

THE HOLY MAN AND THE LOST TRAVELLERS

Intent:

- ✓ *Life is a never ending process of seeking for God, for truth, for peace.*
- ✓ *Life from birth to death is a search.*
- ✓ *All of us are seeking – just and sinners – for the right path.*
- ✓ *We need one another to find the way.*
- ✓ *No one has the monopoly of the truth.*

The Story

Once upon a time a Holy Man was going on a Pilgrimage to a sacred shrine.

While crossing a thick and wild forest, he got lost in the jungle. For many days, he struggled to get out of that forest. He tried this way and that way. He went this direction and that direction. All in vain! Every time he found himself more and more lost in the deep of that jungle!

Some time later, while still searching for the path to freedom, he discovered a group of wanderers. They too were pilgrims lost in the same forest.

When they saw the Holy Man they were overjoyed. Thanking God, they said to themselves: “This Holy Man will save us! He will show us the way out of this jungle”

Entreatingly they pleaded: "Man of God, show us the way. We are lost in this forest! Help us, lest we perish”

The Holy Man replied: "I cannot show you the path you search for! I am also lost in this jungle. I too, am searching for it. I can only point out to you the roads that led me astray deeper and deeper into the forest.

Let us -you and I – together, search for the right road to freedom.. All of us are equally seeking the path of salvation!” *(An Indian Story)*

Personal Reflection

You may follow two different ways for the reflection

1st way:

Ask the participants to write a little essay explaining the meaning of the Story.

- What does the forest stand for, and the Holy man, and the lost travelers, and their search, The Holy Man’s words...?
- Next, let them share with the group their thoughts and reflections
- Then, Start a discussion.
- Encourage interaction. .

2nd way:

Let the participants reply in writing to the points below

1. In life, everybody is a seeker. Yes? No? Why?
2. Some seek this– *describe*
3. Others seek that– *describe*
4. And you, what are you seeking? –*describe*....
5. Where do you seek for it?
6. How do you to seek it?
7. Did you find it? How? What is it?
8. Can anyone help you to find it? Who?

Group Work Sharing and Discussion.

Next, let the participants share their reflections with the group.
Encourage discussion and interaction.

Mini- input

After the Sharing and Discussion you may wind up the session with a mini-input.
Some thoughts suggested for the input are:

- All men are seekers and wanderers in life.
- Holy, learned, simple and unlearned men search. Life is a continuous search.
- Basically, all seek the same: joy, happiness, contentment, and fulfillment.
- Consciously or unconsciously, all seek for God!
- St. Augustine wrote: “Our hearts, Oh God, are made for you, and they will never rest in peace till the rest I you.”
- Some seek for it in the right way... others in the wrong one....
- What’s the right way and what’s the wrong one?
- After much search we may discover – like the Holy Sadhu of the story - which are the wrong paths to avoid.
- The question still remains, which are the right paths?...
- Religious leaders and "self-styled" guides should be humble and not too sure of themselves.
- They too are searching in life... All of us are pilgrims.
- No man has all the answers to the problems and mysteries of life.
- Nobody has the monopoly of truth.
- We, in the company of others have to search and discern what is true and false, what is right and wrong.
- On our way to God, no one can make it alone. We have to lean on one another.