

Catching Fire - Meeting 2

The Importance of Scripture

Moral Decision Making

Prayer

Part 1 - The Importance of Scripture

- 1) Take some time catching up with your sponsor/candidate. Share high points and low points of the time since you last saw each other. Share with each other how you have seen God working in your lives since you last met.
- 2) Share with your candidate/sponsor your favorite Scripture story from the Old or New Testament. Explain why the story has special meaning to you.
- 3) Discuss with your candidate/sponsor the importance of God's Word in your life. Share an experience of how the Scriptures have influenced your way of living.

Part 2 - Moral Decision Making

Life is full of choices. Every day you make hundreds of them. Many of these choices may seem inconsequential. But one choice builds upon another, and in the end our choices define who we become. Choices matter. Learning to make great choices is one of the most practical skills you can develop.

Decision making is central to everything we do. Each day you can choose to make good decisions, or you can choose to make bad decisions. Whichever choice you make, be it good or bad, it is proof that you are free, and free will is one of God's greatest gifts to humanity. To guide you in the use of this incredibly powerful gift, God has also given you reason and conscience. Reason is the capacity for logical, rational, and analytic thought. Conscience is the inner voice that encourages you to do good and avoid evil. God speaks to us through our conscience (CCC 1776-1779).

Describe a time when you ignored your conscience and regretted it later.

Describe a time when you listened to your conscience and followed it, even though it was difficult.

Who do you know who is a great decision maker? What makes that person a great decision maker?

Describe a time when you listened to your conscience and followed it, even though it was difficult.

Are you good at making decisions? On a scale of 1 to 10 (10 being the best), how good do you think you are at making decisions?

What is one practical thing you could do to become a better decision maker?

Part 3 - Prayer

Some things help you to become the best version of yourself and some things do not. Prayer is one of the things that help. As a human being you are a delicate composition of a body and a soul. You are not just a body. You have a soul, and throughout your life you will decide to fill your soul with something. The question is: What are you going to fill your soul with? God or the world? Joy or misery? Peace or turmoil? This is just another one of those decisions you get to make! So, why pray? The answer is actually very simple: because you want to be happy. If there is a God, and if that God has a plan for your life, then trying to find happiness outside that plan is impossible.

Discovering God's beautiful plan for your life is essential to your happiness - and should be your highest priority.

How do you find out God's plan for your life? You spend time with Him in prayer (and sometimes, that means being completely silent and just listening).

St. John Paul II once said, "Prayer gives us strength for great ideals, for keeping up our faith, charity, purity, generosity; prayer gives us strength to rise up from indifference and guilt, if we have had the misfortune to give in to temptation and weakness. Prayer gives us light by which to see and to judge from God's perspective and from eternity. That is why you must not give up on praying!"

Whom do you talk to every day? Why?

Do you pray? How often? How do you feel after you pray?