

OBSTACLE RACE TO FOLLOW JESUS

To Follow Jesus is is great but not easy!

The Would-Be Followers of Jesus

Lk 9:59-62

Intent of the Notes

- ✓ *To realize that in order to follow Jesus we shall have to face many obstacles.*
- ✓ *To emphasize that courage and generosity are wanted to follow Jesus*
- ✓ *Our motto in life should be the one of Jesus: “Not my will. But God’s will be done”.*

Use of these Notes

- ✓ Pep talks on Christian life.
- ✓ Recollections.
- ✓ Vocational events
- ✓ Catechism classes..

1. Introduction

- Welcome the participants
- Hymn singing
- Introductory prayer

2. Personal, Work

Instructions to the participants:

- Read the gospel text carefully. (Lk 9:59-62)
- Get into the mind of the three men mentioned in the text and – as far as possible - answer in writing to the following points.
 1. Why those three men mentioned in Gospel did did not follow Jesus?
 2. What obstacles stood on their way to follow Jesus? Explain.
 3. What did Jesus tell them?
 4. By not following Jesus, what did they miss?
 5. What are the most common hurdles or obstacles that make it difficult for us to follow the call of Jesus?
 6. Did you ever experience, in your life, some of those obstacles preventing you from doing what Jesus wanted you to do? Explain. Did you manage to jump over those hurdles? How?
 7. Can you suggest some means to jump over them?

3. General Group Sharing and Discussion-cum-small Input.

Sharing:

Moderator

- Ask the participants to share their replies. *Those doing the sharing are free to share only what they feel comfortably to share.*

- Anyone may ask for clarifications from those doing the sharing. No questions or discussions will be entertained at this moment..
- As the sharing goes on, the most important points that come up will be recorded on the board.
- Moderator will compile and write on the board a list of the obstacles or hurdles stopping us from running after Jesus.. The list might look something like this:

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Companions, | Money | Careers and jobs |
| Family | Comforts | Worldly ambitions |
| Girl/boy fiends | Selfishness | Fame |
| Possessions | Craving for freedom | Bad habits |
| Pleasures. | T.V. Internet | Laziness |

Discussion –cum- Input

- When the sharing is over, the moderator will initiate a discussion on the obstacles preventing us from following Jesus as they are recorded on the board.
- At, this point, the moderator may ask the participants to suggest hints on how to jump over those hurdles.
- Stress the need of courage and generosity to be able to listen to the call of Christ.

4. Sharing and Praying in twos or threes. "My Life Experiences"

Instructions to the Participants:

- Pick a partner of your choice.
- Go to any corner of the room, hall or chapel and sit together.
- Share with your partner what you learned today.
- In your past life, what were the obstacles you found difficult to overcome in order to listen to follow Jesus
- Pray together to Jesus.
- Pray to Jesus for one another.

5. Closing Step - General Group

- Close the event by reading, commenting, singing and praying on hymns that stress the courage and generosity needed to follow Jesus
- The Hymns should be read, discussed, debated upon, and finally sung with gusto and enthusiasm. A sampling of such hymns is found here below. .

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus.
I Surrender All.
If you wish to be my disciple.
I 11 Say Yes!
To Be Like Jesus
It Takes Courage to Answer a Call.
Where he leads me, i will follow.
Somebody Is Knocking at the Door.
Come Follow Me.

The Impossible Dream
Take and receive

Activities
(Optional)

If the participants are able and time permits, you may have the gospel of the Agony in the Garden (Mt 26:36-42), acted in modern setting in small groups; for instance:

- A boy/girl struggling to become a priest or a sister in the face of opposition from his/her own home people.
- A young man or a young lady choosing to work in the slums against all social pressures to desist from such work.
- A boy/girl giving up a money-making career or job to serve the poor.
- A young doctor opting to work in rural areas where there are no doctors to care for the poor

The recurring theme in the acting of the scene should be the words of Jesus: "Not my will, but yours be done."