you feel challenged to bring this message to others?
2. If you have not perceived Jesus calling you, what might be holding you back from hearing his voice? How can you be more open to being one of Jesus' chosen ones?
3. Do you believe the Bible was inspired by the Holy Spirit? How can the Bible help you on your journey to encountering Jesus?
4. Can you truly embrace your role as a sinful member of the body of Christ, walking in solidarity with other sinners in Jesus? How might you be able to do this more deeply?
5. Can you imagine Christ "thirsting" for you? Who (or what) do you thirst for? Can you imagine God's love satisfying all you thirst for?

## Chapter Two



# QUESTIONS

For Meditation and Discussion

1. Do you truly believe God loves you? Do you believe he wants an intimate and intentional relationship with you? How do you experience God's love for you?
2. All of us have experienced rejection at some point in our lives. How did that make you feel? Are you afraid that God will reject you because of your sins and imperfections?
3. Do you find yourself dwelling on your past, focusing on your mistakes? Are you open to God's mercy and forgiveness (especially in the sacrament of reconciliation)?
4. Do you believe God is calling you to be holy? To be a saint? If not, why do you find this idea difficult to accept?
5. How might the desire to be holy influence your relationships and choices?

6. If you were raised Catholic, were you ever taught that you are called to a personal relationship with Jesus? How might this affect the way you live your faith?
  
7. Do you surround yourself with people who help you grow closer to God? Or with people who draw you away from him?
  
8. Since Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist, do you spend any time in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament? If you do, how has this devotion affected your relationship with Jesus and his Church?

## Chapter Three



# QUESTIONS

For Meditation and Discussion

1. Have you seen the film *The Passion of the Christ*? If so, do you remember the opening scene between Jesus and Satan? What struck you most about this scene?
2. Have you experienced a low point in your life when you faced temptation? How did this affect your relationship with God?
3. Have you ever asked, “Who am I?” Do you find it more comfortable to identify yourself by your accomplishments (in work, family, activities, etc.) than by your relationship with God?
4. Have you felt the emptiness caused by sin? How do you remain confident about making good choices?
5. Can you relate to St. Gregory the Great’s stages of temptation?
6. Does the story of the lawyer parallel any of your experiences? If so, how?
7. What are some of the lies that we might be tempted to believe about God that have the capacity to seriously damage our relationships with him and others?

8. Have you ever felt like you had to earn God's love? How have you found yourself acting on this belief?
  
9. What is your reaction to the assertion that God answers every prayer?
  
10. What are some of the dangers of seeing God as an "angry scorekeeper"? How could this perception influence how we treat others?
  
11. Has your experience with the sacrament of reconciliation been life-giving? Why, or why not?

## Chapter Four



# QUESTIONS

For Meditation and Discussion

1. Would you say that you know a lot about God? Would you say that you know him?
2. St. Teresa of Calcutta often asked her sisters, “Have you seen with the eyes of your soul how he looks at you with love? Do you really know the living Jesus, not just from books but from being with him in your heart? Have you heard the loving words he speaks to you?” How do you spend time cultivating a living and vital relationship with Jesus?
3. To really hear God in prayer requires active listening. What does active listening mean to you? How would you describe having an open heart and mind?
4. Have you ever experienced God’s love in prayer? How?

5. How might you pray with the Bible to know Jesus better and open yourself to hearing his voice?
  
6. Have you ever experienced Jesus standing at the door knocking? If so, were you able to open up and let him into the “messy” areas of your heart?
  
7. Do you ever “beat yourself up” because of your ongoing battle with sin? Do you believe God loves you unconditionally?
  
8. Love means willing the good of the other. What is the good God wills for you?
  
9. Are you open to letting God into every area of your life? Are you open to letting him in every area of your heart so that you can more fully experience his love for you?
  
10. Are you open to incorporating *lectio divina* into your prayer life?

## Chapter Five



# QUESTIONS

For Meditation and Discussion

1. What dominant vice are you struggling with? Are you open to combating this vice with its opposing virtue?
2. Are you open to continuing this practice as other vices reveal themselves?
3. How has fasting—not just from food, but from other legitimate pleasures—helped you overcome particular vices? How has it helped you draw closer to Jesus?
4. Have you experienced the power of the Rosary? If so, how?
5. What people are near occasions of sin for you?
6. What places are near occasions of sin for you?
7. What activities are near occasions of sin for you?
8. What is your dominant fault in this season of your life?
9. What virtue could you seek to grow in more intentionally?
10. Do you fast outside of Lent? If not, what are some practical things you can “fast” from that will help you spend more time with God?



## Chapter Six



# QUESTIONS

For Meditation and Discussion

1. What teachings of the Church do you find particularly challenging? Why might growing into a deeper relationship with Jesus help resolve these challenges?
2. How do you respond to members of the Church that enforce man-made rules that are harmful to the body of Christ?
3. Are you sometimes unsure of the appropriate response when you are in conflict with a member of the Church? What could you do to discern the best course of action?
4. Have you ever wanted to revolt against the Church because certain leaders are unwilling to reform “broken” rules? Why might staying in communion with the Church be the better course?
5. Do you believe you are an essential part of the body of Christ, the Church? What particular gifts do you believe you have that can be of service to the Church?

## Chapter Seven



# QUESTIONS

For Meditation and Discussion

1. Do you have a prayer routine?
2. What affects how often or how little you pray?
3. What form of prayer helps you become more loving toward others?
4. Are there any changes you desire to make with regard to your prayer life?
5. How can the “Five W’s” help focus your prayer time and make it more fruitful?
6. Why is prayer so vital to the following:
  - Overcoming vice and growing in virtue
  - Deepening our relationship with Jesus and the Church
  - Joyfully serving others according to our state of life
  - Helping others experience God’s love through us