

ON KNOWING JESUS AND FOLLOWING HIM

"COME AND SEE!" (Jn 1: 29-42)

Intent of this event:

- ✓ *To know Jesus, to love Him and to follow Him.*
- ✓ *To know our vocation or call in life and follow it*
- ✓ *To lead others to Jesus..*

1. Introduction

Welcoming the participants..
Opening prayer.
Singing hymns

2. Personal Work - Reflecting on the The Word of God:

Read the text Jn 1:29-42 all by yourselves.

Ponder over its meaning.

Answer in writing the following questions

1. What was John's task, job or vocation in life?
2. Why did Jesus want to be baptized by John as an ordinary man, as a common sinner?
3. Who first recognized Jesus among the crowds waiting for the Baptism of John? How? Why?
4. John called Jesus "The Lamb of God". Why? Can you explain the symbolic meaning of these words?
5. Why does John direct his disciples to Jesus?
6. Why did Jesus not give the disciples of John a "straight" answer to their question: "Where do you live?" He just invited them to come and see.
7. If we want to know more of Jesus, what have we to do?
8. Is Jesus calling people today also to "go and stay with him?" When is he calling? How? Why?

3. Group-sharing-cum-study-session

Participants will share their replies
Answering to clarifications.
Discussion and group interaction will follow.

4. Mop-up input by the moderator.

Summarize the main ideas shared and discussed.

Give a short and concise explanation of the text.

Suggested ideas:

- Jesus took his place among the crowd of sinners swarming around John to be baptized.

- Although Jesus was not a sinner he insisted on being baptized.
- He wanted to be one of us in everything...
- Out of humility he mixed with sinners.
- Actually, though he was not a sinner himself, he had assumed the sins of all of us.
- In a way, Jesus though not a sinner personified sin
- John, being a man of God and sensitive to the presence of God, recognized Jesus at once. He felt: Jesus is here! Nobody else seemed to have recognized him.
- John called him the "Lamb of God", the one who takes away the sins of the world. *(Explain the meaning title "The Lamb of God" in the context of Jewish history and religious thought.)*
- By now, John realized that his mission - the purpose of his life had come to an end. *(Explain the nature of John's vocation: to be the forerunner of Christ. the one sent to prepare the hearts of men to receive the Messiah.)*
- In a true way, all of us Christians share in the vocation of John. We have to lead people to Jesus.
- In this passage, John directs and hands over his disciples to Jesus. He showed others the way.
- John's disciples came to Jesus and asked: "Where do live". Jesus did not give them a straight answer. He did not tell them where he lived - where he lived was irrelevant – The all important thing was to come to know Him so he invited them to come and see".
- Jesus does not give us "intellectual" answers about Himself, but only the example of his life.
- He is not so much interested that we should know "about him. He wants us to know "Him". ..He wants us to "experience" his presence and his person..
- John's disciples went with to stay with Jesus. They saw him, they loved him, they followed him. They became his disciples.
- Even today, Jesus is still calling people, you and me, to "come and see", to stay with Him, to love Him, to follow Him, to be his disciples.
- Jesus keeps telling: "Come and see"! Let us then go and see!

5. Personal Prayer:

After the meaning of the text has been explained, help the participants through a prayer experience: The method of prayer will be fantasy.

Instructions to the participants

Read the passage of St. John (Jn 1: 29-42)

Slowly, word by word.

Ask yourself what God may be telling you through this piece of scripture today.

Listen to God attentively..

Read the passage a second time, and picture the scene in your mind. Take your time.

Next, the moderator will keep suggesting the following reflections:

1. At what time of the day did Jesus meet John?...
2. Where did it happen?....
3. Picture the people on the scene.....Jesus, John, the two disciples, the crowds... .

4. Note the details
5. Study their faces and hands..:
6. Guess their feelings: Jesus'John's... the disciples....the crowds....the sinners....
7. How does John feel when he sees his disciples leaving him?
8. With which persons in the scene do you identify best....?
9. Tell Jesus how you feel about Him.....
10. How do you feel about his calling you to be one of his disciples.....
11. What it means to you to be a Christian....
12. Ask Him to let you know what he wants you to do now... Are you ready?
13. And what does He want you to be later on in life?' ... Are you ready?
14. Tell Him of your fears and anxieties.. .
15. Get into Jesus' mind and heart.. What is he telling you now! Listen to Him.

6. Group Spontaneous and Shared Prayer

Suggested materials for the group prayer

Reading and praying with parallel texts:

Mt. 3:1-12; Lk 3: 1-22;	"The preaching of John th, Baptist".
Mt. 11: 1-15; Lk 7: 18-30; Jn 1:19-28;	"The Messenger: ,N of John"
II Jn 3:22-30;	"Jesus and John".

Prayer of Petition;

That we may listen to Jesus when he calls us
 That we may fulfill our mission or vocation in life...
 That we may have the courage to follow Him "Come I and see".
 That we may lead others to Jesus....

Final hymn.

Close down the event with a group prayer session based on some well-known hymns on generosity and vocation.

- Read the lyrics of the hymns of your choice.
- Discuss them, debated upon.
- Pray with them and finally,
- Sing them with gusto and enthusiasm.
- A list of such hymns is given below:
 1. Come Follow Me.
 2. Follow Christ.
 3. Have Thine Own Way, Lord
 4. I Have Decided to Follow Jesus.
 5. I Surrender All.
 6. I'll Say Yes!
 7. It Takes Courage to Answer a Call.
 8. Just a Closer Walk.
 9. Send Forth Your Messengers.
 10. Somebody Is Knocking at the Door.

- 11.** The Savior Is Waiting.
- 12.** To Be Like Jesus
- 13.** Walking with the Lord
- 14.** Where He leads me, I will follow.